What’s New In The New Year?!?

There is always something to look forward to with 4-H, and 2017 will be no exception. Our regular monthly clubs will begin meeting again in January, our state 4-H activities are already planned and on the calendar, and summer camp and daycamps will be right around the corner. Special projects like the Pullet Project, Dairy Heifer Project, Goat Project, Wildlife Food Plot will be starting over again in the spring, too. You won’t want to miss a minute of it, so complete your enclosed 2017 membership form, and return it as soon as possible. Our new 4-H t-shirts have arrived, so you will receive one when you turn in your membership form. Membership forms and dues must be received by February 28, 2017, in order to continue receiving the 4-H newsletter. New members are welcome to join at any time during the year, and as they join, they will be added to the mail list. Get yours in today so you won’t miss a minute of 4-H fun!

Miss 4-H Pageant

The Miss 4-H Pageant will be held again this year at Clinton High School, on January 14, 2017. 4-H’ers from 5 to 19 can compete for titles in their respective age group, including Little Miss Cloverbud, Little Miss Cloverleaf, Miss Junior 4-H’er, Miss 4-H Teen, and Miss 4-H Queen. This event is not a beauty pageant, but contestants will be judged on appearance, modeling, poise, personality, and apparel. Dress divisions will be Business Dress, Formal Dress, 4-H Project Dress, and then a question for the top ten contestants in each category. This promises to be a night to remember for the contestants!

4-H Baking Buddies

Let’s get cooking in 2017! Our first Baking Buddies Club meeting of the new year will be on January 24th, from 3:30-4:30. We will resume our schedule of meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in February.

The 4-H Garden Club dates will be announced in the February newsletter, so get your seed catalogs out and start planning your 2017 4-H Garden!
2017 4-H Membership Drive

With the beginning of the new year it is time to renew your annual 4-H Membership Dues. Again this year, the dues are $10.00, and you will also receive your 2017 4-H t-shirt.

We have the 2017 membership registration forms here at the office. You can stop by and pick one up, or we can mail one to you if you email or call us. We will also have membership forms available at all of your January and February club meetings.

To remain on the mailing, please return your membership applications by February 28th. New members are always welcome, and will be added to the mailing list at the time they join SC/Union County 4-H.

2017 Dairy Heifer Project

Perhaps you have thought about trying to raise a dairy cow to show at the local fairs in the fall. Any 4-H or FFA member, age 9-17, can raise and show a registered dairy heifer in the South Carolina Dairy Heifer Project.

This project began in 1974 and was designed to provide boys and girls who have non-dairy backgrounds an opportunity to raise a dairy heifer and experience the dairy industry.

Project members learn how to care for, manage, train, and show their animal while exploring the world of dairy cattle for 18 months. At the conclusion of the project all the heifers are sold at the South Carolina Dairy Bred Heifer Sale before they begin milking.

Applications are available at the Union Extension Office.

Wild West 4-H Junior Weekend

4-H Junior Teen Weekend is a special time devoted to 4-H’ers ages 9-13. This year is will be held on February 10-12th, at Camp Bob Cooper on Lake Marion.

The cost is $100 for the week-end. Registration packets are available at the 4-H office, or on the State 4-H and Youth Development webpage.

4-H Shooting Sports

The 4-H Shooting Sports Club will begin their 2017 club year on January 12th, at 7:00 p.m. The Shooting Sports Club will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Flower Building on the Fairgrounds.

New members are always welcome. So, come on out and learn gun safety, shooting accuracy, have friendly competitions and challenges. There will also be special dates set aside for archery, in addition to BB guns.

Some of you may have gotten new bows or guns for Christmas, so come on out and learn how to use them safely and become a top marksman!

See you soon!

Anne P. Brock
County Extension Agent