Tuesday News – September 5, 2023

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The Washington State 4-H Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held Saturday, October 28 at 12:30 p.m. at The Armory in Ellensburg, WA. All state awardees (Alumni Award, Salute to Excellence Ten Year and Lifetime, Heather Rider Award, Volunteer Staff Award, and [state] Friend of 4-H) for years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 will be honored. All invitations to awardees will be sent directly to the recipients. More information will be forthcoming.

To facilitate further nominations, we are re-opening nominations for state awards with a firm deadline of Monday, September 11th at 8:00 a.m. After this deadline, no further nominations will be accepted. To locate nomination forms, please see extension.wsu.edu/4h/for-volunteers/wastate-volunteer-recognition/

Volunteers of the Year from each county will be honored through narrated video during the luncheon. The deadline for submitting your Volunteer of the Year has been changed to October 1st; with this deadline, you must submit a high-resolution photo with the nomination if you would like one displayed. County displays will be shown digitally; we will send out instructions for displays no later than Monday, September 11th.

Please join us to honor our deserving volunteers. Those wishing to attend the luncheon who do not receive a personal invitation are welcome to attend at a $20/person cost. More information about reserving your space will be distributed the first week of October. Please contact Jana Ferris (ferrisj@wsu.edu OR 425-595-2950) with any questions.
Hello all!

Our “Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation Food Drive” has come to an end. The last Checkpoint, Checkpoint 3, was on August 31st. If you collected food items in August for the food drive, please fill out the form linked below. We appreciate all of those who participated and helped people in need.
We will be announcing the Checkpoint 3 winner and the Overall winner on our Instagram site (wa.4h.state.ambassador) with pictures of their participation! Those counties will also receive a Certificate of Achievement. Congrats to those of you in advance! If you have any pictures from the food drive, please email them to us!

“HDTV” Food Drive: Check 3

Berklie Sheppard, State Ambassador
WA 4-H SA Team
wa4hsa@gmail.com

2023 State Dog Judging Contest Comes With Changes
Amber Hammond

The state dog judging contest this year will include some changes from past years:

Placement Classes
There will be only four placement classes. This will include an obedience OR fitting & showmanship class. All age levels will place in the same classes.

Identification Portion

Intermediates and Seniors
There will be 25 breeds and 25 parts/anatomy (as has always been done in the past)

Juniors
There will be 15 breeds and 15 parts/anatomy (this is condensed as mentioned in the exhibitor guide)

Oral Reasons
There will be one placement class designated as the oral reasons class.

Intermediates and Seniors are required to do oral reasons.

Juniors have the option to do oral reasons, it is not required. (Junior scores for oral reasons will not count towards their overall total).

Some Housekeeping
Participants should bring their own clipboards and pencils. None will be provided by the state fair for the contest.

Dress attire for oral reasons is Business Casual (it is fine to wear your showmanship attire if you prefer/it is easier). Please no jeans. If juniors do not plan on doing oral reasons, it is fine to just abide by the 4-H dress code but
please no club/county affiliated shirts. There is no opportunity to change clothes once the contest has started, so please enter the contest dressed appropriately.

I will be posting a list of needed volunteer spots soon; if you have volunteered in the past and have a spot you know of that you like, please let me know and I’ll add you in ahead of time.

Thank you!

Amber Hammond
e-mail: bajadenton@gmail.com

State 4-H Ambassadors Present the 4-H Youth of the Month for August!
Berklie Sheppard

The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors recognize the 4-H Youth of the Month honoree for August, Zoey Van Gordon of Clallam County! The Ambassadors are proud to highlight 4-H youth monthly throughout the year!

Zoey Van Gordon
Senior
Clallam County

Projects:
- Hogs, Leaders Council, Livestock Judging, Clallam County Fair

Favorite Part About 4-H: Zoey loves gaining confidence, leadership abilities, and public speaking skills.

Years in 4-H: She has been in 4-H for 10 years!

Past Projects: Hogs, Livestock Judging, Auction Board

Favorite Hobbies: Soccer, Bowling, Softball, and Baking are her favorite hobbies

Favorite Book: Where the Red Fern Grows

Favorite 4-H Memories: One of Zoey's favorite memories is winning Grand Champion in livestock judging and when she would scratch her pigs belly, they would roll over like a dog

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Future Career: Zoey is thinking about going into the Police Force, but leaning toward Livestock Veterinarian.

Project You'd Like to Do: She would like to raise and show goats or cattle

Favorite Vacation: Camping

Biggest 4-H Achievement: Last year, Zoey won Grand Champion Market Hog and her second year of 4-H she was Reserve Champion.

Favorite Ice Cream: Cookie Dough

Wants To Go To: Nevada

If you have any questions about the State Ambassadors, or are interested in joining, please email wa4hsa@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you!
Addendums for Rule Changes for PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide Now Available

Jennifer Leach

As of this date, the Washington 4-H horse program is still waiting for the final version of the PNW 4-H Horse Contest guide from Oregon. This publication is a joint effort between Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

In the meantime, a sub-committee of the Washington State 4-H equine committee led by Stephanie Roeter Smith, 4-H Regional Specialist, compared the 2015 edition with the soon to be published final version. However, Washington 4-H Horse Program is not sure of the date of the final publication.

These addendums are posted on the WSU 4-H website’s Horse page, located at the link called WA State 4-H Equine Policies and Rules-PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide-Addendums. The direct link to the Horse Page is https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/animal-science/companion-performance/horse/

There are two addendums. Addendum I is specific to the rule changes affecting Washington as related to current PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide. Find Addendum I HERE.

Addendum II is a “clarification” of selected rules in the PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide, but are not rule changes. Find Addendum II HERE.

The current version of PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide dated October 1, 2015 will continue to be the contest guide we will use until we (Washington) receive the final from Oregon.

Addendum I (rule changes) will be effective for the remainder of this program year to September 30, 2023. Addendum II may be updated as more questions of clarification are identified – also through to September 30, 2023.

For information or clarification on the PNW 4-H Horse Contest guide process or rules, contact Jennifer Leach, State Horse Contact at LeachJ@cowlitzwa.gov or jleach@wsu.edu.
4-H Giving Page Update – Give Online to Your County 4-H Program!
Denise Echelbarger

We’ve Changed!

But it’s all good—we’ve just launched our new 4-H Giving Page design. It’s now even easier to find your county excellence fund give link and give directly to your county 4-H program. With better navigation, we hope you love it as much as we do. CHECK IT OUT! https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/give-to-4-h/

Visit Pullman to Celebrate 4-H Day With Cougar Football On September 23rd!
Denise Echelbarger

Save the date! Celebrate 4-H Day with the Cougs in Pullman on September 23rd vs. the Oregon State University Beavers at Martin Stadium. Game time is yet to be determined. Discounted tickets are available!

4-H Day with the Cougs!
Discounted Tickets Available PURCHASE HERE
Volunteer to Support the Washington State 4-H Fair
State Fair Board

The Washington State 4-H Fair board encourages individuals with an interest in serving youth development to offer their time and talents in support of the State 4-H Fair as volunteers.

Please send an email to 4-H Fair Board President Kirk Gresham at st4hfair@gmail.com with any questions, for more information, or to volunteer.

Thank You!

Donate to the Washington State 4-H Fair
4-H State Fair Board

Every year, the Washington State 4-H Fair Board ensures the continuation and success of 4-H programs old and new alike, from purchasing trophies and ribbons, buckles and banners for awards to fair participants to scheduling and facilitating events and more. This year, the State 4-H Fair Board is asking for your donations to assist the board in its efforts to provide youth an environment that fosters caring relationships, constructive learning experiences, leadership opportunities and to serve our communities.

Please contact a State 4-H Fair board member for more information.
State 4-H Fair Board Seeks Qualified Candidates For State 4-H Fair Manager Position Opening

The State 4-H Fair Manager Position Is Now Open!

The job description for the State 4-H Fair Manager position is available for download by clicking HERE.

The State 4-H Fair Manager is not a WSU position, but reports directly to the State 4-H Fair Board. The salary is $32,500, paid in twelve monthly installments. There are no benefits associated with this position.

This is a part time position of about 1,000 hours annually, with extended hours during August and September, during the fair cycle in Puyallup, Washington.

The position will remain open until filled.

Please forward your cover letter and resume to:

Washington State 4-H Fair Board
PO Box 1225
Puyallup, Washington, 98371-0233

or by email to the Fair Board at st4hfair@gmail.com.

Ask Dr. Universe: What Makes Fireflies Light Up At Night? – Asher, 7, Maryland
Do you love helping animals? Check out this podcast episode about a community science project you can do to help scientists conserve monarch butterflies.

Dr. Universe: What makes fireflies light up at night? – Asher, 7, Maryland

Dear Asher,

When I was a kitten, there were tons of fireflies in my grandparents' yard. My litter mates and I loved to gently catch them and let them go.

I talked with my friend Richard Zack about how and why fireflies light up. He’s an insect scientist at Washington State University.

Those glowing insects are a kind of beetle. But we call them fireflies or lightning bugs. Their glow is a form of bioluminescence. That’s when a chemical reaction inside a living thing makes it light up.

Zack told me to think about a glow stick. If you shake it, you can tell it has liquid inside it. There’s also a small glass capsule filled with another liquid inside. When you crack the glow stick, the glass breaks, and the two liquids mix. That causes a chemical reaction—and the glow stick lights up.

A firefly’s chemical reaction happens inside a special light organ in its abdomen. The stuff inside the light organ—a molecule called luciferin and a protein called luciferase—don’t glow on their own. But when the firefly’s body lets oxygen into the light organ, a chemical reaction happens and the firefly’s abdomen glows.
Zack told me the big reason fireflies light up is to find mates. You’ve probably noticed that a firefly’s light doesn’t stay on. It flicks on and off. Different kinds of fireflies use different patterns of lighting up and turning off to find each other.

“If you’re watching fireflies, the ones you see flying around and flickering are mostly males,” Zack said. “If you look down at the ground, you will see flickering females. So, what happens is the male is out there giving off its species’ flick, flick, flick pattern. Then a female of the same species will respond with a different pattern. Ideally the right male finds the right female, and they mate and everybody’s happy.”

A firefly’s glow is also a warning. It lets predators know that the beetle is poisonous and not a good snack.

But some fireflies don’t glow. Those are the fireflies we have in the western United States. They either don’t light up at all or glow so faintly that you can’t see them. They use chemical signals to find their mates instead.

For some unfortunate male fireflies, a female firefly’s glow is the worst kind of invitation. Different kinds of fireflies have different eating habits as adults. Some never eat at all. Some eat nectar or pollen. But the fireflies from the group Photuris are predators. They’re also aggressive mimics.

Female fireflies from this group hang out on the ground looking for the flickering patterns of male fireflies from another group. They respond by mimicking the glow pattern the male firefly expects to see from a potential mate. He gets closer and closer—and then the female eats him. As a bonus, that gives the Photuris firefly the poison she needs to protect her from predators since this group doesn’t make it on their own.

I’m pretty sure she gives the meal a glowing review.
Dr. Universe: What are butterfly cocoons made of? — Anabelle, 8, Massachusetts

Dear Anabelle,

When I was a kit, I looked a lot like the adult cat I would become—even though I was smaller and fluffier. But wiggly caterpillars don’t look like butterflies at all. I talked about this with my friend Allan Felsot. He’s an insect scientist at Washington State University.

He told me cocoons are mostly silk. But they’re usually made by moths. A butterfly “cocoon” isn’t really a cocoon at all. It’s called a chrysalis.

Both butterflies and moths belong to a big group of insects that go through complete metamorphosis. They have four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. They go through a massive change to become an adult.

That big change happens when the insect is a pupa. That’s like their teenager stage. A moth pupa usually changes inside a silk cocoon. Sometimes people harvest that silk to make fabric.

A butterfly pupa might look like a cocoon, but it’s different.

“Many butterflies have what we call a naked pupa or chrysalis,” Felsot said. “The wings, mouthparts and antennae are glued to the body, and it’s compressed. But if you poke it, you’ll see it wiggles around.”

A butterfly pupa is covered with the same tough skin that you see on any insect. It’s just a temporary, baggy version of that skin called a chrysalis. The chrysalis is often tethered with silk, so it stays put.
Insect silk generally comes from the same organs that make saliva.

“There are lots of things that salivary glands do,” Felsot said. “One thing is (to) produce silk proteins. These are in the form of a gel. So, it’s very viscous, and it’s forced out as a drop. But then the insect pulls away from it—maybe they wiggle their head or move their body a little bit—and that spins it into a fiber.”

As the gel hits the air and the insect pulls away from it, the silk crystallizes. The particles in the silk line up in an orderly way. That makes the silk strong. The silks made by different kinds of insects are all a little bit different.

Insects use silk for all kinds of things. Some insects like moths wrap silk around their bodies to make a silk cocoon. Some insects use silk like glue to make cases out of stuff they find.

One of my favorites is the caddisfly. They’re related to butterflies and moths, but their larvae live underwater.

Some caddisflies use silk to glue together tiny bits of sand and debris. It forms a little house a larva can live in and carry around. When it’s time to change into an adult, the insect usually seals up the entrance to the case with more silk.

Caddisfly silk is so special—sticky, stretchy and waterproof—that scientists want to copy it so they can make better bandages and stitches. Scientists study insect and spider silks to learn how to make all kinds of things.

It’s just one more way insects make our lives smooth as silk.

Sincerely,
Dr. Universe
Know a kid with a science question?
Help them submit it for a chance to be featured in a future Q&A.

Submit a question!

Q and A Sessions for the Washington 4-H Horse Program Continue – Now On First Wednesdays!

Have questions about the Washington 4-H horse program? Our monthly Q and A for leaders, parents, members, and staff will now be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. beginning June 7th.

Zooms are structured around the theme/parameters of horses and youth development. They are more than “what are the rules.” There is also time set aside for input on future topics for subsequent Zooms. The Zoom meeting ID is 452-082-9765 with no passcode. You must have a zoom account to participate.

The meetings are facilitated by Kim Baker, State 4-H Equine Coordinator.

Feel free to contact Kim with any questions at kim.baker@wsu.edu.