New Horse Club in Town  
*By Norma Bean, Club Leader*

The new horse group in Wilmington has been very busy getting underway! At our February meeting officers were elected. The following members will serve as officers to the club: Maddie Kramer - President, Aleah Greene - Vice President, Abby Bean - Secretary and Sydney Cox - Treasurer. We also voted on our club name, and **Equine Explorers** was the winner. We have decided to hold two meetings a month; one during the week, which will be a discussion type of meeting with learning exercises geared toward all things horse related and a meeting during the weekend which will be a hands-on horse clinic. We had a horse clinic titled "**Bathing and Grooming the Horse**" on Sunday, March 25th at Murrayville Farm in Ogden. On April 21st at 3pm we will have another clinic titled "**Warming up and Cooling Down Your Horse**". We have developed a great mentoring program, as we are so fortunate to have a mix of talented experienced teenagers and just starting out beginners. This is the perfect opportunity for a sharing of horse knowledge! The club has also discussed supporting a rescue horse as a service project, and visiting the Outer Banks and Chincoteague Island for the Pony Swim in July. We are looking forward to having a great summer with plenty to do! If you are interested in joining our club, please contact Norma or Arielle through the Murrayville farm website at murrayville-farm.com or 910 471-6388.

**Teen Retreat from the Eyes of a First Time Attendee**  
*By Rachel Mumey*

To kick off Teen Retreat 2012, we joined several other counties at the Arboretum. After dinner, and plenty of chatter, we began our business meeting. People shared their opinions on the constitution changes respectively. It was quite fascinating watching the different teens share their point of view. After adjourning the business meeting, we divided into our counties and planned our skits. Planning a skit is not as easy as it may seem! Then we jumped straight into our dance. It was a blast! Later, we retired home to get a goodnight sleep. Bright and early, we returned to the Arboretum, divided into groups, and began our workshops. Some of the workshops included a Social Media, What is Your Real Color?, How to Stop Substance Abuse in Your Community, and a Minute to Win It. All of these were beneficial and enjoyable. At the end of the day, we had learned how to help ourselves, each other, and our community, and how to be safe while attending to our social lives. We concluded the day by performing our skits and having another business meeting. It was a wonderful time to gather as 4-H members, and all of us thank Leslie for putting it together and being a great hostess!
Go to Congress 2012!

We are gearing up for a great 4-H Congress 2012! Held July 16-19th, it is the highlight of the 4-H year. Over 800 teens from all over North Carolina will come together in Raleigh for an event like none other. Teens will participate in educational experiences such as hearing from engaging speakers, participating in leadership workshops, and conducting a community service project. Congress provides an opportunity to develop and exercise leadership skills through serving on committees and participating in various programs. Lodging will be on campus at NCSU in Raleigh, NC. To “see” what Congress is all about, go to youtube.com and search for NC 4-H Congress 2012 to watch a video made by Nathan Barrick, a 4-Her from Forsyth County.

Date: July 16-19, 2012
Age: 13-18 year olds (as of Jan. 1, 2012)
Cost: $275
Deadline to Register: June 29th

Raise Your Voice and Be Heard at the SE DAD!

Each year hundreds of 4-H’ers develop public speaking skills and confidence by competing with presentations and demonstrations at 4-H District Activity Day. Participants prepare a 5-12 minute presentation or demonstration with posters or a PowerPoint slideshow and props on a topic of their choice to give to a small audience. Participants compete against youth in their age division and presentation category. This event is open to any child, age 5-18 on January 1, 2012. The age divisions are 9-10, 11-13, and 14-18. Cloverbuds (5-8 year old youth) can participate for experience but are not judged competitively. This year the Southeast District Activity Day will be held on Friday, June 22nd at the Lenoir County Community College.

One presentation in each category will be designated the District Gold winner and will be eligible to compete on the state level. Awards for Gold winners range from $50 to $200 and can be used as a stipend to attend the annual 4-H Congress in Raleigh, NC. The deadline to sign up for a presentation or demonstration is June 1st. You must know your presentation topic and title by this date. Go to http://www.nc4h.org/nc4h-publications/presentations/ for a list of categories and guidelines. To sign up, call Leslie or email leslie_wilson@ncsu.edu.

Tip: Sign up for the Be a Star … In Communication Workshop on May 15th to get a jump start!
(Cost is $5, sign up by May 1st.)

Get Ready to Jump into 4-H Summer Blast Camps!

4-H camps are fun, hands-on, and educational and serve as the perfect way to learn something new while making a few new friends along the way. Find out how bubbles are made, take a surfing lesson, discover the wonders of agriculture, or explore your way into health with food and fun! There is something for every young person age 5-18 at 4-H camp this summer. Check out the 4-H Summer Blast Camp schedule and registration forms on our website at newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu today!
Let’s SPRING into action with the County Council News . . . Get it???
The meeting was called to order at 6pm on March 19th and we had a wonderful evening that included our guest—NHC Board of Education Member Elizabeth Redenbaugh. Ms. Redenbaugh gave us some great tips on public speaking and it was an enlightening time for all. Leslie gave us a mini AIRE workshop [deadline is May 10th] and some hints for our Project Record Books—we all should bring the project record books to the next meeting. Great discussion on a t-shirt for the teen council as well as some dialogue on volunteering, etc. Kudos to Elise and Christine for being county Champions in their age category in the Family & Consumer Sciences Project Record Books—way to go!!!

For all upcoming events, deadlines, etc., please refer to the back of this newsletter to stay on top of things! We all missed you, Louisa!

Our next meeting will be April 16th, from 6:00-7:30pm in the Training Room. Hope to see everyone there and bring a friend! Happy Spring and enjoy your Spring Break!

Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Camp Scholarship Available

The deadline to register for Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Camp this summer is fast approaching (see February Clover Connection for details) on April 30th. The Port City Ruritans have generously donated a $100 Camp Scholarship to support a family who might not otherwise get to send their child to camp. The recipient will be responsible for paying the remaining cost to attend camp. To apply, complete the Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Camp Scholarship Application found on the 4-H Youth Development link at newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu and return to the 4-H office. Applicants will be informed of the committee’s choice the following week. Applications are due by April 16th, 2012.

Citizenship Focus: Become Engaged, Inspire Change

"4-H citizenship programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. This solid foundation helps youth understand and acquire the skills that will allow them to become astute leaders for the 21st Century.” www.4-H.org

We are happy to announce that the 8th Annual 4-H Citizenship North Carolina Focus will be held on June 11-13, 2012, in Raleigh at the Sheraton Downtown. North Carolina 4-H’ers, ages 14-18 (as of January 1, 2012) are eligible to attend and will be selected by an application process. Participants will take part in workshops, listen to speakers, meet with legislators and have a dance. Registration fees are $150 per person, including two nights lodging and meals during the conference. This is less than a third of the actual cost per person. The actual cost is over $500.00 per person. (The remaining cost is covered by donors and other funding sources.) For more information or to apply, email Leslie at leslie_wilson@ncsu.edu for an application and a tentative schedule.

Applications must be RECEIVED in the 4-H Office by Friday, April 20th.
SPECIAL NOTICE:

Beginning next month [May], the 4-H Clover Connection will no longer be available in printed format. Please mail [preferred method] the enclosed form to Danyce Dicks @ 6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403 or fax @ 910.798.7678 or danyce_dicks@ncsu.edu to provide your email address in order to remain on the mailing list.

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.