Recognition and accomplishments of members and leaders of the Chase County 4-H program once again were highlighted at annual 4-H Achievement Night program.

Leaders and 4-H members were presented certificates and awards on Nov. 18 at the 4-H exhibit building in Imperial.

Each year, Outstanding Exhibit Hall Awards are given to individuals who excel in different project areas. These awards are based on the individual's presentation on the county level, competing in a judging event and exhibiting at the county fair in the area of the award.

This year's recipient of the Outstanding 4-H project was Regan Gittlein. Rylee Christensen received the Outstanding Foods Award and Blair Hartman was the recipient of the Outstanding Home Environment Award. The Junior Overall FCS Award went to Jessica Hartman.

The trophies for the family and consumer science areas are sponsored 21st Century Equipment, Hill's Family Foods, Prior's and Sew Forth and Johnson's Publications.

Livestock awards were presented in the three areas which included herdsmanship, round robin and the carcass contest.

The Silver Spurs Club took home the honor for sheep herdsmanship, Dreamchasers received the beef herdsmanship, while the Silver Spurs were awarded the swine herdsmanship honors.

These clubs each received a cash incentive along with a certificate of achievement for their efforts.

Receiving carcass trophies from the county fair this year were:
Chantal Heathers, Grand Champion Sheep Carcass; Laura Rundback, Reserve Champion Sheep Carcass; Blair Hartman, Grand Champion Swine Carcass; Regan Gittlein, Reserve Champion Swine Carcass; Caleb Bubak, Grand Champion Beef Carcass; and Michaela Ketter, Reserve Champion Beef Carcass.

Trophies were sponsored by:
21st Century Equipment, LLC, Veterinary Services, Large's Cattle Services, Wayne and Chris Krausnick, Rex and Amy Prior, Milner Farms—Bob and Jippi, Chrisman Cattle Services, Inc.—Travis and Kelly Chrisman, Maddux Feeds—Mike and Barb Maddux, Scott and Linda Clements and Tommy's Sports Club, LLC. Incentive sponsors were Veterinary Services, Jerry Wood and Imperial Beef.

Two new programs this year resulted in additional awards given during the Achievement Program. These were the Diamond Clover Program and the Nebraska Club of Excellence.

The overall goal of the Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence is to recognize clubs that have met goals to help 4-H clubs develop enthusiastic young people who boldly take action to

demonstrate life skills as capable, caring, confident and competent kids of character, thus contributing to the improvement of themselves, their family, club, community and world.

This year the Silver Spurs 4-H Club, Dreamchasers 4-H Club, and the Chase County All Stars 4-H Club were recognized as Nebraska 4-H Clubs of Excellence.

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed to encourage 4-H youths to engage in a variety of projects and activities that will enable members to acquire the life skills and necessary to lead successful lives as competent, caring and contributing citizens. The program's overall goal is to provide 4-H members a rich and diverse learning experience.

Youth completing levels of the Diamond Clover Program are:
Level 1—Amethyst: Lauren Prior and Dawn Castle; Level 2—Aquamarine: Mindy Castle, Dustin Holmes, Regan Gittlein, Jessica Hartman and Blair Hartman, Level 3—Ruby: Mason Holmes and Spencer Hartman.

This year's Outstanding 4-H Member was awarded to Emily Ringleman. She has been involved in many 4-H projects throughout the years including clothing, shooting sports, photography, cake decorating, foods, woodworking, floriculture and various home environment projects. She has served as a helper and teacher for Clover Kids Program.

Each year the 4-H Council recognizes supporters of the 4-H program by selecting recipients for the Alumni Award and also the Friends of 4-H Award.

This year's Alumni Award was presented to Julie Rigel. After helping her older sister and brother with their 4-H projects, Julie joined the Spring Creek 4-H Club when she was nine years old. She took part in a wide variety of projects over the years including several livestock projects.

She continues today to be an asset to the 4-H Program through her many hours spent before, during and after the 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction balancing books, collecting from buyers as well as creating checks and sale sheets for 4-H'ers.

The Friends of 4-H Award is given annually to a business, group or individual who has gone that extra mile in supporting the Chase County 4-H program.

This year, the Chase County 4-H Council presented this award to a Connie Griess. She always goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to the 4-H Program as well as her community. You can always count on being treated with a smile and a word of encouragement from this person. However, you never know when you might be running into her as she has many different disguises - some of which include Mr. Scarecrow at the Pumpkin Patch and Lil' Green at the 4-H Carnival. No matter the disguise there is always a friendly personality to go with it.

This year's Friend of 4-H is the one to keep the Chase County 4-H Program organized and the first person you hear when you call or walk into the Extension Office.

The "Tom Dill Spirit of 4-H Award" is given in memory of Tom Dill, Extension Educator in the SW4 Counties from 1997-2007.

Dill was known for stressing the importance of what was learned in 4-H, rather than what prizes were awarded or earned by the 4-H member, and that is what the award reflects.

Anyone could make nominations in each of the four counties and the final selections were made by Dill's family members from those nominations. The Chase County 2008 "Tom Dill Spirit of 4-H Award" recipient was Sabrina Hayes. Maggie, Tom's widow, presented this award.

Each year, a Sportsmanship Award is presented to a shooting sports member who exhibits responsibility, displays courtesy for others and demonstrates safety practices in the air rifle practices and competition. This trophy is sponsored by Burton and Vickie Beard in memory of

Jim and Jan Trupp and was presented to Jenna Schilke.

The volunteer leaders were recognized for their most essential role in the 4-H youth program. They were presented certificates of appreciation for their time and dedication.

Leaders who have served for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service also receive clover pins with their certificates.

Receiving the silver clover pin were fifth year leaders Jippi Milner, Lisa Schilke and Chris Tomky. Rita Hogsett and Barb Maddux were presented with a gold clover for 10 years of service. Sheila Stromberger was presented the pearl clover pin for her service of 15 years.

Volunteer leaders and their years of service include:
1st—Arlyce Chrisman, Mitch Hoskovec, Elisha Madden, John Schilke, Sherri Schoenholz; 2nd—Ivy Ellicott ; 3rd—Kim Bubak, DeAnn Doetker, Amy Gittlein, Jeremey Gittlein, James Marlatt, Theresa Schilke; 4th—Tracy Coleman, Tonja Ketter, Kristine Smith; 5th—Jippi Milner, Lisa Schilke, Chris Tomky; 6th—Brian Prosser, Launy Ringleman; 7th—Lynn Prosser; 8th—Lorrie Ringleman; 9th—Gene Heathers, Tracy Heathers, Dave Hogsett, Amy Marlatt; 10th—Rita Hogsett, Barb Maddux; 15th—Sheila Stromberger; 17th—Arlys Cupp; 22nd—Joe Barger, Lynette Johnson, Susan Spicer; 24th—Kathy Barger.

Awards of achievement on 4-H record books were presented to the 4-H members for their accomplishments over the years . They are as follows:
Achievement—Paula Liebbrandt.
Beef—Caleb Bubak.
Cake decorating—Mallory Coleman, Blair Hartman.
Citizenship—Chantal Heathers, Mason Holmes.
Child care—Blair Hartman, Michaela Ketter.
Clothing/Textiles—Michaela Ketter, Kaycee Bubak, Cheyanne Kuhlmann.
Dog—Chantal Heathers, Shaylee Heathers.
Food & Nutrition—Meagan Kilpatrick.
4-H story—Alan Smith, Michaela Ketter, Paula Leibbrandt.
Home environment—Elizabeth Tomky.
Horse—Shaylee Heathers.
Horticulture—Meagan Kilpatrick.
Leadership—Daniel Hogsett.
Public speaking and presentations—Regan Gittlein.
Poultry—Cheyanne Kuhlmann.
Rabbit—Abbigail Vetter.
Rockets—Joseph Tomky, Khristofer Kuhlmann.
Shooting sports—Joseph Tomky, Khristofer Kuhlmann.
Swine—Spencer Hartman.
Wildlife—Khristofer Kuhlmann.
Welding—Gerald Ambrosek.

Community Pride certificates were given to 4-H Clubs who took the time to give back to their community. These clubs included Silver Spurs, Chase County All Stars, Challengers and Dreamchasers.

Earning day camp scholarships for their first year in 4-H were:
Charlie Carter, Dawn Castle, Kelly Christensen, Ryelee Christensen, Cade Francis, Shaylee Heathers, Trace Helser, Dustin Holmes, Whitney Hopp, Camron Kilpatrick, Kadyn Milner, Michael Musgrove, Lauren Prior, Kayla Schilke, Cydney Spady, Bailey Springer, Annika

Swanson, and Sydney Vetter.

Kimberly Cook, Extension Educator, presented the council members with certificates of appreciation and expressed her sincere thanks for all of their service.

The 2008 Council members were:
Rob Hartman, Carol Vetter, Theresa Schilke, Barb Maddux, Tracy Heathers, Sue Knobbe, Mike Ketter, Lisa Schilke, Trevor Maddux, Schyler Heathers, Preston Bernhardt and Molly Strand.