

# 365 Days of 4-H Learning & Fun

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Thirty days has September, April, June, and November. Most the rest have 31, making my 2<sup>nd</sup> year in 4-H 365 days of learning and fun!

**October**, 31 days to spend deciding on what projects I want to tackle this year. This month I went to the Hot Dog Cookout and Signup with my mom and sister. While there I met the new 4-H Agent, Melanie. She was really nice and I knew then that she would be a great help to me in my 4-H projects. I had fun that night with my friends and signed up for Market Lambs, Meat Goats, The Normal Animal, Dairy Cattle, Uniquely New Mexico, Sewing II, Baking II and Adventures with food. I decided later that I had too many projects and ended up not doing dairy cattle. One of my goals was to win the 4-H Sweepstakes Award at our county fair, so I took extra Home-Arts projects to help me reach my goal.

**November**, 30 days to learn about being an officer in my 4-H club. At the November meeting of the Elida 4-H club, I was elected treasurer. I wasn't sure what that meant. I asked my Mom and she explained that I was responsible for keeping track of our club's money. I had to keep track of how much money we spent and how much money we earned. I had to give a treasurer's Report at every meeting and tell what our expenses were and what our income was, and then give a final current balance of our account. It was a pretty cool job except I had to learn to talk really LOUD so everyone could hear me.

**December**, 31 days with family who matter most to me. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> I went to the Roosevelt County 4-H Awards Ceremony. It was called *4-H, A Timeless Tradition*. It really is timeless to my family because my granny & granddad were in 4-H and so were my parents. I watched the 2007 officers lead the awards ceremony. Lots of people won special awards and some people were honored for being long-time supporters of 4-H. I received awards for all of my 1<sup>st</sup> year projects. I was so proud of my projects and how they turned out. At the end of the program the new county council officers were recognized. I thought that was neat and that someday I wanted to be a county council officer too!

Also in early December, our first baby goats were born. They were precious! I hoped that I might be able to show some of them at the fairs. Later in the month we had to castrate and dehorn them. They sounded like loud little babies! They were sore for a few days, but after a while they were back to normal running and jumping around! The rest of the month, I spent enjoying the holiday season with my family.

**January**, 31 days and I had most of them to prepare my scrapbooking demonstration. At our 4-H meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> I presented a fantabulous PowerPoint presentation on how to create a scrapbook. I used what I learned in my scrapbooking project last year to show others how they could create a scrapbook or record book of their own. I really had fun creating the PowerPoint! I gave them advice about being organized and neat and also how to crop and decorate photos. Everyone brought some of their own photos and I supplied decorative scissors, paper and stickers so they could create their own scrapbook page. Everyone had fun!

**February**, 29 days, and **March** 31 days. I attended monthly 4-H meetings. At the March meeting I signed up to attend Youth Get-Away in April. I couldn't wait! These were pretty quiet

months for 4-H, but I had a few activities including attending the quilt workshop during Spring Break. I made a John Deere quick & easy throw and pillowcase. They turned out awesome!

**April**, 30 days of fun, friends and fetching lambs! My friend, Jasi Roberts, won the 4-H Essay Contest and won a free trip for her and a friend. She invited ME to go with her to Youth Get-Away at Inlow Camp. I was so happy! I stayed in the Yucca cabin with 35 girls. We chatted, danced and learned about being responsible, having self confidence and being team players. Youth Get-Away was a fun time and I was sad to go home, Boo Hoo! I had a great time and met many new friends. Also during April I started looking for lambs to buy for my market lamb project. My Mom and I and my Uncle drove to Tucumcari to look at lambs. We saw some great lambs. I wanted to buy two lambs, but ended up with four, YIKES! We already had three lambs that we bought in Texas, so now I have seven lambs. Boy is my summer going to be busy!

**May**, 31 days, but only 14 school days! I was glad for the last day of school. At the awards ceremony, I received a tiger paw pin for being an A-Honor Student. I was proud! Now that school's out, I can really concentrate on my 4-H projects. My Mom, Granny and I went material shopping for my sewing projects. I found just the right fabrics. I made a dress out of pink and brown polka dot and paisley material. I made an apron with colorful western boots on it, and I made a beachy short set with brown shorts and a Hawaiian shirt. It was a lot of hard work, and guess what? I met the seam ripper again. I had four great items to enter in the County Contests. I also had to prepare for my favorite 4-H contest, Favorite Foods. This year I chose Christmas Dressing with Crantastic Holiday Sauce as my dish. Of course I used a Christmas theme for my table. I found the perfect dishes to use on my table and we even had gold flatware to make my table shine! I studied the food guide pyramid and thought I was ready for the contest.

**June**, 30 days to study, model, test, lose and win! I took my sewing projects to the county contest on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. I was the only girl who sewed at the county contests. I won 1<sup>st</sup> on all and received good remarks on my score sheets. I still modeled my outfits for everyone, even though I was the only one. I knew I would need the extra modeling practice to get ready for district. I learned a valuable lesson at the favorite food contest. I never actually took the time to bake my dressing at home. I just expected the cooking time on the recipe to be right, but it wasn't! It took almost 30 minutes longer to cook my dish. I won 2<sup>nd</sup>, but I was determined to practice at home and win 1<sup>st</sup> at district. On to Home-ec Skillathon. It was my second year on this team and I had a pretty good idea on most of the items I had to identify. I placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the County Contest so I was on the A-Team for the Districts Contests. At District Contests I was only allowed to enter one sewing garment. I chose to enter my apron based on the county score sheets. It seemed like there were at least 30 aprons, so the competition was fierce! I still managed to place 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the Favorite Foods Contest, I was ready! I practiced at home, studied the food guide pyramid and knew the nutrients in my dish. And by the way, it was tasty! I guess all my work paid off, because I won 1<sup>st</sup> place! YEAH! Home-ec Skillathon was easy, or so I thought. After the contest I told my Mom that I was certain I got a perfect score. Well I was wrong. I missed a few things, but I still won 3<sup>rd</sup> High Individual and our team won 3<sup>rd</sup> place too! For all of our hard work, we were allowed to go swimming at the hotel pool. We had a blast playing chicken, splashing and having swimming races. Dunking Justus was the best part! After swimming we got ready for the awards, cookout and dance. What a fun night eating and cheering on my friends as they received their awards. Roosevelt County ROCKS!

**July**, 31 days to tune up the sheep and goats! I was so busy working with my animals. I fed them morning and night and I exercised them almost every day. I weighed them every

Sunday and worked with them most evenings to get them showing good. It took me a while to get the goats to lead. They are ornery little critters. I tried to learn different ways to teach my lambs to push. I tried hot shots and pushing them into a fence. But the best way was to back them off of a table or stand. My Mom built a stand out of wood pallets. It wasn't big enough and I fell off a few times, but my sheep learned to push!

**August**, 31 days and 6 of them were at the Roosevelt County Fair! I spent the first few days completing all of my projects which meant lots of baking, crafting and painting. My goal was to win the 4-H Sweepstakes so I did extra projects to have a better chance. Our club also did a community service project. We painted the air conditioner stands at the fairgrounds. They looked nice! The Cotton Extravaganza was the Saturday before the fair. I placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, but my sister won Best of Show with an outfit my Mom made for her. She was excited! Fairtime was great! I won lots of blue ribbons with my projects. At the goat show, I won 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Feeder Class and my goats placed 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in their class. I wanted to win the buckle, but I was still proud of my goats, especially, Brownie, the one I raised. I was so nervous on sheep show day! My sheep placed 7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>! I was happy to win a class! I made the sale and sold my 4<sup>th</sup> place FWX. She brought \$3,500; pretty cool! At the awards ceremony they announced KYNZI CREIGHTON as the winner of the Sweepstakes Award. I did it! My hard work paid off!

**September**, 30 days and 2 more fairs! This was my first year to attend the New Mexico State Fair. We stayed in the dorms. It was awesome. On the day we arrived after unloading, we went to the Cotton Extravaganza. I only entered my dress, but I won 1<sup>st</sup> place and Best of Show. My Roosevelt County friends all did really well. What a good start! I worked hard the next few days feeding, weighing and drenching my lambs and goats. My goal was to make the cut! Both of my goats were in the same class. I asked my good bud Kenzee to show one for me. Guess what? They both made the cut! I ended up 16<sup>th</sup> with my goat, but my other goat weighed out. At the sheep show, three of my lambs got the gate. It is really NOT fun. I told my Mom that I was not getting the gate with Kayak. She didn't believe me, but I was right! I made the cut! I was so happy and I showed really hard. I ended up in 6<sup>th</sup> place and I got pulled into the sale. What a way to finish at NMSF! My lamb brought \$1,500. The State Fair was a great experience for me. I enjoyed going with my Mom! But no time to daydream, because the Eastern New Mexico State Fair is coming up. One week before the fair, I had the chance to sell my best lamb to a Texas buyer. It was a hard decision, but I decided to cash in. I knew I might have sold my best chance at Roswell, but I couldn't turn down the offer. So, with only four lambs and two goats left on the 28<sup>th</sup>, we headed for Roswell. I had to go to school during the week, but came to the fair for goat and lamb show days. This fair was not so great for me in the animal department. My lambs and goats all got the gate. I was half and half happy and sad, because the judge told me I still did a good job showing. Next year I plan to work hard, look for better animals and make the cut! However, my other 4-H projects did great! I won many blue, red and white ribbons! It was nice to see them in the 4-H department! One week later, we hauled all of my animals to Muleshoe to the Auction. It was sad, but I was ready to end my year!

365 days seems like a lot, but if you're having fun in 4-H, it's really not that long! Now I'm ready for another 365 days!