

NEWS FROM

The Cloverfields of Chatham County



MAY 2016

From your 4-H Program Staff...

Where did April go?? If anyone spots where it ran off to, let us know! It seems to have vanished in to thin air - before you know it, it's going to be June! As the weather is getting warmer, everyone's itching for summer to be here. Here in the office, we've been getting prepared for summer camps, hiring counselor staff and looking for folks interested in doing day camp activities. It's shaping up to be a busy season!

We've got a eggs-cellent issue in store for you this month! Embryology is where it's at right now, as we patiently await the hatching of a new flock of feathered friends.

Inside we've also featured some amazing accomplishments of our county volunteers - I'm pretty sure they are acutally Superwomen in disguise!

Sincerely,
Ginger & Carolyn

Don't count your chicks (or ducks!) before they've hatched!



This month marks another year of 4-H bringing agriculture to the classroom, in the form of embryology and raising chickens and ducks! Beginning on April 11th, thirteen classrooms around Chatham County received chicken and duck eggs to raise in incubators. Classrooms in Pittsboro Elementary are raising chicks, while the classes in Siler City Elementary, Moncure Elementary and Virginia Crossing Elementary are all raising ducklings.

Students helping raise these chicks and ducks will be learning about development and life cycles, as well as discussing where food comes from. It also provides the opportunity to discuss good practices of handling and caring for animals, and practices of good health like handwashing. After delivering the eggs, we made several

Left, top: Agent Ginger Cunningham discusses handwashing with Siler City kindergarteners

Left, bottom: Ginger uses a black light to show the kids spots that they missed when washing
Right: Chicken eggs donated by Dr. Charles Taft of Stauber Farms

site visits to help demonstrate proper handwashing and why it is important before handling the eggs. Over the next three weeks for the chicks and four weeks for the ducks, the students and teachers will turn the eggs three times a day and use candling to determine how the chicks and ducks are developing.

Hopefully by day 21 for the chicks and day 28 for the ducks, the students will get to watch them pip out into the world! The chicks and ducks will stay in the classroom that week, and then we will pick them up and return them to the farms they came from!



Thanks to our wonderful and generous 4-H sponsors:





We Have the Best Volunteers!



Horsekateers Leader Mary Dickerson Honored as 2016 "Friend of Extension"

Every year, Chatham County Cooperative Extension honors one volunteer or community member as a "Friend of Extension" for going above and beyond in helping out the organization and promoting the goals that Cooperative Extension is built upon. Mary Dickerson has been tremendously active as a 4-H leader since founding the Horsekateers with her daughters. She has led the group to individual and team successes at the state and national level in educational contests, including coaching this year's

NC Hippology team. She has served as an council member for the 4-H advisory committee and the County's Extension committee for several years, helping out wherever needed. She knows the workings of the 4-H program better than most professionals in the state, and truly believes in the program, saying she's seen it change kids' lives.

We are so thankful to have her as a member of our program and glad that we are able to honor her with the award this year!

Horse Judging Victories at St. Andrews!

On April 23rd, four Chatham County 4-Hers traveled to St. Andrews University in Laurinburg to compete in the 2016 NC State Horse Judging Contest. This contest is designed to teach participants how to evaluate good confirmation, breed character and performance ideals in different breeds of horses, and how to defend their choices and rankings to a judge.

In the senior individual category, Horsekateers member Grace Conerly placed 1st in Halter, 3rd in Perfor-

mance and 2nd in Reasons, giving her an Overall placing of 1st! In Juniors, Horsekateers Kayla Amy and Victoria Smith were joined by Low Riders member Anna Roberson to make a three person team that placed 2nd Overall! As individuals, Anna placed 4th in Halter and 9th Overall, Victoria placed 3rd in Performance, 7th in Reasons and 5th Overall, and Kayla placed 10th in Reasons and 10th Overall! Congrats to all the girls, we are so proud!

Lucky Clovers Leader Kelly Carlson Receives Bronze Master Volunteer ACE



The NC Master Volunteer Achievement in Continuing Education is a program developed to recognize volunteers for participating in training experiences, conducting services projects and processing learning experiences. Leader Kelly Carlson has completed her Bronze level portfolio in the project, a huge undertaking and time investment. This first level includes mastery of the core concepts of 4-H, such as Parliamentary Procedure, understanding Ages and Stages of development, and showing proof of projects completed. We've been blessed to have Kelly in our program, as she has been leading the Lucky Clovers and the pilot pollinator afterschool club, the Queen Bees!



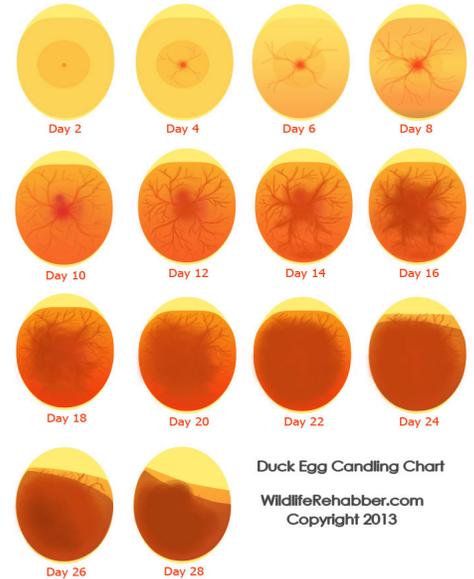
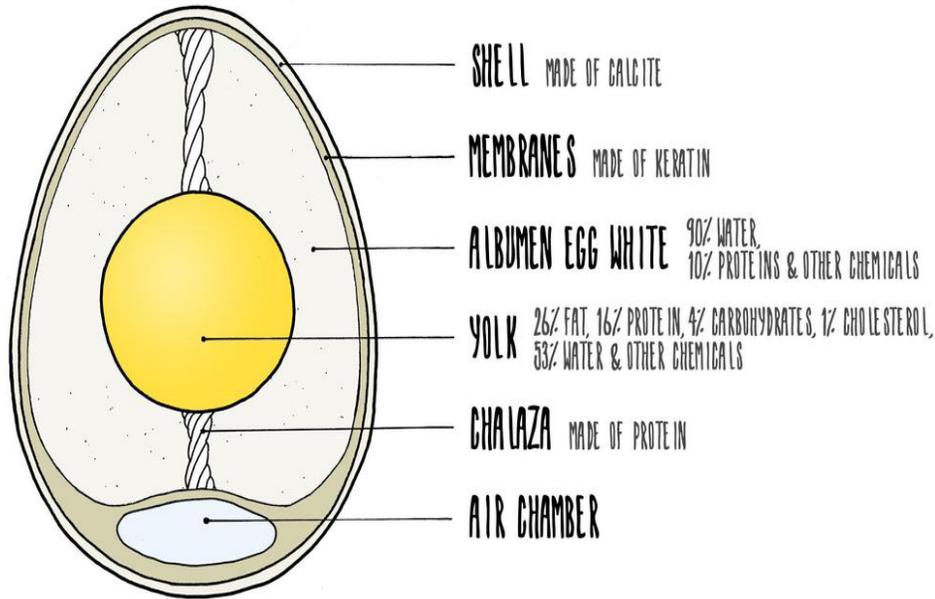
Above, from left to right: Kayla Amy, Anna Roberson, Grace Conerly, and Victoria Smith

What's inside our eggs?

Below, you can see the amazing structure that is the egg. Made up of many proteins, the egg is often referred to as the perfect food. They provide a good source

of protein, healthy fats and vitamins A and D, as well as potassium, calcium, folate and choline - all needed for healthy human function!

Candling is the method used to study the growth and development of the eggs. A bright light is placed behind or underneath the egg, and developmental details can be seen that match known developmental patterns, allowing hatch dates to be predicted very accurately.



We are lucky enough to have a partnership with The Livestock Conservancy for this program - they provide eggs of rare heritage breeds. By raising them in our program, we are helping contribute to the continuation of these breeds and help in raising awareness about conservancy. Their statuses range from "Critical" (most severe), then "Threatened", to "Watch" and "Recovering" (least severe).



Status: Critical
Use: Eggs, Meat
Egg Color: White
Temperament: Active & docile
Characteristics: Horn-like comb

CREVECOEUR CHICKEN



Status: Threatened
Use: Eggs, Meat
Egg Color: Brown
Temperament: Active & gentle
Characteristics: Deep red plumage

Buckeye Chicken



Status: Critical
Use: Eggs, Meat
Egg Color: Blue-green
Temperament: Docile
Characteristics: Mallard like pattern

Saxony Duck



Status: Critical
Use: Eggs, Meat
Egg Color: White
Temperament: Docile, can be high strung
Characteristics: Colored cap on head

MAGPIE DUCK



Status: Threatened
Use: Eggs, Meat
Egg Color: Brown
Temperament: Gentle
Characteristics: Fast growth

Delaware Chicken

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING ANY OF OUR 4-H CLUBS, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT (919) 542-8202 OR EMAIL CAROLYN AT CAROLYN.JOHNSON@CHATHAMNC.ORG

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May 4-H Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Chicks Start to Hatch!!	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Ducks Start to Hatch!!	9 County Activity Day <i>AIRE applications due</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 State Congress RSVPs due & Youth Summit applications due	17	18	19	20	21 NCD Qualifying Horse Show Beef BBQ Boot Camp
22 United Way Volunteer Appreciation Event	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	HOLIDAY	31	<i>For more details on any of these activities and dates, see online at chatham.ces.ncsu.edu or call 919-542-8202</i>			

THANKS FOR READING OUR NEWSLETTER! HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR THE NEXT ONE? EMAIL CAROLYN.JOHNSON@CHATHAMNC.ORG!

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