

More than sheep and cattle

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OZAUKEE COUNTY — Though many people see the Ozaukee County Fair as an annual summertime landmark, there's a group of about 625 residents who see it a little bit differently. Who are those people? The members of the 12 4-H clubs in the county.

"People often think that 4-H is all about animals, and while a number of kids are involved in animal projects, there are really about 100 different projects 4-H members can participate in," said Kathy Butler, Ozaukee County's 4-H and Youth Development Educator. "The 4-H year starts in September and the county fair is really the place for the kids to show what they've learned in their projects."

Each 4-H student is able to bring entries in their specific projects to the fair for judging and there are typically about 3,000 fair entries each year. Projects are reviewed face-to-face with a judge the Monday and Tuesday before the fair begins and then exhibited for the fair. Sewing project members may have also participated in the clothing review prior to the fair, where they are judged on fit; the sewn items can then be entered into the fair for a judge to look at their construction and technique.

"We also do our foods entries the week before the fair," said Butler. "The only foods that are now exhibited are things that are canned and the decorated cakes."

She also let fairgoers in on a secret: Those cakes are decorated

been judged. In fact, the actual fair itself is a very busy time for 4-H families.

"Each 4-H family is asked to work two shifts for each 4-H member in third grade or older, and these families help fill 1,044 shifts throughout the run of the fair," she said. "It is about 3,000 hours worked in support of the fair."

4-H members can be found parking cars on the north end of the fairgrounds, working in the Clover Café, which is one of the biggest fundraisers for Ozaukee County 4-H each year, and acting as building attendants and even performing on stage.

"Our 4-H variety show happens earlier in the year and the top acts are invited to come back and perform at the fair," said Butler. "Some of our older members also participate in Mr. and Miss Ozaukee 4-H contest."

While most residents make a point of visiting the fairgrounds, life is a little different for most 4-H families. It's not a matter of stopping in at the fair, because there's a very good chance they're already there.



Among the many different projects a 4-H member can undertake during the Ozaukee County Fair, are **top**, cake decorating; **above**,

Lego building; and **below**, archery.

Submitted photos

Styrofoam, which holds up far better in the heat than cake.

While there is a tremendous amount of fair entry preparation on the part of the 4-H members, the 280 volunteer leaders and countless parents, the work is not done once the items have