National Compliment day which takes place on January 24th serves as the perfect time to begin paying compliments to those around you. A compliment is an expression of praise, commendation, or admiration. Both giving and receiving compliments can not only boost happiness but also the self confidence of those giving and receiving the compliments. Take a moment out of your day and give at least one compliment each day! Whether you give the compliment in person, over the phone or via text or email, any compliment received is appreciated.

Here are a list of common compliments that may be given:

- Your smile is contagious!
- You are brave.
- You have a good head on your shoulders.
- You are a great friend.
- You are one of a kind.
- I appreciate you!
- You are inspiring.
- You are like sunshine on a rainy day.
- You are making a difference.
- You are a gift to those around you.
- You have the best ideas.
- You light up the room.
- You should be proud of yourself.
- You’re doing great!
Pop Your Own Popcorn

Corn planted in spring is pollinated during early summer and removed from stalks when matured using a combine. The combine not only removes the stalks but also removes the kernels from the cob leaving the husks and stalks in the field. Once the corn is removed from the cob, it is dried to the perfect moisture level and is sealed into containers to be sold.

Most corn is grown in the United States “Corn Belt,” which includes Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska. Different types of corn are used for different purposes. On January 19th, we will celebrate National Popcorn Day. On this day, try popping popcorn on the stovetop (with a parent’s help). Even though buttery microwave popcorn sounds delicious, stove popped popcorn is the healthiest and certainly delicious when you add your own toppings.

In order to pop your popcorn, you will need a heavy duty stockpot with a lid or dutch oven, 3 tbsp. of olive oil and 1/2 cup of popcorn kernels. Over medium heat, pour in popcorn kernels, stir to coat with oil and keep stirring occasionally until kernels begin to sizzle. Put lid on and raise heat between medium and medium high after 1-2 minutes of popping, pick up with lid on and shake up and down. When popping slows to every couple of seconds, turn off the heat. Set the lid partially off so that the steam can escape. After 1 minute, pour into a bowl and drizzle with olive oil and your favorite toppings.

Ranch Topping

1/2 tsp dill
1/2 tsp chives
1/2 tsp garlic powder
1/2 tsp onion powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper

Other Toppings

cheese
cinnamon
cocoa powder
garlic powder
pepper

ELEVATOR SPEECH

When meeting with a potential buyer in person, it is important to have an elevator speech prepared. Elevator speeches should serve as a quick synopsis of your background, experience and what you want to achieve.

- An elevator speech should be 30-60 seconds or short enough to be presented during an elevator ride.
- Keep the speech positive and persuasive.
- Spark the interest of your listener.
- Do your best not to speak fast & avoid rambling.
- Include
  - who you are
  - what you do
  - what you want to do with your earnings from your market animal project.
- Share your goals with your listener.
CRAFTY CLOVERS SPRING EDITION

Are you interested in doing crafts from your own home? We will be starting our Spring Edition of the Crafty Clovers program. We are working on a list of crafts we will be completing and will post it in the next edition of the Hot Off the Press Newsletter.

4-H SWINE CLUB

The 4-H Swine Club recently collected toys at Peace River Seafood, wrapped them and delivered them to the Homeless Coalition shelter. Congratulations on a great Community Service activity!

BUYER'S LETTERS

When marketing your animal, a Buyer’s Letter is one of the most important aspects of ultimately selling your animal. A buyer’s letter is a way for you to acquire new and returning buyers to come to the livestock sale. A Buyer’s Letter serves as an invitation from you to become a potential buyer. Many buyers. Use these tips to write a great Buyer’s Letter:

- Make it personal - instead of Dear Sir, use the person’s name for example. Mr. Smith
- Letters should be handwritten if possible. Do not photocopy and add a written name. If you do type and print letter, personally sign each letter.
- Layout of letter:
  - Introduce yourself (name, age, school, years in 4-H etc.)
  - Information about your project and your 4-H club.
    - About your animal (breed, age, temperament)
    - How you raised your animal & what you learned while doing it
    - 4-H club name and your involvement within the club & county 4-H program
- Contact information
- Fair dates (show, sale, etc.) including times and locations of each event
- Add a photo of you and your project
Dear Charlotte County Fair exhibitors,

As the fair is quickly approaching I just want to remind you of a few important things that need to be done prior to fair check-in.

For the swine exhibitors, make sure your breeders identification is in your animals ear and our fair ear tag and BOTH of those numbers MUST be on your health paper.

For steer and breed animals, if your animal will be over 18 months at the fair you must have a state I.D. tag in your animal and that number as well as the flap tag MUST be on the health paper.

For chicken exhibitors if you need your birds bled you can contact Ms. Abby, our health inspector and she can get with you prior to the fair that way it is done.

As always thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time. If you need state tags, or breeder tags please contact Abby, her information is below.
This is the last chance to sign up for the 4-H Pen Friends program. Sign up here to write letters to another 4-H'er from somewhere in the United States! https://tinyurl.com/y4qwbps6
Make a new friend this year!

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