



Lewis Geyer/Times-Call

Tess Gettel, 18, president of the St. Vrain Super Swine 4-H Club, explains Saturday to fellow club members how to get their pigs ready for judging. "Our mission is for our members to learn all aspects of caring for their livestock," Gettel said.

Super Swine Club to celebrate success with BBQ

By Kari Keller
Longmont Times-Call

LONGMONT — Wash your pigpen, keep your pig well fed and in good health, clean the barn alleyways, and be the most responsible kids in the barn.

These are some of the lessons the 12 young members of the St. Vrain Super Swine Club learn from their club leader, Dana Gettel.

"Our mission is for our members to learn all aspects of caring for their livestock," Gettel said. "They learn the cost of feeding and owning

a market animal."

Members of the 4-H club range in age from 9 to 18. To participate, they must purchase their own pig, care for it for one year, then sell it in the Boulder County Fair Junior Livestock Market Sale in August, usually for a profit.

The club was founded in September 1978 by Khileen Flynn. The members participated in their first fair in August 1979.

The club will celebrate its success and longevity with a barbecue from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6, in

the hog barn at the fair. The barbecue is open to anyone who has ever participated in the club, and leaders are encouraging all alumni to stop by.

Recalling her initial years as club leader, Flynn said, "My son had been involved in 4-H for one year, but that particular club didn't have a leader. We felt so lost."

So Flynn suggested they start their own 4-H club, an idea greeted with enthusiasm. The five members who started the club with Flynn all voted together on the name.

At its first fair in 1979, longtime fair leaders June and Harold Nelson were so impressed with how the kids took care of their pigs that they created the Herdsman Award and presented it to the entire club.

"(The kids) were in their pigpens washing their pigs, sleeping with their pigs and cleaning out their aisles," Flynn said. "They were in love with their pigs."

The Herdsman Award was presented during the fair to the club that displays the best sportsmanship, is the most courteous and takes the best care of its animals.