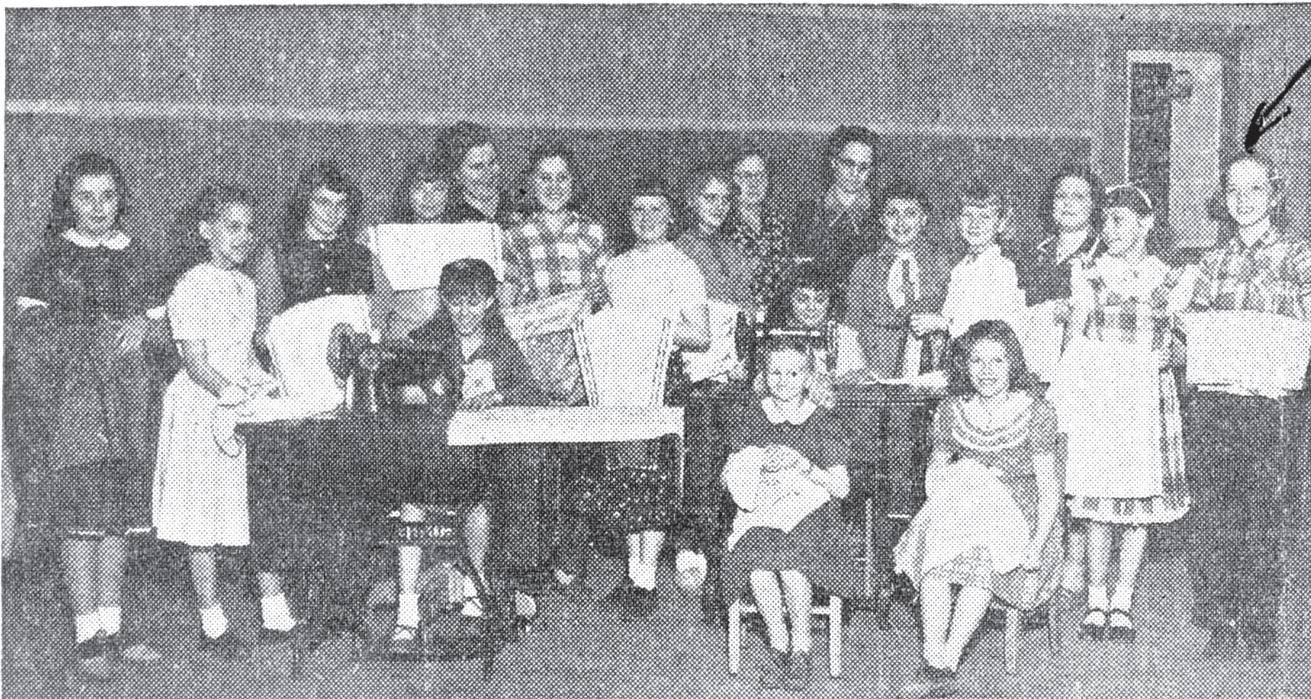


Fruitport Has Thriving Boys and Girls 4-H Clubs

Karen



With only two sewing machines to work on, Fruitport's Busy Bees have shown remarkable initiative in completing their assigned projects, a dish towel and a half apron. Seated at the machines are Shilah Kaye Frisbie and Sandra Brown. Sylvia Christiansen and Jacquelin Lue are seated in front. Other members are Ruth Cook, Dawn Ickes, Lucille Keur, Joyce Austgen, Mrs. Marshall Tufts, Marcella Rock, Joyce Aldridge, Marjorie Nicholl, Mrs. Cecil Eagles, Mrs. Peter Keur, Judith Bloodgood, Sally Bouwman, Sharon Cooper, Kathleen Camp, and Karen Gaul. (Photo by Fred Sellers, Fruitport)

Fruitport, March 25 — The Fruitport 4-H electrical club, known as the Electrical Wizards, is the largest electrical club enrolled in Ottawa County. The club has 28 members including 24 fifth graders and four sixth graders.

Arnold Berg, fifth grade teacher, is the club advisor.

Reluctance by parents having their sons working with electricity was overcome by the pleadings of the boys and an indoctrination with the principles of electrical safety and respect.

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PARENTS THEN supported the project with material and financial aid. The boys began their work projects which included the making of trouble lights, heavy duty extension cords, door-bell assemblies, table lamp kits, glass grinding, soldering, home appliance repair, and the construction of a small, toy electric motor which would actually run when assembled properly.

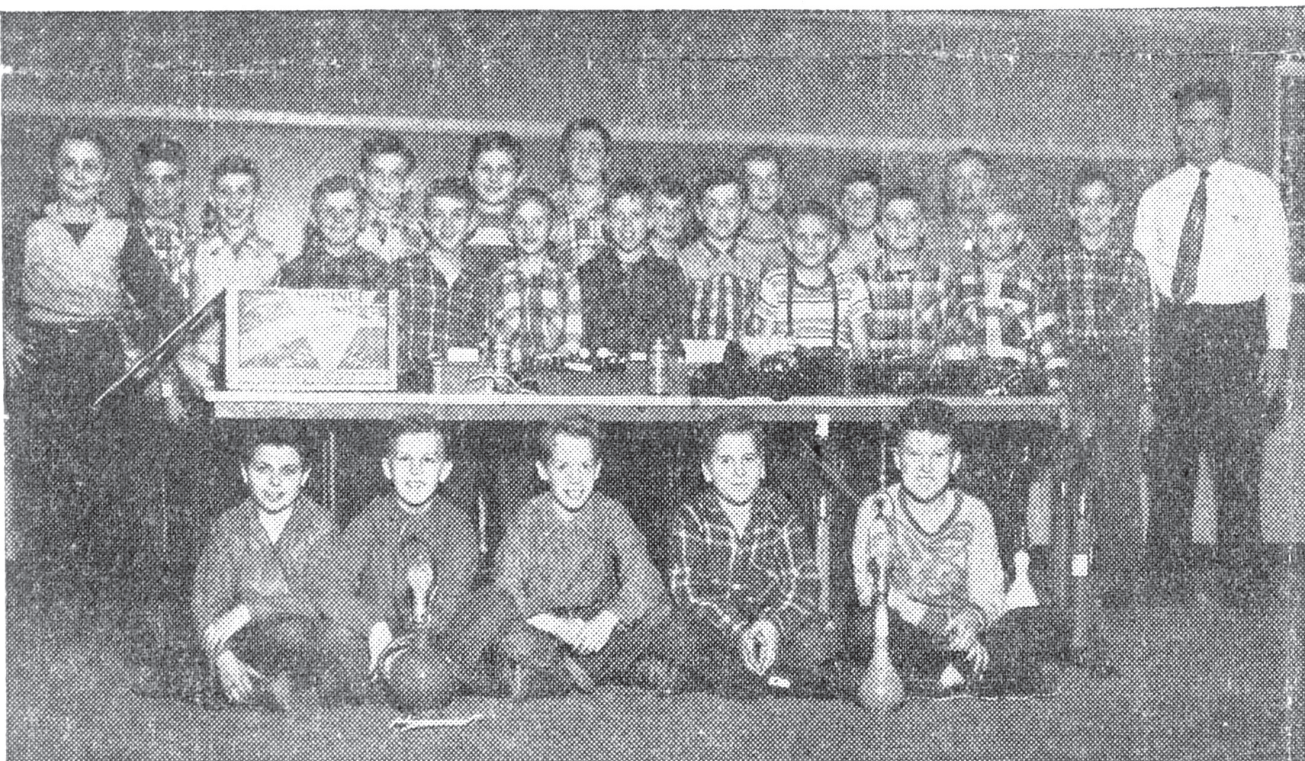
The boys showed keen enthusiasm for their club work and spent many noon and recess periods on their projects in addition to the regular club hour each Friday from 2:30 to 3:30 p. m. when they meet in the school bus garage.

Most of the projects have now been completed, and the boys are busy packing the things they have made which will be exhibited at the county Achievement Days at Holland.

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WITH BUT two sewing machines to share among 19 girls in the fifth grade 4-H Sewing Club at Fruitport's Edgewood School, the club leaders, Mrs. Marshall Tufts, Mrs. Cecil Eagles, Mrs. Peter Keur, and Mrs. Eugene Gaul have displayed remarkable ingenuity, originality, and patience in guiding their charges toward the completion of their assigned projects, the making of a dish towel and a half apron, in preparation for the 4-H Achievement Day at Holland. Most of the girls will complete their projects.

The club meets in the girls' regular class room each Friday from 2:30 to 3:30 p. m. for instruction and work on their projects, and within certain limitations, are allowed to do extra work on their assignments at home because of the lack of machines.



Boasting the largest 4-H electrical club in Ottawa County, the Fruitport Electrical Wizards are now packing the many things they made for exhibition at the County Achievement Day at Holland. Officers of the club, seated in front, include: Danny Coulson, secretary and treasurer; Ronald Chambers, reporter; Earl Stressman, vice-president; Joe Strait, president; Orange Beckley, health chairman. The boys in back include Rodney Rinehart, Jerry Virag, David Start, Richard Johnson, August Fabyan, Jimmy Rogalla, Warren Hammons, Charles Hampton, Lance Norris, Cecil Kenter, Adrian VanDonkelaar, Francis Bates, Stanley Frisbie, Robert Johnson, Louis Seguin, James Cooper, Dean Anderson, Billy Wolff, Wayne Zeitz, and advisor, Arnold Berg, fifth grade teacher at Edgewood. (Photo by Fred Sellers, Fruitport)

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Dr. Universe: How do I make compost without a compost maker? — Miracle, 15, Nigeria

Hi Miracle,

My office is just down the road from the Washington State University composting facility. It processes more than 10,000 pounds of organic waste every month. That's a lot of compost!

I talked about compost with my friend Jim Kropf. He works for WSU Extension. Extension programs connect universities with local communities. They offer classes and trustworthy, science-based resources that anyone can use online.

Kropf told me that composting is how nature recycles. "In the forest, leaves fall on the ground and come in contact with soil," he said. "Worms, centipedes, microorganisms and fungi all work on those leaves to break them down into organic matter."

Making compost is copying nature to make

fertilizer for healthier gardens. It's also a way to help our planet.

You don't need anything fancy like a compost maker to make compost at home. Some people compost in a pile on the ground. Others compost in a container to keep pests out. The container should be at least 3 feet wide, 3 feet high and 3 feet deep and can be made from scrap materials. The container should let air in and drain excess water.

The basic compost recipe is half wet, nitrogen-rich "greens" and half dry, carbon-rich "browns."

Greens:

- Grass clippings
- Fresh leaves and plant matter
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- NO meat, fat or dairy food scraps!

Browns:

- Dry leaves and grass
- Dead plants
- Newspaper
- Hay and straw
- Sawdust
- Cardboard (unwaxed, no labels)

To get started, layer greens and browns in your compost pile. Chop or shred larger things because small pieces break down better.

Check the moisture level of the compost by grabbing a handful from the pile. If you can barely squeeze out a drop of water, it's perfect. If it's too wet, add more browns. If it's too dry, add water.

Cover the pile to protect it from rain.

You can make compost slowly by adding greens and browns to the pile for a year. Then, mix the compost with a shovel and leave it alone for another year. Eventually, you'll have compost.

The fast process is more hands-on. Layer greens and browns as before, but this time use a shovel to turn the compost at least once a week. The center of the pile will get hot—between 150° F and 170° F (65° C to 76° C). The heat comes from the microbes breaking things down.

"When the temperature starts to fall, turn the compost," Kropf said. "You're going to bring the outside materials, that still look the same as the day you put them in, to the center. Then push the middle materials to the outside and do a good mix. That will spike the temperature again."

Once the pile looks uniformly broken-down, let it sit. This is called curing. The compost is ready when it looks dark and crumbly. It no longer gets hot when you turn it.

There are lots of variations on making compost. One of my favorites is vermicomposting, or making compost with the help of red worms.

No matter which method you use, compost is a great way to care for your garden—and our Earth.

Keep turning!
Sincerely,
Dr. Universe