

## Ongoing Projects

- **Alumni Weekend Banquet & Parade**

Each year the 20 year class organizes the events for this weekend. It includes various events throughout the weekend including a live band, parade, pancake feed, community church service and banquet.

- **Rock County Fair**

The fair has become an event to visit. The 4-H members display their projects out at the fairgrounds which are located in Bassett. A two day rodeo takes place in the arena. A parade along with nightly entertainment starts the fair off.

- **Rock County Hospital Health Fair**

Rock County Hospital hosted its 5th annual health fair at the Rock County Hospital the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This year the event hosted over 35 vendors including cardiac imaging, mental health, nutrition and general medical health. There was no admission charge and the public enjoyed being able to receive health related literature, pick up numerous donations and register for door prizes. The hospital employees hosted a taco salad fund raiser with the proceeds of over \$500 going towards the purchase of a central cardiac monitoring system. Prior to the health fair the public was able to have blood drawn for lab work with the results being available at the fair. The number of patients served increased by 50 over the prior year. We estimate the number of volunteers involved were over 40 people including hospital employees, FFA members, high school staff, economic development members and community members. Volunteer hours easily reached 500.

- **Rock County Hospital Appreciation Week**

Rock County Hospital and Long Term Care celebrate National Hospital and Nursing Home Week each year. A hamburger feed was held at the hospital. Over 75 community members attended. Dessert was provided by the hospital employees and the hospital board members helped serve the food.

- **Math Olympics**

The Math Olympics are held at Bassett Grade School during the first weeks of school coordinating with the worldwide Summer Olympics every four years. We first started in 1996. It was designed to involve parents and the community with our students' academic achievements. Events are organized in three age brackets and focus on various key mathematical areas: measurement-standard and metric, estimation, basic facts, and practical applications (problem solving). General information on geography and customs of other countries are stressed prior to the evening event. Every effort is made to show students the importance of participation, good sportsmanship, and acceptance of different cultures.

- **Farmers Market**

Every Saturday Mid July through Mid September, the Farmers' Market takes place in downtown Bassett. This is the third summer of this event. Bassett/Rock County Chamber started this project with just a couple vendors each week and it has now grown to an average of over six vendors each Saturday.

- **Community Garden**

When the local 4-H members heard there was going to be a Farmers Market they took the initiative to plant a community garden. They brought their produce to the market each Saturday for the past two years. The funds derived from the produce sales were donated to the local food pantry

and the Magic of Christmas project. They have worked hard at expanding the garden and making it an attractive venue. However, this year they took a year off and will be starting the community garden at a new location next summer.

- **Bassett/Rock County Chamber Annual Golf Tournament**

Each year over 100 people sign up to participate in the Chamber golf tournament. It is held the first Friday in June. The Chamber supplies the food for the day while a local business donates refreshments. A relaxing, fun atmosphere allows people to kick back and enjoy doing business in Rock County.

- **Business Appreciation Picnic**

Alternating springs, Bassett/Rock County Economic Development Committee hosts a Business Appreciation Picnic. Everyone in the county is welcome to come and enjoy a free BBQ meal and thank the local business owners for their continued hard work at bringing excellent products and customer service to the area.

- **Welcome Baskets**

In 2008, the Bassett/Rock County Chamber implemented a new project. They wanted to welcome newcomers to the community as well as give them information on getting involved within our town. Every two months, a welcoming committee assembles and delivers “Welcome Baskets” to people who have moved into the community within those two months. The baskets include information on local businesses, gift certificates to redeem in local businesses and homemade cookies. Since this project was started over 50 baskets have been delivered.

- **“Clean Up the Rock” Day**

Each year, the Bassett/Rock County Chamber organizes a county wide clean up day. They purchase dumpsters from the garbage company that serves Bassett. The dumpsters are then located in one area of town in the three communities of Rock County. People can bring items to dispose of at the dumpsters for the whole day free of charge. The Chamber has had to increase the number of dumpsters to provide for the amount that people continue to bring each year.

- **Hazardous Waste Collection**

Bassett has received a grant for the past three years to have a Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day in the community. People can dispose of paint, pills, computers, and other various items. Each year, the amount of items disposed of continues to climb as more and more people become aware of the service.

- **RC&D Electronic Recycling**

This year to add to the Hazardous Waste Collection and “Clean Up the Rock” Day, RC&D received a grant to hold an electronic recycling drop off in Bassett. Community members could drop off TVs, computers, copiers, etc. for recycling. It was such an overwhelming success, that RC&D plans to hold another recycling drop off next year for the community of Bassett.

- **Tire Amnesty Day**

Spring 2010 will be the third Tire Amnesty for Bassett. We have received a grant through DEQ to provide this service to the community. We have received the grant every other year for the past six years. The past two times we received on average 75 tons of tires.

- **Bargain Buyway**

This annual event held in north central Nebraska has become a major event in the community of Bassett. Two years ago two community members persuaded the Bargain Buyway planning committee to include Bassett in their event “loop”. In the first year, Bassett had five participating businesses/individuals offering sales and deals for traveling shoppers. This second year, the number grew to over ten participating locations for shoppers to stop and purchase garage sale items, antiques or a good meal.

- **Annual City Wide Garage Sale Day**

Every June Bassett/Rock County Chamber holds a city wide garage sale day. The Chamber puts together a list of participating garage sales so buyers can see where they want to stop and shop. Ten sales were held this year.

- **Bassett/Rock County Chamber Christmas Promotions**

Each year the Chamber works at putting together a holiday promotion program. They work to get people to come together for the holidays and to shop locally. They hold events such as hayrack rides, caroling, and “Bassett Bucks” drawings.

- **Magic of Christmas**

The Chamber sponsors a “Magic of Christmas” every year. This project goal is to provide a gift for needy children and food for their family. A list of the needs is gathered by the NE Dept. of Health and Human Services stating Santa’s list of toys and clothing. Tags are then attached to Christmas trees located in two downtown stores. Residents then take a tag and purchase the gift for the child. A group of volunteers collect the gifts, purchase food and deliver the gifts at Christmas. This project was expanded this year to include a Valentine’s meal cooked by the volunteers and served by a local 4-H club. Plans are to continue to expand this activity to include other holidays.

- **Shop Local Campaign**

Bassett/Rock County Economic Development Committee organized a Shop Local Campaign this year. They purchased yard signs promoting local businesses and ran ads in the paper and on the radio about shopping locally to support Bassett/Rock County businesses. Throughout the year, people in Bassett will continue to put up their yards signs for various events to remind people to “look here first”.

- **Sandhills Ranch EXPO**

This will be an annual event with the new committee working within the community to make this a growing success each year.

- **Bassett Web Site**

One of our goals in Bassett is to increase our tourism to Bassett as well as making our name known. We are continually updating and renovating our web site to make it more user friendly. We recently added Bassett videos about our area as well as a survey to get emails for people who would like information about our area.

- **Arbor Day Program**

Annually on Arbor Day the Bassett Tree board holds an Arbor Day program at Bassett Elementary. The members have a presentation on the history of Arbor Day and then show the kids how to plant a tree. At the end of the presentation, each child is given a tree to take home to plant. The trees are donated by the Tree Board along with local businesses.

- **BEEP (Bassett Educational Enrichment Program)**

Each June a “summer school session” is provided by Bassett Elementary teachers which is open to all elementary students that will be attending K-6 here in Bassett in the fall. During the two week session, students participate in fun, learning activities. It is a great opportunity to help students get excited about learning.

- **Halloween Parade**

Bassett/Rock County Chamber sponsors a local Halloween Parade on October 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Preschool-sixth graders are invited to take part in the Halloween Parade through downtown Bassett where the students walk through our main street area and local businesses provide candy for them. Their costumes are judged and winners receive prize money, but all children receive candy and participant awards. Then once that is concluded, a hot dog feed for the participants is held in our downtown park area so the children can have supper before they go out trick or treating.

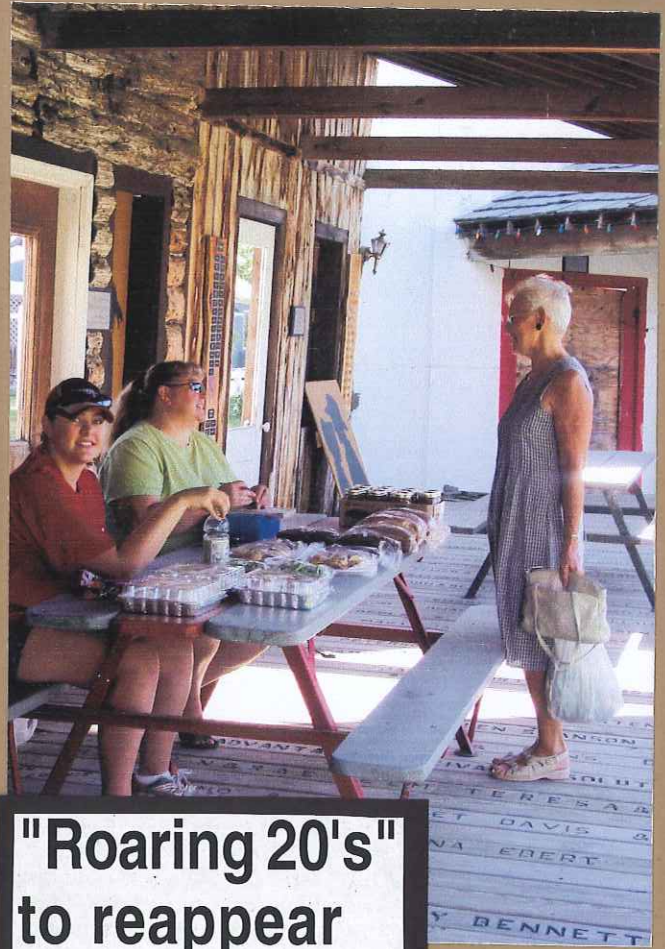
# Farmer's Market

**JULY 17-  
SEPT. 18**

8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
Memory Lane Park  
Downtown Bassett

Bring Your Produce,  
Crafts, Collectibles,  
Baked Goods, etc.

Sponsored By:  
Bassett Chamber



## "Roaring 20's" to reappear

The Rock County Fair parade will be held Aug. 12 with the theme, "The Roaring 20's". Entries are to assemble at the Rock County High school by 5:30 p.m. Float categories include: youth, commercial, non-commercial, tractors, automobiles, animals.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three in each category. An entry form will appear in the Rock County Leader next week.

There will be something for the whole family with other activities planned downtown.

# BARGAIN BUYWAY

**COMING THIS WEEK END  
APRIL 17 & 18**

Guide Books available locally  
or call 402-684-3851 or 402-893-2880

# Congratulations BASSETT

We want to congratulate Bassett once again for winning the top town in their class for the Nebraska Community Improvement Program. Another honor for all the hard work and enthusiasm it takes to win this award, and Bassett should be proud.

The accomplishments are many, but it still takes caring individuals who prepare the scrapbook to present to the NCIP program. We are very proud that economic development in Bassett is still strong. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

TOM AND PAT THOMPSON

## Dec. 22 chosen for Magic of Christmas

The Magic of Christmas is nearing completion for 2009. Chairpersons, Jeana Harmon and Lisa Murdock say delivery is a go for the evening of Dec. 22.

Rock county is fortunate to have volunteers who do the delivery, year after year and also for the continued contributions from so many which make this Bassett/Rock County Chamber of Commerce project successful.



## THANK YOU!!!

### The Sandhills Ranch Expo Board Members:

Joe Andrews,  
Gene Cosgrove, Roy Stewart,  
Keith Cosgrove, Gary Shankland,  
Brett Swanson, Jay Stewart,  
Barry Frerichs, Ann Dvorak,  
Shareen Dearthmont,  
Kent Smith, and Deb Weidner,  
thank **EVERYONE** who made  
the 2010 Expo  
a great success!!

A special thanks to the many exhibitors and visitors who searched to find alternate routes, sometimes traveling many extra miles, just to arrive in Bassett as planned. We can't thank the volunteer help enough - Cameron Smith-web design, ticket takers, individuals at the entrances, shuttle operators, set-up/tear-down, Bassett Feeding for livestock, Monte Strelow for livestock hauling, Behlen Country@John Kearney and chute demo operators, Purina Mills®, Long Pine Feeds and Farmer/Rancher Coop, skid steer and telehandler operators, water drainage-Mike/Marty Kreitman, Dave Clay, Kristen Linse and Chad Stec, the Rock County FFA chapter for assistance before, during and after the show, Tom Huffman and Sandhills Ministry for keeping the grounds tidy. A huge thanks to MacDon for sponsoring the Extreme Bull Riding Event and Sandhills State Bank for bringing Susie Dobbs to the show. In the event we have missed someone who provided assistance, please know we did appreciate the help.

*Without volunteers, events of this magnitude could not happen!*

Rock County Leader, Bassett, Neb., Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009--

## Complete contest cards to win Bassett Bucks

The Bassett/Rock County Chamber of Commerce 2009 Christmas promotion is underway. They will be giving \$1,500 in Bassett Bucks on Dec. 20. First prize will be \$1,000, second \$250 and third \$250.

To be eligible, individuals must "shop locally" and complete a "Twelve Days of Christmas" card. Cards may be picked up and returned to participating merchants.

At the completion of each project, the business owner or employee will sign his/her name and the participant will continue

on until the entire card is filled. Individuals may enter as many times as they wish and incomplete cards will be disqualified.



**'TIS THE SEASON TO BE KIND TO OTHERS.** From left, Lori Stolpart received \$250, Melanie Doverick \$1,000, and Jayme Hansen \$250 for completing the Bassett/Rock County Chamber of Commerce 2009 Christmas promotion "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Along with making purchases, they also shared several acts of kindness with others to receive the necessary signatures to be entered in the competition to win a prize of Bassett Bucks which can only be spent in Rock County businesses.



**THE SANDHILL SWINGERS 4-H CLUB PLANTED A GARDEN** at the Rock County Long Term Care Center this spring for their community service project. Since their community garden lot had been sold, the 4-Hers decided the residents at the nursing home would enjoy a small garden, out by the patio. They planted cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, onions, and some flowers. The residents will have plenty of fresh produce to eat this summer. With the help of Dave Anderson, (maintenance), the 4-Hers have been taking turns caring for it each week. After their 4-H meeting on Saturday, some of the 4-Hers met to check on the garden. Those members pictured are kneeling, Whitten Giles and Lauryn Stanton; standing, Harlee Hollenbeck, Tori Davis, Kenady Stanton, and Taylor Hart. The Sandhill Swingers invite everyone to take a look at the garden when visiting the residents.