



Shown above is Officer Rob Jones and his K-9, Ahen. They are from the Pekin Police Department and they came to the Farm Bureau for a Prime Timers program to demonstrate what K-9s can do. Ahen sniffed out some cannabis hidden in the auditorium and executed the "bite" when he was commanded. Officer Jones explained how the K-9s are chosen, how they are trained, the differences in the K-9s and how closely the officers and the K-9s work together.

Prime Timers Attend Pekin Police K-9 Program And OSF Lifeline Program

By Phyllis Fischer

On August 26, 2014, thirty-five Prime Timers met at the Tazewell County Farm Bureau auditorium for two programs; the Pekin Police K-9 Unit program and the OSF Home Care Services Lifeline program.

Officer Jones from the Pekin Police Department began his program by introducing his K-9, Ahen, and Officer Foster from Washington, IL who came to be part of a demonstration. Officer Jones talked about how the K-9's are trained by positive reinforcement. Some of the dogs are passive and some are aggressive. Ahen is passive so when he located cannabis that had been hidden in the auditorium, he sat down and would not move until Officer Jones praised him for his find and gave him his toy as a reward. However, Ahen did not seem passive when Officer Jones gave him the command to "bite" Officer Foster after Foster put his arm in padded armor. Ahen ran, jumped and clamped down on the armor and did not let go no matter how much Officer Foster jerked around or turned. Ahen only let go when Officer Jones gave him the release command. Ahen then looked for his reward, his favorite toy, for a job well-done. All of the time he was biting the padded arm of Officer Foster, Ahen's tail was wagging. He was actually having a good time, it was play for him. Finding drugs and attacking (on command) is play for him and other K-9s and that is how the officers keep the K-9s excited about their jobs and motivated to follow commands.

When both of the officers talked about their K-9s, it was with affection and trust. For both officers, whenever their dogs can no longer be a police dog, they would go home with the officers and become their pets. Officer Rob said the K-9s can work anywhere from five to 10 years; it all depends on their health. Also, the K-9 depends solely on one officer to give them their commands. The only excep-

tion is that if that officer is on vacation or hurt, then the K-9's are kept in the State Police Kennel and only a couple of trainers are allowed to work with them. For the safety of all, the K-9 must obey only the command of his officer.

Ahen only barked once during the program and it was when Officer Foster purposely made a threatening move toward Officer Jones. Ahen might not have looked fierce as he passively sat by Officer Jones; but when he started barking a warning, you knew he meant business. It is good to know that the officers are protected and that they will protect their K-9's. Officer Jones said "having a K-9 is not like having a gun, they are like having a Taser, they are a method to stop a threat".

Officers Jones and Foster answered the many questions the Prime Timers had. Then we had refreshments and were ready for the program about OSF Lifeline.

Karen Schaidle of OSF Home Care Services introduced the products that Lifeline has to offer and the care that OSF Home Care Services provides. She had two different systems, one that uses phone land lines, and one that uses cell phone lines. Karen said that in the future they will be getting GPS lines so the warning system can be used anywhere the person is and not only around their home.

She also had a pill dispenser that could be filled once a week by a caretaker. They would put a daily dose of pills in individual cups and then the cups are inserted into the machine. When it is time for the person to take their pills, an alert goes off, the person pushes a button, and the cup of pills comes out.

Some Prime Timers had questions for future reference and some had questions for the Lifeline they are currently using. Karen answered all questions and handed out pamphlets for anyone who was interested.

The Prime Timers had a great afternoon and everyone enjoyed the programs.



YOUNG LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN DISTRICT DISCUSSION MEET

Three members of the Tazewell County Young Leader committee recently participated in the Illinois Farm Bureau District 7 & 8 Young Leader Discussion meet. The district discussion meet was held in Morton on August 5th. The discussion meet is an elimination for participants that will advance to the state Young Leader Discussion meet that will be held during the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago this coming December. Shown above are; Ryan Sauder and Morgan Mooberry, (Tazewell County), Matt Bane, (McLean County), Sean Ariens, (Woodford County) and Ryan Voorhees, (Tazewell County) who serves as the IAA District 7 State Young Leader representative. Following a two-round discussion on agricultural issues, the judges selected Morgan Mooberry and Sean Ariens as the two young leaders to represent District 7 at the state young leader discussion meet at the IAA Annual Meeting.



Kurt Christ is showing the Prime Timers how the apple sorting machine works in the above picture. The apples are put into a bin that feeds them out onto a belt with holes in it. Then the belt moves and any apples that fall through the holes in the belt are too small and they fall into a separate bin. They are then used for apple cider and other apple products. Kurt asked the Prime Timers to help themselves to an apple. We also had a sample of their apple cider which was delicious.

Prime Timers Visit Christ Orchards

By Phyllis Fischer

On August 13, 2014, twelve Prime Timers drove to Christ Orchards on North Texas Road off of Rte. 116 toward Elmwood for a tour. At that time, they were not open for fall apple picking so we were able to have a private tour.

Christ Orchards has been in business for 37 years. Initially, the orchard was planted by the Midland Coal Company in the early 1970's. Later when the orchard came into production, Elmwood School's FFA was asked to tend and operate the land. As a high school student, Kurt Christ was involved in the care of the orchard. When Kurt graduated, he first rented and then purchased the orchard in the mid-80's. Kurt and his wife, Connie, and their five children have been working together to make the orchard what it is today. Kurt's parents and sister also offer support to the business.

Once we arrived at Christ Orchards, we all climbed on their hayrack to take a tour of the grounds. Kurt took us through the orchards and then stopped by their lake in the middle of the orchard to tell us about their apples and to answer our questions. He said they raise twenty-two varieties of apples which ripen between mid-Au-

gust through late October depending on the variety.

All of their trees are dwarf trees, as Kurt said "if you grow a forty foot tree, you need a forty foot ladder". The apples are regular size; the trees are short enough that they or anyone can reach the apples to pick them. Also the family does maintenance on the trees so it makes sense to be able to work on the trees without using ladders.

After fielding our questions, Kurt took us on another ride through a different part of the orchard. As we traveled, we could see the trees with Yellow Delicious apples and various red apple trees plus some plum trees. Kurt said they also have livestock and raise crops; however we only had time to see the orchards and find out

about how they handle the apples.

We then returned to their building where the apples and other items are sold. In the back, Kurt explained the apple sorter that separates the small apples from the large ones. The smaller ones are then used for cider. He invited each of us to select an apple to eat. We were also offered a sample of their apple cider – which was the best I have ever tasted.

Kurt then took us to another building that housed the machine that turns the apples into cider. He explained how it worked and how they do not use additives.

In the fall, they do have apples for sale plus they have pumpkins, apple cider, mums, fruit butters and preserves, soy candles, fall decorations which includes baskets and Indian corn and cookbooks. You can either pick the apples yourself or they sell them already picked. Some of the Prime Timers purchased items such as jams and jellies and Pumpkin Butter.

Kurt answered all of our questions; we were having such a great time that we were sorry that the tour was over. The Prime Timers agreed that they would be back to Christ Orchards this fall for some of their apples and other products.

After we left the orchards, we headed toward Fairview Farms in Bartonville for lunch. They are located near the Peoria Airport. They used to serve family style in the evenings, but since April they have offered lunch and individual plates can be ordered as well as family style. They are known for their fried chicken and fritters, but all of their food was delicious.

A great time was enjoyed by all of the Prime Timers.



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