

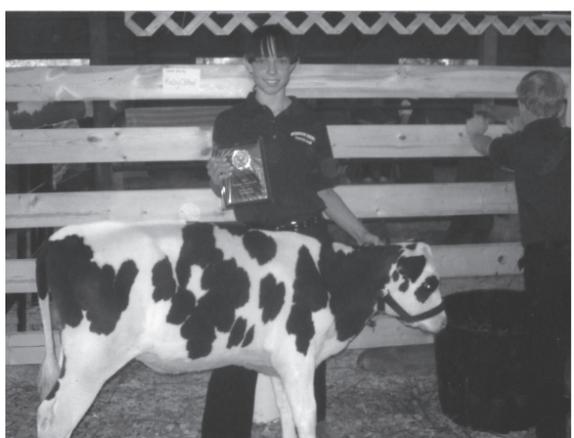
# GREEN ACRES LIVESTOCK CLUB IS VERY ACTIVE



**Kelly Olthof**, of the Green Acres Livestock 4-H Club with her dog, Goldie.



**Hunter Kriger** with his calf, Cooter.



**Kelly Olthof** with her dairy calf, Easter Flower.



**Karson Kriger** with wood/model judge Bill Gilbert.



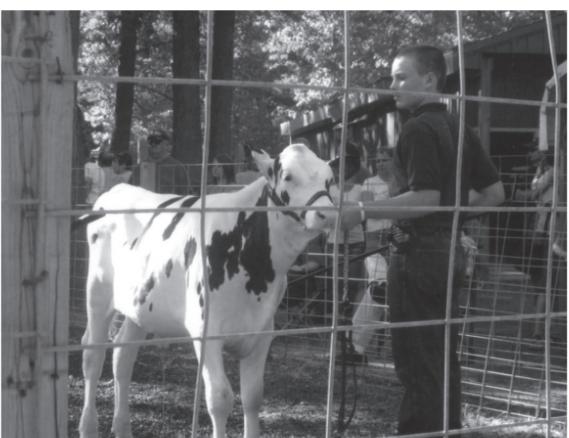
**Kaitlyn Kriger** is a member of Green Acres 4-H Livestock Club. She is a cloverbud having her dill judged.



**Lynn Olthof** from Green Acres Livestock club is a ten-year member. She took first place in instinctive archery.



**Gabrielle Dixon** with her first year swine.



**Michael Olthof** with his dairy feeder steer, Money.



**Meagan Kriger** with craft judge Luanne Peter.



**Green Acres 4-H Livestock** members in shooting sports: Lynn Olthof, Karson Kriger, Michael Olthof, Ben Taylor, Kaitlyn Kriger. (Not pictured, Mitchell Dixon.)



**Mike Erffmeyer, Scott Nerli, and Alicia Kantola** hanging signs on the new inanimate building.



**Clara Carr** (left) on Maddie and Ashley Morrow on Ruby sharpen their skills.



**Addison Walstra and Madeline Williams** in showmanship.

## From railroads to Roman chariots to the space shuttle

(Forwarded from the internet by R.A. Shackles)

The U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That is an exceedingly odd number.

### Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the U.S. railroads.

### Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

### Why did 'they' use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

### Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old long distance roads in England because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

### So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

### And the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.

Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever....

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder "Who came up with this?" You may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses.

### Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a space shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major space shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of two horses' behinds.

And you thought being a horse's behind wasn't important? Ancient horses' behinds control almost everything. And current horses' behinds in government are controlling everything else! •