



4-H CLUBS:

4-H'ers
4 Paws
Aquatic All-stars
Blazers
Busy B's
Canine Connections
Clogging Clovers
East County Steer & Swine
Eastside Rabbiters
Florida Crackers
Foxmill Kids & Colts
Fruitville Exceptional Equine
Green Leaf Adventures
The Green Team
Home Grown Explorers
Horse N Around
Indian Creek 4-H Club
Jr. Cattlemen
Kelly Community Clovers
Little Rascals
Livestock Club
Miakka Allstock
Mini Hooves of Sarasota
Muddy Boots
Myakka Ranchers
New Gate
Open Gaits
Ridin' Rednecks
Sarasota AG
Sarasota County Ranchers
Sarasota Swine
Sarasota Swine's Minutemen
Science Lab
Southern Spurs
The Club



The Clover Times
January 2006



From the Agents Desk; by Marcia Morris

Happy New Year 2006 to everyone in the 4-H family ! Now that the holidays are over it's time to start thinking about County Events and the Fair. Be sure to read all about County Events in this newsletter. This is the beginning step in going to District Events and to qualifying for Superior Exhibitor at the Fair. To be declared Superior Exhibitor you must do a demonstration in the category. Also Mini Building Entry forms and other fair forms are due this month. Please check your fair book for deadlines.

Congratulations to the following clubs who were awarded Community Pride grants for 2005-2006. Sarasota Swine \$800.00, County Council \$ 600.00, Green Team \$250.00, and Livestock Club \$75.00. Good Luck to all these groups as they pursue good works in our community.

County Councils Operation Military Kids event took place in Arcadia December 4th. Children of Military personnel serving our country were treated to an afternoon of fun and activities by the county council. Participants received toys in addition to the fun filled afternoon. Good Work County Council!

Registration for LAW weekend is due January 13th ! If you are interested go on-line or call the 4-H office.

As we start another new year and prepare to go into a busy season of fairs, events, and activities make plans to appreciate and enjoy the times you spend preparing and participating with family and friends. Remember the 4-H motto, " To Make the Best Better ."

Marcia Morris
4-H Extension Agent I I

MARLENE STRICKLAND NAMED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE" FOR 2005
TALLAHASSEE -- Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson announced that Marlene Strickland of Sarasota has been named "Woman of the Year in Agriculture" for 2005.

"As one of the state's most popular 4-H leaders and president of the nation's largest beef industry organization for women, she has done everything in her considerable power to promote Florida agriculture," Bronson said. "She is a true leader with a long and impressive record of service. Her vision has helped guide Florida's beef industry, and her work with young people has inspired a new generation of agricultural leaders."

*I pledge,
My Head
to clearer thinking,
My Heart
to greater loyalty,
My Hands
to larger service,
And My Health
to better living,
For my club, my community,
My country and my world.*



You Need To Know ...

Attention 4-Her's... Show'em What You Can Do!

**At the 2006 4-H Showcase at the Florida State Fair
Speakers! Performers! Exhibitors! We want You!**

WHO: YOU! WHAT: Florida 4-H Showcase during 4-H Day at the State Fair WHEN: Saturday, February 11, 2006 9:00 AM—3:30PM WHERE: State Fairgrounds, Special Events Building, Tampa WHY: Showcase 4-H programs & talent from around the state. HOW: Fill out and return the appropriate form to the State 4-H Office by 4:30 PM, Friday January 13, 2006. (call the 4-H Office to receive forms)

The State 4-H Events office will let you know if you were selected to share your talents!

4-H County Events Day

Don't be late! Demonstration and Public Speaking entry forms are due by 5:00PM on January 20, 2006 at the **4-H OFFICE**. Forms must be filled out completely.

Our Demonstrations, and Public Speaking Event is Saturday, **February 25, 2006** and will be held at the

Meadowland Worship Center

8893 Fruitville Road (3 miles east of I-75)

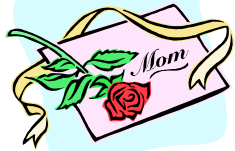
All those who turned in entry forms will receive a letter of confirmation and a scheduled time for your activity. Please check your confirmation carefully to make sure that all the information is correct. Winners in each category will advance to District Events on May 6th. Junior District winners will receive a scholarship to Camp Cloverleaf; July 10th—14th and Senior District winners will advance to State competition (4-H Congress) in Gainesville; July 24th -28th.

Is a CAT Project right for you? Free to good homes...

18 month old female white cat and 4 month old male gray cat needs a good home. Call Angel at 730-6159.

2 month old marble tabby cats, one male and one female call Lisa at 366-2275.

Coming Attractions



February Project Workshop

Valentines Day is February 14th and why not make your Valentine a special hand crafted card. Yes, join us on Wednesday, February 1st for our card making workshop. The cost of this workshop is \$2.00 and please register

with the 4-H Office by January 25th.

Call 861-9812 to reserve your spot!

4-H Fun Horse Show

Practice makes perfect. Come join the fun, mark your calendar for Sunday, January 8th, 2006 9:AM, at Paragon Farms.

Classes will include Western, English, and Speed. Dress in show attire; and safety helmets must be worn. Look for the show flyer in this newsletter!

It's Show Time

The Sarasota County 4-H / Open Horse Show is scheduled for January 29th, 2006 9:00AM. Speed Events will be held on January 27th, 2006 .

You **must** attend one of these shows, and have your "up-to-date" record book signed by a 4-H Agent to qualify for the Area E Horse Show.



January 20-22, 2006



WHO: Any 4-H member who is 13 or older

Where: 4-H Camp Ocala

What is L.A.W.?

Leadership Adventure Weekend, it is a fun-filled senior educational weekend planned by youth, focusing on developing communication skills and leadership. It is an excellent chance for youth to get to know others from across their state while learning valuable life skills at the same time.

Hands-on training makes learning about communicating with others fun. 4-Hers will also learn more about 4H opportunities, leadership skills, and working as a team. Interested... visit the Florida 4-H website@4h.ifas.ufl.edu or contact the 4-H for registration information, 861-9810.

Deadline to register is January 13th!

Dates to Remember:

4-H Hog and Ham Workshop January 16, 2006

Florida State Fair February 9 -20, 2006

4-H Day at the State Fair February 11, 2006

County Events February 25, 2006

Sarasota County Fair March 17-26, 2006

District Events May 6, 2006

Camp Cloverleaf July 10—14, 2006

Florida 4-H Legislature June 26—30, 2006

State 4-H Congress July 24 -28, 2006

Pick up your "**January -August**" 4-H calendars at the 4-H

Office or visit our website at sarasota.extension.ufl.edu to print a copy today!



Fair Days Ahead...



Try Something New... at the Sarasota County Fair

Judging contests at the fair are a good way to learn more about your project area. Why not try... Livestock Judging, Dairy Judging or Rabbit & Cavy Judging. **Are you a Smart Shopper?** Try the Consumer Choices Contest, the 4-H Office has the 2005-2006 member guides, the event takes place on Sunday, March 19. We have a **Horticulture Judging Contest**, did you know the top 4 senior 4-Hers receive a scholarship to attend 4-H Congress in July and participate at the State Horticulture judging event? Entry forms are due by January 20th. Trophies and premiums are given to the top 10 seniors and juniors in each category.

Poster Art Contest Starts Here...

"Faces of Florida 4-H."

The 4-H Poster Art Program gives 4-H members an opportunity to use poster art to promote public understanding and support of the 4-H Program. The contest begins at our county fair and the selected winning posters are sent to the State 4-H Events office for the State Contest and are displayed at 4H Congress in July.



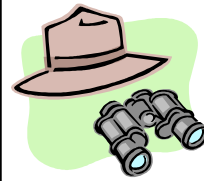
What's Hop-pening?

A rabbit and cavy clinic Saturday, January 21st, in the Mini Building on the Sarasota County Fairgrounds from 9AM until Noon. (Enter at gate 5) The rabbit program will begin at 9AM. This is an opportunity to receive great tips on grooming and showing your rabbits and cavies. Also, learn more about the rabbit & cavy judging contest. Do you need help with your fair entry forms? **Forms are due February 17th.** Assistance at the clinic will be provided to identify breed, color and sex of your animal, so bring your animal in a (preferable) leak proof carrier. Animals will also receive a basic health check-up.

Still Looking...

Can you help?

The Sarasota County Fair is looking for a chairperson for the Dairy and Pygmy Goats.



If you would like to volunteer to chair this committee please contact Keith Wilson at 861-9818.

The 2006 Sarasota County Fair is off to a Great Start!

We have 77 Steer; 173 Swine; 18 Dairy Cattle; 18 Beef Breeding; 14 Pygmy Goats; and 7 Dairy Goats entered in the 2006 Sarasota County Fair. Be sure to check your 2006 Sarasota County Rule Book for the schedule of events and activities.

The Fair is just around the corner...

FORMS, FORMS, FORMS; Demonstrations, Public Speaking, Share the Fun, Mini Building, Fashion Revue (selection & construction) and Consumer Choices ALL are due Friday, **January 20, 2006** IN THE 4-H OFFICE.

Plants, Dog, Llama, Miniature Horse, Judging Contests and Dress up Parade forms are due at the FAIR OFFICE on Friday, **February 3, 2006, before 5:00PM.** Cavies, Poultry, and Rabbit forms ALL are due at the FAIR OFFICE on Friday, **February 17, 2006 before 5:00PM.**

Attention Cloverbuds

Would you like to enter a project you have been working on this year in the Mini-Building? Just complete this form and return it to the **4-H Office** by January 20th. Only 1 item will be allowed per Cloverbud, so pick your favorite. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon only, no premiums will be given.

Cloverbud Name: _____ Age (as of September 05) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Club: _____

Description of Article: _____





Health Matters...



It's A New Year... and What is your New Year's Resolution?

Every time you say the 4-H pledge—you pledge **YOUR** "HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING". So start now, be healthy, have fun and feel good about yourself!

Timing is Everything!

Maybe you want to start a new weight-loss program, Great! But before you start, ask yourself: **Am I Ready To Make A Change?** Choosing the right time to try a new challenge increases your chances for success. Have you thought about what's going on in your life in the next few months? Do you have friends and family members who will support you? Are you motivated to commit to a lifestyle change? If you have tried before, what caused you to fail? Consider all these questions - if the time is right - set reasonable goals - and get started!

Improve YOUR Health

Walking is a low-impact exercise that can ease you into a higher level of fitness and health. It's one of your body's most natural forms of exercise. It's safe, simple and the health benefits are many.

Here's what you need to know to get started.

Wear Comfortable Walking Shoes, before you set out be sure to select comfortable footwear. Also dress in loose-fitting, comfortable clothing and in layers if you need to adjust to the temperature. Wear bright colors or reflective tape after dark so that motorists can see you.

Warm-up, Spend about five minutes walking slowly to warm up your muscles. (You can walk in place if you want). Warming up your muscles reduces your risk of injury.

Stretch, After warming up, stretch your muscles for about five minutes. Include the calf stretch, quadriceps stretch, hamstring stretch, lower back stretch and chest stretch.

Stay Motivated, Set Goals, Have Fun, Starting a walking program takes initiative, sticking with it takes commitment. But when you think of the potential health benefits, it's well worth your effort.

News From Out There...



Ridin' Rednecks by Robyn Rees

At our last meeting on December 1st, some of our members reported on the trip to Jennings, FL for our pigs. We also discussed how our projects are doing. Congratulations to Christina Fruehwald, Sydney Linthicum, Lane Taylor, and Honorable Mention, Jarrod Chapman for selling the most Red Wheel Pie items! At our Christmas party on December 15th, we had a gift exchange. Thanks again to Kayla Comer's family for hosting our party! Our club screening will be on January 21st for the Valley and in town. The time will be announced next meeting on January 5th at 7:15 at Lakeview. I hope everyone stayed safe and enjoyed their holidays!

New Gate 4-H Club by Ariel Stutzman

Finally, winter is here, along with the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Everyone is getting busier and busier preparing for both the holidays and the new year, trying to get all of their shopping and planning done! But despite the craziness, everything's going well, and we're still managing to have fun!

At our last meeting, November 30, President Jesse McKinley gave us a demonstration on helmet safety, a demonstration she had done four years ago and did very well on. It was really a demonstration on demonstrations because only one of our members had done a demonstration before. We all enjoyed and appreciated learning from Jesse!

Hands



On December 3rd, Jesse McKinley and member Logan McKinley, along with leader Mari-Jean Melissa, attended the Pioneer Days at Crowley Museum and Nature Center. She demonstrated whipcracking to many visitors to make the event a success, and reported back to us that it was a fun-filled day.

Most of our members are planning on learning how to shoot with the Minutemen club on December 18th. We are all very excited and look forward to gaining some new skills!

In addition, all of our members are going to the Salvation Army benefit on Tuesday, December 20th. The New Gate 4-H club continues to discuss other fundraising and service activities, and we can't wait until 2006! I hope everyone has a happy holiday season!!

News From Out There...



Myakka Ranchers by: Brent Wilson

Today we discussed another date for the Sam's cookout, and voted on new club T-shirts. We want to send a Big Thank You to everyone that helped with the Christmas float. The parade was a lot of fun and everyone had a great time. The beef, dairy and hog check in went well for us. Congratulations to our new vice president, Drew Dirmeyer. Just a reminder, Don't Forget Jan.16 is our photo workshop at Sam's Club, and our next meeting is Jan.8 at the Dirmeyer's house where we will also have a woodworking workshop. Myakka Ranchers wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Mini Hooves of Sarasota

by Jennifer Beaumont & Shelby Stasik

I can't believe it is 2006.

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and Happy New Year! Our club did the Myakka City Christmas Parade we had 25 mini horses in the parade all dressed up. We had 6 of those pulling carts and they were all decorated. What a great time. We also showed off our new club trailer and we would like to thank all of those people who donated and made our trailer look so great. Our next big thing will be the State Fair coming up in Feb. and then as you all know it is County Fair time. Hope everyone is getting ready and working on those record books.

Now for news from our cloverbuds.....

Hi from the mini hooves cloverbuds we have 8 cloverbuds all together we also had a good time at the parade we got to carry the banner for the club and the rest of us got to throw candy to all the people.

Horse 'n' Around: by Elizabeth Hall

Horse 'n' Around Club met Nov. 22nd at Twin Lakes Park. We talked about important dates for the county fair and about county events demonstrations. Three people presented their demonstrations about how to groom a pig, how to groom a cow, how to groom a horse, photography, and baking. We set a date for our Christmas party. It will be held Dec. 9th, starting at 7pm., at Nimie Gill's house. We will sign up to bring a food dish and there will be a gift exchange (no more than \$5)!

Marine Mammal Debate - By Madison N. Chapman

Have you ever wondered about dolphins in captivity? Have you ever stopped to think if they should really be put in tanks and made to do spins and flips? Well, our homeschool marine life club held a debate to discuss this matter.

Each team had to research both the pro and con side of this issue. Some people even had to argue for a side they were against! In the end, everyone learned a lot about captivity. We learned the benefits it can bring like for therapy, education and appreciation. But we also discovered how the animals are sometimes treated cruelly and are often food deprived. The mixed results of our debate showed us that research definitely pays off. The more research you do, no matter if you are personally for the other side, you can always come up with strong arguments.

The teams also learned about preparation, presentation and most importantly, to be able to think on the spot. Quick thinking was an important quality for the speakers because they always had to be ready to rebut the opposing team's arguments. Debates are a great way to research a topic and learn about teamwork and cooperation.

Canine Connections 4-H Dog Club



Almost half way through the 4-H year and we are having a spectacular year. Last weekend on December 10th & 11th, we worked at the Sarasota Obedience Training Club's agility trials. We helped by leash-running, scribe sheet running, fixing the jumps and by straightening the chute. We are looking forward to our holiday party on December 17th.

Miakka Allstock By: Kaci Duggan

Hey Everyone.

Our December meeting was our annual Christmas Party. We had a potluck dinner and a gift exchange. The food was great and fun was had by all.

Clogging Clovers by Rebecca Griffin

Happy New Year!

We had a good time in the Sarasota Christmas parade. We walked this time, but next year we are making a float! Our feet were aching the next morning!

On December 10th we had a Christmas performance at the Bee Ridge Baptist Church for the Woodcarver's Christmas party. Everyone had a good time. On December 11th we had another performance at the Heron House on Fruitville Road. We do both of these shows annually and have a lot of fun. Thanks to all the members who showed up to these shows and for all your hard work.

We are going to meet every Wednesday now to learn our dances to be ready for the fair.



What's Going On!

Sarasota Swine by Rebecca Griffin

Hi Everyone! Happy New Year! On October 10th at the Show Chow Jackpot Steer Show, John Karl Albritton was a 1st place class winner and Jarrad Albritton was a 2nd place class winner. On October 11th at the Cow Town Classic Show, John Karl Albritton placed 2nd in his class and Jarrad Albritton placed 3rd in his class. Congratulations!

December 3rd our piggys were entered into the fair and we have 15 from our club this year. Our leaders will soon be going around and checking on everyone's animals.

December 7th was a sewing workshop at the 4-H office. We made a HUGE stocking and it was fun to use the sewing machines...but hard. I think that more kids should go to these workshops to make things for the fair. On December 10th was the goat check in for the fair. We have 7 kids showing goats in our club this year. On December 17th several members of our club went to the Oink-To-Tail pig show in Volusia County. For Senior Showmanship John Karl Allbritton and David Clemons got called back for showmanship. For Intermediate Showmanship Rebecca Griffin and Houston Burnett got to comeback and Houston got 1st place! For Junior Showmanship Wyatt Thomas won 1st place! Justin Burnett got 3rd Place! Gavin Allbritton got 4th Place! For Pigs in Division 1 Kerry Desmerais won 2nd place in class 1! Houston Burnett won 2nd place in class 2! Justin Burnett won 3rd place! Rebecca Griffin won 4th place in Class 3! For Pigs in Division 2 Wyatt Thomas won 3rd place in class 2! Gavin Allbritton won 4th place in class 2! In Division 4 class 3 David Clemons won 1st place and got to come back for grand champion. Congratulations on everyone's piggys! Oink Oink! We are having a meeting on December 31st. Have a Happy Piggy Holiday! Good Luck on all of your animals and projects!

Thank You, Bye!



Homegrown Explorers by Krista Schrock

With our budget goals set, we are focusing on planning our fundraisers. We have also begun discussing some fair projects we can do as a club, completing our fair entry forms, and filling in our record books.

At our December meeting, our entire club participated in making maple cinnamon rolls. We decided on this project to learn the basics of baking with yeast, which will allow us to compete in the baking division of the Mini Building. It was the perfect activity for the Christmas season; as the rolls were being baked, the entire room smelled like maple and cinnamon. The final results turned out great.

Our first activity of the new year will be a photography workshop.

Green Team by Laura Knipper

Hello 4-H'ers,

Our December meeting was also our Christmas party! After our usual meeting we did the craft, pinecone Christmas trees. We decorated them with stringed beads and stuffing for snow. Each one turned out unique and beautiful. On December 20th we will be teaching the children at the Salvation Army how to make these, pinecone Christmas trees, and giving them a lesson on trees and the environment. Next, we played musical chairs. We all had a real fun time with that! Then we had a lollipop/drink break while playing another game. We listened to the beginning of a Christmas song and tried to be the first one to remember its name. After this we had our gift exchange, everyone gave and received, really nice presents. Finally, it was time to eat. Our potluck dinner had many things to choose from and everything was delicious! Of course the desserts were very good too!

At the end we played one last game. We got into a tight circle and grabbed onto someone's right hand. Then we took the left hand of another. From there we twisted, twined and climbed to try to get untangled. It took awhile but with teamwork we finally did it.

That's what we did at our December meeting and Christmas party, so until next time, keep on making the best, better!

County Council News by Kristen Duffy

Hello, I am Kristen Duffy and I am the new County Council Reporter. The last County Council meeting was held on November 21, 2005. Discussed in the meeting was Operation Military Kids holiday party on December 4th. It was also discussed that our 4-H county will be participating in Mac Dill Air Force Base's "Fill a Tank with Toys" project. December 20th is the Salvation Army Project, which will be discussed in more detail during the next County Council meeting on December 19th.

The 4-H Foundation will be holding it's pig fundraiser this year, as always, during the County Fair. The tickets will be sold for \$2. The next County Council meeting will be our Christmas party, we hope to see you there. Please bring in something.



High School Financial Planning



The Florida Department of Financial Services is sponsoring an essay contest again this year.

To enter you:

Must be between 14 and 18 years of age.

Must write an essay of 1000 words and submit it to Dr. Jo Turner, P.O. Box 110310, Gainesville, FL 32611-0310 or email jturner@ifas.ufl.edu on before **January 20, 2006**. (English or Spanish)

The essay must answer the following question: ***If you had \$100,000 to invest, what would you invest in and why?***

The essay should answer the questions why you would invest in certain companies or products, what information you used to back up your investment decisions, and how investing can help you meet your money goals. The following topics will help you write your essay:

Describe how investing can help you meet your money goals.

Describe why you would invest in certain companies or products.

Describe information used to back up your investment decisions.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the three top essays in five regions across Florida. First place receives \$750 cash award, second place receives \$500 cash award and third place receives \$250 cash award. Winners will be selected no later than May 1.

Contact the 4-H Office to receive the application form.

Make Your Plans NOW!



January 2006

- 1 **Happy NEW YEAR!**
- 2 4-H Office Closed
- 4 Project Workshop
- 8 Practice Horse Show
- 9 Foundation Meeting
- 11 Horse Advisory Meeting
- 16 MLK Jr. Day—4-H Office Closed
- 16 Hog and Ham
- 20 Fair Forms Due—check your RULES!
- 23 Leader and Council Meeting
- 27 Horse—Speed Show
- 29 Horse—Pleasure Show

February 2006

- 1 Project Workshop
- 2-5 Youth Horse Leadership Symposium
- 3 Fair Forms Due—Check Your Rules!
- 8 Horse Advisory
- 9-20 FL State Fair
- 11 4-H Day at the Fair
- 13 4-H Foundation Meeting
- 14 Valentines Day
- 17 Fair Forms Due—Check Your Rules!
- 20 Presidents Day—4-H Office Closed
- 25 Demonstrations and Public Speaking
- 27 Leader & County Council Meetings

Happy Birthday! Ashley Althoff, Sophia Balandra, Jacob Baxter, Jake Berry, Nakita Chadwick, Kerry Desmarais, Marty Dietz, Paul Dietz, Ashlee Gainey, Shadd Graber, Briana Hackett, Katie Harkness, Holly Hunt, Alicia Kincheloe, Sara Martin, Christy McCay, Arielle Meents, Danielle Padgett, Travis Roettsner, Amanda Scarbrough, Krista Schrock, Maggie Waglarz, Emalie Walker, Nathan Waters, Justin Williams, Melissa Wilson, Megan Wolf, and Lauren Wright.

