



4-H CLUBS:

- 4-Her's
4 Paws
Aquatic All-stars
Blazers
Canine Connections
Clogging Clovers
Eagles
East County Steer & Swine
Eastside Rabbiters
Florida Crackers
Foxmill Kids & Colts
Fruitville Exceptional Equine
The Green Team
Half Pint Pullers
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
North Port Explorers
Open Gaits
Positive Teens
Reef Rovers
Ridin' Rednecks
Sarasota County Ranchers
Sarasota Sharp Shooters
Sarasota Swine
Southern Spurs
The Club
The Group
Venice Bits & Spurs
Wood Crafters
YMCA Youth



The Clover Times



From the Agents Desk: by Marcia Morris

Fasten your Seat Belts, it's time for the Fair! We know everyone is looking forward to another great year at the Fair. All of the hard work and planning will be showcased at the Fair. Speaking of the fair, did you know that this year is the 25th Anniversary for the 4H Foundation's Elephant Ear booth? That's a lot of Elephant Ears over the past 25 years!!! Be sure to call up and register your club to work a shift in the booth this year. Remember, every Elephant Ear sold directly supports 4H members and the 4H program. So Eat those Ears!

Congratulations to all the members who participated in the Florida State Fair. Results will be in next month's newsletter but we do want to say Thank You to all the members, leaders, and parents who represented our county.

Remember, County Council is collecting items for the Humane Society. They may be brought to the Mini Building during the fair. Be sure to read the "Kids That Care" article for more info.

As always, I do want to take a few minutes to remind everyone that while you are at the fair you are representing 4H to the Public. Many folks will form their opinions of the entire 4H program from your behavior. You are a walking billboard for you club and our county. Also, please keep in mind the knowledge that many, many, people have been working all year long to make the fair happen, donating hundreds of hours to provide this opportunity for you. Please be appreciative, thankful, cooperative, and show them the respect they deserve for supporting you. They are investing in You with their time and talents. Good sportsmanship should be the order of the day. It's fun to win but it's also fun to see your fellow members experience success. 4H'ers should always support each other.

We are planning on a great fair in 2007 ! Looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Marcia Morris, 4-H Extension Agent II

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,

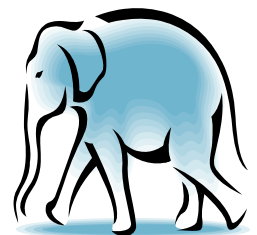
My country and my world.

Elephant Ear Booth

Sign up now!

Your club can earn \$50.00 per shift! Leaders schedule your club for a shift in the Elephant Ear Booth by calling the 4-H Office at 861-9812 or 861-9810, or signing up at the next leaders meeting. The Elephant Ear Booth is a great fundraiser for our Sarasota County 4-H Foundation. All shifts will include 3 youth (12 or older) and 1 adult supervisor. Shifts are Monday through Friday: first shift 1:45-6:00 PM, second shift 5:45 to 10:15 PM. Saturday: first shift 11:45-3:00 PM, second shift 2:45-7:00, and third shift 6:45 to 11:15. Sunday: first shift 11:45-3:00 PM, second shift 2:45-7:00, and third shift 6:45 to 10:15.

Don't delay, call today!





### ATTENTION EXHIBITORS!

It is time once again to sign-up for your work shift(s)! All exhibitors are required to work in ALL buildings / barns that they are exhibiting in. Parents will be responsible for providing adult supervision during these shifts. Please review your 2007 Sarasota County Fair Rule Book for complete guidelines. Failure to work during your assigned shift(s) may result in forfeiture of premiums.

#### Mini Building Sign-up

If you have a project in the Mini Building you must sign up for a two-hour shift. Four children and one adult are needed for each shift. Please contact the 4-H Office at 861-9812 / 861-9810 to schedule your shift. If you do not sign up you will be assigned a shift during workday, Saturday March 10.

#### Plant Show and Sale Exhibitors

Be sure to sign-up for your "plant show and sale" work-schedule in the Plant Show and Sale Tent with Mrs. Drymon during workday on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00AM - Noon.

#### Small Animal Barn Sign Up

If you will be showing a small animal (rabbit, poultry, cavy) you are required to sign up for a work shift(s) in the small animal barn. Please sign-up by calling Mrs. Annis *after* Wednesday, February 21st at 322-0690 between 7:00PM - 9:00PM. Please, sign-up as individuals not as clubs, thank-you!

#### Large Animal Barn Sign-up

Work shifts for exhibitors showing beef breeding, dairy, goats, steer, and swine will be available by calling Christina Schook @ 322-8512, Crystal Powers @ 322-6722, or Jennifer Armstrong @ 322-6424. Locker assignments will be scheduled by club and will be available to club leaders at workday on March 10.

### ATTENTION: 4H LEADERS AND PARENTS OF EXHIBITORS

Volunteers are needed to help supervise the 4-H and FFA exhibitors in the large animal barns during the fair. Adult supervision shifts will be available after March 1st.

#### Opportunities

Would you like to hand out ribbons, lead pledges, or sing during one of the shows at the Fair? Call: Christina Schook @ 322-8512, Crystal Powers @ 322-6722, or Jennifer Armstrong @ 322-6424.

#### T-Shirts

Attention Beef Exhibitors (steer, beef breeding and dairy cattle) the Cattlewomen will be handing out "beef exhibitor" T-shirts during workday on March 10th! Only 1 shirt per exhibitor.

#### Smile for the Camera!

This year there will be a professional photographer taking pictures at the livestock shows during the fair. They will have a trailer on site, so you can view photo's the next day. More details at the Fair!

March 16-25, 2007

### Mandatory Work Day

There will be a mandatory Fair Work Day for **ALL 4H EXHIBITORS** at the Sarasota County Fair Grounds on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00AM-Noon.

You must sign-in at all areas you are exhibiting in (large animal barn, small animal barn, mini building, plant tent, etc...) Groups will be assigned work assignments, everyone is needed to help set up the Barns, Mini Building, Plant Tent, 4-H Stage, decorate and beautify the fair grounds. Please bring brooms, shovels, rakes, and gloves, etc... and remember to label all items for identification.

**Fair Passes** will be distributed at the end of Workday, on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. *You must sign-up for all your work-shifts prior to receiving fair passes.* All 4H members with projects entered in the Fair will be eligible to receive one exhibitor pass and two additional parent passes. Families with more than one 4H member exhibiting will only receive two parent passes. The 4-H Office receives a *limited* amount of passes (from the Fair Office) based on the number of exhibitors. We cannot accommodate requests for additional passes.

### Mini Building Entry Tags

The 4-H office will be sending out Mini Building Entry Tags with instructions to all Mini Building exhibitors.

Please make sure tags are filled out correctly, and attach **securely** to each item you are entering. This will eliminate delays at check-in. If you have any questions please contact the 4-H Office 861-9812.

Mini building check-in is Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> between 3:PM - 7:PM. You must turn in your **completed recorded book** at that time. **Entries will not be accepted with out your record book!**

### Are You UP-TO-DATE...

Your Record Book is a very important part of your 4H Project. It is important that you know where and when your record book is due. Check your fair rules, ask your leader, or call the 4-H Office 861-9812.

Late books will be penalized. Part of the criteria to determine the Superior Exhibitor Awards is your record book score.

**Superior Exhibitor Awards** will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on the 4H Stage Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM.



### Check your Sarasota County Rules Book for details!



#### Vehicle Clean & Disinfect

**Certificates;** Vehicle Clean and Disinfect Certificates must be issued by a veterinarian for animals transported to the fair for final entry. This must be done a maximum of 30 days prior to entry.

#### (OCVI) Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) is required. All animals for exhibition in Florida, unless specifically exempted, must be accompanied by an OCVI issued by a veterinarian.

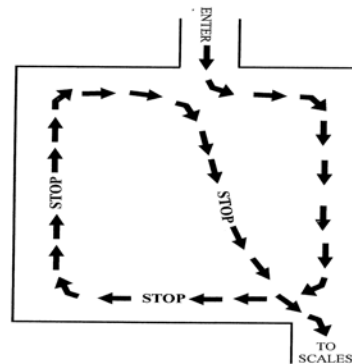
#### Attention:

#### Steer, Dairy and Beef Breeding Exhibitors

Each exhibitor must be able to have control of their animal and be able to lead and stop the animal to enter it into the fair.

You will be required to lead your animal, as shown for the Leading Committee (refer to your Sarasota County Rules book).

**NOTE:** parents, leaders, or helpers are not allowed in the ring. Animals not under control will not be admitted into the fair. The decision of the Sarasota County Fair Association will be final.



**Are you ready?** Check and clean all your equipment now. Does your show halter fit your animal properly? Have you practiced with it? Do you know how to tie a slipknot? Its time to **think safety.**

### Livestock Handling Safety Reminders

As the fair approaches keep in mind; animals have unpredictable behavior. Understanding some common instincts of animal behavior can make working with them safer.

- Changes in lighting or shadows can excite or spook animals
- Separation from other animals (herd) can cause unpredictable behavior
- Sudden or loud noises can frighten an animal
- Cattle can see everything around them except directly behind them
- Animals have strong territorial instincts
- New mothers are very protective of their newborns they have a very strong instinct to protect them



A quick set of reminders can help handle livestock safer. Things done to keep the animals safe will also increase the safety of the persons working with them.

- Keep gates, fences, and pens in good repair.
- Make sure aisle ways are clear, and have no sharp projections.
- Make sure restraining equipment is usable.
- Make sure that when working with an animal the handler has an escape gate or path available. Avoid situations where the handler has to get between the animal and a wall or barrier.

### Whip Cracking Contest

The Whip Cracking Contest is back! This year the Whip Cracking Contest at the Sarasota County Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, 7:30PM at the Houser Show Arena. The storytelling starts at 7 pm and folks should come prepared to share memories of life in pioneer Sarasota county. We have whips available to loan to clubs for practice and two whip builders available. We will arrange a practice at Myakka, time to be determined. Contact Mari-Jean Melissa @ 586-5576 for details.

#### Divisions:

A. Whip Snappers: 8-11 years old B. Juniors: 12-15 years old C. Seniors: 16-18 years old D. Open

Pick up rules and entry forms at the Sarasota County Fair Office or at the 4-H Office. Entry forms may be turned in the day of the event at the FT Houser Show Arena.



## Don't Miss These Opportunities!



### Test Your Skills...

Are you interested in learning more about forest ecology, wildlife and their habitats? If so, the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) and the 4-H Forestry Contest might be just the thing for you. WHEP is a program designed to teach youth about the fundamentals of wildlife management, and the 4-H Forestry Contest will test your knowledge of Florida's forests. You will see how management for wildlife means management of habitats and providing for the needs of wildlife both in urban and rural settings.

Both contests will take place in Gainesville at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Registration is due in the 4-H Office no later than March 23. The contest will follow the new Florida 4-H Age Divisions. Individuals and Teams may sign-up. Contact the 4-H Office for details 861-9810.

## Learn By Doing

### Watch your flowers grow!

**April 19th** French Window Boxes: Watch your flowers grow! Join us for this fun and educational horticulture workshop.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and will include plants, soil, and container. Register by *April 12th*.

This workshop will be held at Twin Lakes Park, 4:45–5:45 PM.

Please don't forget to register with the 4-H office at 861-9812.

### District 9 Congress is Coming!

Mark your calendars! Manatee County will host District 9 Congress events this year (formerly known as "Junior Congress"). The date is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14th 8:30AM–3:00PM**. The Manatee County 4H Office is located at 1303 17th Street West, Palmetto FL.

What is District Congress? District Congress is a fun and educational opportunity for Junior and Intermediate 4-Hers ages 8 to 13. 4-Hers participate in workshops and activities designed to develop leadership skills and learn about opportunities available in 4-H.

Classes offered this year are: Drama, Healthy Snacks, Line Dancing, Etiquette, Team Sports, Make It and Take It Food, Marshmallow Guns, Improv, Arts & Crafts, Science Experiments, and Movie Making.

The fee is \$5.00; lunch will be provided. Please complete the registration form below and return to the 4-H Office by : **March 14, 2007**.



## District 9 4-H Congress Saturday, April 14th, 2007 REGISTRATION FORM



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

### Classes Offered:

Drama	Healthy Snacks	Line Dancing	Etiquette
Team Sports	Make It and Take It Food	Marshmallow Guns	Improv
Arts & Crafts	Science Experiments	Movie Making	

Please return your registration and \$5.00 (made payable to the Sarasota County 4H Foundation) by:  
March 14, 2007 to the 4-H Office: 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241



## What Are You Doing This Summer?

### Summer is on its way!

#### And summer means camp - Camp Cloverleaf!

Camp Cloverleaf is located in Lake Placid and offers a week of fun and exciting summer activities. The dates for camp are June 4-8, 2007. Make plans now for a fun filled week of swimming, fishing, canoeing, crafts, sports, campfire songs, and new friends!

Seniors, do you need community service hours? As a Camp Counselor you can earn hours and have a great time! Look for Camp registration forms in the April issue of the Clover Times.

### Florida 4-H Legislature

Florida 4-H Legislature is a weeklong learning laboratory in state government designed to give participants educational experiences. Held in Tallahassee, youth will serve as mock legislators, reporters or lobbyists, meeting in committee rooms of the House of Representatives. Participants will tour the State Capital, Supreme Court and other State Buildings. The dates for this event are June 25 - June 29.

### Shooting Sports and Sportfishing Camp



**When: July 16-20, 2007 Where: Camp Ocala**

Learn life skills through fun non-competitive activities. Campers participate in several different tracts such as archery, rifle, shotgun, angling skills, aquatic life, tackle crafting, and more. Campers will also learn about Florida's unique natural resources through a variety of games, and group experiences. Add in swimming, canoeing, recreational games, campfires, nature center activities, and trail hiking!

The cost for 4-H Member is 200.00 and 215.00 for Non 4-H Members, youth ages 10 and older. Registration deadline is June 4th.

### "Gator Adventures"

**Camp Cloverleaf July 16-20**

"Gator Adventures" is coming to Camp Cloverleaf this summer July 16-20 for youth ages 8-13. This full week of fun activities such as canoeing, swimming, recreational games, campfires, fishing, and much more!

The cost is 200.00 for 4-H members and 215.00 for non 4-H members.

### Florida 4-H Congress

The dates this year for 2007 4-H Congress are July 23-27. Held at the University of Florida campus, this is a fabulous week long experience in which 4-H members can have fun and learn alongside other 4-H'ers from all over Florida.

Congress is divided into a competitive and non-competitive sessions. The non-competitive portion is devoted to educational workshops on a variety of subjects. The competitive portion is where the first place senior District Winners (Demonstrations, Fashion Revue, Horticulture Judging, Public Speaking and Share the Fun) compete with other district winners. Community Pride winners are recognized, interviews for State Recognition and Scholarship applications are also conducted during this event. Participants must be 14 years old prior to September 1, 2006, and have completed at least one year of 4-H work.

### State Marine Camp When: July 16 -20, 2007

**Where: Camp Timpochee, Niceville, FL**

Are you interested in learning more about marine life, going fishing, or exploring the underwater world with a mask and snorkel? Camp Timpochee allows campers first hand experience with Florida's marine environment from above and below the waterline. Timpochee's marine lab is equipped with large aquariums supporting life from both fresh and saltwater habitats. Sport fishing sessions will help youth learn about local fish and how to catch them.

The cost for 4-H Member is 210.00 and 220.00 for Non 4-H Members, youth ages 8 -13. Registration deadline is June 4th.

### Welaka 4-H

#### Horsemanship School

Are you looking for a great horse adventure this summer? Why don't you try Welaka Horsemanship School? Professional trainers, quality stables bunk-house camping, and 4-Hers from around the state just like you who love horses! Enjoy activities on and off your horse in a beautiful location nestled among the pine and oak trees in the Welaka State Forest.

Disciplines: Each week will have instructors in both English and Western riding. Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes will be offered. Trail and Speed events will also be covered.

Expense: \$280.00 includes all meals, snacks, t-shirt, lodging, stabling, and over 30 hours of instruction for the week.



For more information on any of these camping adventures contact the

4-H Office at 861-9810,

or visit the Florida 4H Website at [4h.ifas.ufl.edu](http://4h.ifas.ufl.edu)



**Look What We Did...**

**At The Sarasota County 4-H Horse Show...**

The Sarasota County Horse Show was a huge success! Congratulations to everyone! Thank you **Vicki Gupton** for all extra the High-Point prizes, WOW! Thank-you to **Nimie Gill** for all her efforts coordinating these shows and for the use of Paragon Farms. A BIG Thank-You to **Vicki Gupton and her crew**; the food was delicious (especially the biscuits and gravy Sunday morning!)! Thanks to our ring steward on **Susan Graham, and the Hess Family** for their assistance in the entry booth. **THANKS to all those who volunteered** and made this show a success.

**High Point Winners**—\*Walk Trot - Carly Scarbrough & Red Gee Red \*Western - Bree Scarbrough & Smooth Spice \*Speed — Holly Hunt & Colors Optional \*Hunter - Kaila Hess & Holly Par Guard \*Saddle Seat - Vanessa Lewis & American Gladiator \*4-H - Lauren Diedrick & Ghost of Gun \*Over All - Bree Scarbrough & Smooth Spice

**Congratulations Area E Qualifiers:** The following 4-H members have meet all requirements to advance to the Area E Horse Show; Cailyn Beese, Danielle Brantley, Rebecca Brantley, Hailey Coles, Sheila Coulembe, Lauren Diedrick, Kara Dooling, Lana Elwell, Morgan Farrell, Tiffani Gaster, Danielle Gill, Lauren Graham, Taylor Guyn, Kaila Hess, Holly Hunt, Jessica Hunter, Brittany Kelly, Maggie LaFrance, Allie Lampel, Chelsea Malloy, Sammi Manley, Sarah Neill, Lorielle Neill, Erin Post, Casey Presler, Jaysa Sallis, Bree Scarbrough, Carly Scarbrough, Deirde Scott, Angel Stutsman, Chelsea Thornburg, and Rose Tuzik.

**NOW... watch your mailbox!** Registration packets will be sent out this month for the Area E Horse Show, April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at the State Fair grounds in Tampa. Please read all information, complete forms, and return to the 4-H Office by the deadline. **Remember to turn in your up-to-date Horse Record Book with your entry forms.** If you have any questions please contact the 4-H Office at 861-9810.

**Area E Horse Show April 28 & 29**

**2007 Area E T-Shirt Design Contest**

Design and promote the 4-H Horse Program! T-shirts (made using your signed art work) will be sold as a fundraiser for the Area E Horse Program. The winner will receive a free t-shirt and a \$100.00 savings bond. This contest is open to all 4-Her's 8-18 (September 1, 2006) and reside in the Area E Horse district. You do not have to be enrolled in a horse project to participate.

**Guidelines;** 1. All designs must be original and relate to the Area E 4-H Horse Show. 2. Designs must include a 4-H Clover and the words "2007 Area E Horse Show" 3. No copyrighted materials can be used in the design. 4. Designs may be horizontal or vertical 5. Designs must be submitted on an 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of white paper. And 6. Only 1 entry per member will be accepted.

Entries are due in the Sarasota County 4-H Office no later than 5:00 PM, on Thursday, March 8th.

Be creative, here's your chance to see your artwork on over 200 t-shirts!

**Volunteers Needed**

Sarasota County will once again be in charge of "Western Day" during the Area E Horse Show in Tampa on Sunday, April 29th.

**Can You Help?** We will be in need of volunteers to assist as announcers, ring stewards, with ribbons, gates, and trail... please call 861-9810.



**From The Foundation...Submitted by: Glenda Padgett**

The Sarasota County 4-H Foundation will once again host their annual swine fundraiser. The tickets are \$2.00 each with .25 of each ticket going to the 4-H club that sells it. Tickets are available in bundles of 25 / 50 / 100 at Leader and Council meetings, the 4-H Office or by calling Glenda Padgett at 925-3175.

This is a great fundraiser for clubs as well as one of the major fundraisers for the 4-H Foundation. Last year 26 clubs participated, with 16 clubs selling over 25 tickets! The profits from these tickets will help to fund activities within the 4-H Program including camps, congress, and awards as well as provide money for foundation scholarships.

The winning ticket will be announce on Saturday, March 24, at the 4-H Foundation Elephant Ear Booth. The hog will be one exhibited at the Sarasota County Fair and will be standard cut and wrapped.

**Deadline Approaching!**

**4H High School Graduating Seniors:** Each year the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation awards scholarships, in varied amounts, to Sarasota County 4-H High School Seniors.

The applications must be completed and submitted by April 2, 2007, 4:30 at the 4-H Office. If you need additional assistance or information contact the 4-H Office at 861-9810.



### March is National Nutrition Month



#### Write What You Bite...

What is your goal? Do you want to lose weight, gain weight, or just eat healthier? During the month of March try to keep a food journal. That way you can take a look at what foods you are eating, and track your daily calories.

Are you eating enough fruits and veggies? Can you improve in some areas? What about exercise, are you getting enough? You will be surprised at the results!

For more specific information go to:

[www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines](http://www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines)

### Eat More Salads!

Did you know that eating salads can be an important part of staying healthy? Try this... Plump up your salads by adding more fruits and vegetables. Experiment with cubed pineapple, melon and mango, try diced apples and raisins, add sugar peas, zucchini, broccoli and cauliflower. Use a variety of leafy greens - the darker the better. Remember to "Dress for Success", too much salad dressing defeats the purpose of a low-fat salad. Fruit juice, flavored vinegars, and herbs add zest and zing to your salads without adding fat or salt. Try non-fat or low-fat yogurt like vanilla or lemon.



### Half Empty or Half Full?

According to the American Diabetic Association, most Americans overestimate how much food makes a serving. Healthy eating plans call for servings of grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy, and protein. But just how much is a serving? Estimating portions may be easier than you think, find what works for you and stick with it!

#### COMPARISON METHOD:

Compare a serving to a serving size with a familiar object:

A 1/2 cup serving of canned fruit, vegetables, or potatoes looks like half a tennis ball sitting on your plate

3 ounces of meat, fish, or chicken is about the size of a deck of playing cards or the palm of your hand

A 1 ounce serving of cheese is about the size of your thumb

A 1 cup serving of milk, yogurt, or fresh greens is about the size of your fist

1 teaspoon of oil is about the size of your thumb tip

#### PRE-MEASURED METHOD

Buy a good set of measuring spoons, a glass measuring cup for liquids, a set of measuring cups for dry foods, and a kitchen scale for weighing meat and cheese. When you measure out a bowl of cereal - you might be shocked. Using a smaller bowl, you may make yourself feel better if your bowlful of cereal is really full!

#### HAND METHOD

Try the "rule of thumb" - use your hand to gauge portion sizes:

Thumb	one ounce or one tablespoon
Thumb Tip	one teaspoon
Finger length	diameter of one serving of fruit
Fist	one cup
Palm	one 3-ounce serving (meat, fish or poultry)
Handful	one serving of nuts
Two Handfuls	one serving of most snacks



### Pump Up Your Family's Energy with Physical Activity!

#### Just Move IT!



Did you know that being physically active daily increases fitness levels and keeps the heart and lungs healthy?

Physical activity builds and maintains healthy bones, muscles, and joints. Moving helps you control your weight and decreases the risk of diseases, boosts energy and promotes sound sleep. Physical activity helps everyone feel overall happier!

### 2007 Florida Dairy Poster Contest

Design a poster telling a story about milk, cheese and/or yogurt using the theme:

#### "A Healthy Day the Dairy Way"

1. The poster must be 14" x 22".
2. Incorporate the 4-H emblem and 3-A-Day logo in the poster design.
3. Do not attach anything to the poster that is more than 1/2 inch thick.
4. Complete the certification/score form and place it on the back of each poster. The certification/score form must have the participants name, complete mailing address, grade in school, age, and county.
5. Posters must be submitted to the **4-H Office by May 1, 2007**





## Look What We're Doing!



### Livestock Judging Team Results

By: Don Strickland, Team Coach

The LSJ Team went to the Florida State Fair and had exciting results. Team members were DJ Lewis, Trevor Burns, Molly Miller and Jarrod Albritton. We haven't been able to practice much due to my illness and we didn't know what to expect. As troopers do, they pulled together and did a fantastic job. They competed against 13 other teams. They finished 5th overall, 3rd in swine, 3rd in quality grading, 7th in final yield grading, we also had 7th & 8th high individual out of 112. We are now looking forward to the State contest in March in Gainesville.

### Canine Connections: by Leader Mary Wright

Seven members of the Canine Connections 4-H Dog Club competed on February 10 & 11 at the State Fair. Everyone did a super job showing their dogs and learned a lot in the process.

Junior exhibitors, Julie and Nicole Shoults, dominated in their Basic Jr. Showmanship class of 22 entries. Julie earned first place with her Silky Terrier, Angel; and right behind her in second place was her twin sister Nicole with her Miniature Schnauzer, Cupid.

Senior exhibitor, Molly Miller, won her Advanced Jr. Showmanship class showing her Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier, Noelle. She then competed against all ten Jr. Showmanship class winners to earn the title of Best Jr. Handler. Molly also won her Novice Agility class with her 16" Shetland Sheepdog, Zar.

Molly Miller was our only club member to compete in the Champion of Champions competition. This competition involves completing a State Fair Record Book on one of her dogs, manning an "Ask Me Booth" with her dog, attending a pre-fair seminar concerning the Skillathon topic of the year (this year it was digestion), creating a poster on the Skillathon topic, studying the Skillathon manual on digestion and taking a test on this information plus taking a test on the State Fair Record Book. Due to her high marks in each of these categories plus her score from her Jr. Showmanship class, Molly won Second Place in the Senior Champion of Champions competition and was awarded a savings bond worth 750.00.

On February 24, members of the Canine Connections club will be demonstrating their skills in agility and musical freestyle at the Annual Pug Parade in Lakewood Ranch. They also will continue to practice hard with their dogs so that they are ready for the Sarasota County Fair.

## Projects From The Heart

### Kids that Care Project Update: by Sean Russell

Over the past few months, 4-Hers from across Sarasota County have been working hard on our county-wide community service project, "Kids that Care." This project helps out the community through beach cleanups, visits to the Salvation Army Family Ward and the Pines of Sarasota Assisted Living Facility, and through the collection of items for the Sarasota County Humane Society.

At the January County Council meeting, 4-H members made numerous Valentine's cards to be delivered to the Pines of Sarasota at our next visit. They also made dog toys from tennis balls and rope that will be taken to the Humane Society.

On February 12th, Laura, Kayla, and Megan Knipper, Sean Russell, Lorie Neill, Dane Bardroff, and Molly, Dane's dog, entertained the residents at the Pines of Sarasota Assisted Living Facility with our second talent performance. Participants in this part of our community service project played the piano and the harp as well as sang for the people living there. Once again the residents thoroughly enjoyed our performances as well as the cards we gave them. All of the residents are looking forward to our next visit in April. If you would like to read a poem, sing a song, play a musical instrument, or share any other type of talent the next time we go back to the Pines, contact Sean Russell at (941)-361-8340 for more information.

Over the course of the next few months we will be continuing to collect items for the Humane Society. These items can be dropped off at the 4-H office or at any County Council Meeting. We will also be setting a booth up in the Mini-Building for donations of items to this part of our project. All of the items collected for the Humane Society will be delivered in April.

Other upcoming portions of the "Kids that Care" include our next visit to the Salvation Army Family Ward as well as another beach cleanup. If you would like to get involved in these or any other part of the "Kids that Care" project contact Sean Russell at (941)-371-8340. A special thank you to all of those who have donated items for the Humane Society, made cards and dog toys at County Council Meetings, participated in beach cleanups, and attended our visits to the Salvation Army and the Pines of Sarasota. Thanks for "Making the Best Better" in your clubs, communities, country, and world. We couldn't have done it without you and we hope that you will continue to help with future parts of the "Kids that Care" project.



### **Horse'N Around -by Maxim Lowe**

January 23, 2007 was our first meeting of the year! Danielle announced that at the January County Council Meeting our group received the Spirit Stick for giving the most donations to the humane society. Yippee!

We did a small Horticulture Identification and Judging Contest. It was fun but the flowers and foliage plants, and ornamentals were hard to identify. I guess we need to study our plants. Everyone can enter this contest at the Fair (but you need to enter the form by Friday January 26). Four people did demonstrations. Caitlyn did a demonstration on different types of hogs; Danielle did one on cutting and transplanting plants and vines; I did one on caricatures; and Elizabeth did one on orchids, one on digital cameras and one on quilting.

Welcome to our newest member, Ben Barber.

### **Home Grown Explorers; by Heidi Schwartz**

Hello 4-Hers! I can almost smell the fragrance of fresh cow pies and clucking chickens. You know what that means... THE FAIR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!! Record books, poster board, and messy fingers are the new trend for this month's 4-H members. Everyone is preparing and crossing their fingers for the upcoming events. =)

Our club had a very amusing workshop! Krista Schrock gave an awesome clay class on how to create a clay bear. And let me tell you, even the dads got involved! We had a blast making our bears unique and inventive. Everyone has BIG imaginations in the Home-grown Explorers!

Our club will not be having a formal meeting/workshop this month in order to focus on the Fair. Horticulture and Arts and Crafts will be the spotlight of our clubs activity during the fair. We will also be volunteering at the 4-H elephant ear booth. That's the sweetest thing! Good luck to all!!!

### **Myakka Ranchers by: Bryan Wilson**

We want to thank Mr. Diemeyer for having the club meeting at his house. He also had a wood working shop class for our club and donated all the wood. We had a great time he showed us all how to make a book case, from start to finish and how to turn the wood so it would not curve. Some of us stained them, and we all had a great time Thank you.

Fair time is coming soon, please watch for dates of when your record books are due. Hope everyone's animals are doing well. See you all soon.

### **MINI HOOVES BY: SHELBY STASIK**

HI EVERYONE THIS IS A REALLY BUSY MONTH FOR EVERYBODY. MINI HOOVES HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD WITH GETTING OUR HORSES READY FOR THE STATE FAIR AND ALSO THE COUNTY FAIR WHICH WILL BE HERE SOON! OUR CLUB HAD 2 CLINICS IN THE LAST MONTH NIMIE GILL CAME AGAIN AND HELPED US ALL WITH OUR SHOWMANSHIP. SHE ALSO GAVE US GOOD IDEAS ON HORSE SAFETY WHEN YOU ARE AT SHOW. THANK YOU SO MUCH NIMIE. SHOWTIME TRAINING CENTER ALSO CAME AND WORKED WITH US ALL AND OUR HORSES. THANK YOU ROGER AD-DIS AND DALE GANGERT.

WE HAD A GREAT DEMONSTRATION ON HOW TO MAKE A LEAD ROPE BY SHANNON AND MEGAN.

WE WILL BE HAVING A MEETING ON HOW TO DO YOUR RECORD BOOK AND HELPING ANYONE THAT MIGHT NEED HELP ON IT.

LAST MONTH SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS WENT OVER TO HELP AT PARAGON FARMS DURING THEIR SHOW ON FRIDAY NIGHT. THEY HAD A GREAT TURN OUT A FEW OF OUR MEMBERS WERE ALSO RIDING IN THE SHOW BIANCA AND REBA. YOU GUYS DID A GREAT JOB.

ABOUT 15 OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS ARE SHOWING AT THE STATE FAIR GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE AND HAVE FUN. AFTER WE GET BACK FROM THE STATE FAIR WE WILL ALL BE WORKING TO GET READY FOR THE COUNTY FAIR. SEE YA NEXT MONTH ...SHELBY

### **Green Team; By Megan Knipper**

Hi, 4-Hers! This is my first time reporting for the Green Team. At our last meeting, which was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Russell talked about County Events Day which will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to all who are participating! Mrs. Russell also gave us fair up-dates.

There were a lot of people who gave demonstrations, or illustrated talks, at this meeting. Sean Russell did a demonstration about the mini-building book. He gave tips about filling it in. Some of these were to save receipts from items used for your project, and to take pictures of you and your project. Maxim Lowe did an illustrated talk about monofilament fishing line, and how important it is to recycle it. This is because animals can eat it, get tangled up in it, and get cut if there is a hook on it, which leads to infection and sometimes death. Dane Bardroff gave an illustrated talk about car fuels. Scientists are trying to make a car that can use something other than gasoline to power the auto. Some materials they are experimenting with are: water, batteries, electricity and many more. Brad Boserup's demonstration was about photography as a career. It was surprising how many different areas there are to choose from such as: studio, commercial, scientific, outdoor, underwater, wildlife and even fine arts.

Our craft was making Easter cards for the residents at Pines Assisted Living. I think they will really enjoy the cards. We also celebrated Valentine's Day. We passed out cards and ate some delicious treats. I think everyone had a blast!



### Reef Rovers- By Madison Chapman

This month, the Reef Rovers are working on their bat house project. We are currently constructing our bat houses and plan to install them in different schools, parks and preserves beginning in March. We are also developing a presentation that will include a bat video as well as an exhibit board, to describe our project. The club members plan to speak at schools, organizations and other clubs about the importance of bats. Our presentation should be finished in April. If your club would like the Reef Rovers to visit and put on a presentation about bats, e-mail club leader Deborah Chapman at [CHAPMANACADEMY@hotmail.com](mailto:CHAPMANACADEMY@hotmail.com).

### Florida Crackers By Hope Price

Howdy 4-Hers! The Florida Crackers have been working hard over the last month. Our monthly meeting was on February 6th. In the meeting we discussed many events such as: our up coming community service days and a fund raiser to be ready to kick off the next year with a great start! We received our Florida Cracker club T-shirts which are awesome! The main excitement was about the quickly approaching Sarasota County Fair. We scheduled a "weigh-in day" for our pigs on February 17th—they are looking good!! We had great demonstrations by 3 of our club members. Great job guys! We attend the Charlotte County Fair Pig Show to get some pointers on showmanship. Among the things we learned was to smile big and do not get between your pig and the judge. We are looking forward to the Sarasota County Fair and getting to know everyone. Have a great day!

### Ridin' Rednecks; by Stephanie Tabar

Our club members have been busy getting ready for the fair. Some members participated in the State Fair and we look forward to seeing how they did.

We held our club screening on Saturday February 3rd. We started at the Stricklands where Sydney and Clay Linthicum have their pigs and heifer. We also saw the club animals. Nico Ferry showed us how the steer is doing and Matt Dibler gave us a demo on walking the club pig. This is his first year and he says he is really enjoying the project. Mrs. Koss provided breakfast danishes and bagels and OJ to drink. Next we saw Alan Herters pet snake and baby calf. We then went on to Stephanie and Jaimie Tabar's to see their pigs JoJo and RJ. Other members we visited included Lane Taylor, Corrine Woods, Erin Gilliland, Dalton Comer, Steven DeSantis, Travis Albritton, Alisha Ferry, Ashley and Dillon Maus, Katie and Nicole Harkness, Kaylee Behn, Matt Koss and Arianne Kopacz. All their pigs were doing well and everyone seemed to be enjoying their projects. We also saw rabbits along the way. The Stricklands then spent the afternoon with members who lived outside the valley area. I will report on their progress in the next newsletter. We had approximately 45 people going along to view everyone's projects and it was very informative.

Our members are keeping up with the demonstrations being given at our meetings. We have been treated to cooking, info on pigs to "How to make your Buyers thank you basket". I look forward to reporting on all the members successes at the fair.



**Reminder**—There will not be a Leader or County Council meeting in March. **Next meeting: APRIL 16th**

**Get Involved!** The 2007 - 2008 County Council officer nominations and elections will take place at the April 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Don't miss this important meeting!



**Happy Birthday...** Diana Aballay, Jacob Atha, Alena Barwick, Nicole Basler, Jordan Baxter, Jennifer Beaumont, Chessie Blazekovic, Brad Boserup, Courtney Buckney, Cara Burket, Trevor Burns, Kelsey Carter, Chad Chamard, Lindsay Chamberlin, Allison Czajkowski, Devin Dash, Lauren Diedrick, Kristen Duffy, Patricia Durso, Vicki Dygert, Lana Elwell, Tiffany Ewan, Jessica Exline, Garrett Fonte, Britney Gleason, Lauren, Donald Gross, Stephen Hatch, Kaila Hess, Katie Johnston, Luke Kennedy, Megan Knipper, William, Kreiling, Calvin Likens, Elizabeth Martel, Delaney Martin, Dillon Maus, Jesse Nisley, Adam Perry, Kristen Potts, Riley Price, Joyia Rankin, Tyler Rasmussen, Anna Reners, Diandra Rickers, Jasmine Sanchez, Jacob Sandefur, Jared Schwartz, Tracy Sheehan, Kristen Shipp, Hannah Smith, Sarah Smith, Ryan Snodgrass, Aaron Stoll, Lena Straub, Angel Stutsman, Lane Taylor, Breanna Weiss, Cassida Whittier, and Kiya Williams.

**Happy Birthday to YOU!!!**





**National Nutrition Month**

**March 2007**

**Fair Days Ahead**

- 3 State Shooting Sports Matches: Camp Ocala
- 10 Fair Work Day
- 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16—25 Sarasota County Fair!
- 26—30 Spring Break—School Closed
- 31 State Livestock Judging Contest

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**April 2007**

- 2 4H Foundation Scholarships Due
- 8 Happy Easter
- 9 Foundation Meeting
- 11 Horse Advisory Meeting
- 14 District 9 4-H Congress
- 16 Leader and County Council Meeting
- 19 Project Workshop—French Window Box
- 28 & 29 Area E Horse Show—Tampa

**FINAL ENTRY, CHECK-IN AND/OR WEIGH-IN**

<b>WORK DAY</b>	Saturday, March 10, 2007 8AM-12noon or completion	BARN COMPLEX
Mini Bldg. Arts & Craft.	Wednesday March 14, 2007 3pm-7pm,	ARTS & CRAFTS MINI BLDG
<b>CAVIES</b>	Wednesday, March 14, 2007 5pm-7pm	SMALL ANIMAL TENT
<b>POULTRY</b>	Wednesday, March 14, 2007 5pm-7pm	SMALL ANIMAL TENT
<b>RABBITS</b>	Wednesday, March 14, 2007 5pm-7pm	SMALL ANIMAL TENT
<b>PLANTS SALE ENTRIES</b>	Wednesday, March 14, 2007 5pm-8pm	PLANT TENT
<b>BEEF BREEDING</b>	Thursday, March 15, 2007 5pm-7pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>DAIRY CATTLE</b>	Thursday, March 15, 2007 5pm-7pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>DAIRY GOATS</b>	Thursday, March 15, 2007 4pm-5pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>PYGMY GOATS</b>	Thursday, March 15, 2007 4pm-5pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>DOGS</b>	Sunday, March 18, 2007 11:30am-12:30 pm	4-H STAGE
<b>LLAMA</b>	Saturday, March 17, 2007 6pm-7pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>CLOTHING SELECTION JUDGING</b>	Tuesday, March 20, 2007 6pm-7pm	ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST
<b>MINIATURE HORSES</b>	Monday, March 19, 2007 5pm-6pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>STEER</b>	Tuesday, March 20, 2007; 6 am to 9 am	BARN COMPLEX
<b>CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION REHEARSAL</b>	Tuesday, March 20, 2007 6pm-7pm	ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST
<b>CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION SHOW</b>	Tuesday, March 20, 2007; 7pm	4-H STAGE
<b>SWINE</b>	Wednesday, March 21, 2007; 5 am to 9 am	BARN COMPLEX

**EXHIBIT REMOVAL**

<b>BEEF BREEDING, GOATS &amp; DAIRY CATTLE</b>	Monday, March 19, 2007; 10:00 pm	BARN COMPLEX
<b>STEER, SWINE, &amp; SMALL ANIMALS</b>	Sunday, March 25, 2007; 6:00 am	BARN COMPLEX
<b>4-H ARTS &amp; CRAFT MINI BLDG PROJECTS</b>	Sunday, March 25, 2007; 8:00 am	ARTS & CRAFT (MINI) BLDG.
<b>SMALL ANIMAL</b>	Sunday, March 24, 2007; 7:30 am	SMALL ANIMAL TENT

**See you at the Fair!**