



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

Happy New Year 2007! A fresh calendar has just turned the page. What will take place in the next 12 months? No one really knows for sure and that's always a part of the mystery of a new year. One thing is for sure, the time will fly by faster than you know! Just a reminder, entry forms for the Mini Building, and Demonstrations are due January 19th at the 4H office. We hope to see many of you bringing in your entry forms.

Mr. Wilson will be out of the office for the next few weeks, so please direct your calls for him to any of the other 4-H staff members and we will be happy to help assist you.

County Council members planned two very successful projects over the holidays. Visiting the Salvation Army FAITH program for families and the Pines of Sarasota assisted living facility. They met some wonderful people and had a great time. Future visits are planned for both locations, if you would like to join the fun contact Sean Russell for details.

The next focus for County Council service projects will be to help the animals at the Humane Society. They accept quite a variety of items so please check the newsletter for details. Your club members will all probably have items to donate for this worthy cause. We need everyone to pitch in and help us make a difference in our community.

King and Queen Clover is returning to Sarasota County, is your club represented with candidates? It's not too late to select someone from your club. Winners will be crowned at the fair.

Please check the calendar for upcoming events and activities. County Council and Leaders meetings dates have changed due to the holiday, so they will be the fourth Monday (January 22nd) instead of the third.

Enjoy the New Year, may 2007 bring everyone Peace, Joy, and Happiness. Let's all work together to make 2007 the best ever!

Marcia Morris, 4-H Extension Agent II

International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE)



The Adventure of a Lifetime! International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) programs offer you the adventure of a lifetime. An opportunity to experience another way of life by living it: IFYE is truly a "learn by doing" experience. It is your chance to see new places, make new friends, and soak in another culture.

Travel, learn, and have a great time! 4-H exchanges are a great opportunity to experience life in a different part of our nation or in a different part of our world! In the United States, counties bring together a group of enthusiastic and willing 4-Her's. International exchanges are available too! Have you ever wanted to visit Japan for a month? Families with children from 12-17 can participate.

Learn more about exchanges by visiting <http://www.4-h.org/> Or, if you would like to see what other 4-Hers have to say about exchange trips, read some words from the experienced.

*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.*



Here's What We're Doing!!!

FILE THIS!



January 11th Personalized Family Signs: Personalize a custom greeting from your family to welcome friends this winter. The cost is \$5.00. Please call and make your reservation by *January 4th*.



February 1st Valentine Boxes! Keep your Valentines and treasures safe for years to come in these beautifully crafted and decorated tin holiday boxes. The cost is \$5.00, please call to register by *January 25th*.



April 19th French Window Boxes: Watch your flowers grow! Join us for this fun and educational horticulture work shop. The cost is \$5.00 per person and will include plants, soil, and container. Register by *April 12th*.

Workshops will be held at Twin Lakes Park, 4:45 PM—please don't forget to register with the 4-H office 861-9812.

Attention 4-H Dairy Cattle Exhibitors...

Don't miss this chance to show off your dairy cattle. The State 4-H Dairy Show will be held at the Osceola County Fair this year February 8th—11th. Registration forms must be post marked before January 5, 2007.

NEW! The State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest is now an individual event. The 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest will be an individual event based on the game show Jeopardy. Also, there will be a Showmanship and Grooming Contest.

For more information contact the 4-H Office at 861-9810.



NEW DATE: January 25th

CPR Training will be offered again!

A CPR Training will be offered to 4H members (15 or older as of September 1, 2006) and leaders on January 25, 2007; 6—9 PM at Twin Lakes Park, Room A.

What would you do if a friend, co-worker, or loved one began to choke or lost consciousness? This course will teach participants to administer aid to a choking victim or to apply CPR. There are new requirements this year for anyone needing to renew their certification.

Join us and make a difference in our community. Reserve your spot by 1/18/07, (space is limited) call: 861-9812.

Poster Art Contest Starts Here...

"4-H In Your Community"

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 winning posters are sent to the State Contest in Gainesville and are displayed during 4H Congress in July. The theme this year is : 4-H In Your Community. Check the Sarasota County Fair Rules Book (page 32) for details.

Hoof Trimming Clinic:

Bring your steer, beef breeding, and / or dairy cattle to the 4-H Hoof Trimming Clinic! The clinic will be held at Mr. Vanns farm on Sunday , February 18th at 2:00 pm. The charge is \$25 (first time) or \$20 (if previously done.)

Here's your chance to fly...

Every 3rd Saturday of the month EAA Young Eagles offer youth an opportunity to experience flight. These flights are offered free of charge and made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers. Youth are first acquainted with the parts of the airplane, details of the cockpit, and the four basic forces of flight: lift, gravity, thrust, and drag. Your pilot will explain what will happen during the flight, complete a preflight inspection of the airplane and identify the parts that control the plane, review an aeronautical chart, and identify reference points during flight.

Group field trips are also offered and feature a hands-on experience. Youth will also learn the various job opportunities at an FBO (fixed base operation).

Contact Ed Stafford at 371-7115 for more information.

Florida State Fair

"Florida 4-H Showcase"

When: February 10, 2007

9:00 AM—3:30 PM

Where: FL State Fairgrounds, Tampa
Special Events Building

What: Public Speaking

Share The Fun

Fashion Show

4-H program area booths:
health lifestyles, Operation Military Kids,
communication and environmental ed.

The Florida State Fair dates are
February 8—19th. Good Luck to all our 4-H
members showing at the Fair!!!!





Fair Days Ahead...

4-H County Events Day

Don't be late! Demonstration and Public Speaking entry forms are due by 5:00 PM on January 19, 2007 at the **4-H OFFICE**. Forms must be filled out completely. Our Demonstrations and Public Speaking Event is Saturday, **February 24, 2007** and will be held at the

Meadowland Worship Center

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

All those who turn 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 5th. Junior and Intermediate District winners will receive a scholarship to Camp Cloverleaf; June 4-8 and Senior District winners will advance to State competition (4-H Congress) in Gainesville; July 23rd -27th.

Fair Dates: March 16-25, 2007

Forms Form Forms...

Know where and when your forms are due:

Demonstrations, Public Speaking, Share the Fun, Mini Building, Clothing, and Judging Contests are due:

By 5:00 PM January 19 at the **4-H Office**
Plants (class 41&42), Dogs, Llama, Miniature Horses, and Dress Up Parade are due:

By 5:00 PM February 2 at the **Fair Office**
Cavies, Poultry and Rabbits are due:

By 5:00 PM February 16 at the **Fair Office**

Try Something New... at the Sarasota County Fair

Judging contests at the fair are a good way to learn more about your project area and are open to ALL 4-H members. 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 2006-2007 member guides, the event takes place on Sunday, March 18. We also have a **Horticulture Judging Contest**, did you know the top four senior 4-Hers receive a scholarship to attend 4-H Congress in July and participate at the State Horticulture judging event? Judging contests entry forms are due by January 19th in the 4-H Office.

Trophies and premiums are given to the top 10 seniors and juniors in each category. Check the Sarasota County Fair Rules Book for information and entry forms or call the 4-H Office at 861-9810 for details.

All Checked in...

The 2007 Sarasota County Fair is off to a great start! 4-H youth have checked in 72 Steer; 180 Swine; 17 Dairy Cattle; 15 Beef Breeding; 8 Pygmy Goats; and 7 Dairy Goats for this years fair.

Be sure to check your 2007 Sarasota County Rule Book for entry /check-in dates, times and locations. It is also important to know where and when your record books are due.

Don't forget: your record book score is a part of the formula for the Superior Exhibitor Award.

Attention Cloverbuds

Would you like to enter a project (that 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 19th. Only 1 item will be allowed per Cloverbud, so pick your favorite. A special "Cloverbud Record book" will be due at check-in on March 14, pick up a copy at the 4-H Office. (this is not the regular mini building book) Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon only, no premiums will be given. Cloverbuds turning in a record book will be eligible to receive a 4-H Year Pin.

Cloverbud Name: _____

Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Age (as of September 1,06) _____

Description of Article:

Exhibitors signature: _____ Parent / Guardian: _____

Health Matters...



It's A New Year...

And what's 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!

Forgiving - it does a body good!

Start the year off right...Healing your heart is a pathway to peace. When you apologize to someone — and really mean it — it's because you have stopped to think about how someone may feel because of what you said or did. When negative feelings are held inside they can generate mental and even physical pain. When you apologize in a caring way, you can feel good because you are trying to make things right. Saying "I'm sorry" when you need too is the right thing to do.

Steps To A Healthier YOU!

The "Food Pyramid" is one way for people to understand how to eat healthy. A rainbow of colored, vertical stripes represents the five food groups plus fats and oils. Here's what the colors stand for:



orange - grains, green - vegetables, red - fruits, yellow - fats and oils, blue - milk and dairy products, purple - meat, beans, fish, and nuts.

Visit: MyPyramid.gov to take steps this year to a healthier you. One size doesn't fit all. MyPyramid Plan can help you choose the foods and amounts that are right for you. For a quick estimate of what and how much you need to eat, enter your age, sex, and activity level in the MyPyramid Plan box. For a detailed assessment of your food intake and physical activity level, click on MyPyramid Tracker. Use the advice "Inside MyPyramid" to help you make smart choices from every food group, find your balance between food and physical activity, and get the most nutrition out of your calories.

Avoid fad diets! It's never a good idea to trade meals for shakes or to give up a food group in the hope that you'll lose weight — we all need a variety of foods to stay healthy. Avoid diet pills (even the over-the-counter or herbal variety). They can be dangerous to your health; besides, there's no evidence that they help keep weight off over the long term.

Watch your drinks. It's amazing how many extra calories can be found in the sodas, juices, and other drinks. How many teaspoons of sugar is in a can of soda? 10, that's more grams of sugar than in a chocolate bar!

Stall Talk...



Attention Dressage Riders: The Dressage Test that will be used at the Area E and State 4-H Horse Shows will be from the new USEF tests—2007 Training Level Test 4. Contact the 4-H office for your copy.

4-H Horse Show

Practice makes perfect. Come join the fun, and mark your calendars for Sunday, January 7th, 2007 9:AM, at Paragon Farms.

This 4-H Show will include Western, English, and Speed events. High-Points will be awarded to the Top Junior, Senior, and Walk-Trot Riders.

Please dress in show attire. Safety helmets, and boots must be worn. Don't forget your health form, and your horses coggins.

It's Time for the County Show!

The Sarasota County 4-H / Open Horse Show is scheduled for January 28th, 2007, registration starts at 8:00AM and the Show begins at 9:00AM. Speed Events will be held on January 26th 2007, exhibition starts at 6:00PM. Both shows at Paragon Farms. 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.

Remember: completed horse record books are due with your registration forms for Area E Show in April!

As always on the day of the shows we need help with gates, ribbons, setup and cleanup—THANKS!!!

Are YOU ready... Good grooming is essential to the health and appearance of your horse. A well groomed horse is cleaned faithfully everyday for several weeks prior to a show. A horse that has not been groomed regularly will not be show ready.

Showing your horse should be FUN! This fun should be the result of the knowledge that both horse and rider are prepared to accept the challenge of demonstrating their ability. The show arena should not be looked upon as a "show-off" arena or considered a "schooling" arena. It is a place of work, strict rules, and attention to the four C's: confidence, cooperation, consideration, and carefulness.

For more information on your horse project pickup a copy of "Horses and Horsemanship" at the 4-H Office.



Bunny Needs a Home

Precious is looking for a home with lots of love. She is a 1 year old, gray rabbit, and good with children. Call Lisa at 358-8193 for details.

Is A Llama Project For You?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to show a llama at the Sarasota County Fair? Have you watched the Llama show at the Fair and thought—that looks like fun!

If you are interested in getting started call Kathy Wilbanks at 377-3995. Kathy is willing to work with 4-H youth interested in learning to show and care for Llamas.

Cat Chat the Purr-fect Pals

Six Senses Everyday you rely on your senses, and so does your cat. Pay close attention to how your cat recognizes and reacts to things and observe what senses it uses.

Hearing: Cats have super-sensitive hearing. Cats can distinguish sounds which cannot be heard by human ears.

Sight: Born blind, because of fused eyelids, a kittens eyes open 7 to 10 days after birth. Vision is very poor until 3 months.

Smell: The cat's sense of smell plays an important part in appetite, behavior, protection, and reproduction.

Taste: The cats tongue can distinguish four basic qualities of taste—sweet, sour, salt, and bitter.

Touch: Cats whiskers are highly sensitive. They help cats "see" in the dark, allowing them to feel their way around.

Balance: The skeletal and muscular systems are adapted for near—perfect balance.

To learn more about the 4-H cat project check out the CAT Animal Science Series in the 4-H Office.



4-Hers Excel Nationally:

Sofia Annis, Daniella Brown, Brittany and Roy Thompson attended the Florida State Rabbit Breeder's Association's Convention. These youth competed in national level educational contests - and our youth did VERY well.

Royalty Participants and Senior Team Members:

Sofia Annis, Team Leader, 17 ; Daniella Brown, 16 ; Roy Thompson, 15
Bridget Graham, 17 (4-H member from Ocala)

Royalty Participant:

Brittney Thompson, 13



Although our team did not win a top placing in either the Breed ID or Judging Contests they were very competitive and well prepared. They look forward to next year's convention and plan to compete again. All of these youth are eligible for another year of participation in the National ARBA Convention.

Results:

Sofia Annis:

2nd Runner-Up Queen

1st Runner-Up Breed ID Contest

District 6 Winner, Management, Unlimited

National Management Winner, Unlimited

Roy Thompson:

4th Runner-Up King

Rabbit Awards:

Sofia Annis:

BOV, Blue, Tan

3rd place Californian Senior Doe

1st Place Tortoise Mini Rex Senior Doe

1st Place Chocolate Mini Rex Senior

Buck

Thank you to our adults who volunteered to help in the education contests at convention:

Kathy Annis

Heather Brown

Susan Brown

Jamie Thompson

Cheryl Thompson



The Reef Rovers- By Madison Chapman

At the Reef Rover's November meeting, we had some special visitors: bats. The Florida Bat Conservancy visited our club and brought a slide show, a bat house and three live bats to help teach the Reef Rovers about these small nocturnal creatures.

When most people think of bats, they think of the evil blood-sucking vampire bats related to Dracula. The vampire bats are the only species that suck blood and they are just one species out of the 1000 or so bat species across the globe! There are 45 species in the U.S. and we do not have ANY vampire bats. In Florida, all of our bats are insect eaters and each bat can eat 600-1200 bugs per night! In other states and countries, bats might eat frogs, fruit, fish or even drink nectar.

The Reef Rovers had a chance to see three different bats up close: a yellow bat, an evening bat and a Mexican free-tailed bat (the most common bat in Florida). The evening bat's tail is attached to the skin, called the tail membrane, whereas the free-tailed bat's tail is not attached and is a longer and bigger tail. The evening and Mexican free-tailed bats were only about 2 inches long! Our club was surprised at how small they were. The yellow bats are a little bigger and they like to live in Spanish moss. Yellow bats are solitary and do not roost in colonies like evening and Mexican free-tailed bats. The largest colony of bats lives in Bracken Cave in Texas where there are over 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats.

The Reef Rovers have submitted a grant proposal to the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program and hope to receive money to build and place bat houses on preserves and in parks across Sarasota and Manatee Counties. The Florida Bat Conservancy encourages the use of these structures because the bats are losing their habitats and resorting to roosting in people's attics and roofs. While it's against the law to kill them, bat populations are still declining. We will keep you updated on our batty plans!

MINI HOOVES by: Shelby Stasik

Hi everyone, the Mini Hooves have been having a great time. We all had a great time taking our horses to the Myakka Christmas Parade in Myakka City. The horses all looked great and so did we. The driving horses did a great job with all the noises and stuff going on they had no problems and it was a lot of fun. We loved our Santa. The clover buds did great handing out candy canes.

On December 16 we will be having our Christmas party. I hope everyone will be there. We will be having a pizza party at Mrs. Judys farm and don't forget your gift for secret Santa.

Happy Holidays to everyone and we will see you next year.

Clogging Clovers by: Allison Bisel

Hey everybody. Hope you are all keeping warm. We had a blast selling popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy at the Fruitville Groves Pumpkin Festival. We earned enough money to buy new costumes and for our end of the year trip to the clogging convention. We also had fun clogging at Publix for their holiday event. We will be working on our float for the Christmas parade. Look for us. We will also be clogging at the nursing home and at the woodcarvers Christmas party. Guess we will be very busy. Well, until next month....Happy Thanksgiving.

Your friend, Allison Bisel

A Special Thank-you...

I would like to thank my 4-H Family, and The Blazers for the beautiful plant and flowers that you sent in memory of my grandma. I appreciate your support and kindness during this difficult time. I will miss my grandma very much, but knowing I have such special friends will make things easier. I feel very honored to be a part of such a loving club. Thank you, Allison Bisel and family.

Clogging Clovers by: Allison Bisel

What a busy month we have had! We decorated a really cool float "Santa's Toy Shop" for the Christmas parade. On December 2nd several of us clogged our way down Main Street while the others rode on the float. On December 9th we went with The Blazers to Springwood Nursing Home and gave a performance and then later that afternoon we went to The Heron House to do another performance. Wow....that was a lot of dancing!! We had our Christmas Party on December 14th which was a lot of fun. Our leader Crystal came up with a really cool clogging game. It was a lot of fun. Oh, but the fun is about to begin. We start meeting every Thursday evening starting January 4th so we will be ready for the fair. I want to wish all of you a Happy Holiday and a very safe New Year. See you in January.

The Blazers by: Rebecca Griffin

Hey everyone! This is Rebecca from the Blazers 4-H club. This weekend we had so much fun at the Oink 2 Tail pig show in Volusia County. It was held at the Volusia county fair grounds. The division 1 winners are Dena- 5th Place, Rebecca-3rd place, DJ-1st place, Cory- 4th place, Kerry-2nd place and Allison-3rd place. The division 2 winner was Gavin- 2nd place. The division 3 winners are Gavin- 3rd place and Houston- 4th place. The division 1 reserve champion was D.J.! Also, at our December 12th meeting we had a Christmas party. Great job everyone and enjoy the holidays!



Horse'N Around by: Maxim Lowe

First I would like to welcome our four new members: Allison, Zach, Allison and Michael.

Our last meeting was on November 28th. After the pledges and reports, Nimie handed out our record books for the fair and projects. We are going to have fun working on projects such as entomology, arts and craft, rabbits, cats, horses, plants, photography, marine life, etc. We collected a few more items for the Humane Society.

After that, we each decorated a black horseshoe with greenery, cranberries/holly, and ribbon. We planned out our design, then hot glued decorations on it. We also put a rope through two of the holes to be able to hang it. What a nice craft! Before we left, we enjoyed delicious cupcakes baked by Elizabeth.

We had a Christmas party on December 8th at 7 p.m. at Paragon Farms, where we had a bonfire, made s'mores, and had a gift pass around. We also played games, went up to the farm and looked at horses and a cow. There was also a little cat that came to the bonfire and tried to climb up on the food tables! I loved the party very much, and enjoyed my gift.

Don't forget that Fair Forms are due January 19.



Green Team by:

Kayla Knipper

Hi! We had our 4-H Christmas party on December 12th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The party started with making a craft. The craft was a funny, little Santa decoration. We used card board tubes, felt, stuffing, crazy eyes, and hot glue. They turned out super! After the craft we played telephone. The sentences we passed around turned out hilarious! After game time we moved on to food time. Everyone brought something to add to the celebration and it was fabulous. There was: cheese macaroni, pasta casserole, salad, rolls, fruit, veggies and much more. When we finished eating, we exchanged gifts which is always fun. I think the party was great, everyone had an awesome time!

Homegrown Explorers by: Heidi Schwartz

Hello everyone!

The last couple of months have been very prosperous! On Saturday, November 11th we had a bake sale at the Sunnyside Village Holiday Bazaar to raise money for Heifer International. It was a blast! We all had fun baking and selling the goodies and promoting our community service project. It turned out better than we had expected! Everyone pitched in and it ran very efficiently. It was a great team effort! Tasting each dessert was my favorite thing to do. :-) We were able to raise enough money to buy a pig, a trio of rabbits, honeybees, a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, tree seedlings, and a share of a llama! Our club is very happy to be able to give something to those families in need during the holidays.

This past month, our club had a formal meeting followed by a sewing workshop. We each made award banners! Everyone brought his or her own unique materials to sew. It was really fun watching and participating in the workshop!

Next month our club will be having a photography workshop at Crowley's Nature Centre. We will be "focusing" on close-up digital photography. Keep your eyes open, you might see some of our finished creations in the mini building this March!

Hope everyone has a successful and wonderful new year!

Woodcrafters Club News: by Sean Russell

Hey Fellow 4-ers! The Woodcrafters 4-H Club has been working hard over the past few months to get ready for the Sarasota County Fair. Our December meeting was held on the 7th. At this meeting we discussed upcoming deadlines and forms for participation in County Events Day and the Sarasota County Fair. We also planned a day to work on our wood projects for the fair.

On December 16th we had our woodworking workshop at which we continued to make our projects for the fair. Thanks again to Mr. Richards for all his help. The Woodcrafters club also donated wooden ornaments to the Sarasota County Council Community Service project, Kids that Care. These ornaments were decorated by children at the Salvation Army Ward in downtown Sarasota. Entire families thoroughly enjoyed themselves while decorating these ornaments.

If you would like to learn more about woodworking, you may want to join the Woodcrafters club. For more information you can contact Ken and Becky Richards at 953-7920. Well that pretty much wraps it up, until next time this is Sean Russell reporting for the Woodcrafters 4-H Club.



Here's What Your Council Is Doing...



NOVEMBER County Council Meeting by: By Laura Knipper

Hi 4-Hers, Our last County Council Meeting was held on November 20th. Club reports were given by Miakka Allstock, Open Gaits, Southern Spurs, Ridin' Rednecks, Canine Connections, Green Team, and Venice Bits and Spurs. This night's theme was Camouflage and everyone did a great job dressing up. The Spirit Award went to the Venice Bits and Spurs; they did a great job dressing to the theme. The Spirit Stick went to the Green Team; this club had the most members who attended the meeting.

Sarasota's next County Council Meeting theme will be a Christmas one of course! Apart from our regular business meeting we will also be having a Christmas party. For those who would like to attend, it will be held on the third Monday of December, at 7:30pm, at Twin Lakes Park as usual. Please bring a snack to share and be prepared to have lots of fun! We will play games, do activities and eat snacks.

We also discussed some new business. If you would like to participate in the King and Queen Clover Contest (the 4-Her to collect the most change for Sarasota County, will be crowned King or Queen Clover) you will need to register by Dec.1st. Some other important dates to remember are Swine Check in Dec.2nd, Dairy and Pygmy Goat entry date Dec.9th, Beef Breeding and Dairy Cattle entry date Dec.9th, Pottery Classes register by Nov.22nd, and the Holiday Craft workshop Dec.14th (register by the 7th). And don't forget about the hog raffle, you may want to buy some tickets to help raise money for our county.

There was also a Kids That Care project update announced. We will be caroling and handing out Christmas cards at the Pine's Nursing Home on Dec.9th, and hosting a Christmas Party for the Salvation Army kids on Dec.4th. We have finished collecting toys for the Salvation Army Children. We now will be collecting towels, blankets, toys, and food for the animals at the Humane Society.

After the new business, we all made Christmas cards as part of the Kids That Care project. We will hand these out to the nursing home residents that we will be entertaining on Dec.9th. Next, we had a quick snack and then our door prize drawing. Congratulations to Calyn Beese, and Torrie Bockman - winners of the door prize drawing.

Our meeting was then adjourned. I hope to see you all at the next meeting! So until next time, keep on making the best, better, and have a Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER County Council Meeting By: Laura Knipper

The December County Council meeting was held on the 18th, at 7:30. This meeting was also our Christmas party! We played lots of fun games, and had some tasty snacks and cookies.

Apart from all the exciting activities, we had our regular meeting. Club reports were given by Canine Connections, Green Team, Miakka Allstock, Venice Bits 'N Spurs, Open Gaits, Southern Spurs, and Ridin' Rednecks. The new business included the Family Signs workshop on Jan. 11th (register

by the 4th), Leadership Adventure Weekend on Feb. 2nd-4th (register by Dec. 29th), and Form Deadlines. We also discussed the Kids That Care Project.

Thanks to all who participated in caroling at the Pines Assisted Living, and helped with the Salvation Army Christmas Party, they were both a success! We are still collecting items for the Humane Society. They need food, towels, newspapers, treats, dog and cat nail clippers, and many more things. In fact, the next meeting's Spirit Stick will go to the club who collects the most stuff for the Humane Society.

Speaking of the Spirit Stick, the Venice Bits 'N Spurs club got it this time for having the most members of their club at this meeting. The Green Team, along with Laura Knipper (for showing the most outstanding Christmas spirit), won the Spirit Award. The next County Council meeting Theme will be a Fiesta, so come prepared for that!

One more thing I should mention - Lindsay Routh was the winner of our door prize drawing. Congratulations Lindsay! Well, until next time, hope you all had a great Christmas, and don't forget to keep on making the Best, BETTER!





Kids that Care Project Update: by Sean Russell

Hey Fellow 4-Hers! Over the past few months 4-H members from around Sarasota County have worked to "Make the Best Better" by brightening the lives of many through this year's Sarasota County 4-H Council Project, "Kids that Care." This four part project involves beach cleanups, trips to our local Salvation Army Family Ward, visits to a nursing home, and a collection drive for the Sarasota County Humane Society.

Since August, when we kicked off the project with a guest speaker from Keep Sarasota County Beautiful, 4-H members have donated books and toys made Christmas Cards, and participated in one of two beach cleanups planned for this year. In the month of December we made our first visits to the Salvation Army and the Pines of Sarasota assisted living facility.

On December 4th Sarasota county 4-H members went to the Salvation Army Family Ward to spread Christmas cheer to those living there. At this event we helped the children living in the ward paint wooden Christmas tree ornaments, as well as make pine cone Christmas decorations. It was great to see how everyone thoroughly enjoyed making the crafts, even the two year olds who seemed to get more paint on them, than on their ornaments. Next we had a story time and a gift exchange and ended the party with refreshments. A special thanks to all of the clubs and club members who brought in the books and toys for this project, the Woodcrafter's 4-H club for making the ornaments, and to all of those who helped at the event. Everyone who participated in the party had a wonderful time and was very appreciative of everything that was done for them. We even heard how parents who had thought it might be stressful, ended up having a fun and relaxing evening.

Our next project in the month of December was held on the 9th at the Pines of Sarasota assisted living facility. At this event we put together a performance by 4-Hers from across the county. Talented 4-Hers played the piano, sang, and danced. The presentation was very much enjoyed by the people living there. At this event we also had a 4-H family bring their therapy dogs to visit with the residents. Also, while we were there we passed out Christmas cards that were made by Sarasota County 4-H members. As we were visiting with the residents we talked to a woman whose daughter had just died in a car accident. She told us how much she enjoyed the performances and that the visit was very uplifting. Another woman we spoke with was a 4-H alumni and had been a member of a club that sewed clothes for children in need. Since everyone enjoyed the performances so much, we agreed to come back as often as once a month. Once again this event couldn't have been done without the hard work of all those who participated and those who made the beautiful cards we distributed. Thanks for all your help!

As you can see, 4-Hers across the county our working very hard on the "Kids that Care Project." If you would like to get involved here are some of the things we will be doing over the next few months:

From December - April we will be collecting items for the Sarasota County Humane Society. We will have bags at all of the County Council Meetings through the end of the year with a list of the items needed for this collection. We will also be collecting these items in the Mini-Building at the Sarasota County Fair. (Thanks to the Horse 'N Around 4-H Club and the Venice Bits and Spurs 4-H Club who have already donated items for this part of our project. Keep up the good work.)

Since we have decided to make our visits to the nursing home monthly, you can sign up to participate in one of these visits by contacting Sean Russell at 371-8340.

In April we will be participating in the Great American Cleanup. In the spring we will also be going back to the Salvation Army for another party. Information about all of these activities will be coming at upcoming County Council meetings and in your newsletter. If you would like more information or if you would like to sign up for any of these future projects contact Sean Russell at 371-8340. As you can see with just a little bit of hard work we can do a lot to "Make the Best Better" in our clubs, communities, country and world.

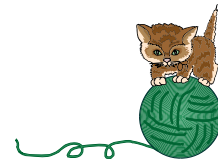


Projects from the HEART



As Part of the Sarasota County 4-H Council's community service project Kids that Care, we will be collecting items for the Sarasota County Humane Society from now until April. These items can be dropped off at the 4-H office or at any County Council Meeting. The following is a list of items from the Humane Society's website that they need. At the January County Council Meeting we will be letting your club's representatives know if there are any items in addition to those listed here that are needed by the Humane Society. Thanks for your help.

- **Newspapers** - We use these to line the bottoms of the cats' kennels.
 - **Polaroid 600 film** - We use this film to take photos of each adopter with their new pet and post it on our monthly "success board" It is something that is enjoyed by all the staff, volunteers, and adopters as they pass by the board and see all those smiling faces with their newly adopted family member! However, we can sometimes go through as much as two whole packs of film on a (blessedly) busy day so the need for this film is ongoing and great!
 - **Towels and blankets** - They make great bedding for cats and dogs!
 - **Books about pet care** - We get many visitors to our education center. A great number of these people are new to pet ownership and could use a little help getting started.
 - **Cans or bags of premium cat, kitten, dog, or puppy food** (please - no prescription diet food, old food, or biscuits).
 - **'Nutrical'** - for sick puppies and kittens.
 - **'Advantage'** flea control for dogs and cats - (please, no 'dip')
 - **Small stainless steel cat litter boxes**
 - **Clay cat litter** - (please, no "scoopable" or "non-clumping" type)
 - **Stainless steel cat dishes** - (flat bottom)
 - **Stainless steel dog dishes** - (flat bottom, large)
 - **Latex dog toys** - all sizes (only processed rawhide, please)
 - **Harnesses** (small, medium, large) for dogs - please - no flea collars, chokers, chains, cables, or ground stakes
 - **Colored ping-pong balls, or any other cat toys**
 - **Small carpet samples** - (bound on edges)
 - **Trash cans on wheels** - (32 gallon size or larger)
 - **Rawhide bones, & chewies** (preferably not imported, but made in USA)
- Tents** (10' x 10' or larger) - We use these at many of our events



Window cleaner
 Sevin Dust
 Bleach
 Borax laundry soap
 Brooms and dust pans
 Heavy-duty large trash bags
 Mop buckets with wringers
 Dish-washing Detergent
 Mop heads
 Batteries - all sizes
 50-foot water hoses
 Zipper seal sandwich bags
 Quart-size plastic bags

Cat Treats
 Dog Treats
 Grooming clippers
 Cat Toys
 Dog Toys
 "Pooper scoopers"
 Dog and cat beds
 Long leashes - (6-8 feet)
 Dog and cat nail clippers
 Animal Crates - any size
 Picture frames

Medicated Shampoo
 Frontline
 KY Jelly
 Digital Thermometers
 Cotton Balls
 Hair Ball Remedy
 Infant/baby scale
 Food scale
 Heating pads
 Vaporizers

You Need To Know...



From The Foundation...

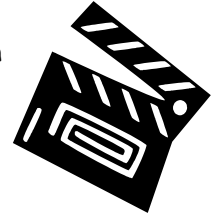
The Sarasota County 4-H Foundation will once again host their annual swine fundraiser. The tickets are \$2.00 each with .25 of each ticket going to the 4-H club that sells it. Tickets are available in bundles of 25 / 50 / 100 at Leader and Council meetings, the 4-H Office or by calling Glenda Padgett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

4-H At The Movies...

You, your family, and friends can help support 4-H in Florida by buying tickets to see Charlotte's Web. For every ticket purchased through www.fourhcouncil.edu Hollywood Movie Money will donate a \$1 to 4-H to help support Florida's 4-H Youth Development Program. (You must purchase your tickets through www.fourhcouncil.edu for 4-H to receive this donation.) Also, the top 30 counties who sell the most tickets as of January 31, 2007 will receive a \$500 4-H Mall gift certificate.



Did you know, Julia Roberts was a 4-H'er? At the premiere of Charlotte's Web Julia Roberts told 4-H members that she too was in 4-H as a child. "I was a 4-H'er, love animals and am all for veterinary science," she told fans. Ms. Roberts is the voice of Charlotte in the movie.

Make Your Plans NOW!

January 2007

- 1 Happy New Year! 4-H Office Closed
- 6 2nd Vaccine for Cattle
- 7 4-H Horse Show
- 8 Foundation Meeting
- 10 Horse Committee Meeting
- 11 Project Workshop—Winter Signs
- 15 MLK Jr. Day—4-H Office Closed
- 18 -28 Manatee County Fair
- 19 FAIR FORMS DUE—check your rules!!!
- 22 Leader and Council Meetings
- 25 CPR Training
- 26 Horse—Speed Show
- 28 Horse—Pleasure Show



Happy New Year!!

February 2007

- 1 Project Workshop—Valentine Box
- 2-4 LAW—Camp Cloverleaf
- 8 Florida State Fair 8—19
- 12 Foundation Meeting
- 14 Valentines Day
- Horse Committee Meeting
- 16 FAIR FORMS DUE—check your rules!!!
- 19 Presidents Day 4-H Office Closed
- 24 DEMONSTRATION DAY
- 26 Leader and Council Meeting



February is Heart Health Month!

Happy Birthday!

Sophia Balandra, Jacob Baxter, Kaisha Butz, Nakita Chadwick, Brianna Devlin, Kerry Desmarais, Marty Dietz, Paul Dietz, Felicia Fonte, Ashlee Gainey, Shadd Graber, Brianna Hackett, Megan Hackett, Katie Harkness, Holly Hunt, Allie Lampel, Michele Lilley, Sara Martin, Ashley Maus, Sara Rivera, Amanda Scarbrough, Krista Schrock, Emalie Walker, Justin Williams, Melissa Wilson, Zack Welch, and Jessie Weber.

Happy Birthday to YOU!!!

