

4-H CLUBS:

- 4-Her's
- 4 Paws
- Aquatic All-stars
- Blazers
- Canine Connections
- Clogging Clovers
- Eagles
- East County Steer & Swine
- Eastside Rabbiteers
- Florida Crackers
- Foxmill Kids & Colts
- Fruitville Exceptional Equine
- Green Thumbs
- 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
- Open Gaits
- Reef Rovers
- Ridin' Rednecks
- Sarasota County Ranchers
- Sarasota Sharp Shooters
- Sarasota Swine
- Southern Spurs
- The Group
- Venice Bits & Spurs
- YMCA Youth



The Clover Times



From The Agents Desk, by Keith Wilson

Remember that on **February 2nd 10am-12noon** at **Twin Lakes Park** there will be a **free Clover-bud Fun Day** where 4-H youth 5-7 years of age are invited to learn about turtles, plants, marine science and fishing. Each activity will last for 30 minutes. We encourage non-4-H youth to also attend to participate in this hands-on educational event. Fishing rods will be available for use by those who need them.

At a recent **4-H marine science exploration** field trip to S. Lido Beach youth caught barracuda, filefish, porcelin crabs, sea horses, snapper, sponges, sea cucumbers, needlefish, pipefish and a variety of other creatures. Participants learned to identify and classify these marine organisms. **Wilkinson Elementary School** will be partnering with 4-H in a similar educational field trip during the month of March.

There are many **judging opportunities** at the Sarasota County Fair this year which include Live-stock, Consumer Choices, and Horticulture. The Fairboard generously donates premium money for these events which allows 4-H youth to compete through educational competition. Participants need only check-in on the day of the events to get involved. Check your Fair rules book for the date and times of these events.

During the month of January, I had the pleasure to join the **Horse N' Around Club** on one of their many **community service** projects in Sarasota. We visited the Floyd Retirement Center in North Sarasota and were able to share holiday gifts with the residents and introduce them to members of the 4-H club. Future activities were planned with the staff at this facility to enhance the quality of life for the elderly.

Remember to always **buckle up** those you care about when riding in a vehicle and please use caution when riding ATVs.

Keith Wilson, 4-H Agent

*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.*

Leader and Council Meetings!

February: Both Leaders and Council members will meet at Twin Lakes Park—Green Building
 February 25th, 7:30 PM.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

No meetings in March—see you at the FAIR!



Fair Days Ahead...

4-H County Events Day

It's show time! County Events Day is just around the corner, our Sarasota County Demonstrations and Public Speaking Event is Saturday, **February 23, 2008** and will be held at the...

Meadowland Worship Center

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

It Starts Here!

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 (Individual and Team) will advance to District Events on May 3rd. Junior and Intermediate District winners will receive a scholarship to Camp Cloverleaf June 16–20, Senior District winners will advance to State competition during 4-H Congress in Gainesville July 21–25th.

Mandatory Work Day

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

ALL EXHIBITORS must sign-in at the large animal barn. If you are exhibiting in the large animal barn, small animal barn, mini building, plant tent, dog, llama, mini horse etc... that means EVERYONE signs-in, in the large animal barn between 7:30 and 8:00 AM.

Groups will be assigned 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.

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS!

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 2008 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. Two children and one adult are needed for each shift. If you can help out and work an additional shift that would be greatly appreciated! Please contact the 4-H Office at 861-9812 / 861-9810 to schedule your shift(s). If you do not sign up you will be assigned a shift during workday on Saturday March 8th.



Don't Forget Your Fair Passes

The 4-H Office will distribute Fair Passes at the end of Workday, on Saturday, March 8th. *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 Fair entries. We cannot accommodate requests for additional passes.

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 during workday on Saturday, March 8th 8:00AM.

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 at 322-0690 *after* February 22, 2008, between 7:00 and 9:00 PM.

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.

Remember, part of the criteria to determine Superior Exhibitor Awards is *your* record book score.

Large Animal Barn Sign-up

Work shifts for exhibitors showing beef breeding, dairy, goats, steer, and swine will be available by calling Jennifer Armstrong at 322-6424 or Christina Schook at 322-8512 beginning Monday, February 25. Locker assignments will be scheduled by club and will be available to club leaders at workday on March 8.

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. Contact Christina Schook to sign-up at 322-8512.



Changes and Updates for Steer and Swine

Entry dates will remain the same, only the sale dates have changed:

Steer Sale: Friday, March 21—7:30 PM

Swine Sale: Saturday, March 22—6:30 PM

For buyers who are personally taking their Steer or Swine purchase with them, the following applies:

Buyers will be required to pay for their purchase on auction night.

Steers: Buyer pick-up Saturday, March 22 from 7:00 AM—10:00 AM

Swine: Buyers pick-up Sunday, March 23 from 7:00 AM—10:00 AM

Exhibitors are not required to be present when buyers pick-up the animal. Exhibitors are required to have their name on the halter for easy identification.

Exhibitors *are responsible* for feeding their animals on Sunday, March 23.

All other steer and swine will be leaving on Monday, March 24 AM.

Exhibitors are not required to be present during the loading of these animals.

Exhibitors are required to clean out their lockers and pick up their items on Monday, March 24 between 2:00 PM and 7:00 pm

READ THIS!

Attention Swine Exhibitors

All Swine must be bled and tested for pseudorabies and brucellosis by a certified veterinarian between February 18, 2008 and the entry to the fair to be eligible for the fair.

Time must be allowed for results to be certified and received by the fair office. Test conducted more than thirty (30) days from the entry date of the fair will be disqualified. **Failure to have the blood test will result in disqualification from the fair. (Page 21 Rule 15).**

The livestock Committee will help you facilitate the process by having a veterinarian at the Farm Bureau facility located at 7289 Palmer Blvd. on Monday February 18th, Tuesday, February 19th and Wednesday, February 20th, between 5:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.. There will be a \$6.00 charge for the tests, please have the correct change.

We can not handle all swine on the same day. Please call Don Strickland at 371-1771 to schedule your date.

If you choose to have your veterinarian do the testing, it is your responsibility to see that the paper work is in the fair office by 5:00 P. M Friday March 14 ,2008.



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 that 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 12th 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!

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 to 4 youth (12 or older) and 1 to 2 adult supervisors (parents / leaders / volunteers).

Shifts are Monday through Thursday: first shift 2:00—6:00 PM, second shift 6:00 to 10:00 PM. Fridays: first shift 2:00—7:00 second shift 7:00—11:00, Saturdays: first shift 12:00—4:00 PM, second shift 4:00—8:00, and third shift 8:00—11:00 and Sundays: first shift 12:00—4:00 PM, second shift 4:00—7, and third shift 7:00—10:00.

Please report to the Elephant Ear Booth 15 minutes before your scheduled shift, and plan to stay 15 minutes past your shift for clean-up.

Don't delay, call today!



You Need To Know

Changing 4-U

So more youth can participate we are changing the date of the Consumer Choice contest. The new date and time will be Thursday, March 20th! The Junior / Intermediate division will begin at 6:00 PM and the Senior's will begin at 7:00 PM. There is still time to get your forms in if you would like to participate in this activity. Call the

CAVY EXHIBITOR'S

Check your record books... make sure you have all the pages in your cavy record book! Some of the books printed only have "even page numbers" call the 4-H Office at 861-9812 or visit our web page at:

sarasota.extension.ufl.edu





4-H Doesn't Slow Down!

Camp Cloverleaf 2008 County Contest

This is your chance to design the program graphic for Sarasota 2008 Camp Cloverleaf. The winning graphic will appear on all promotional flyers, registration forms and the official 2008 Camp Program.

Draw your design on 8X10 plain white paper and submit it to the 4-H Office by February 18, 2008. The Winner will be announced in the March newsletter. Remember, the dates for camp are June 16-20, 2008!

Congratulations again to last years winner, Kayla Knipper!

Upcoming Project Workshops...

February 13: Valentine. Arrange a beautiful tea cup Valentine for that very special someone. Bring a new or used tea cup (or mug) and we will provide all the ingredients to make it spectacular! Cost \$2.00.

April 10: Make a Statement! Your friends will flip over these custom "flip-flops" to wear all summer! Bring a pair of plain flip-flops to the workshop and we will supply all the materials to make them dazzling! Cost \$1.00

These hands-on workshops are held at Twin Lakes Park at 4:45 PM. We do ask that you pre-register one week prior to the workshop. Come join the fun! Sign-up today!

Send Your Art Work TODAY!

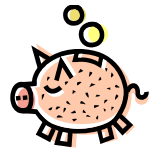
2008 Area E T-Shirt Design Contest

Show your creative side... enter the Area E T-shirt Design Contest. The winner will receive a free t-shirt and a \$100.00 savings bond! The contest is open to all 4-Her's ages 8-18 as of September 1, 2007 that reside in the Area E Horse District. You do not have to be entered in a horse project to participate. T-shirts (made using your design) will be sold as a fundraiser for the Area E Horse Program.

Guidelines: 1. All designs must be original and specifically relate to the Area E 4-H Horse Show. 2. Designs must include a 4-H clover and the words "2008 Area E Horse Show" 3. No copyrighted materials can be used. 4. Designs may be horizontal or vertical to be used on the front or back of the t-shirt. 5. Designs must be submitted on an 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of white paper. Only 1 entry per member will be accepted. Entries are due in the Sarasota County 4-H Office no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, February 26, 2008.

Financial Planning... When should you start?

Now! Personal Financial Planning is the process of defining goals, developing a plan, and putting that plan into action. As a high school 4-Her you should be thinking about life after high school, your goals, and how you are going to get there. How do you manage your paycheck, what do you do with other income - like steer or swine checks?



Sarasota County 4-H will be offering "NEFE High School Financial Planning Program" open to 4-H youth and their parents. This is a 3-week series of one two-hour class per week starting in April, 2008. Guest lecture, Phillip Smelser is a dynamic speaker and will engage youth and parents in financial management education.

Please call Keith Wilson at 861-9818 or Sheila at 861-9810 if you are interested in attending this program.

Community Service Opportunity... Meadowlands Church is having a free carnival on Saturday, February 9, 10:00 -2:00. They need 4-Hers to help with the game booths, its a fun way to help your community! Contact Hiedi at 322-2289

Animal Connection

Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits...

Lionheads and Netherland Dwarfs available! These can be used as 4-H projects or pets. Contact Daniella Brown at 377-9048 for details and information.

WHOOF! Is Anybody Listening?

Dogs do talk, but most of us don't understand a word they say. Here's a brief guide to common canine vocalizations... short, high-pitched barks demand attention from a family member or friend; lower-pitched longer barks protect territory or warn of an invader; howling or mournful barks mean loneliness; whines seek attention; whining yawns indicate anxiety.

Guinea Pigs. Soft and cuddly, guinea pigs are popular pets. Known as cavy's, guinea pigs are rodents - more closely related to chinchillas than to rats and mice. Test your knowledge of the guinea pig.

1. Guinea pigs are extremely vocal. True or False. True. Guinea pigs are well know for squealing, they also grunt and coo.
2. Guinea pigs are not very bright. True or False. False. Did you no with patience and repetition, you can train most guinea pigs to use a litter box.
3. Guinea pigs are social animals. True or False. True. Guinea pigs enjoy the company of their fellow cavy's.
4. Guinea pigs are carnivores. True or False. False. Even wild guinea pigs are herbivores.
5. Guinea pigs should receive regular veterinary care. True or False. True. Guinea pigs are generally hardy animals, but they are susceptible to health problems if not cared for properly.

Florida 4-H and YOU



2009 Florida 4-H Centennial Celebration

2009 will be here before you know it and with that comes the Florida 4-H Centennial Celebration! A planning committee has already gotten together to begin preparations. The purpose of the committee and celebration is to promote the legacy of Florida 4-H. It will help document 4-H's history by researching past decades and guide 4-H's move into the future.

You have an opportunity to be a part of Florida 4-H's 100 year celebration! Send us your stories and pictures and we will pass them on to Florida 4-H to post on their website so that they can be shared with others. Your stories and insights should be of a family-friendly nature and photos you send should have good resolution.



Purchase a Centennial License Plate!

Help support the Centennial by purchasing a Florida 4-H Vanity Plate or Frame for \$5 each. All proceeds will be used for the Centennial Celebration in 2009! Order forms are available on the Florida 4-H website or contact the 4-H Office.

Faces of Florida 4-H

The state 4-H office is looking for youth to become the "Faces of Florida 4-H!" The state office will be filming a 10-12 minute video that will be used throughout the Centennial year as a promotional piece for the Florida 4-H program. It will be a video highlighting why youth are involved in 4-H, what the program offers them, where they see the program going, etc. Hopeful "Faces" applicants can be any age. They will need to submit an application, resume, a one paragraph statement of why they should be considered and a five-minute video introducing themselves. This is a great way for your youth's personality to shine through and really "wow" the judges!

Applicants can be nominated by an adult or choose to apply on their own. Applications are due into the State 4-H office by March 1. Chosen applicants will be notified by mid-March. Selected applicants must be available to attend the videotaping session which will be held in Gainesville in April or May of 2008. They will also be responsible for travel and meal expenses during the day. Applications can be found on the Florida 4H website, or call the 4-H office for a copy today!

4-H Day at the Capitol

4-Hers from around the state will again converge around the Capitol to learn more about their government, visit historic landmarks and meet with their legislators on March 14. We are encouraging all 4-Hers to attend so that we can connect hands around the Capitol, which means we'll need more than 200 youth to attend!

In the past, 4-H has been recognized on the floors of the House and Senate as well as having the day be proclaimed 4-H day! There will be opportunities to tour historic sites including the New State Capitol, Florida Supreme Court, Old State Capitol, Museum of Florida History and Museum of Black Archives.

Basic Beliefs about Recognition in 4-H Youth Development Programs

Recognition for 4-H youth and volunteers is based on the following beliefs:

Recognition is a basic human need.

Recognition builds positive self-esteem (for competencies demonstrated).

A balance between intrinsic (self-evaluation) and extrinsic (rewards given by others) recognition is essential.

Everyone needs to be recognized at some time for their efforts.

Recognition is more meaningful when it occurs soon after it is earned and is related to a specific task.

Appropriate recognition for an individual varies depending on their age, past experiences, family lifestyle, community and cultural heritage.

Recognition is more meaningful when given by someone closely related to the person.

Recognition motivates people to excel and take worthwhile risks.

Individual choices in learning and participation need to be allowed and recognized. Recognition and awards programming in 4-H is a strategy for helping people become more capable and competent. Through the acknowledgement, affirmation and positive reinforcement of each person's effort, feelings of competence and capability increase and participation continues.





February is Heart Health Month!

The Colors of Health

It's important to have a colorful variety of fruits and vegetables everyday. Colorful fruits and vegetables provide the wide range of vitamins, minerals, and fiber your body needs to stay healthy and full of energy. To make choosing your fruits and vegetables easy, keep in mind 5 color groups: blue/purple, green, white, yellow/orange, and red. The goal is to eat about one cup from each group everyday!



By including a colorful variety of fruits and vegetables from the five color groups in your low-fat diet everyday, you can help maintain a healthy HEART!

Lets All Focus on Fruits

At breakfast, top your cereal with bananas or peaches; add blueberries to pancakes; drink 100% orange or grapefruit juice. Or, try a fruit mixed with low-fat or fat-free yogurt.

At lunch, pack a tangerine, banana, or grapes to eat, or choose fruits from a salad bar. Individual containers of fruits like peaches or applesauce are easy and convenient.

At dinner, add crushed pineapple to coleslaw, or include mandarin oranges or grapes in a tossed salad. Make a Waldorf salad, with apples, celery, walnuts, and dressing. Try meat dishes that incorporate fruit, such as chicken with apricots or mango chutney. Add fruit like pineapple or peaches to kabobs as part of a barbecue meal.

For dessert, have baked apples, pears, or a fruit salad.

As snacks: Cut-up fruit makes a great snack like pineapples or melons. Or, try whole fresh berries or grapes.

Snack Idea's - That Taste Great!

Calcium: Snack idea. Boost your calcium intake by blending low-fat chocolate milk, a banana, and ice into a delicious smoothie for a quick dessert, or snack

Fiber: Snack idea. Spread crunchy peanut butter onto celery sticks, top with raisins for a favorite "ants on a log"

Protein: Snack idea. Trail mix is a great portable snack that is also easy to prepare. Throw together a mix of dried fruits such as raisins, bananas, apples, or dried cranberries, nuts (soy nuts or peanuts), and high-fiber cereal.

Antioxidant: Snack idea. Parfaits are beautiful to look at and fun to eat. Make one by layering low-fat yogurt, fresh or frozen blueberries, and toasted almonds into a tall glass.

Iron: Snack idea. Wrap an iron-fortified whole-wheat tortilla with sliced turkey, low-fat string cheese, and dried cranberries for a healthy snack.

Let's Get Physical !

Physical movement requires energy that burns calories, the type of exercise that uses the most energy is aerobic exercise. The term "aerobic" is derived from the Greek word meaning "with oxygen."

Aerobic exercise uses the body's large muscle groups in a continuous, rhythmic movement. Jogging, brisk walking, swimming, biking, and dance are just some aerobic exercises that can be done with friends or in groups—and can be a lot of FUN!

The longer you move aerobically, the more energy needed and the more calories used. Regular aerobic exercise will improve your cardio-respiratory endurance; and you will build a healthier YOU!

4-Steps to Success

Losing and maintaining weight lose is not easy. Below are some tips to help make the most of your efforts:

Exercise. Studies show people who maintain their weight loss for years generally accumulate at least one hour a day of physical activity. It doesn't matter what you do as long as you use your muscles.

Cut Portions, Cut Calories. We have become accustomed to Super-sized servings - we often eat more calories than we need. Many people lose weight by simply reducing portions.

Prepare Mentally. Be ready for permanent change. Decide your not on a "diet" temporarily; your starting a life long new behavior!

Eat Regular Meals. Fasting or skipping meals may lower your metabolism. It also invites fatigue and can trigger over eating later.

A Quick Tip:



Looking for a way to cut the sugar in your favorite recipes? Try this: Reduce the sugar by one-third to one-half the original amount. Then enhance the flavor by increasing the amount of vanilla, cinnamon or nutmeg.

Straight From The Horses Mouth ...



The Sarasota County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee sponsored a 4-H Horse Show on January 6th at Paragon Farms. Over 75 youth, parents, leaders and volunteers attended the event. 4-H youth participated in Showmanship, Halter, Western, English, Trail and Speed events. Miniature horses also participated in Halter, Showmanship and Trail Events.

High Points Awards: **Walk-Trot:** Tatum Britt with Simply Hot Proof **Junior:** Carly Scarbrough with Smooth Spice
 Senior: Kaila Hess with Holly Par Guard **Speed:** Kaila Hess with Holly Par Guard
 Miniature Horse: Cara Byrket with FPF Payoffs Unbridled Magic

Congratulations to everyone!

And a BIG thank-you to all our volunteers that made the day a great success: Our Judge—Centry Bukeit, Nimie Gill, Vicki Gup-ton (the food was great!!!!), Gay and Ron Hess, Judy Middleton, and all those who helped with gates, ribbons, and set-up!!!!!!

News From Out There...



Horse 'N Around by Maxim Lowe

January 22 was the first meeting of '08 for our club: Happy New Year!

The room we usually meet in was taken, but we found another room -the only problem was that we could not find out how to turn on the automated lights. So we turned on the lights in the hallway and worked under (very) dim lighting.

Because county events are approaching, we practiced demonstrations. Elizabeth did two. During the first, she gave us tips on what to do or not do with a digital camera. Her second demonstration was about double boiling, a technique which she used in baking double-chocolate cookies with Andes mint chunks. These were so chewy and delicious, they were probably the best cookies for this 4-H year! Danielle did a demonstration on Jersey cows; and I did a presentation/demonstration on pretzels (and shared some soft pretzels with everyone).

As for other news, all Cloverbuds, remember February 2nd is Cloverbud Day at Twin Lakes Park! It sounds like a lot of fun. Bring a friend if you like. Finally, we plan to visit the nursing home on the 16th of February around 2:00 to do a craft with the residents.

BLAZERS: BY ALLISON BISEL

AT OUR JANUARY MEETING WE HAD 2 DEMONSTRATIONS. TREY DIETZ SHOWED US HOW TO WEIGH OUR PIGS BY USING A TAPE MEASURE. I'M SURE GLAD WE HAVE A SCALE TO WEIGH MY PIG!! GAVIN ALBRITTON AND JUSTIN BURNETT SHOWED US THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TOOLS USED IN SHOWING YOUR PIG AT FAIR. I THINK I'LL STICK WITH THE SLAPPER.

WE ARE ORDERING 4-H JACKETS AND POLO SHIRTS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE SEE JULIE ASAP SO THEY ARE HERE IN TIME FOR FAIR.

DECEMBER 15TH THERE WAS AN OPEN SHOW IN PASCO COUNTY. IT WAS ALOT OF FUN AND VERY EDUCATIONAL. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WENT: ME, LAURA, KERRY, JUSTIN, GAVIN, TREY, GAGE BRITTNEY AND REBECCA. THE FOLLOWING CLOVER BUDS ALSO WENT AND SHOWED: KELSEY, MALLORY AND DEANNA. DID YOU HEAR? DEANNA WON RESERVE!! EVERYONE DID A GREAT JOB AND MADE THE CLUB PROUD!

GAVIN WILL BE SHOWING HIS STEER IN PALM BEACH. WE ALL WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK!

MRS. BURNETT TOLD US TO START THINKING ABOUT OUR BUYERS LETTERS. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO WRITE THESE LETTERS AND INVITE PEOPLE TO COME SEE OUR ANIMALS. IT'S NOT TOO EARLY! FAIR IS JUST 2 MONTHS AWAY.

SPEAKING OF FAIR...HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...JANUARY 18TH FORMS ARE DO AT THE 4-H OFFICE FOR THE FOLLOWING: DEMONSTRATIONS, PUBLIC SPEAKING, SHARE THE FUN, AND MINI BUILDING.

FEBURARY 1ST THE FOLLOWING FORMS ARE DUE AT THE FAIR OFFICE: RABBITS, CAVY, POULTRY, DRESS UP PARADE. MAKE SURE YOUR FORMS ARE IN BY 5:00PM OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THOSE ITEMS.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR CLOVER BUDS: FEBUARY 2ND THERE IS A FUN DAY PLANNED FOR ALL CLOVER BUDS AT TWIN LAKES PARK FROM 10-12. PLEASE CALL MR. KEITH WILSON TO SIGN UP. I ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND!

REMEMBER TO SELL YOUR SWINE RAFFLE TICKETS! IF YOU NEED MORE PLEASE SEE EITHER MRS. BURNETT OR MRS. ALBRITTON. ALSO, IF YOU ARE HAVING ANY ISSUES WITH YOUR ANIMALS, PLEASE SEE A LEADER ASAP!! WE WANT TO SEE EVERYONE MAKE IT INTO FAIR AND THE LEADERS ARE ALL HERE TO HELP.

SEE YA'LL NEXT MONTH!!



Home Grown Explorers by: Heidi Schwartz

Greetings!

Wow! The fair comes quicker every year! It's hard to believe that it's almost the time for record books and entry tags! Our club is busily getting ready for the fair season. We have had our fund-raiser, part one of our instructional "fair prep" course, and the annual photography workshop! We, as a club, will be participating in the Mini Building and Horticulture Tent. And a few select members will also have entries in the Hobby Show. Everyone is coming up with some very creative and unique projects and displays. The new members of the Homegrown Explorers are really stepping up their game and are showing great promise for the upcoming competitions!

This month, our club will be conducting part two of the informative/instructional "fair prep" courses, focusing on Mini Building entries led by our club leader, Mrs. Darla Schrock. We will learn how to display our projects and how to fill out record books. This is always helpful to our new members and to our senior members. A little refreshed memory never hurt anybody. :-) Some of our members will be doing a county demonstration this month as well! We wish them all good luck!

The big secret in life is that there is no big secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you're willing to work.
-Oprah Winfrey

Ridin' Rednecks are Community-Minded and Inspired to be Consumer Judges!

by Erin Gilliland

The Ridin' Rednecks have started a great new year by cleaning up Pinecraft Park, our community service project. We picked up over 75 pounds of trash, and left our adoptive park beautiful. At our recent meeting our guest speaker was our own 4H parent Annette Chapman. She spoke about the consumer judging contest, and we practiced some of the comparisons we'll be asked to do at the fair. She brought copies of the consumer judging entry form for those who decided this was a fair activity they wanted to participate in. Many Ridin' Rednecks decided to sign up for consumer judging, just because of Mrs. Chapman's mini-lesson. By the time this newsletter is printed, we will have had our annual club screening. We will get to see and hear about everyone's projects, and learn how our own projects are progressing and growing.

Jr. Cattlemen's by: Jared Padgett

The Jr. Cattlemen 4-H Club had their first meeting of the New Year on January 2nd 2008. At the meeting we talked about the use of a show stick and why you should use it. We then talked about our trip to the Cattlemen's Convention that we will be going to in June. We talked about our Quiz Bowl and Marketing teams that we will be having there. Some members also want to compete in the Beef Ambassador Competition. On January 5th we went on a club Screening day and visited everyone's animals from all across the County. Everyone seemed to enjoy seeing how other people raise their animals. Our next meeting will be on February 7th 2008 at 6:45 at Fire Station #8 which is located out Bee Ridge Rd.

FLORIDA CRACKERS by Grace Duyn

Well, another month has gone by and our club has accomplished so much. This meeting we discussed the exciting things we did in December. We sang at a nursing home... the elderly people LOVED us. We also took a scale around and got all of our pigs weighed. This meeting we also discussed fund raisers to start off the year with. At the end of the meeting we had a belated New Year's Eve party and played all sorts of fantastic games. All in all, it was an amazing meeting.

Sarasota County Ranchers

by Shelby Swartz

This month our club appointed Lindsey Routh to be our County Council Representative. Shelby Swartz, Katie Ross, and Kaci Duggan are getting ready to take their dairy cows to the State Fair.

The Sarasota County Ranchers held a record book work shop on Sat. Jan 26 for all members in our club. Shelby Swartz and Felicia Fonte did a demonstration on how to show a dairy cow in the fair. Sincerely, Shelby Swartz

Green Thumbs by: Lisa Richards

Welcome to January! It's not Spring yet but Green Thumbs has planted so many seeds we think it is.

Plants have been started in our organic container boxes for the fair and everyone is excited about entering them into the Mini Building. A harvest of the first crop of plants was made with Kale, Collards, Celery and many different Lettuces being part of the bounty of vegetables.

Thanks again go out to Jessica Farms for another donation of plants to the Club. A special thank you to Jim Borst (one of our parents) for getting us donated seed packets from Home Depot.

News From Out There...



Miakka Alstock by: Shelby Martin

Happy New Year!

Last year Miakka Alstock raised the most money out of all the 4H clubs at the walk-a-thon. Miakka Alstock also entered a float in the Christmas Parade on December 1 and did an extraordinary job! We sponsored two Christmas Angels through the Salvation Army. We were able to bless them each with a new bike and other needs and wants from their wish list.

We have several clubbers entering animal projects in the fair this year. Bailey Martin, Julia Miller, Madison Lutz, Mathew Miller, Sarah Hayo and Tayla Graber are raising dairy cows. Jamie Johnson is entering Beef Breeding, and Michael Dean is raising a Pygmy goat. Good Luck with your projects!

Thank you Mrs. Debbie Neill for organizing and ordering our new club t-shirts. The camouflage looks really cool. I know the whole club loves them!

Two things you need to do this year BEFORE the fair: First, present a demonstration at club level. Second, make sure you are working on your buyer letters so people may support you through an 'add-on' or buying your hog, steer, plant or any other fair project.

Speaking of the fair, Saturday, March 8 is workday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. You can go to the Sarasota County Fair's web site (www.sarasotafair.com) or stop by their office for more information.

Don't forget the "Road Side Clean Up" is Saturday, February 2nd meet at the Old Myakka School at 10:00 a.m.

Looking for something FUN and FREE to do? There is a free carnival at Meadowland Worship Center on Saturday, February 9, 10:00-2:00. They will have fun games, including the rock wall (which is my favorite!), rides and more! Stop by and enjoy the fun.

Green Team Report by: Laura Knipper

Wow, looks like it's already that busy time of year again! We did a lot at our last Green Team meeting on January 8th. Our usual meeting of order went smoothly and then we were all treated with some demonstrations. Amber VanRiper did one on Reefs; she taught us some very interesting facts about how they form and what we can do to save these amazing coral reefs which are such an important part of the marine ecosystem. A demonstration on solar power was given next by Rachel VanRiper, and we all learned some pretty cool facts! Autumn VanRiper's demo taught us about wetlands. Just as our coral reefs, we need to do all we can to learn about, and protect these sensitive environments.

After learning about reefs, solar power, and wetlands, we got together to study some tree leaf characteristics in our tree project books. As well as looking at the examples of leaf shapes, arrangements, and leaf margins in our books, we also identified some characteristics on real leaves. This was a great activity that helps to prepare us for the Forest Ecology Contest. We even did some more contest preparation by leaf-printing shirts that we will wear during the identification contest.

Good luck to everyone doing demonstrations on county events day...and until next time, keep on making the best, better!



MINI HOOVES by: Shelby Stasik

Hi Everyone, the Mini Hooves Club has been really busy lately. We had a great Holiday party at Debbie Wuolles house thank you we had a great time! The Myakka Christmas Parade went really well we had a lot of driving horses there from our other club 1/2 Pint Pullers and a whole bunch of Minis, The Clover Buds did a great job too Santa was on our float with his elf helping, All of our horses were decorated really nice and it was so much fun.

We have had 3 club business meetings at our new spot the Myakka Church and it is going great. We had a great demonstration done at our last meeting by 3 members on how to make a horse ornament and it was really neat. We also had a demonstration on how to dress for horse shows and what all you need to bring with you to a show.

We had our first show with the 4hers and their big horses at Paragon it was a fun show and also a safety clinic. It was such a great time and it was fun to show and meet the other 4hers. Thanks for having us. We will be going to the next show there on Jan 27th at Paragon.

Last weekend about 25 of our club members and horses went to a showmanship clinic in Okeechobee it was an all day event we all learned so much on showmanship and performance tips for ourselves and horses.

We will busy with shows, the state fair in Feb and the county fair in March they are all coming up very quickly. Remember to keep in mind that you need to get entry forms in and be getting your demonstrations done and keep up those record books before you know it, it will be fair time.

See you next month Shelby

**CALENDAR FOR 4-H/FFA SHOW, SALE, & ACTIVITY EVENTS
SARASOTA COUNTY FAIR 2008**

DEMONSTRATIONS & PUBLIC SPEAKING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008 TIME: 8:30 AM

LOCATION: MEADOWLANDS WORSHIP CENTER

DAIRY CATTLE SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008 TIME: 7:00pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008 TIME: 9:00am,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

DAIRY GOAT & PYGMY GOAT SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008 TIME: 12:30pm ,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

LLAMA SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008 TIME: 7:00pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008 TIME: 8:30 am

LOCATION: SMALL ANIMAL TENT

DOG SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008 TIME: 12:30pm-5pm,

LOCATION: KIDDIE LAND AREA

SHARE THE FUN SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008 TIME: 12:30-4:30pm, LOCATION: ARMORY STAGE

RABBIT & CAVY JUDGING CONTEST SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008 TIME: 3:30pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

BEEF BREEDING SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008 TIME: 6:00pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

DRESS UP PARADE MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008 TIME: 5:00pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

MINIATURE HORSE SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008 TIME: 5:30pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

CLOTHING SELECTION JUDGING TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008 TIME: 6:00pm,

LOCATION: ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST

CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION REHEARSAL TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008 TIME: 6:00pm,

LOCATION: ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST

FASHION REVUE TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008 TIME: 7:00pm, LOCATION: 4-H STAGE

STEER SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008 TIME: 6:30pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

SWINE SHOW & SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008 TIME: 6:00pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

HORTICULTURE JUDGING CONTEST THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 TIME: 4:30pm,

LOCATION: ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST

CONSUMER CHOICES 4-H JR. DIVISION THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 TIME: 6:00pm,

LOCATION: ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST

CONSUMER CHOICES 4-H SR. DIVISION THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 TIME: 7:00pm,

LOCATION: ROBARTS LOCKER RM EAST

STEER SALE AUCTION FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008 TIME: 7:30pm, LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

SWINE SALE AUCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2008 TIME: 6:30 pm,

LOCATION: F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2008 TIME: 10:00 am,

LOCATION : F.T. HOUSER SHOW ARENA

PLANT SALE AUCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2008 TIME: 1:00 pm LOCATION: PLANT TENT



**If you are early—
you're on time
If you are on time—
you're late
And If you are late—
you're left!**



Deadline Approaching!

4H High School Graduating Seniors

Each year the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation awards college or trade school scholarships, in varied amounts, to Sarasota County 4-H High School Seniors. The 4-H Foundation Scholarship criteria is based on 4-H Accomplishments, Skills, Citizenship, Community Service, and Leadership Experience.

February 1st applications can be picked up at the 4-H Office or visit the 4-H website at: sarasota.extension.ufl.edu.

The applications must be completed and submitted by April 1, 2008, 4:00 at the 4-H Office.

Applications will be screened by the Scholarship Committee and recipients will be selected by the 4-H Foundation. The scholarships will be presented at the Foundation's Annual meeting in June 2008.

As always, if you need additional assistance or information contact the 4-H Office at 861-9810.

Sarasota County 4-H Foundation

Swine Fundraiser

It is time once again for the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation Annual Swine Fundraiser. Last year this fundraiser netted \$7,706.00! Look for our tickets; this year our swine tickets are WHITE. 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 22 clubs participated. Once again clubs will earn .25 cents for each ticket they sell (if they sell 25 tickets or more). The club that sells the most tickets will win a pizza party! We would love to have independent 4-H members participate too.

Profits from these tickets will help to fund activities within the 4-H Program including: camp, congress, awards night, 4-H program materials, and Foundation Scholarships for graduating seniors. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday March 22, 6:00 PM, 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*

Make Your Plans NOW!



February 2008

- 7–18 Florida State Fair
- 11 Foundation Meeting
- 13 Valentine Workshop
- 13 Horse Advisory Meeting
- 15 Get your fair forms in!
- 18 Presidents Day—4-H Office Closed
- 23 **County Demonstrations & Public Speaking**
- 25 Leader and Council Meeting

February is Heart Health Month



March 2008

- 8 Fair Work Day
- 9 Daylight Savings begins
- 14-23 Sarasota County FAIR
- 23 Easter Sunday
- March 31—April 4 Spring Break

Reminder: No Leader or County Council meetings in March.

See You At The Fair!



Happy Birthday... Patricia Armstrong, Summer Ball, Kaci Duggan, Lawson Fee, Erica Flagg, Alexis Harrawood, Korey Hawkins, Austin Jansch, Jamie Lee Johnson, Jacob Krieg, Drayton Lutz, Molly Martin, Logan McKinley, Krista Morgan, Sarah Neill, Clancy Patten, Nicholas Pellegrino, Lindsey Pollack, Brandon Ramirez, Carly Scarbrough, Megan Stoll, Marissa Stutzman, Tanner Stutzman, Jessica Taylor, Tristan Thomas, Wyatt Thomas, Brittney Thompson, Erin Timoney, Amber Townsend, Tabatha Townsend, Autumn VanRiper, Maurice Victor, Paloma Vonwood, Kyle Warren, and Rebecca Weinstein!