

**4-H CLUBS:**

4-Her's  
4 Paws  
Animal Crackers  
B & S Farms  
Badger's Den Productions  
Blazers  
Canine Connections  
Clogging Clovers  
Country Critters  
Eagles  
East County Steer & Swine  
Eastside Rabbiters  
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



The Clover Times  
September 2008



**FROM THE AGENTS DESK- Keith Wilson**

The State 4-H Foundation recently sent me a message about a fundraising opportunity that may interest some 4-H clubs in Sarasota County. For over 22 years the **Snack Factory** in Ocala, Florida has produced smoked snack sticks for fundraising. FFA nationwide made over a million dollars in profit for their chapters last year using this product. To learn more about this company and what they have to offer 4-H, visit their website at [www.countrymeats.com](http://www.countrymeats.com) or call 1-800-277-8989.

**Garden Elementary School in Venice** has recently asked 4-H staff to teach 20 environmental science classes to their students for the upcoming school year. This school has also been active in our Radish Growing contest for many years. Close to **5000 students** are reached by our **4-H school enrichment program** and we hope to see that number grow each year. At the suggestion of our **4H Advisory Committee**, **Sheila Holland** is very busy e-mailing teachers around our county 4-H curriculum topics which they can choose from. Responses to Sheila's e-mails have been immediate.

We encourage each of the 4-H clubs to be well represented at the monthly **volunteer/leader and county council meetings**. The very successful decision to hold the Fair Awards Ceremony in April was a direct result of an initiative made by leaders at one of these monthly meetings. Our Ag. Agent, Dr. Kluson, will speak at the September leader's meeting.

The entire 4-H staff wishes all 4-H club members, volunteers and their families a very safe and enjoyable year ahead!

Keith Wilson, 4-H Agent

Remember to **click that seat belt** when riding in a vehicle.

*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.*

**Awards and Recognition Night**  
**Wednesday, October 8th**

It's a celebration! This gathering is one of the many ways we recognize youth, leaders, volunteers, and friends of 4H for their achievements, and contributions throughout the year. Youth will receive record book ribbons, year pins, project medals, and special awards. Also, pick up your graded record books at this event. Leaders will receive year pins, and we also will be announcing Sarasota County "Leader of the Year".

Don't miss this **BIG** event! Make your plans now to attend; **Wednesday, October 8th**, in the Potter Building, at the Sarasota County fair Grounds. Check-in begins at 6:30PM and the program will start promptly at 7:00PM. Drinks will be provided, bring your favorite desert to share!



**National 4H Week**  
**October 5th—11th**





## 4-H Doesn't Slow Down!

### 6th ANNUAL 4-H and FFA Dance

It's time for the 6th Annual County Wide Dance! Saturday November 22. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold in the 4-H Office, through county council members and at the door. Friends of 4-H members are welcome too at the same price and adult chaperones are free! There will be an awesome D.J., limbo contest and lots of line dancing! Pizza, snacks and drinks will be for sale! All proceeds will go to the Sarasota County 4-H Council. If you have any questions please call Jared Padgett at 925-3175 or e-mail at [jpcountrysideboy@verizon.net](mailto:jpcountrysideboy@verizon.net) *submitted by: Jared Padgett*

### Livestock Judging Team

All youth interested in joining the Sarasota County Livestock Judging Team should contact Mr. Don Strickland at 924-6159. Youth will participate in Livestock Judging Events, develop a better understanding of beef cattle, swine and sheep, while increasing decision-making, evaluation and communication skills.

### 4-H Project Workshops are Back!

The 4-H Office will be offering a series of "project" workshops again this year. The purpose of these workshops is to encourage members to explore the many project areas available in 4-H. The workshops will be held the first Thursday of each month, 4:45 PM, at Twin Lakes Park. We ask that you pre-register so we have enough supplies on hand. (861-9812)

**September 4<sup>th</sup> Fall Herb Garden** Learn all about herbs as you create a container herb garden, and use your herbs in your favorite recipes! We will supply all the materials needed, the cost for this workshop is \$5.00. Please register by August 27 to participate in this workshop; 861-9812.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> Painted Pumpkins** Come join the fun! This is a no cost workshop, just bring your own pumpkin or gourd and we will supply paint, glitter and more. Enjoy your holiday decoration all season. Please register by September 24<sup>th</sup>; 861-9812.

**November 6<sup>th</sup> Blessing Box** Count your blessings as you craft a colorful, decorative holiday box. Your box can be use as a center piece or seasonal decoration. The cost is \$5.00 and please register by October 29<sup>th</sup>; 861-9812

**December 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Bear** Make this sustainable, adorable pinecone teddy bear for the holidays. (note: hot glue guns will be used in making this craft so cloverbuds will need assistance) The cost for this workshop is \$3.00, please register by November 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Youth planning to show an animal at the FL State Fair:

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> will be the first Educational Seminar and Youth Livestock Ethics and Animal Care workshop. Visit [floridastatefair.com](http://floridastatefair.com) for additional information, dates, times and entry information.

### 4-H Officer and Opportunity Awareness Day

**Who:** Any Sarasota County 4-H Member or Non-4-H Member

**When:** October 11<sup>th</sup> Time: 10:00-12:00 (registration 9:30)

**Where:** Twin Lakes Park

**What:** 4-H Opportunity Awareness Day is designed for youth, parents and 4-H leaders who want to learn more about the 4-H program. Come learn about 4-H camping opportunities throughout the state as well as state and national 4-H events. Find out about the many competitive events 4-H offers including demonstrations, public speaking, judging events, and how to get started showing horses and other animals. Find out how to win a trophy at the fair, a medal at awards night or a free trip to 4-H camp or State Congress. Officer duties and officer books will be talked about in a short break out session. These exciting and informative workshops will be taught by 4-H county council officers, 4-H members, leaders and 4-H agents. For more information call: Jared Padgett, Council President 925-3175 OR 4-H Agent Marcia Morris 861-9814

### 2008 4-H State Marine Ecology Event (MEE)

This year MEE will be held on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Osceola County Extension Office in Kissimmee, FL. Sarasota County can send two teams in each age division: Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors. Individuals are also welcomed. Seniors who have won a first place in past events ARE eligible to compete again. Once a Senior 4-H member has won first place twice, they are not eligible to compete at MEE.

**The 2008 Marine/ Aquatic Photo Contest** is held in conjunction with the 4-H State Marine Ecology Event. The contest is open to all ages. Cloverbud members may submit their photos but these will be considered "practice" photos and not officially judged, but will be on display.

Contact the 4-H Office (861-9810) if you would like to know more about these events. The deadline to register is October 17, 2008.



**Calling all 4Hers: International Coastal Cleanup!** Save this date, and help our environment! The 2008 International Coastal Cleanup will take place on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort that supports our marine environment.

# Sarasota County Fair, March 13—22



The Sarasota County 2009 Fair Rule book can be found on-line @ [www.sarasotafair.com](http://www.sarasotafair.com)



## Attention Steer Exhibitors...

The first steer weigh-in will be held at the Sarasota County Fair Grounds on Saturday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00—9:00 AM. Exhibitors must turn in a completed entry form (with all signatures required), entry fee, and a bill of sale containing the date and place of birth, location raised, and breeding of the animal. All these forms can be found in the Sarasota County Fair Rule Book.

At first weigh-in all steers must weigh a minimum of 500 pounds, but not more than 900 pounds... please read the Sarasota County Fair Rule Book!

Also, Steer Record Books can be found on the 4-H website at [sarasota.extension.ufl.edu](http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu) All your information is a mouse click away!

**NOTE:** New 4-H members participating in a steer project **must** turn in their 2008-2009 4-H enrollment forms prior to the September weigh-in.

## Plant Show & Sale Clinic - October 18<sup>th</sup>

PLAN NOW TO bring your plants to Drymon's Nursery on Saturday, October 18, 9:00AM - 12:00. Re-pot your fair plants! Dirt, pots, and fertilizer will be provided, FREE! Also, assistance will be given (if needed) to correctly identify your plants.

Drymon's Nursery is located on the corner of Lockwood-ridge Road and 47<sup>th</sup> Street. (3146 47<sup>th</sup> Street) 1-mile south of University Parkway. **Thanks BC and Sylvia!**

Don't forget plant show and sale entry forms are due Friday, **October 10<sup>th</sup>** and the plant show and sale screening is scheduled for Saturday, **November 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## Dairy Cattle Workshop—October 25<sup>th</sup>

Do you want to learn more about the 4-H Dairy Project? Would you like to show a dairy cow at the 2009 fair? Make plans to attend "Dairy Day" on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM—Noon at the Duggan's home 551 Myakka Road, Sarasota. This is a great opportunity to learn more about dairy cattle, Dairy Quiz Bowl, Dairy Poster Contest, and the Dairy Retreat. Receive tips on basic nutrition, halter breaking, handling, grooming, clipping, showing and showmanship. And bring your dairy cow! Please call the 4H Office at 861-9812 to register!



# Straight From The Horses Mouth

## Horse Project Youth

If you are interested in showing your horse as a 4-H horse project this year and you plan to participate at the Area E Horse show you must:

1. Own/or have a "horse lease agreement" (4-H514) on file at the 4-H office. (Before Jan 1, 2009)
2. Attend the safety clinic, with the horse you intend to show. If you have already attended a safety clinic (with the same horse you intend to show this year) you are not required to attend another safety clinic.
3. Participate in the either the Sarasota County Pleasure Show or Speed Horse Show.
4. Complete a Horse Project record book. Your record book must be up-to-date and checked at the County Show and **completed and turned in with your Area E registration forms.**

Questions? Call Sheila at the 4H Office 861-9810.

## Regional 4-H Horse Show News..

Kaila Hess and Casey Presler have returned from the 4-H Regional Horse Show in Lexington, VA. ! Both girls had a great time and did a fabulous job, Congratulations!

## Horse Safety Clinic

Would you like to learn more about the 4-H horse project? Join us November 8th, 11:00 AM at Paragon Farms. Learn new ideas and review basic safety skills—inside and outside the show ring. This is your opportunity to ask questions about record books, bits, rules, or upcoming events.

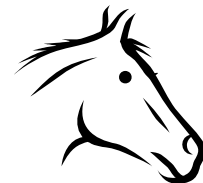
Remember, this safety clinic is mandatory for any Sarasota County 4-Her that has not attended a safety clinic with the horse they intend to show, and wishes to participate in the Sarasota County 4-H Horse Show, and advance to Area E Horse Show in Tampa.

Please bring your health form, coggins, helmet, record book, and your horse of course! **RSVP** Nimie Gill 322-2006 or the 4H Office 861-9810.

## 2008-2009 Horse Calendar

The Horse Advisory Committee has jumped into the new 4-H year! Welcome new and old members. Don't miss these important dates...

- November 8th —Safety Clinic
- January 11th —Practice Show
- January 23rd—Speed Show
- January 25th —Pleasure Show





## Foundation News...



### Cowboy Hoe-Down

Mark your calendars for a night of fun!

The Sarasota County 4-H Foundation will be sponsoring the Cowboy Hoe-Down and Silent Auction again this year. This is a great fundraiser that supports the Sarasota County 4-H Youth Program. The date is set for September 20th at Robarts Arena.

#### TIME IS RUNNING OUT:

if any clubs would like to create a "theme basket" and donate it for the silent auction, please contact Mrs. Elva Farrell at 355-1856.

### Grab Your Sneakers! It's Time For A Walk In The Park

The Sarasota County 4-H Foundation is holding their annual 4-H Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, **NOVEMBER 15th** in the **Myakka State Park**. This annual fundraiser provides an opportunity for foundation members, leaders, and families to show their support and commitment to our 4-H youth in Sarasota County. Our goal is for *every 4-Her* to collect a minimum of \$20.00. But don't stop there, great prizes will be awarded to the Top 4-H Juniors, Intermediates, and Senior money collectors!

Would you, your club, or company like to be a sponsor of the 2008 Walk-A-Thon and have your name on the official Walk-A-Thon T-shirt? Contact Christina Schook at 322-8512.

As our 4-H program grows so do our needs. Donations received from the Walk-A-Thon provide scholarships for youth attending Summer Camps, Congress, District Events, Washington Focus, Legislature, Horse Camp, Horticulture Activities, Livestock Judging, Marine Science, Workshops, Project Support, Club Support and much, much more.

**Let's all work together to make this years 4-H Walk-A-Thon the best ever!**

## Just For Leaders...



### Forms, forms, forms!

**Please** check your forms carefully... 4-H Enrollment forms have changed this year! Have your club members fill out these forms completely. Florida 4-H has a new reporting system; we need all the information requested—if the form is not complete it cannot be processed.

New Enrollment forms, health forms, code of conduct, and insurance fees should be collected and turned into the 4H Office at one time. We can make copies of the health forms: 1- for the 4-H office and 1- for your records. Health forms should be kept with you at club meetings, fundraisers, or club events.

Insurance fees are \$1.00 for members and leaders and \$2.00 for youth and leaders participating in the horse project. Please make one club check payable to: Sarasota County 4H Foundation. We *cannot* accept cash.

### Check It Out!

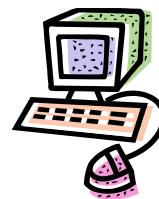
The 4-H Office has leather crafting materials, sewing machines, microscopes, and a library of project books for you to check out for club activities.

Our Ellison Letter Press is great for poster projects. It's fun and easy to use, but because of the size and weight this machine must stay in the 4-H office.

The 4-H Staff is here to support you and your club, just give us a call: Marcia Morris 861-9814, Keith Wilson 861-9818, Sheila Holland 861-9810 and Barbara Lechky 861-9812

*Let's all make this a great year!*

**Record Books...** Please encourage 4-Hers to visit our 4H website at: [sarasota.extension.ufl.edu](http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu), and the state website at: [www.florida4h.org](http://www.florida4h.org) select "Curriculum" from the menu and then select "Individual Member Project Categories" find your project area and "CLICK" to view and download 4-H project books and 4-H record books.



### Community Pride, A Florida 4-H Citizenship Activity

The 4-H Community Pride Program is designed to give 4-Hers' a better understanding of their community, its needs, to plan, work as a team, and put a plan into action!

**First step:** As a club decide; the need, concern, or problem you would like to improve in your community.

**Second:** Plan out your project (what will it take; materials, supplies, and how much will it cost), complete and submit a "Community Pride Proposal" to the 4-H Office by **October 1, 2008**. Your proposal will be forwarded to the State 4-H Office for review. Your club will be notified if it is chosen to receive a "Community Pride Grant".

**Third:** After completion of your project submit a "Community Pride Report" by June 1 for State judging.

The top five projects are recognized at State 4-H Congress during a Community Pride Luncheon. Contact the 4-H Office 861-9810 for more information.

## News From Out There...



### Ridin' Rednecks Club News by Clay Linthicum

In August our officers and leaders met to make plans for the new 4-H year. The officers meeting was held on Sunday, August 10. We met to talk about our duties, our record books, new projects, fundraiser- Red Wheel, Code of Conduct, and ideas for meetings and the Annual Round Up. Our officers talked about new things to do in Community Service. We will be helping with refreshments for the Master Gardeners Plant Sale in October and had some good ideas for expanding knowledge of 4-H in youth.

Our Round Up on August 24 gives us a chance to meet the 4-H members after a long summer

break and turn in our forms and dues. The Get-to-know you games are fun and we were able to talk to leaders about the coming year.

Jared Padgett, Sydney Linthicum, Erin Gilliland, Lane Taylor, De-lanie Bartell, Clay Linthicum,

Jarrold Chapman, Jeremy Whitton attended the officer meeting. Our meetings start in September and will be the 4th and 18th. We have some openings for new members. We expect to have a great year and I will keep you informed on our successes.

### Jr. Cattlemen by: Jared Padgett

The Jr. Cattlemen Club met on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 to get started for the next year. At the meeting we elected new officers. They are President/Reporter-Jared Padgett, Vice President-Austin Jansch, Secretary-Cassidy Whittier, Treasurer-Breana Barrett, and Safety Officer-Steven Martin. We first talked about the summer activities that we went to this summer including Marco Island. We went around the room and everyone told about what animals they will be showing this year and some people even brought pictures. We reminded steer exhibitors that the steer check in would be on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 at 6:45 at Fire Station 8. If you would like to join we are still open. Call Jared Padgett at 925-3175 or email at [jpcountryboy@verizon.net](mailto:jpcountryboy@verizon.net).

### County Council by: Jared Padgett, County Council President

August 7<sup>th</sup> the County Council Officers met to plan the 08-09 4-H year. At our meeting we went over last year's accomplishments and started planning out next year. Here were last year's goals that we accomplished:

**Goal 1:** As a Council we increased the number of clubs attending County Council during the past year. We had 15 clubs participate in the county-wide community service project and a total of 19 clubs attend a county council meeting.

**Goal 2:** We carried out a county-wide community service project called Spreading Fitness Fun and Healthy Lifestyles to Others. We had 4 guest speakers who spoke to us on the topic of Healthy Lifestyles and we carried out 3 educational and fun evenings at the Salvation Army.

Our County submitted a grant and received funding from the State 4-H Foundation and we received \$400.00 and we received matching funds from the Bee Ridge Woman's Club. As President I submitted a report and we were recognized for being one of the top 5 projects in the state of Florida at 4-H Congress.

**Goal 3:** The Officers looked uniformed with the matching shirts we purchased along with our matching name badges. We looked nice at the meetings, Opportunity Awareness Day, at the Commissioners meeting, at county awards night and many other events.

**Goal 4:** As a Council we voted in a County Council Constitution. We followed Robert's Rule of Order to develop a draft constitution with the officer team and presented a draft to the delegates in August. We voted in the Constitution at our September Meeting.

**Goal 5:** We hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 4-H and FFA Dance and had 75-80 members, parents and friends attended.

**Goal 6:** Hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual County-Wide 4-H Opportunity Awareness Day. It was advertised in the newspaper and we had a reporter from the Sarasota Herald Tribune attend and a report in the newspaper.

At the meeting we decided that we would continue our involvement with the Salvation Army and tie the project into the 4-H Centennial Celebration. We decided that the theme for the annual dance would be Centennial with fall colors and we would have free "4-H Birthday Cake". We planned out the Opportunity Awareness Day and decided on who would do which parts. We also decided that we would bring back the officer training segment. We will have an advertisement in the Sarasota Herald Tribune Newspaper and we will try to have one on a radio station. The County Council Officers will be in Tennessee September 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> for SRTLTC. Our next meeting will be on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7:30 at Twin Lakes Park. Each club needs to have 2 delegates there to represent their club. The officers will be calling club leaders, presidents and delegates to encourage them to attend and get involved in county council activities.



## Look What We're Doing...

### 2008 Citizen Washington Focus By: Laura Knipper District 9 VP

4-H Citizen Washington Focus was held June 15-27 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Laura Knipper, Devon Parke, Sean Russell and Autumn VanRiper from our own district 9 all had an amazing week participating in this regional 4-H trip. Here is a summary of most of the major events we participated in:

Delegation Day - The FL delegation went to the Holocaust Museum, then broke up into smaller groups and went around touring DC. Many saw the National Archives, and the Smithsonian museums. Toby's Dinner Theatre - We saw West Side Story. It was very good, and was especially cool because the actors were also the waiters! Mount Vernon - It was neat to see George Washington's house and grave...the whole estate is very beautiful. Capitol Hill Day - This was the day where we got to meet our representatives. It was really cool to meet them in person and talk with them! Our whole FL delegation also got to meet Senator Nelson and we got a tour of the capitol. District 9 delegates went to the Library of Congress and the Botanical Gardens - the gardens was one of my personal favorites because it was so beautiful and peaceful and colorful! Then, that evening we used our vouchers to get a free supper at Union Station! Night View of DC - This was fun! But we had to move it to a different day because it was stormy and the electricity at the 4-H center went out! It was dark and there were only a few lights running off of the generators! Anyway, we saw the Lincoln Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and World War II Memorials. Everything was so beautiful lit-up at night. Arlington National Cemetery - The weather was so beautiful this day, and the cemetery was huge and peaceful - everything was so green; we had a wonderful tour! CWF Derby - This is a fun tradition at CWF and is an hour filled with outside games! There were water games, volleyball, red rover, tug of war, and a Frisbee. I think everyone had a blast! Washington Monument - Well, it was big and tall and we rode up to the tippy-top in the elevator. Once we got to the top, we had an amazing view! Workshops - The workshops were actually really fun; especially the one where we got to make stuff out of play dough and the other groups had to guess what it was! Twilight Tattoo - There was a great show, we sat in the grass and watched as soldiers representing the wars through the years marched around playing instruments, singing, riding horses, or doing drills; a very unique show. The talent show - A lot of 4-H members worked very hard to put the talent show together, and their hard work paid off because it was very well-done displaying an array of talented 4-Hers!

Well, that sums up most of the main activities! This trip is just absolutely amazing and should be experienced by every 4-H member once they are old enough, because it is more than worth it! Go to [www.citizenshipwashingtonfocus.org](http://www.citizenshipwashingtonfocus.org) to learn more!



### Congress 2008 by: Laura Knipper Green Team 4-H Club

Wow, congress was over just as fast as it came! Sarasota had 18 4-Hers attend, many of which competed and received awards. Demonstrations were given by Jamie Bland - 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual (in category), Jenny Federico - 3<sup>rd</sup> ind., Kaila Hess - participant, Laura and Kayla Knipper - 1<sup>st</sup> place Team, Sean Russell - 1<sup>st</sup> place ind., Brittney Thomson - 1<sup>st</sup> ind., Roy Thomson - 2<sup>nd</sup> ind., and Amber VanRiper - participant. Jared Padgett received 1<sup>st</sup> place in public speaking. Bree Scarbrough and Lorie Neill participated in Fashion Revue and were both fantastic models! Sarasota's Horticulture Judging Team consisted of Jamie Bland, Trevor Brown, Kayla Knipper, and Laura Knipper, and received 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Laura Knipper received 3<sup>rd</sup> place individual. Molly Miller earned a trip to National Congress and a scholarship. Sean Russell received a trip to National Conference and will be one of the four 4-Hers from FL to attend this event in Chevy Chase Maryland. Sean was appointed to serve on the FL state council as our state parliamentarian. Congratulations to all these individuals who did excellent work! And finally, one more hurrah for our district 9! We won Change Wars this year and the state Spirit Stick! Awesome job every one! We would also like to give a huge thank you to Marcia Morris, and Sheila Holland for coming with us and doing such an outstanding job keeping all of us in order and making sure we had a great time! Barbara VanRiper and Randi Theis also deserve our thanks for coming along and being wonderful chaperones!

For all of the Sr. 4-H members (14 by September 1<sup>st</sup>) out there who did not come to congress this year you should definitely come next year! This is an event that every 4-Her should experience - weather they are going to compete or just to have fun. You will surely enjoy the barbecue in the UF Gator Stadium and experiencing college dorm life! The workshops are fun and you'll make many new friends. The banquet and dance on the last night is one of my personal favorite parts about congress. Even if you think you just might like congress be sure to come because you'll have an amazing week and make many friends and memories! I know that I am already looking forward to next year!!!

# Look What We're Doing...



## District IX Wins Florida 4-H Spirit Stick! Sean Russell, District IX 4-H Council President

"It's not just attitude - We're really that good," was the slogan that summed up the year for the 2007-2008 District IX 4-H Council. One year ago I sat down with our District Officer team and put into action an ambitious set of goals for the upcoming year. These goals were designed to better the District IX 4-H Council, reach out to the community through service projects, and get 4-H members excited about and involved in all of the opportunities available to them through the 4-H program. At the same time we laid out a plan to help our District accomplish one of our ultimate goals - winning the Florida 4-H Spirit Stick.

The Spirit Stick, is a highly sought after honor that is awarded to one of the thirteen 4-H districts every year at Florida 4-H Congress. It recognizes the hard work and accomplishments of 4-H members who are working to better the 4-H program and make a positive impact on our state.

The key to the accomplishment of our goals was the effort of hundreds of 4-H members from across our District who participated in our projects and initiatives for the year. No matter what the challenge, District IX 4-H members stepped up to the plate and made this a year of incredible growth and achievement. Whether it was collecting change for Change Wars and healthy food for our community service initiative, or participating in District IX Congress or our District Spirit Rally, District IX 4-H officers, members, parents, leaders and agents are the reason that all of our goals for the year became **realities**.

After an incredible year I am proud to say we accomplished all of our goals and went on to an incredible week at Florida 4-H Congress where our district not only won the Spirit Stick for the first time, but also won the Florida 4-H State Council Change Wars Competition for bringing in the most change. On behalf of the District IX 4-H Council I would like to congratulate all of you for this incredible accomplishment! It has been an honor to work with dedicated 4-H youth and adults from across our District this past year and I hope all of you are as excited as I am about this upcoming year. I encourage all of you to become involved in all of our District's projects and activities this upcoming year in order to, "Make the Best, Better," and continue to prove that, "It's not just attitude, We're really that good!"



## Make Your Plans NOW!

### September 2008

- 1 Labor Day (4-H Office Closed)
- 4 Project Workshop—Herb Garden
- 6 Steer Weigh-in 7:00—9:00 AM
- 8 Foundation Meeting
- 10 Horse Advisory Meeting
- 12 Executive Board
- 15 Leader and Council Meetings
- 20 Coastal Clean-up
- 20 Foundation Cowboy Hoe-Down!

### October 2008

- 1 4-H Re-enrolment Deadline
- 2 Project Workshop—Painted Pumpkins
- 5-11 National 4-H Week
- 8 4-H Awards and Recognition Event
- 10 Plant Forms Due
- 11 4-H Opportunity and Awareness
- 13 Foundation Meeting
- 18 Plant Clinic
- 20 Leader & Council Meeting
- 25 Dairy Clinic



### Happy Birthday to YOU...



Camille Armington, Torrie Bachman, Theresa Barkasy, George Birkhold, Jillian Bland, Codi Briggs, Kayla Butler, Colton Castro, Christie Chiders, Rachael Cramer, Matthew Dibler, Kayla Drumm, Autumn Duyn, Alisha Ferry, Ashley Flagg, Harold Fread, Eric Gillen, Samantha Gillen, Shelby Gladhill, Noah Handy, Luke Hosford, Faith Houseworth, Gessica Hrycyk Dylan Jansch, Amanda Kempf, Kayla Knipper, Maggie LaFrance, Elsa Lane, Christine Magill, Alyssa Maness, Kelsee Martin, Shelby Martin, Davis McClellan, Blaine McVey, Matthew Miller, Joshua Moffat, Kyle Morrison, Casey Multan, Lorie Neill, Casey Pressler, Tiffany Reynolds, Ashleigh Roman, Treasurer Rutherford, Madeline Smith, Sarabeth Smith, Willie Smith, Richard Sommers, Michael Stanek, Tag Sufferling, Angelica Thomas, Christine Weber, Alexander White, Justin Woods, Lincoln Yoder, Jennifer Zappulla and Allison Zinn! **And Mr. Keith Wilson!**

**Sarasota County 4-H  
6700 Clark Road  
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