

4-H CLUBS:

4 Paws
 Animal Crackers
 B & S Farms
 Badger's Den Productions
 Blazers
 Canine Connections
 Clogging Clovers
 Community Helpers
 Country Critters
 The Defenders
 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. Cattleman
 Kelly Community Clovers
 Little Rascals
 Livestock Club
 Miakka Allstock
 Mini Hooves of Sarasota
 Myakka Ranchers
 Open Gaits
 Reef Rovers
 Ridin' Rednecks
 Sarasota County Ranchers
 Sarasota Sharp Shooters
 Sarasota Swine
 Southern Spurs
 The Group

*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.*



The Clover Times

December 2008



From The Agents Desk, Marcia Morris

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All! It seems hard to believe December is here already. The first two weekends will be busy with fair weigh ins, parades, workshops, and other activities. Be sure check the calendar for dates and times.

A very successful Walk In the Park took place on November 15th at beautiful Myakka State Park, many thanks to all of you who supported the 4-H Foundation in this annual fundraiser. Be sure to read the list of sponsors and clubs who took up the challenge and helped make this a success!

Congratulations to Sean Russell, Jamie Bland and Mark Fuller for representing our county in the state Marine Ecology Event. The team placed 3rd in the Senior division and Sean Russell was the 1st place senior. Well Done!!!!

While the day after Thanksgiving meant leftover turkey sandwiches and shopping etc for most of us, 4-H Council President Jared Padgett was traveling to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta Georgia. Jared was selected as a member of the planning committee for this prestigious National 4-H event and is sure to have lots to share from this once in a lifetime trip.

As the holidays approach the 4-H staff would like to wish each of you a happy, healthy, and wonderful season of good times with your families and friends.

Marcia Morris



Marcia Morris, 4-H Extension Agent

Celebrate 100 Years of Florida 4-H

"A Century of Youth Success!"

Join the celebration on Saturday, January 31st in the Selby Public Library's Auditorium from 10:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. This exciting event is free and open to the public. It will feature:
 *Interactive exhibits on 4-H program areas!
 *Hands-on activities and crafts for all ages!
 Games *Prizes* *Face Painting* *Marine Science Touch Tank* *Snacks* *Community Service Activities* And Much MORE!!!!

If you have any questions or would like more information about this event, please contact Sean Russell at (941)-371-8340 or by e-mail at sdscience@verizon.net



Office Notes:

At the December 15th Volunteer/Leader's Meeting at Twin Lakes Park there will be a guest speaker, Anne Miller, who is Logistics Chief with Sarasota County Emergency Services. She will be discussing the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program.

All 4-H volunteers are invited to attend this presentation and enjoy a Holiday celebration afterwards. Hope to see you there! -Keith

New 4-H enrollment forms require an "email address" If you didn't include your email on your form please submit it to Barbara Lechky @ blechky@scgov.net. A free service is available at build@gmail.com if your family does not have an account. You can contact Barbara Lechky for details 861-9812.



4-H Doesn't Slow Down!

Projects From The Heart

When sending your Christmas cards this year, add one more to your list... If everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful, special people who have given and sacrificed so much would receive.

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20307-5001



Learn more... The Hog & Ham Program

A Hog & Ham workshop is scheduled for January 19, 2009 at UF, Animal Science Department. Youth are required to attend this workshop to participate in the Hog and Ham program. The workshop is open to youth (12 and older as of 9-1-08), and parents, leaders, agents, or anyone interested.

The Florida 4-H Hog and Ham Program is a statewide program which takes participants through the total process of pork production from beginning to end. Contact the 4-H Office (861-9810) or visit (florida4h.org) for details.

Upcoming Project Workshops...

December 4th: Holiday Tabletop Decoration Join us December 4th and make this beautiful tabletop decoration to last all season. The cost for supplies \$5.00.

January 8th: Designer Denim Bring a denim shirt, skirt or jeans to our project workshop. We will supply the paint and embellishments for you to create your own designer denim! No charge for this fabulous workshop.

February 5th: Happy Valentine! Say "Happy Valentines Day" with a personalized card from the heart. Card making is fun and can say so many things from thank-you to holiday greetings. The cost for supplies is \$3.00.

April 2nd: Living Spring Baskets Bring a medium sized basket to this workshop and watch it grow! We will create a beautiful Living Spring Basket that you can enjoy all spring. The cost for this workshop is \$3.00.

May 7th: Mark Your Calendar! Mother's Day is May 10th and we will be making mom something special for her special day. The cost is \$3.00.

Don't miss out, come join the fun! These workshops are held at Twin Lakes Park; 4:45 PM. We do ask that you pre-register one week prior to the workshop so we have enough materials for everyone. Call 861-9812 and sign-up today!

Leadership Adventure Weekends at Camp Ocala

January 23-25: Senior Leadership Adventure Weekend (ages 14 and up) **February 13-15:** Intermediate Leadership Adventure Weekend (ages 11-13). Meet 4-H youth from around the state, learn team building and leadership skills. These events are planned by senior 4-H members in partnership with adult volunteers, agents, and state leaders—so you know it will be fun and you are sure to have a great time! Leaders, why not send your club president or officers—they can bring back this valuable information to your club. Contact the 4-H Office for registration and information.

Livestock Judging and Meat Judging Clinics

Friday & Saturday, January 9-10, 2009

The University of Florida Department of Animal Sciences will host two judging clinics: Meat Judging and Livestock Judging. These programs target 4-H and FFA youth ages 11-18 (4-H Intermediates & Seniors), leaders/coaches, teachers/advisors, and Extension Agents.

There will be a \$15 per person registration fee for both youth and adults. Pre-registration and payment is due (in the 4-H Office) by December 9, 2008. Contact the 4-H Office, 861-9810, for more information and forms.

HORSE NEWS YOU CAN USE...

The Sarasota County 4-H Horse Committee has been busy planning upcoming horse shows 4-YOU!

The first 4-H Show will be a Sunday, January 11th 9AM, at Paragon Farms. This show will include Western, English, and Speed events. High-Points will be awarded!

An Open Show; Speed Events will be January 23rd, and the Pleasure Show will be January 25th. High-Points will include Walk/Trot, Jr. Western, Sr. Western, Jr. English, Sr. English, Open, 4-H and Miniature Horse! Something for everyone.

Please don't forget your sponsorships! Sponsors can be a business, family, or club and will be listed on the official show flyer, they are \$20.00 and should be turn in no later than December 10th. Please call the 4-H Office at 861-9810 if you have any questions.

Are you leasing your 4-H Horse Project?

A horse lease agreement (form 4H-514) must be on file at the 4-H Office by January 1, 2009. This is a State requirement. Contact the 4-H Office at 861-9810 for information or leasing forms.

2009 Horse Calendar

January 11th —4-H Show , Paragon Farm
January 23rd—Speed Show, Paragon Farm
January 25th —Pleasure Show, Paragon Farm
Area E—April 25 & 26, Tampa Fair Grounds
State—July 9-11, Tampa Fair Grounds
Regional—July 30—Aug 3 Little Rock, AR

Sarasota County Fair: March 13–22



Fair Days Ahead...

The Sarasota County Fair will be here in just a few months, are you ready! There have been some changes and we ask that you *please* read the "General Rules and Regulations" in the Sarasota County Fair Rules book. The "rulebook" can be found at: www.sarasotafair.com.

NOTE: 4.(a) THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY MEETING OF ALL EXHIBITORS ON MONDAY MARCH 9, AT 7:00 PM IN THE HOUSER ARENA. FAILURE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF YOUR ENTRIES.

Also, there will be changes made in assigned work-shifts, so stay tuned...

Attention: Beef Breeding and Dairy Cattle Exhibitors...

The first entry date for Beef Breeding and Dairy Cattle is Saturday, December 13th at the Sarasota County Fair grounds between 8:00 AM and 10:00AM. Exhibitors must turn in completed entry form and entry fee's at this time. All animals will be vaccinated with CattleMaster 4+ L5 and Clostrin 7, Ecoli. Don't forget to enter this information in your record books!

A *second mandatory* vaccine will be administered on Saturday, January 3rd between 7:00AM and 9:00AM at the Fair grounds. Cattle shown in the previous year will only need one vaccine.

Attention Swine Exhibitors

It here! Swine Check-in will be **Saturday, December 6th, 7:00 to 10:00 AM** at the Sarasota County Fairgrounds. Bring your Bill of Sale, entry form, and entry fee—your forms must be complete (or you will be sent to the back of the line!)

Hogs will be ear tagged and inspected. There is no minimum or maximum entry weight. It is suggested that hogs weigh between 65 and 80 pounds at the first weigh-in. If an exhibitor wants their hog weighed, they may opt to unload their hog and have it weighed, but it is not required by the Fair Rules. Hogs must weigh at least 210 pounds at final weigh-in on Tuesday, March 17, 2009.

Reminder: All swine must be bled and tested for pseudorabies and brucellosis by a certified veterinarian between February 19, 2009 and entry to the fair. Mr. Don Strickland will be coordinating this process again this year. Thanks Don!

NEW: Slick clipping or body shaving of market hogs except on ears and tail is prohibited. Slick clipping or body shaving means having hair that is less than one half inch in length on the body of market hogs.

Attention Dairy and Pygmy Goat Exhibitors

The official entry date for Dairy and Pygmy goats is Saturday December 13th between 8 AM–10AM at the Sarasota County Fair Grounds. Exhibitors must bring completed entry forms with entry fee's to check-in.

ALL goats must be certified on the Scrapies Program and be individually, permanently, and legibly identified by a Scrapies-Program approved ear-tag, tattoo, or micro chip. Refer to the Sarasota County Fair rulebook pages 23 and 24.

Forms Form Forms...

Know where and when your forms are due:

- ⇒ Demonstrations, Public Speaking, Share the Fun, Mini Building, Clothing Construction and Clothing Selection, and ALL Judging Contests entry forms are due:
By 5:00 PM **January 16th** at the **4-H Office**
- ⇒ Dogs, Llama, Miniature Horses, Dress Up Parade and Plants (classes 41 & 42) forms are due:
By 5:00 PM **February 6th** at the **Fair Office**
- ⇒ Cavies, Poultry and Rabbit forms are due:
By 5:00 PM **February 15** at the **Fair Office**

Looking Ahead - County Demonstration Day

Start planning your demonstrations now! Categories include: Animal Science, Environmental Education- Our Natural World, Individual & Family Resources- Our Personal World, Science & Technology, and Citizenship, Leadership, Communications, Arts and Careers. Demonstration rules can be found on pages 34 and 35 in the Sarasota County Fair rulebook.

Demonstration entry forms (page 63 in the Fair Rules Book) are due by 5:00PM on January 16th at the 4-H Office. You must pre-register at this time for eligibility in the Superior Exhibitor competition, one demonstration will count towards one superior exhibitor category only, and a maximum of three demonstration will be allowed. To be considered for a Superior Exhibitor Award in the Mini Building, Small Animal Barn, or Plant Show and Sale Tent; you must do a demonstration in the project area you are exhibiting (example: Rabbit - rabbit demonstration, Plant - plant Demonstration). Superior Exhibitors receive a trophy and a \$50.00 award.

Demonstrations and Public Speaking will be presented on Saturday, **February 21st** at Meadowlands Worship Center.



Look What We DiD!

Congratulations Sarasota County Senior Marine Ecology Judging Team!

On Saturday, November 15th, a team of three Sarasota County Senior 4-H members took part in the Florida 4-H Marine Ecology Judging Contest at the Osceola County Extension Office in Kissimmee, FL. Jamie Bland, Mark Fuller, and Sean Russell placed 3rd in the state senior team category in a competition which consisted of eight senior teams (thirty-nine seniors), fifteen intermediate teams (55 intermediates), and eight junior teams (thirty-nine juniors). There were fourteen counties represented at this competition with a record number of 133 youth participating. Sarasota County's senior team placed 3rd and team member Sean Russell placed 1st as an individual in the senior category.

As a leader of marine science teams for six years I would like to congratulate the team effort put out by these youth and all of the other youth I've worked with in the past. They have truly represented Sarasota County and their individual clubs well. Keep up the good work!

Submitted By:

Margaret Clark, Green Team 4-H Club

The 2008 4-H Foundation Walk-A-Thon was Fabulous!

WOW! What a great day in the park! Congratulations and THANK YOU to all who collected money, walked, donated, and sponsored this event. *Thanks again to the folks at Longhorn for supplying lunch!*

Top Prize Winners: Sean Russell 336.00, Shannon Kehoe 160.00, Morgan Holdsworth 150.00, Jillian Bland 136.00, Jake Fanghelle 105.00, Jared Padgett 82.00, Shelby Stasik 70.00, Jacob Sandefur 69.00, Garrett Fonte 66.00, Felicia Fonte 66.00, Laura Knipper 60.00, Megan Knipper 51.00, Erin DeJonge 50.00, Bryan Martin 43.00, Courtney Buckney 40.00!

Participating Clubs: Green Team 552.30, B & S Farm 470.00, 1/2 Pint Pullers 345.00, Kelly Community Clovers 233.75, Open Gaits 205.00, East County Steer and Swine 180.00, Miakka Allstock 176.00, Horse N Around 157.00, Mini Hooves 132.00, Livestock Club 105, Ridin' Rednecks 105.00, Jr. Cattlemen 82.00, Florida Crackers 70.00, Indian Creek 69.00, Blazers 55.00, and Southern Spurs 55.00.

Thanks to our T-Shirt sponsors: Publix Super Markets, Air service Of Manasota, Sarasota Farm Bureau, Bella Terra, Center Pointe, Christina Schook / Mike Johnson, DeJonge Excavating, Sarasota Cattlemen, Schmehl / Harkness, Wood Products, George & Pam Liedl, Horse N Around, Indian Creek, Jared Padgett, Miakka Allstock, Royal Tee's, Sarasota Cattlewomen, Vicki Fonte, and your Sarasota 4-H Staff!

We would like to recognize and thank all members of our foundation and special thanks to: Christina Schook (Walk-A-Thon Chair), Barbara Briggs, Aaron Brown, Annette Chapman, Amanda Day, Nimie Gill, June Haley, Ron and Gay Hess, and Bill McClain... a great job was done by all! The Sarasota County 4-H Foundation is a group of volunteers that work hard for our 4-H program. With out their support 4-H youth would not receive financial assistance to attend camps, events, and 4-H activities. Thank you ALL for all you do!

Foundation News...

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 brought in \$6,000! Look for our tickets; this year our swine tickets are GREEN. 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 27 clubs participated by selling or purchasing tickets. 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 to 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 21 2009, 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*



Spring Sporting Clay Event February 7th

Whether you're an experienced shooter or a beginner interested in learning a new sport, you'll find a day of great fun and excitement at the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation's Second Annual Shoot. Located at the beautiful Knights Trail Park, This course is designed to challenge the master and make a believer of the novice. Whether it's a pair of targets launched into the pine trees to simulate a rising covey of quail, targets flying above to simulate incoming ducks or a target zooming across the ground to simulate a scampering rabbit, each station is designed for fun. Called "golf with a shotgun," sporting clays shooting is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and is recognized nationally and internationally as a competitive sporting event. Visit their website for details at:

sc4hfd.org



News From Out There...



Livestock Club: Megan Stoll, Reporter

On November 1, is the beef breeding and swine clinic at McIntosh Middle School. Beef breeding is from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Swine clinic is from 12:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

On November 15, is the walk-a-thon. You must have your registration in at 8:00 a.m. or you cannot walk and you must raise at least \$20.00. The walk starts at 9:00 a.m. at the Myakka State Park.

We might do donations for the needy people. But we are still talking about what we are going to do. We also talked about and voted for paying for the Christmas float. We also talked about how to take care of your pig. Our club will be getting our pigs on November 21 if anyone wants to go along.

Free rabbit named Cookie. Cookie is a very loving rabbit that has a very nice cage. If you want Cookie, please call Cheryl Tabar for more details. Home 922-3663 or Cell 232-8819

Our next meeting is on November 10 at the Woman's Club on Bee Ridge Road... See you there

At our last meeting, we talked about leaving the farm at 4:00 p.m. on November 21, to go get pigs. We will meet back at the farm on November 22 around 4:00 to pick out your pig. Cost of pigs this year is \$190.00

On December 6, is the first weigh in from 7:00-10:00 a.m. Make sure you have an entry form and a bill of sale. On December 13, is the heifer weigh-in from 7:00-10:00 a.m.

The Christmas Parade is also on December 6. A date and time is to be determined to work on our Christmas float.

Kristin, Devin and Kayla did a demonstration on "how to choose a pig".

Finally, our next meeting is December 9 back at the church. We are going to have a Christmas party and gift exchange, \$10 and under. Everyone needs to bring something to eat. Happy Thanksgiving.

Mini Hooves: Shelby Stasik, Reporter

Holidays to everybody from the Mini Hooves Club. We have been very busy we had our two fundraisers for the year and everyone did a great job. These help pay for many things for our club for the year such as new club shirts for everybody, halters and lead ropes for all members, the horse shows our club has, trainers we have come in, banquets etc... We all need to give a huge thank you to Karen Bonnet who was in charge of the Pumpkin Festival and Vicky Jacobson who handled the Sally Foster fundraiser they both worked very hard for us thank you both again for all you did. Also thanks to all the parents that helped with shifts at Fruitville Grove.

Last Thursday we had our monthly meeting at the Farm Bureau we had a lot of business to take care of. The new club shirts were handed out and the new halters and lead ropes for everyone. If you weren't there contact Judy or Gigi to get yours. We had a great showmanship clinic at Mrs. Judy's farm Nimi Gill came and worked with the kids and their horses for the afternoon we all learned a lot thank you Nimie! We discussed the safety clinic that is being held at Paragon on Sat at 11 am .

We discussed the JJJ horse show that was held a few weeks ago we had a great turn out and many generous class sponsors thank you all. The show was a lot of fun and great being so close to home. We hope to be having more there soon.

Next discussion was the 4-H dance that is in a few weeks and also the annual walk a thon at Myakka Park everyone remember to get your pledges it is a lot of fun and important fundraiser,

Holiday plans were next we discussed the Myakka holiday parade we have done this every year and it is a lot of fun we bring our horses and all dress up the 1/2 Pint Pullers will be bringing their horses and carts along so it will be fun for us all to be there together. The Christmas party will be at Mr. and Mrs. Wuolle house again thank you guys for offering us your place for the party we had so much fun last year. We will be collecting food for the Food Bank they are in great need for food this year. So we will all be bringing canned foods etc... We talked about our gift exchange and ideas on how to do it.

Everyone should be thinking about a demonstration to be working on when your ready you could do it at one of the meetings. I think that's it, Shelby

Notes from the Florida Crackers

We had a very busy and productive meeting this month we also had a lot of business to attend to. We finalized the plans for the swine purchases by our club members and we should have an excellent showing at the fair this year. We had four club members attend the Swine Clinic that was held on November 1st and we thank Mr. Strickland for sharing his knowledge and giving us such valuable pointers for our projects. We also had three members participate in the annual Walk-a-thon and congratulations to Erinn DeJonge for placing in the top 15 fund raisers. Our club also voted to donate food and funds to the Angels Attic food pantry to help others with their holiday needs. The club completed their plans for the entry that they will be having in the Venice Christmas Parade on November 29th. They scheduled their work days to complete the float and what everyone's contributions will be for this very fun event. We closed the meeting with a demonstration by Kailyn Duyn who taught us how to successfully set up a schedule for our swine projects. Finally, congratulations to member Autumn Duyn for her teams success at winning the District Volleyball match.



News From Out There...

Sarasota County Ranchers:

Lindsay Routh, Reporter

At our last meeting the Sarasota County Ranchers sat back and watched a wonderful demonstration by Ericka Cox. It was great! She demonstrated what to wear while showing a dairy cow. Following her performance, we discussed the Christmas parade float and what to wear. We can't wait!!!! Our club is shipping personal supplies overseas for our troops. We are showing our appreciation and thanking them for all that they do while defending for our freedom. The Sarasota Ranchers are proud of the profit our club made during the harvest festival at Fruitville Groves. Everyone did a great job!!! Well, that is it for now. Until next time.

Blazers: Brooke Freeman, Reporter

We started our meeting out with reminding everyone freedom isn't free and thanked all of the men and women in the Armed Forces on this Veterans Day. We had Jeff Butler from Purina as our guest speaker this month, he talked about show animal selection. He was filled with important and informative information. Thank you Jeff for your time and wisdom. Don't forget hog weigh-in is December 6th. Have record book/ entry forms/ bill of sale all ready to go. Christmas is right around the corner! We are having our Christmas party/ gift exchange at our next meeting on December 9th. Lot's of presents, food, and beverages, I'm sure it will be a lot of fun. See ya'll next month.

County Council News:

Autumn VanRiper, Reporter

Our last meeting was held on 10-20-08 at Twin Lakes Park. We discussed old business: Club Reports, Awards night, Officer Training and Opportunity Awareness Day and watched the Proclamation videos. The council was also informed that the Cowboy Hoe-down raised \$7000.00. Then we moved on to our activity which was line dancing and many of the officers demonstrated the Cupid Shuffle. Everyone learned a little something to take back to their clubs. After line dancing we had our Ice Cream Social and everyone had chocolate or surprise flavor ice cream. Afterwards everyone either talked or learned more line dances.

Ridin' Rednecks: Clay Linthicum, Reporter

At our Nov. 6 meeting our Red Wheel orders were collected. This year we sold 551 items and most members were good salesmen. The pick up for Red Wheel went very smoothly. We appreciate the use of the Harkness family barn. Many hands made the work easy and go quickly.

During the meeting Jared Padgett taught us the Cupid Shuffle line dance. Now if we get to go to the County wide dance we can participate!! Mrs. Gilliland told us the specifics of the Tree of Joy Foundation. We made plans for our Christmas Party at the Koss's which will be on December 4. We will have a gift exchange. Several are preparing to walk and ride in the Holiday Parade on Dec. 6. We will decorate and give out candy to all the children. This should be a fun time for our club!! We signed up for our new T-shirts and talked about the check in on December 6 for pigs, gave out record books, and discussed getting pigs. Mr. Strickland will be bringing about 20 pigs from Georgia, some are getting them locally and some are selecting on their own. Several members will be showing heifers and will be checking them in on December 13. A few members participated in the 4-H Walk-a-thon.

We will only have one meeting in December. We are all looking forward to our Christmas Holiday vacation.

Home Grown Explorers: Sara Martin, Reporter

4-H has been very exciting this year! We've had a lot going on. Instead of a regular meeting, we had a Bake Sale on November 1. Also this month, we had a photography and microscope workshop. It was all fantastic!

The Bake Sale was held at Sunny Side Village during their Holiday Bazaar. It was from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There were donuts, Sour Cream Pound cake, Banana Nut bread, Pumpkin bread, brownies, cookies, and coffee. Thanks to everyone's help, it was a great success.

For the photography workshop, we went to Himes Photography Studio. Mr. Himes showed us different kinds of cameras, different ways to use them, and tips on better picture taking. He also taught us how to properly use the flash on cameras. Everyone learned something new.

Another workshop we had was a microscope workshop with Mr. Wilson. He showed us how to put together a saltwater and a freshwater tank. Mr. Wilson brought several critters to put in the tanks. He taught us how to use small nets and straws to catch whatever we could to observe under a microscope. We caught small fish, one crab, two tadpoles, two spiders, and even a dragonfly larvae. We put them under the microscope and could see the spider's eyes (all eight!), the dragonfly larvae breathing, and even the eye on the tadpole. Everyone really got into it (even the Mom's and Cloverbuds!) Thank you, Mr. Wilson for taking the time to come out and teach us more about marine biology!

Another community service project we are working on is a canned food drive. We're collecting holiday foods for "Angel's Attic." So, don't forget to bring nonperishable holiday food items to our next meeting in December. We hope that's a success! Everyone's having a great time in 4-H this year and having loads of FUN!

Miakka AllStock:

Allison Engwall, Reporter

Our club had guest speaker, Mr. Randy Theis from Sarasota County Vo-Ag talk to our club about Partners and Competition throughout the world. With that said, our club will work together with the Home Grown Explorers for a food drive. Sarah Hayo has been elected to raise our club hog at Mr. and Mrs. Lutz's home.

November was a busy fundraising month for our club. We would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Allen for all their help with a successful BBQ fundraiser, as well as Mrs. Dean, Mr. Lutz, Mr. Martin and Mr. Mayo. I would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Brown for sponsoring a hot dog and hamburger fundraiser at their store. We had music, cheering and free smiles for all. Thank you, everyone, for all your help!

We will kick off the month of December with our Holiday Parade float building on Thursday, December 4th, at 7 P.M. on the fairgrounds. The parade will be Saturday, December 6th. The club meeting is December 9th, at 6:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass, a \$5 gift to exchange, and non perishable food to donate. Our community service trash clean up date is for January 4th, from 2PM to 4PM. We will meet at the church. Finally, a special thanks to Ms. Gigi Harwood for all the club update emails.

Badger's Den Productions: Samantha Gillen, Reporter

In the past month, the Badger's Den Productions team has had two meetings. We had a planning session for upcoming projects and spent a long day filming in November. We began the film day behind Longwood Run Park to shoot the first few scenes and then traveled to Nokomis to complete filming at a member's home. It was a cold and windy day, but the chilly weather was much more welcomed than the usual Florida heat. We filmed for seven hours straight and were happy that we could finish the project in one day. We look forward to filming outside now that the cooler weather is here. We are already discussing our next project and hope to have it completed by Christmas.

½ Pint Pullers; Theresa Barkasy, Reporter

A> Our last ½ Pint Pullers meeting was on November 9th, 2008. During the meeting we discussed the following: 1. Our total funds come to a final count of \$624. 2. The pasta fundraiser has started. 3. During the February horse show at Laurel Valley Ranch we will be holding a silent auction. Our club will be holding a silent auction, three gift baskets will be sold. A movie basket, a food basket and a horse themed basket. 4. We will be selling swine raffle tickets for \$12 each. 5. On December 14th we will be holding our annual Christmas party at Miss Erin's house. It will be held from 1-4pm. Please, leave your horses at home.

B> Special Thanks To: Hayley, Shannon and Morgan, who participated in the walk-a-thon on the 15th. We greatly appreciate your efforts.

FREE TO GOOD HOME ...

Two older female 4-H llamas, one expecting in December/January. Must have good fencing and a shelter and shade for the summer. If interested contact skyfield@peoplepc.com for details.

Make Your Plans NOW!



December 2008

- 4 Project Workshop
- 6 Swine Weigh-in
- 8 Foundation Meeting
- 10 Horse Advisory
- 13 Beef, Dairy Cattle and Goat Weigh-in
- 15 Leader and Council Meetings, Twin Lakes Park
- 24-25 Merry Christmas! 4-H Office Closed
- 31 New Year's Eve—HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Merry Christmas to ALL, from your 4-H Staff!!!

January 2009

- 1 Happy New Year—4-H Office Closed
- 3 2nd Cattle Vaccine
- 8 Project Workshop
- 11 4-H Horse Show
- 12 Foundation Meeting
- 14 Horse Advisory
- 19 Hog & Ham Workshop
- 23 Speed Show
- 25 Pleasure Show
- 26 Leader and Council Meetings

Can You Help?

Volunteers are need!
Please contact Barbara
Lechky for details:
861-9812
(blechky@scgov.net)



Happy Birthday! Alicia Bazo, Calyn Beese, Brandi Bellino, Justin Burnett, Alexandra Caragiulo, Cordel Castro, Andrew Coulombe, Wayne Dahlberg, Jennifer Federico, Christina Frurhwald, Mykela Giummo, Cory Graff, Sarah Hayo, Ronald Hess, Austin Kaufman, Benjamin Krizen, Danny Lewis, Celeste McCrory, Sonia Miller, Julia Miller, Christina Morgan, Brent Moyer, Shea Pollack, LaRae Roberts, Kyle Sailer, Madeline Uccello, Matthew VanFleet, Rachel Walter, Corrine Woods, Jacob Worester, Mariel Wrench, and Devin York!

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