



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

# EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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## CLOVER CONNECTION

4-H NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2005



### Volume 05

*With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner (March 17th), we wish everyone the "Luck of the Irish" in their club meetings, contests, and events. A little "green" can go a long way! Spring is one of the busiest times of the 4-H year...with County & District Events, Area A Horse Show, camps to plan for and workshops to attend...we hardly have time to catch our breath for the next couple of months. No time to be slow pokes...let's shift those gears and go, go, go!!!*



### COUNTY & DISTRICT EVENTS

County Events is just around the corner and 4-H'ers who win in their categories will advance to District Events. The District competition will be held April 30th, at Pine Forest High School in Pensacola.

### Issue 03

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## GATOR ENCOUNTER 2005



You are invited to attend the Gator Encounter 2005, the spring open house for the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs). This event is an opportunity for high school and community college students and their parents, teachers and advisors to visit our campus and learn first-hand about academic programs and opportunities in CALs. The open house will be held April 9th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Florida Gym, UF Campus in Gainesville.

Participants will learn about more than 20 majors, pre-professional specializations, admission standards and scholarships in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Additional information including registration can be found online at: <http://www.cals.ufl.edu/gatorencounter/>



## Honor Club Meeting Rescheduled

The Honor Club will be moving their meeting date from March 15th to March 29th for a fun day of outdoor adventures. All members will receive a flyer about the meeting.

*Want to be an Honor Club Member?* It's not difficult, just: turn in a record book at the end of the 4-H year; and participate in County Events, Camp or Fair.

## EXCITING AIR FORCE YOUTH OPPORTUNITY!!!



### Youth Leadership day

When: April 1

Where: 4-H Camp Timpooshee

Who: Open to all youth who are Air Force Dependents, ages 8-18

Community Service and Leadership Development Workshops and lots of fun activities will be offered. No fee, deadline to register is March 18. Call the 4-H Office for more information.



## AREA A HORSE SHOW

Area 4-H'ers are preparing to compete at this year's Area A Show in Marianna, April 22-23. Qualifiers from this show will be able to advance to the State Horse Show in Tampa this summer. Volunteer members of the Okaloosa Horse Advisory Committee and parents will be helping to make this show a success. Registration deadline is Friday, March 18th...packets are in the mail to members who turned in their Horse Qualification Form.

*Wishing all of you a great day at the Show!!!*

## 4-H ADVISORY AND HORSE ADVISORY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

4-H Advisory and Horse Advisory Committees will be meeting jointly March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan's Restaurant in Crestview. Invitations will sent out to members as a reminder.



**4-H Country Club-** Nikki Lishefski gave a wonderful discussion and demonstration with “Jazz” and “Jewel” on dog showing and obedience. Mrs. Crystal Vanderford also gave a demonstration on “lambing time.” We planned our Fun Show at the Grundel’s at 9:00 am through lunch on April 16th. We are also doing a Pet Show on May 7th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Southside Animal Hospital in Crestview.

***You Are Invited for a “Good Old Fashioned Time!!!”***

*The 4-H Country Club is hosting “4-H show Off Your Animal” Day at the Grundel’s Farm (in Baker) on April 16th, at 9:00 a.m. through lunch.*

*Members from all the County 4-H Livestock Clubs are invited to join in on the fun. For more information and to RSVP call—537-4123. Bring your project animal in an appropriate cage (or on a leash) and a covered dish for lunch. (Meat and beverages will be provided.)*

**Hoofbeats Club—** At our last meeting we decided on new club t-shirts and planned a riding meeting for February 12, which went extremely well. Our thanks to Becky Johnston for coming out and helping us with this event. We worked on quadrille tests and individual movements. We are getting ready for County Events and the Area A Horse Show which are in the near future. We are also planning a showmanship clinic for some time in March. *Submitted by: Katie Marcoux*

**Horsefeathers Club—** February 13th we had a meeting and Valentines Day party at Billy’s Barn. We talked about filling out our horse booklets, and possibly a summer day camp in Baker. We played a Twister-like game using various saddle parts. Our next meeting is unscheduled, but all members will be notified prior to the date. If you have any desire to join our club, please call Debbie Bowden at 682-2301. *Submitted by: Maggie Bullard, Secretary*

**Just Kidding Goat Club-** We had a VERY productive meeting on Feb. 21st at the Bowden residence! We have decided on our t-shirt design, and we will be holding a tanning clinic at the Steinfath’s house on April 16th, where we will be going over the different steps in tanning an animal hide. Our coupon book fund raiser is going well, and for our program we learned about the importance of COLOSTRUM. Happy Spring and good luck to all those who are participating in County Events!

***A very special thank you to....Chris & Regina Short and Dale & Tonya Anderson of the Rocking S Auction in Paxton for their \$25 donation of supplies and feed...and to Farm World who supplied 50 eggs...for the 4-H Embryology Project being conducted at Cherokee Elementary, Bluewater Bay Elementary & Silver Sands Schools and also at Hurlburt Field Youth Center. Your wonderful support has helped to make the best better!!!***

## Ag in Florida

When people think of Florida, they usually think of tourism. That means they think about traveling here and visiting the beaches or Disney World or Busch Gardens. But Florida is also a great place for farms. What kinds of farms do we have?



Citrus is an obvious answer. Florida is one of a few states that can grow citrus. We are the nation's leader in citrus, producing over 74% of the annual U.S. production. We are the world leader in grapefruit production.

Wow! What else is in Florida? Florida is known as the "Winter Salad Bowl" of the U.S. Florida ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S. production of fresh veggies and produces most of the nation's veggies during January, February, and March. Florida leads the nation in sales of 5 fresh veggies – tomatoes, squash, snap beans, cucumbers, and radishes. Okaloosa County ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the state in cotton and cottonseed sales (\$770,000) and 13<sup>th</sup> in the state for acres of peanuts produced (over 1,300) in 2002.



Florida is the number 2 Horticulture state. Horticulture is basically gardening, like flower gardens and landscapes around houses and buildings. Greenhouse/nursery sales exceeded all other agricultural sales, even oranges in 2002. In Okaloosa County we had 23 farms with over \$1 million in products sold in 2002.

A lot of land in Florida is forestland. About 42% of all land in Florida is forested. Most of this is commercial forestland, meaning people plant trees and let them grow so they can cut them and make wood for building and paper products. Then they plant new trees to grow. These growing trees help our environment by changing bad gases in our air into good gases like oxygen that we need to breathe.



Florida also has livestock. We rank 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the production of beef calves. Florida dairies produced almost 2.2 billion pounds of milk in 2003. Florida also produces chickens and eggs. In Okaloosa County, we had 12 farms with over 180,000 chickens in 2002 ranking us 13<sup>th</sup> in the state. Florida is also a leading state in the Horse Industry. Florida was home for the 1978 triple-crown winner, "Affirmed". We had over 1,100 horses and ponies in Okaloosa County in 2002, ranking us 26<sup>th</sup> in the state.

Florida also is a major seafood and aquaculture (fish) producer in the U.S. with over 103 million pounds of seafood harvested. Florida also raises lots of tropical fish for aquariums in the U.S.



Florida's mild climate helps keep it among the top Agricultural States in the nation. That's just a glimpse of agriculture in the Sunshine State. Agriculture is important to everyone in the world. It gives us food to eat, clothes to wear, clean air to breathe, and beautiful landscapes to admire, just to name a few things it provides.

Resources: FAITC State Fact Sheet  
USDA NASS 1997 Census Data  
FDACS "Florida's Economic Engine – Agriculture Facts Brochure"  
FDACS FASS 2002 Census of Agriculture



# 4-H Calendar

March		
	4	<b>All County Events Registration Forms Due Today</b>
	10	Expressive Arts Entries Due, County Events, Crestview
	14	Clothing Entries- County Events, 6:30 pm, Crestview
	17	Demos and Speeches, County Events, 6:30 pm, Crestview
	18	Fashion Revue, Share-the-Fun and Awards, County Events 6:30 pm, Crestview
	18	Register for Air Force Youth Leadership Day
	18-20	Third Executive Board, 4-H Camp Ocala
	29	Honor Club Meeting, Fun Day, Info to be sent to members
	31	4-H Advisory & Horse Advisory Meeting, 6:30 pm, Ryan's Restaurant, Crestview
April		
	1	Air Force Youth Leadership Day, Camp Timpoochee
	6 (tentative)	4-H Day in the State Legislature, Tallahassee
	9	Gator Encounter 2005, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, UF Campus, Gainesville
	16	Show Off Your Animal Day, Grundel's Farm, Baker
	22-23	Area A Horse Show, Marianna, Jackson County Fairgrounds
	30	District Events, Pine Forest High School, Pensacola
June		
	27-July 1	County Summer Camp, 4-H Camp Timpoochee Florida 4-H Legislature, Tallahassee
July		
	7-9	State 4-H Horse Show, Tampa


**"4-H is a community of young people...  
 across America...  
 who are learning leadership, citizenship  
 and life skills"**



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