



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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CLOVER CONNECTION

4-H NEWSLETTER

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Violets are blue,



Clovers are green,



You're the best 4-H'ers I've ever seen!

Happy Valentine's Day





County Events Registration Deadline Is Friday, March 5th.

All 4-H'ers competing in County Events must complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the 4-H Office by Friday March 5th. We are going to offer a special "Club of the Year" Award to the club that has the most participation at County Events. This award will be given on the basis of the number of activities your club members participate in, and will be figured on a percentage basis, so that all clubs can compete for this award equally...no matter what the size of your club. Show your club spirit and register for County Events today!!!



SHOW OFF YOUR STYLE



Again this year we are encouraging everyone to take a look at a category that has been added to the clothing events. 4-H youth will have an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to plan, select, or construct clothing for different occasions, and enhance their ability to determine which accessories are suitable and becoming. This event has two divisions...

- 1) Clothing Construction - designing and creating an article of clothing which will complement you and express your personality. **OR**
- 2) Clothing Selection - demonstrate skills in consumer decision-making as you select becoming choices for your clothing needs.

Juniors and seniors will be able to participate on the county and district levels. You may enter only one category in **either** the Selection Division or the Construction Division, not both. One senior entry per category within each division will be able to compete at state (a total of 10 entries per county.)

The five categories are:

- Active Sports Wear – one, two or three piece outfits from coordinated fabrics for a total look for your favorite leisure activities (*no swimwear is permitted*).
- School/Informal Wear – non-tailored, casual outfits of one or more garments, coordinated for a total look acceptable for non-formal events like school, youth activities, etc.
- Dress for Work – dresses, suits, or tailored sportswear suitable for a business setting.
- Special Occasion – dressy ensembles appropriate for special occasions.
- My Choice – costumes, western wear, lounge wear or other garments that do not fit another category.

Scoring and winners in each division and category will be selected on three parts:

- 1) Garment evaluation
- 2) Modeling and presentation
- 3) Skill-a-thon performance

For more information on this and other events activities look in your copy of the "Florida 4-H Events and Activities Handbook."





COUNTY EVENTS **EXPRESSIVE ARTS OPPORTUNITIES**



Clover buds (age 5-7) may participate in these events at the county level as a learning experience. Each participant will receive a ribbon and certificate of recognition.

Poster Art Program – This program gives 4-H members an opportunity to use the visual medium of poster art to promote public understanding and support of the 4-H program. This year's theme is: "4-H: The Power of Youth." The top three posters will be displayed at District Events in May and will compete at the State level later this year. The complete details on the Poster Art Program can be found on page 24 of the "Explore Florida 4-H – Events and Activities Handbook" or call the 4-H Office for more information.

Photo Exhibits – This contest provides a showcase for your photographic accomplishments. Pictures should be of activities typical of those in which 4-H members and their friends would participate. The photos may include animals, people, scenery, or club activities in the subject matter. The top four entries will be displayed at District Events and will compete at the State level later this year. The complete details on the Photo Exhibit Program can be found on page 23 of the Events and Activities Handbook.

4-H members age 8-18 are eligible to compete in these contests, and winners may advance to State competitions. Deadline for ALL Expressive Arts entries will be March 17th.

Winning posters and photos at the State level will receive awards and be displayed on public view during Congress week at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Dairy Poster Contest – Show your artistic talents by creating a dairy poster, which tells a story about milk and/or milk products. Your poster can be about new products, production of milk, safety, the importance of milk products to human health, or the meaning of the REAL SEAL program. The theme this year is – "Sailing Away with 3-A-Day." The poster is required to include the REAL SEAL symbol, there is also a new 3-A-Day logo that you can use. For more information about the requirements for this contest, can be found on page 27 or the Events and Activities Handbook or call the 4-H Office. A junior and senior winner from the county will be judged at State during the summer.

Youth Horse Day Camp



The Okaloosa 4-H County Council is scheduled to hold a Horse Day Camp, Monday, March 15, for youth ages 8-12. This camp is open to all youth in Okaloosa County who would like to learn about horses. Under the supervision of qualified instructors, 4-H'ers will teach basic lessons about horses and will supervise hands-on practice with real horses. Youth who participate will have a great time and learn how to safely handle and groom horses. The camp is intended for youth who like horses but lack experience with them. Come and spend a day at beautiful Camp Timpooshee in Niceville. The cost for the camp is \$35. Registration is limited to the first 40 youth. Adult supervision and lunch will be provided. For more information contact the 4-H Office at (850) 689-5850.



FLORIDA 4-H LEGISLATURE

The Florida 4-H Legislature, held June 28-July 2 in Tallahassee, is the greatest week-long learning opportunity about our state government and how it functions. Seniors (13-18 years old) will serve as legislators, senators, reporters or lobbyists, and meet in the committee rooms of the House of Representatives as well as the House Chambers, and conduct a mock legislative session. You will also have the opportunity to tour the State Capitol, Supreme Court, Archives and other State buildings. If you are interested in participating don't wait, call the 4-H Office today and get your name on the list!!!



ANDALUSIA HORSE SHOW

The Covington County 4-H Equine Clubs will be hosting a Horse Show on February 14th in Andalusia. For more information call the 4-H Office.



AG LITERACY DAY, MARCH 16



Florida Ag in the Classroom, Inc. has announced a Florida Agriculture Literacy Day to help teachers and students gain a better understanding about agriculture.

Volunteers from the agriculture industry will be available to come to classrooms and share several books about agriculture, with elementary school students. Teachers should contact the 4-H Office if you would like to sign up your class for this program.



COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

We need both youth and adult volunteers to assist with our fundraiser (Horse Day Camp) on March 15th. Funds will help seniors throughout the county attend Congress. If you are interested in helping, please call the 4-H Office or contact one of our County Council Officers.

The next Council Meeting to finalize the details for the fundraiser will be held the first week in March. Call the 4-H Office for more information.

**HAZARDOUS WEATHER
AWARENESS WEEK—
FEBRUARY 22-28**



Hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, floods, lightening, rip currents, temperature extremes, wildfires...these are the most common weather issues facing Floridians. Let's focus on one that has claimed many lives in Northwest Florida the past couple of years. **Rip currents**, often called undertow or riptides, are actually not tides or undertow. These currents are caused by patterns in the weather such as storms offshore and beach formations. Rip currents are usually narrow (about 20-30 feet wide), but are very long (about 1000 feet) and move at 3 to 5 miles per hour or more. These "killer" currents claim more lives in Florida each year than do some hurricanes, tornadoes or lightning—combined.

Some Rip Current Safety Actions -

- Learn how to swim and know your abilities.
- Always swim with a buddy, never swim alone.
- If caught in a rip current, signal for help.
- Try to swim parallel to the shore until you are well out of the current.
- Do not overestimate your swimming ability or take chances.
- Do not get caught in a rip current trying to save someone else. Throw them a flotation device and get help.
- **Do not panic or swim against the current.**
- Observe and follow the flag warnings.

**Enclosed are the Emerald Coast
Warning Flag Codes.**

A GREAT LAW WEEKEND

January 23-25, three Okaloosa seniors experienced a fun-filled weekend at 4-H Camp Ocala. This Leadership Awareness Weekend focused on developing communications skills and teamwork. Kelly Chlebowski, Katie Marcoux and Kaitlyn Sirico, all members of the Hoofbeats Club, participated in workshops on poster making, public speaking, press release writing, youth as partners in decision-making, team building, and television interview tips. Kaitlyn, did an excellent job as one of the presenters of the workshop on Team Building.

If you are a senior (age 13-18)...keep this great event in mind for next year, you won't want to miss the opportunity to attend!

THIRD EXECUTIVE BOARD, FLORIDA 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

Florida 4-H Executive Board is a leadership board, made up of delegates from each 4-H district throughout the state. This group of hardworking seniors meets three times a year at 4-H Camp Ocala to work on State Council projects, including planning for Congress, Legislature, Ambassador Weekend, and the 4-H State Project.



The Third Executive Board Meeting is March 26-28. The registration fee is \$55 per person, due to the 4-H Office by March 3. **Any** senior 4-H'ers are eligible to attend. We would like to send at least two delegates from our county. Delegates who plan to attend need to call the 4-H Office for a registration packet.

IMPORTANT DATES

February

All month
5-16

March

3

5

14-20

15

16

17

22, 23, 25

26-28

April

15

16-18

24

May

8

June

1

7-11

11-13

18-20

23

28-July 2

July

8-10

26-30

27-August 1

Traveling County Events Workshops, **Leaders call and schedule**
Florida State Fair, Tampa

Registration for Third Executive Board due today!

County Events registration due today!

National Agriculture Week

Horse Day Camp, Camp Timpoochee

Agriculture Literacy Day

County Events Expressive Arts entries due today!

Okaloosa County Events Days, beginning 6:30 p.m., 4-H Office, Crestview

Third Executive Board Meeting, Camp Ocala

4-H Day at the Capitol, Tallahassee

National Youth Service Day

Area A Horse Show, Marianna Fairgrounds

District Events, Pensacola Junior College Campus in Milton

Portfolios for scholarships and trips due to State Events Office, Gainesville

County Summer Camp, Camp Timpoochee

District Horse Camp, Western, Camp Timpoochee

District Horse Camp, English, Camp Timpoochee

State 4-H Horse Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Horseman of the Year
Interviews, Gainesville

Florida 4-H Legislature, Tallahassee

State 4-H Horse Show, Tampa

State 4-H Congress

Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships, Monroe, Louisiana



Hoofbeats Club— The Hoofbeats 4-H Club congregated to, firstly, discuss the Open Horse Show held by the Horse Advisory Committee, which was as successful as it was cold. In addition to the show, members began throwing ideas around for County Events. You can never be too prepared. However, the main topic of conversation was dominated by the studious planning of the end of the year party to, as the members immediately established in acute accordance—Disney World!

Submitted by Kelly Chlebowski

Rocky Riders Club—The Rocky Riders have had the usual busy 4-H Fall. We learned a lot about the history of horses in war for our fair booth and only got a little paint on Mrs. Mullins wall and floor, painting our Civil War Mural. Almost every member participated in the Fair in some way. We showed many 4-H project areas in the Christmas Parade and we made some really cool jewelry at Beadgirlz. Now we are planning some stunning new talent numbers and preparing our individual talks for County Events.

Woolverine Lamb Club—We had our lamb club meeting on January 5 at 6:30 pm at the Extension Office. There were six members present and one visitor. We reviewed the 4-H pledge, motto, creed, and colors. Our club is planning to start a candy sale in February, and to put on a petting zoo in March. The Mooers family brought a sheep skin that they tanned themselves, and they discussed what they did to tan it. Most club members have pregnant ewes at home, so Mrs. Vanderford discussed pregnant ewes and their care. On January 19, the Vanderfords had the first lamb born of the season! We are all finding out that when you raise and show lambs there is always something that needs to be done, and always something new to learn! *Submitted by Adam Mooers*

Hot Wings Poultry Club—We met on January 26, we did our pledges and our officers gave their reports. Any one in our club who would like to learn more about county events can meet Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. with us and members of the Woolverine Club. We are going on a field trip to the Zoo in Gulf Breeze. We will be meeting at the Extension Office and leaving together at 9:00 a.m. We'll eat our snack lunch at the zoo. Don't forget your coupons! We are planning a community service petting zoo for the Asthma and Allergy Fair at Crestview Highway from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday March 6. On Saturday March 13 we are planning, along with the Woolverine Club, to do a petting zoo at the Crestview Family Fun Day as a fundraiser for registration fees for 4-H Summer Camp. The money earned will be divided among club members who help to work the petting zoo. Decisions have been made on which poultry or game birds we will be showing this year and they will be arriving in March. Welcome Myra King, who has joined our club. Thanks to Mrs. Darlene for the yummy heart shaped cake and to Mrs. Sheila who will bring the snack at our next meeting. *Submitted by Jayce Vanderford*

COUNTY EVENTS DAYS – REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Age (as of September 1, 2003) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Club _____ Parent Signature _____

Please mark and fill in needed information. **Return to:** Jennifer Heady, 4-H Agent, 5479 Old Bethel Rd., Crestview, FL 32536 or FAX to (850) 689-5727 – by **March 5th**.

____ Yes, I will participate in the Clothing Event. Juniors and Seniors may enter **one** category in **either** the Selection or Construction Division. The Clothing Event will be held Monday, March 22nd at 6:30-8:30 p.m. **All** participants in the Clothing Event will also model in Fashion Revue—Thursday, March 25th, 6:30 p.m. With this form, attach a sketch or photo of your outfit or garment. Also provide a description of your outfit, including accessories. If making a garment, attach a sample of the fabric used.

Selection Division

- ____ Active Sports Wear
- ____ School/Informal Wear
- ____ Dress for Work
- ____ Special Occasion
- ____ My Choice

Construction Division

- ____ Active Sports Wear
- ____ School/Informal Wear
- ____ Dress for Work
- ____ Special Occasion
- ____ My Choice

____ Yes, I will participate in the Demonstration/Illustrated Talks. (Held Monday, March 22nd and Tuesday, March 23rd, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) *(Please make note if you are doing a team demonstration, and who will be your partner.)*

Category _____

Title of Talk _____

____ Yes, I will participate in Share-the-Fun. (Thursday, March 25th, 6:30 p.m.) Describe what you will be doing. Include titles. If you will be doing an act with someone else include all names. *Juniors and seniors cannot be in the same act together.* (You will need to provide all equipment for your act, except a microphone, and PA system.)

____ Yes, I will submit a visual arts entry – due March 17th in the 4-H Office. (Please check)

- ____ Poster Art Contest
- ____ Dairy Poster Contest
- ____ Photo Exhibit

____ My parents plan to attend. They would like to help as:

- ____ Room Monitor
- ____ Timekeeper

You will be sent a confirmation letter including a schedule of County Events activities when your registration is received. Activities will take place at the Charles M. Walthall Agriculture Center, 5479 Old Bethel Road in Crestview.



The Okaloosa County Extension Service provides research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Okaloosa County Extension Office at least 5 working days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

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