The next leader, volunteer, and parent meeting will be held on MONDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2007. This meeting will be held at 6:30 PM at the County Extension Office. These meeting are to inform everyone about 4-H happenings on a club, county, and state level. It also gives all 4-H adults a chance to voice their thoughts and concerns.

The last November meeting attendance was great. The room was filled with new leaders eager to learn about 4-H; as well as, our classic leaders that help hold this organization together. Mr. Jim Selph attended this meeting to give a brief overview about how this organization functions, Mrs. Mary Ellen Brown spoke about the King and Queen fundraiser, and Miss Christi discussed the December 15th fundraiser, fair concessions, and county council happenings. Overall, it was a very informational meeting with numerous plans being made for our county. A concern that was brought up was lack of parent support. So if you are a parent have the time to be involved with our 4-H organization, we would love to have you. Please see your club leaders for areas of assistance.

County Council is a group of representatives from each club that state their opinions on where they think our county 4-H program should be headed. They are also responsible for bringing the county level information that we discuss back to the clubs, receive club input, and tell youth thoughts to our leaders. It is a great way to take part in a leadership role and see how the youth ideas come to life.

The last county council meeting was a large one. Many 4-H youth, parents, and club representatives attended. I am very proud of everyone for taking the time to attend these meetings. The meeting was started off with an eye opener and quickly moved on to business. New business entailed Christmas Card Lane, the 4-H Holiday party, the fair concession booth, and much more. Everyone participated in the conversations and a lot of good ideas came about. Our next meeting will be held on December 3rd at 5:30 PM. I look forward to seeing a large turn out again.

The DeSoto County 4-H has elected to participate in Christmas Card Lane. Our theme for this year’s card is “DeSoto County 4-H supports Breast Cancer Awareness”. The card is to be in the shape of a tree with eleven ribbons, one from each club, placed upon it. The tree will also be topped with a shinning star or elegant angel to signify how special this cause is. The county council representatives from each club will be responsible for the decoration of this tree and ribbons.
**HOLIDAY PARTY**

On December 11th at 6:00 PM the 4-H will be hosting a holiday party. The theme this year is “Christmas In The Country.” Hamburgers and Hot dogs will be provided but we are asking that all family attending bring a covered side dish. The side dish should be enough to feed your family and three more. During the festivities we will have several games to play where awards can be won.

We are also asking parents to RSVP with their family’s attendance so the chef may cook the proper amount. Also if a toy can be brought, as a donation for a child Christmas charity, it would be much appreciated. This is the time of year when it does help to think about others. In addition, we are in dire need of a set-up crew (committee) and a clean-up crew (committee). Committee participation is important because it is a requirement for the Standards of Excellence Awards.

**OFFICER TRAINING & INSTALLATION**

DeSoto County held their annual leadership training and Installation on October 15th, 2007. The importance of this event was to recognize the accomplishment of becoming an officer and to teach the 4-H youth the significance of an officer role while focusing on the duties which will be required. This evening started by Miss Christi hosting a candle light installation for all the 4-H offices and then the County Council followed with the leadership training. The training was strictly done by the youth, for the youth. It was presented in a PowerPoint manner where everyone could see the important topics at hand. As the meeting concluded everyone that attended celebrated the installation with a pizza party. All in all, it was a real good time.

**4-H JACKETS**

Fair is just around the corner and I would like everyone to spruce up the 4-H official dress, with the 4-H jacket. This is a way to give great representation not only to 4-H but to your individual club. The green jacket can come embroidered with your name, county, and club. The jacket’s cost is 49.95 per jacket; however, there are discounts available for large orders. Thus, I would like to see the 4-H youth place an order with their clubs and then have all the clubs turn in their order, to the extension office, by December 7th.

If you own a jacket, which you have out grown and would like to sell it at a discounted cost, please let Miss. Christi or Ms. Cherie at the 4-H office know. DeSoto County 4-H is very proud of all their exhibitors and active club members. We hope you take advantage of this situation to show everyone you are just as happy to be a part of this organization. All jacket orders must be submitted to your club and then to the 4-H office by December 7th. Furthermore, please know that a jacket is just a suggestion it is not a mandated requirement.

**HOG & HAM WORKSHOP**

The Hog and Ham program is conducted through the University of Florida and allows youth to experience and learn what the swine industry entails. This program is open to youth 12 and older as of 9-1-07. To start this program one must participate in the mandatory work shop which will be held on Monday, January 21, 2008. The workshop will cover an overview of the swine industry, sources and selection of feeder pigs, animal handling, feeding & health management, the pork product, and insight on the other phases of the program (record book, demonstration, and retail audit). Even youth who have completed previous Hog & Ham Programs are required to attend. Anyone interested in Hog & Ham is strongly encouraged to attend, as the information to be presented is vital to the youth getting something out of this program beyond a freezer full of pork. To partake in this work shop there is a five dollar fee, which is to cover lunch expenses. There is also a pre-registration form which needs to be completed and turned into Miss. Christi by January 10th. For further information on this please contact Miss. Christi at the 4-H office 863-993-4846.
4-H EXHIBIT BOOTH
The 4-H exhibit booth creates an opportunity for all youth individuals to participate in the fair. It does this by allowing 4-Hres to create items for display, based on skills learned through 4-H and other various activities. Categories of displays include mechanical sciences, pest management, agricultural sciences, recreation, natural resources and conservation, youth development, leadership development, home furnishings, foods, home environment, clothing, needle arts, creative arts, photography, safety, and posters. The exhibit booth entry booklet and registration form will be available at the county extension office. The deadline for the entry for is Monday, January 7th, at 5:00pm. For further information please call Miss Christi or Ms. Cerie 993-4846

FAIR CONCESSION STAND
Every year the 4-H has a concession booth at the fair, which serves as a fundraiser for our general 4-H account. We rely on the 4-H youth and their parents to make this a success. This year our clubs are asking for one parent in every club to serve as the concession chairperson. With that being said they are to coordinate with the county agent or the program assistant and sign up for a day that their club agrees to cover. From that point, they are to fill the time allotted shift with members and parents form their club. There should be at least two 4-H youth (no more than three) and one adult per shift. If members cannot participate on the day of a club set up, they can arrange to work on an open slotted shift. THE 4-H IS ASKING ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY. To sign up for the fair concession please see your leaders, concession chair persons, or call the 4-H office. The dates left for open sign up include:
- Saturday, January 19th 12:00pm – 10:00pm
- Friday, January 25th 12:00pm – 10:00pm
- Sunday, January 27th 12:00pm – 6:00pm
The shifts are an hour and a half long, starting thirty minutes before opening and ending thirty minutes after closing.

4-H JACKETS
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If you own a jacket, which you have out grown and would like to sell it at a discounted cost, please let Miss. Christi or Ms. Cherie at the 4-H office know. DeSoto County 4-H is very proud of all their exhibitors and active club members. We hope you take advantage of this situation to show everyone you are just as happy to be a part of this organization. All jacket orders must be submitted to your club and then to the 4-H office by December 7th. Furthermore, please know that a jacket is just a suggestion it is not a mandated requirement.
The 4-H organizations will be hosting several fundraisers throughout the year. It is our goal to raise $10,000.00 by the year end, for operating expenses. Operating expenses consist of paying for chaperones on trips, hosting more multi county functions, travel, etc. (If interested, for a detailed listing, please call Christi or Cherie at the 4-H office). To do this, it will require a multitude of fundraisers, several applications for grants, and a lot of help from parents.

Our next fundraiser will be held on December 15th at the Bank of America parking lot. We will be having a Bar-B-Que and a rummage sale. This being said, if everyone would please go through their closets and kitchen accessories and donate unwanted materials, the 4-H would greatly appreciate it. Some rules to remember are listed below:

1. Clean Clothes Only.
2. No ripped Items.
3. No masculine or feminine under garments unless in original purchased packaging.
4. Items must be brought in sectioned packaging. (bag of pants, bag of shirts, bag of shorts)
5. Foot wear must be in good condition. (No holes in soles, Must Match, CLEAN)
7. All sale digression will be left for committee member final approval.
8. The deadline to turn in all materials is Friday, December 7th.

We are also looking for volunteers to help work the Bar-B-Que and Rummage Sale. As of now Ms. Melinda Crites and Mrs. Jayme Skinner have come forward to help with the rummage sale and Mr. Johnny Patton has volunteered his time for the BBQ. In addition, the scrapbook club will joining our county fundraiser, by selling baked goods to help raise money for supplies. Please remember fundraisers are large responsibilities and we are always in need for volunteers to help out. If anyone is interested, please contact the 4-H office. 863-993-4846

DeSoto County is holding their first 4-H King and Queen Contest. Unlike most pageants’, this contest does not emphasize one’s beauty or good looks. In fact, it highlights one’s ability to market the 4-H organization while representing their club and themselves. To do this each club votes one boy and one girl to represent their club. Then these club representatives will put out “change jars” at various locations throughout the county and the female who raises the most money wins the title of being Queen. In addition, the male who raises the most money earns the title of King.

All the proceeds earned will go toward the $10,000.00 goal for 4-H operating expenses. Good luck to everyone.

As we begin this year’s 4-H program, it is important for our seniors to remember, it is never too late to think about the future. There are numerous scholarships available to high school seniors through various organizations. DeSoto County 4-H offers two separate scholarships to active 4-H members. The Susie Brewer Scholarship is available to a 4-H member who is in financial need to attend an accredited college to further their education. The Mary Rutter Scholarship is available to a 4-H member who is in financial need to attend a technical school to further their education. If you would like more information contact the 4-H Office, 993-4846.
THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honors young people in middle school and high school for outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the awards constitute the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteering. Over the past 12 years, the program has honored more than 75,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

Local Honorees receive a Certificate of Achievement from their schools or organizations. Those who qualify (50 hours of service for age 14 and younger, 100 hours for those older) also receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.

State Honorees receive an award of $1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expenses-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C. for national recognition events. National Honorees receive additional awards of $5,000, engraved gold medallions, crystal trophies for their schools or organizations, and $5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for nonprofit, charitable organizations of their choice. For further information please contact the 4-H office or visit the prudential website at http://www.prudential.com/spirit.

HOLIDAY PLANTER PROGRAM
Conducted by Cherie Hollingsworth

This program consists of decorating a three inch planter in a holiday theme. Each 4-H member is provided a planter and encouraged to use their creativity in decorating this container. Young plants are then provided to local school classes, where the plants will be cared for by students. As the plants grow, they will be transferred into our 4-H youth’s decorated flower pots.

In December the planters will be distributed by the 4-H’ers to patients at DeSoto Memorial Hospital, DeSoto Manor, and the Arcadia Oaks Assisted Living. In doing this, 4-H hopes to brighten up their Holiday Season. This program involves citizenship, creative arts, and horticulture for the 4-H members and school students. It is a wonderful activity to partake in and I hope to see many youth participate. For further information, please contact Ms. Cherie at the extension office. 863-993-4846

If you would like to decorate a small flower pot for the contest please stop by the Extension Service for the flower pot. They are to be decorated in the Holiday Spirit and will be judged according to ages (5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14-18). There are two categories to be judged 1. Holiday Theme and 2. Holiday Theme with a club motif (for example for the club you are in do it with holiday decorations and colors but also use something that would be in your club’s theme). You will receive a nice green ribbon for participating and may have a chance to win a prize and or trophy. The announcement of the winners of the Holiday Planter will be in the January 2008 Newsletter.

The planters are due back into the 4-H office by Tuesday, December 18 at 5:00 PM. Each planter will have the member’s name, age, and club firmly attached to the bottom of the flower pot (not inside the pot).

The DeSoto County 4-H will be holding a holiday program to present the planters at the Arcadia Oaks Assisted Living at 3:30 P.M. on Thursday, December 20th. We will take the planters to the DeSoto Manor Nursing Facility on Friday, December 21st. If you are interested in assisting with these programs please contact Ms. Cherie at the 4-H Office 993-4846.
THANKSGIVING BASKETS REPORT
On Saturday, November 17, 2007 Mrs. Mary Ellen Brown, DeSoto County Beef Club Leader, delivered Thanksgiving food baskets to several 4-H families. The 4-H Beef club, Cooking Club, and the rabbit club generously sponsored a dinner basket for a family.

This county 4-H program would like to salute these clubs for their generosity, for donating to the Share organization, and supplying dinner baskets to various families during this special time of year. The dinner includes a turkey basket, filled with all the trimmings, and will serve a family of six.

*Share is a not-for profit organization that rewards personal community involvement with substantial savings on delicious food and groceries.*

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLINICS
A Florida State Fair Educational Seminar and Ethics Workshop will be presented by James Selph, County Extension Director, IV on December 12, 2007 at the DeSoto County Extension Office. The seminar will be from 5:30 PM until 9:00 PM. This seminar is designed to help exhibitors prepare for the state fair animal projects. The information presented at this event will cover Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Swine, Rabbit, Poultry, Dog, and Llamas. The educational seminar will also include an ethics course, which holds value for three years of animal project activities. For further information please contact Miss Christi or Ms. Cherie at the 4-H office. 993-4846

DeSoto County will be having a 4-H BEEF Cattle Prospect Show, which is hosted by the DeSoto County 4-H Beef club. This event will be held on December 1, 2007, at the Turner Agri-Center Arena. The entry fee of $20.00 per head needs to be post marked by November 17th. Please do not mail entry fees past this date. Additional entries will be accepted on the day of check in, at the Turner Center. Please note the day of check in entry fee is $30.00 per head. Check in starts promptly at 7:00am and lasts until 9:00am. The show order is set for steers to be exhibited first, then showmanship, and then heifers. There will be a food concession there, hosted by the Rooters Swine Club. If there are any members willing to assist please call the 4-H office. A final count of volunteers will be given to Mr. Johnny Patton November 30th. For further information on the prospect show, please call Mary Ellen Brown at 863-491-0087 or Liz Holton at 863-990-4229.

Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program for high school youth. This event takes place at the National 4-H conference center on June 15th - 21st, 2008, in Washington D.C. Delegations from across the country attend this 6 day program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located just outside Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people’s lives by broadening their appreciation and respect for themselves and others in the world. Participants attend workshops, committees, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. Participants learn and practice skills that will make them better citizens and more successful individuals. There are 15 slots available on a first-come, first-serve basis. After these slots are filled, additional participants will be accepted on an individual basis if room is available. This form must be in the State 4-H Events Office by January 15, 2007. Additional registration materials will be mailed after January 15. If you would like further information on this event, or if you are interested please contact the 4-H office. 863-993-4846

Intermediate Leadership Adventure Weekend Open to Intermediate 4-H'ers ages 11 to 13, as of Sept. 1, 2007. The date for this workshop is February 1-3, 2008 and the cost is $75.00 per participant. I Payment should be made by one county check and be made payable to the Florida 4-H Foundation. In addition, camp cloverleaf will be hosting this event. The deadline to register for this event is January 18th. For more information on this leadership training please contact Christi at the extension office or Kate Fogarty (352) 392-7087 x 262.
Every club in DeSoto County is very unique in many ways. By allowing our clubs to submit monthly reports it enables everyone to see what special things we all are doing. Monthly reports are due the first Friday of every month. The reports need to be handed in to Miss Christi or Ms. Cherie at the 4-H office. You can also e-mail Miss Christi with them at cpryor@ufl.edu. I hope to see many more reports in the future.

DeSoto Beef Club:
The Oct 9th meeting had a great turn out. Dane Henery was there to trim calves hooves. Mrs. Mary Ellen had the scales set up, where we could weigh our calves. There were about ten steer present. During that meeting, we also elected our King and Queen. The King elected is Gary Brown Jr. and our Queen is Alexis Stinson. Finally, Mr. Holton went over the proper way to tie calves with a neck rope, in which every one received a chance to participate in the activity.

Submitted by Reporter:
Mara Holton

Trailduster’s Horse Club:
The Oct. meeting was called to order on November 13th, 2007 at 10:00am. The traildusters meet at Valerie Robinsons residence, in her barn. She has five horses which is great for hands on training. At this meeting we learned about the parts of the horse. Mrs. Jayme and Mrs. Valerie painted the parts names right on the horse. It was cool to see and the horse just stood there like a good student. We also decorated folders, to keep our club papers organized. Finally, we wrapped things up learning about safety precautions. For example, we learned how to approach the horse and the proper way to walk around the horse. Mrs. Jayme also mentioned a safety class is a new requirement for showing a horse. I think that’s great because you always need to be safe when handling animals.

Submitted by Reporter:
Cassidy Furr
DECEMBER

01  BEEF Prospect Show, 7:00 AM – Check In Starts, Turner Center
03  County Council, 5:30 PM, County Extension Office
03  Leaders Meeting, 6:30 PM, County Extension Office
04  Rooters Swine Club, 7:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
05  Cooking Club, 4:00 PM, Masonic Lodge
07  4-H Jacket Orders due to Extension Office, 5:00 PM
08  Traildusters Horse Club, 10:00 AM, Valerie Robinsons’ Residence
08  4-H/FFA Horse Judging School, Gainesville, FL.
10  DeSoto Beef Club, 6:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
10  Desoto Rabbit Club, 6:00 PM, Desoto County Extension Office
11  DeSoto County 4-H, Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
12  Ethics Workshop, 5:30 – 9:00 PM, County Extension Office
13  Angler’s Fishing Club, 4:00 PM, County Extension Office
13  Sewing Club, 6:00 PM, County Extension Office
15  Just Kidding Goat Club, 10:00 AM, Michelle Fields House 494-2176
15  DeSoto County 4-H, BBQ and Rummage Sale Fundraiser
17  Scrap-booking Club, 5:30 PM, County Extension Office
18  Beaks and Bills Poultry Club, 6:00 PM, County Extension Office
19  Jr. Cattlemen, 6:00 PM, County Extension Office – Dinner
25  CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 2008

01  NEW YEARS DAY!!!
07  County Council, 5:30 PM, County Extension Office
07  Leaders Meeting, 6:30 PM, County Extension Office
07  Fair Exhibit Entry Forms Due, 5:00PM, County Extension Office
08  Rooters Swine Club, 7:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
09  Cooking Club, 4:00 PM, Masonic Lodge
10  Angler’s Fishing Club, 4:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall – Dinner
11  Fair Exhibit Set-Up, Fair Grounds
14  DeSoto Beef Club, 6:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
14  Desoto Rabbit Club, 6:00 PM, Desoto County Extension Office
15  Beaks and Bills Poultry Club, 6:00 PM, County Extension Office
17-28 DeSoto County Fair
   No 4-H activities will be held at the extension office during this period of time.
21  Hog and Ham Workshop, Gainesville, FL
31  4-H Leaders Executive Meeting

FEBRUARY

04  County Council, 5:30 PM, County Extension Office
04  Leaders Meeting, 6:30 PM, County Extension Office
05  Rooters Swine Club, 7:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
06  Cooking Club, 4:00 PM, Masonic Lodge
07  

