

Oct. / Nov.
2009

The 4-H Green Express

For 4-H Program
Information
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IFAS Extension - University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural



Leader - Volunteer Meeting / County Council

The leader – volunteer meetings are every 1st Monday of the month held at 6:00pm. They are open for any parent, volunteer, or leader. The information that is shared in these meetings is crucial to the programs progress. DeSoto 4-H appreciates the time and dedication that all the adults provide. **The next leaders meeting will be held November 2nd, at 6:00pm.**

County Council Meetings are a great way to stay updated about County and Club level activities. These meetings are open to all Club Delegates, Members, Leaders, Volunteers, and Parents involved with the DeSoto County 4-H program. The **next County Council meeting of the year will start November 2nd, 2009 at 6:00pm.** This meeting will be held at the DeSoto County Extension Office. During this meeting we plan to elect new officers and map out activities to come for the following year. All youth input is welcome.

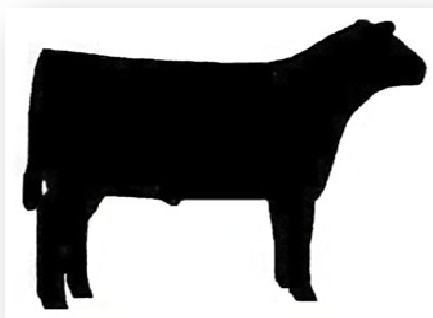
All meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 6:00pm. Each of the 4-H clubs is asked to send their County Council delegates to the council meeting, to represent their clubs. The responsibility of a County Council Representative (C.C.R.) include: taking information discussed at the county meeting and reporting that data back to the represented club. In addition, they help plan county wide events and raise awareness of 4-H on goings.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

Oct. 4th – 10th, 2009

National 4-H week will be held Oct. 4th – 10th, 2009. This event is to promote the 4-H organization and the 4-H youth; as well as, spread the word about 4-H to those who may not be aware of the program. It is also a way for 4-H members to showcase their accomplishments and the achievements of their clubs. The week provides a unique opportunity to the 4-H clubs as it allows them to connect and work together to promote the 4-H program in the community that they live in. Finally, National 4-H Week provides an outlet in which county clubs can show their appreciation of extension faculty and volunteers that have contributed to the success of their clubs.

DeSoto County 4-H Prospect Show



This event will take place on November 21st, at the Desoto County Turner Center – Indoor Arena.

On November 21st DeSoto County 4-H is holding their annual prospect show. However, this year it will be held in the Indoor Turner Arena. Doing this we hope to increase the participants and the excitement!! The show is open to all youth ages 8 to 18 and there will be classes for showmanship, steers, heifers, and bulls. Entry forms and rules are available at the DeSoto County Extension office (2150 NE Roan St, Arcadia 34266), on line at <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu>, Bryan's Farm Supply, or at Smith's Ranch and Garden. If you have any questions please contact Shawn Lyons @ 863-990-3686 / shawn.lyons@desoto.k12.fl.us or Christi Pryor @ 941-809-5596 / cpryor@ufl.edu

Desoto County 4-Hers – Remember this is part of your Bonafide Requirement!!

4-H Open House

The 4-H open house was held on Monday, August 31st at the 4-H Extension Office. Open house is where all club leaders come in and individually have stations set up to represent their club. The public is then invited to come to the extension office and see which 4-H programs are available. This year's turnout was great and the exhibits set up by our leaders looked fantastic. We had several clubs increase their membership and numerous people were very grateful to the leaders for being there to answer questions. The numbers for the membership competition have not yet been tallied, but the "winning" club will be notified upon completion of club enrollment.



We would also like to Thank County Commissioner Mrs. Judy Schaefer for being present at this event. We appreciate your support.

4-H Pledge Contest

The County Council created a competition for the youth of our association. This contest will be known as the Pledge Contest. It is a competition to encourage everyone to learn the 4-H pledge. This contest is open for first and second year members, ages 8 to 18, and who have not competed previously. Each age division (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) will have a contest with in itself divisions. Prize money will be distributed on a division basis. Youth will be judged according to word accuracy, speaking ability and poise, and 4-H dress. The competition will take place during the 4-H Holiday party. Entry forms will be available in November. For further information please call Miss Christi at 993-4846.

Horse Camp

Provided by DeSoto County Turner Center, Laurel Valley Ranches, & DeSoto 4-H

The DeSoto County Turner Center in conjunction with Laurel Valley Ranches and the DeSoto County 4-H program held a Horse day camp the weekend of August 22nd and 23rd. This camp was open to all youth with or without horse experience. Mr. Donnie Boyd was the instructor of the group and his goal was to teach youth how to be safe on horses yet still experience the fun and excitement of the industry. We had approximately 23 youth participated in this event; in which they all learned how to saddle, un-saddle, and bridle the horses, as well as, sit properly in the saddle, steer the horse, stop, and back up. The kids had so much fun that when the day was over they didn't want to quit.

Miss Christi would also like to **THANK** DeSoto County Turner Center (Mrs. Jodi Sullivan) and Laurel Valley Ranches (Mr. Donnie Boyd) for all their time and knowledge. This camp was a huge success and it could not have been done without your leadership and skill.

Club Reports

Traildusters Horse Club Adv & Beginners combined:

The Traildusters horse club met on Saturday September 12th, 2009 at the John Parker Saddle Club. We had a great Turnout; however, we had to leave our horses home because of the rain. We elected new officers and talked about the upcoming year. New names were picked out for the beginner and advanced clubs, but they will be voted on and finalized at the next club meeting. Moreover, the beginner group decorated their record book folders and the advanced group helped out where need be. Next Months meeting will be on Oct. 10th at the Saddle club.

(Beg. 10:00am – 12:00pm Adv. 1:00pm – 3:00pm) Submitted By: Emily Dyal

DeSoto County 4-H Beef Club:

Our meeting started at 6:10pm. We all had to stand and say our names and what our calf weighed in at. Then Miss Christi gave a short talk on feeding our steers. When she was finished she introduced Mr. Carl McKettrick from the stockyards and he spoke to us about the beef industry and marketing commercial calves. We appreciated his time and knowledge. When Mr. McKettrick finished; Miss Diau took over and began officer elections. Bailey Lyons was elected president, Bailey Turner was elected vice – president, Taylor Wiley was elected as secretary, Austin Beswick was elected Treasurer, and Grayson Davis was elected Historian, Justin Wilson and Ashlan Lipe were elected as County Council delegates. When elections were over, Miss Lyons talked to us about the achievement award and setting goals. Our next meeting will be held on October 12th, 2009 at 6:00pm. Submitted By: Taylor Wiley

A Stitch In Time 4-H Sewing Club:

Our club Held its first meeting on September 28th at the extension office. We held officer elections and talked about upcoming events. Our new officers are: President – Shenna Wordell, Vice Pres. – Lauren Hatcher, Treasurer – Emily Dyal, Historian – Makayla Green, Reporter, Emily Hatcher, and County Council Delegates – Alana Lee & Jonathan Robinson. Moreover, our club will be selling tote bags that are hand made by us, during our 4-H meetings. If interested please contact, Mrs. Janet Howard. Our meetings for the month of October will be held on the 1st and the 26th at 5:00pm. We hope to see everyone there!! Submitted By: Emily Hatcher

Officer Training & Installation

As stated previously the new year means new officers or new office positions. This being said several clubs have already elected their new officers for the 2009 – 2010 year. If you club has not elected officers yet, they will due so during their October meeting. Furthermore in order to be a great officer all elected youth must attend the 4-H officer training. This training and installation will be conducted on October 27th, at 6:00pm, at the County Extension office. Pizza will be served following the two events. Please remember to be elected as an officer is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly; however, the rewards and life skills gained are irreplaceable.

** Parents please be advised that if your child runs for a office position, they might be required to attend meeting 20 minutes earlier than the original starting time.**

Community Green School

An application has been made to the DeSoto County School board to establish a free public charter school that will have a focus on agriculture and the history and culture of our area with a Progressive/democratic educational component. The school would have grades K-12, starting with K-7 and rolling up one year at a time. Moreover, 4-H agriculture projects will be available through this school. In additions, community information sessions are being held. To attend this session or for more information, call (941)586-5576 or email MJMelissa13@Gmail.com.

Educational Spot Light - "Feeding Show Steers"

One of the many purposes of a market steer project is to teach youth how to properly and efficiently feed their animals.

A steer exhibited at the DeSoto County Fair is required to gain 2 lbs per day from the initial weigh-in which was August 22 to the final weigh in; which is January 23rd, 2010. This statement shows that all youth exhibitors have 154 days in which their steer is required to gain 308 lbs.

One can see what a steer is gaining by calculating the average daily gain (ADG). This is done by calculating the amount a calf has gained and dividing it by the number of days in the feeding period.

(For example a steer gained 28 lbs. in two weeks.... $28/14=2$ lbs per day.)

For most this can be accomplished fairly easy but there is *always* an exception. So it takes one noticing what's going on in the feeding area of the project to help manage feed requirements. The question at hand becomes, "is your steer meeting the fair requirement and do they need more weight for the frame of the animal than this requirement suggests?" The answer to this question varies on the animal but can be determined by the exhibitor.

Educational Spot Light - "Feeding Show Steers – Cont."

A growing ration is 3% of the animal's body's weight. Meaning if your animals starting fair weight was 650 lbs he should be eating 19.5 lbs per day which can be rounded to 20 lbs. Then feed the steer 10 lbs twice a day for digestion purposes. It is also important to monitor his fecal samples to see if he is utilizing his feed. If one notices an abundant amount of grain in the manure he/she could back the calf down (slightly) from the feed and see no negative difference in the weight gain. Doing this would potentially save an exhibitor money as they would not be wasting feed. Moreover, if there is nothing but pure manure, in the fecal sample, one could increase the feed to the calf, because the animal is digesting and utilizing the feed efficiently.

One can note it is imperative to keep accurate and consistent weight documentation. This can be done by taping or weighing every two weeks and writing it down in a notebook or record book. This allows youth to see if the steer is gaining or losing weight. This process acts as a marker on how to adjust your feed based on the steers' conversion. You can get weight tape at Smith's or Bryon's feed and hardware stores. Please know that taping a calf does not provide the most accurate total weight but it can demonstrate if the calf is gaining or losing and by how much. It is also suggested to keep records on the amount feed a calf is fed in the morning and in the evening. As well as, if the animal has any feed left over and how much. By doing this youth may notice "red flags" before problems arise. For example, when a calf is becoming sick they'll start backing off feed. This small indicator displays something might be wrong and will allow you to fix a minimal problem instead of dealing with a major issue. However, don't specifically think if your steer's appetite changes that he is ill. There are numerous reasons that calves go off feed like the change in weather or feed palatability. (When in doubt call a vet.) If it's feed palatability, which means the calf doesn't like the taste of his feed anymore; youth may switch the calf to another feed. When changing feed do it slowly by mixing the feed together. An illustration of this would be, "if the steer is eating 10 lbs. start the feed change with 8 lbs. old feed 2 lbs. new feed, then move to 5 lbs. old feed and 5 lbs. new feed, then 8 lbs. new feed and 2 lbs. old feed, and then all new feed. This process should take 8 days. By doing this the switch is gentle on their stomach and will not hinder digestion

This whole process of feeding is important because you are trying to create a valuable and delicious meat product for your prospective buyers.

Finally, all youth exhibitors need to realize they are lucky because the Fair Association, the FFA, and the 4-H allow you to experience how to properly raise a market animal and still provide you an outlet where you can possibly profit more than real life commercial producers do.

DeSoto County Veterinarians: Call for help

Arcadia Animal Hospital Inc – Dr. Mark P. Davis	863-494-5566
DeSoto Veterinary Services – Dr. Mike McNulty	863-993-9924
Crankshaw Veterinary Services – Dr. Wade Crankshaw	863-993-2712
Animal Ark of Arcadia – Dr. Ron Overcash	863-494-2101

For surrounding counties large animal veterinarian list, please see <http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/lav.html>

DeSoto County Extension
 2150 NE Roan St.
 P.O. Box 310
 Arcadia, FL 34265

PHONE:
 (863) 993-4846

FAX:
 (863) 993-4849



“I Pledge
 My Head to
 Clear Thinking,
 My Heart
 to Greater Loyalty,
 My Hands
 to Larger Services,
 My Health
 to Better Living,
 For my Club,
 My Community,
 My Country,
 and My World.”

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>



OCTOBER

- 10 Traildusters Horse Club (Beg.) – Arcadia Saddle Club – 10:00am
- 10 Traildusters Horse Club (Adv.) – Arcadia Saddle Club - 1:00pm
Bring Horse – MUST have coggins and clean trailers
- 10 Anglers Fishing Workshop – Pelham Residence – 11:00am
Bring ALL Fishing Gear
- 12 DeSoto Beef Club – Turner Ex. Hall – 6:00pm
- 12 DeSoto Rabbit Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 13 Rooters Swine Club – Turner Ex. Hall – 6:00pm
- 17 Anglers Fishing BBQ & Bake Sale – Bank of America – Hwy 70
- 20 Beaks & Bills Poultry Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 22 Just Kidding Goat Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 24 Poultry Swap Meet – Turner Exhibit Hall - 8:00am – 12:00pm
- 26 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 27 Officer Training - County Ext. Office – 6:00pm

NOVEMBER

- 02 Leaders Meeting – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 02 County Council – County Extension office – 6:00pm
- 05 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 09 DeSoto Beef Club – Turner Ex. Hall – 6:00pm
- 09 DeSoto Rabbit Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 10 Rooters Swine Club – Turner Ex. Hall – 6:00pm
- 13 Poultry club leaves for Nationals - Ohio
- 14 Traildusters Horse Club (Beg.) – Val Robinsons Home – 10:00am
- 14 Traildusters Horse Club (Adv.) – Arcadia Saddle Club - 2:00pm
Bring Horse – MUST have coggins and clean trailers
- 14 Just Kidding Goat Club – Fields Residence – 11:00am
- 17 Beaks & Bills Poultry Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 21 DeSoto County 4-H BEEF Prospect Show
- 21 Anglers Fishing Club (Camping Trip) – Bait Shop – 8:00am
- 23 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm

DECEMBER

- 03 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 05 Anglers Fishing Club (Camping Trip) – Bait Shop – 9:00am
- 07 Leaders Meeting – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 07 County Council – County Extension office – 6:00pm

About Our Organization.....

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