

Mar / Apr.  
2010 Vol 1

# The 4-H Green Express

For 4-H Program  
Information  
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## Individual Highlights:

Shooting Sports 2  
Fair Exhibit Booth 2  
Educational Spot 4/5  
4-H Calendar 6



IFAS Extension - University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural

## Leader - Volunteer Meeting

Our leaders meetings have been very informative as things a really rolling during the year. We have touched on fair projects, 4-H youth events, 4-H benefits and fundraisers, and 4-H meeting changes. Miss Christi and Ms. Cherie appreciate all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and leaders. During the next meeting we will be reviewing county events, district events, and new programming tactics.

The leader – volunteer meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> 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 March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00pm.**

## County Council

### Youth Organizational Meetings

The last County Council meeting was a great one. We had 22 4-H youth attend and speak their mind on several different topics. Once general business was complete we split off into groups of three & four. We worked on exhibit booth projects, so they could relay to their fellow members how easy it was to put an exhibit in the fair. All the kids had a great time. The meeting ended at 7:30pm. **The next County Council meeting of the year will be March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 6:00pm.** This meeting will be held at the DeSoto County Extension Office. 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.



## Shooting Sports 4-H Club

The shooting sports club is off to a great start. They have held 2 general meetings and been to the Polk County gun range several times. At the current time, Mr. Bill Hill from the Polk County 4-H extension service is overseeing our youth at the gun range; and we appreciate him for doing this.

Rick and Susan Hatcher are the new leaders of this club and they are looking forward to introducing youth to this exciting opportunity in archery and firearms. The next meeting will be held March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Then on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm the group will travel together to the Polk County 4-H Skeet Shoot Facility to apply what they have learned. For further information please call Miss Christi @ 863-993-4846.

## FAIR EXHIBIT BOOTH

On January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm DeSoto 4-H held their annual fair exhibit booth judging contest. All the exhibits looked amazing and several of the judges commented that this was the most exhibits they've seen in a long time. So, thank you to all the youth who put in the time and effort to show off your 4-H work in the exhibit booth. Moreover, on January 18<sup>th</sup> several 4-H parents, leaders, and youth met at the Fair exhibit hall and helped with the set up process. The theme this year was 'Going Green in 2010'. Their ideas and decorative efforts proved to be a success as booth turned out wonderful.

## 4-H Fundraisers & Benefits

The DeSoto County 4-H organization will be hosting two large scale fundraisers this year. The first being our annual Ranch Rodeo, which is an FCA Qualifier and the second being a Kim Thomas Barrel Clinic. The Ranch Rodeo will benefit our general fund to help off set organizational costs. The Kim Thomas Barrel Racing clinic will be benefiting the Traildusters Horse Club. The money generated through this clinic will go towards re-establishing 4-H county horse shows. Both Fundraisers will require a great deal of work. So if interested in helping please contact Miss Christi at the 4-H extension office.

## 4-H Community Service / Habitat 4 Humanity

Habitat for Humanity has put together a community fundraiser to create funds for housing projects in our community. This Fundraiser is called, "DeSoto Has Talent". This event consists of Dinner and a show of talented contestants. Moreover, habitat is in dire need of 25 youth volunteers to serve dinner and help make this event a success. Dinner will start at 5:00pm; so, youth need to be at the Turner Center by 4:00pm. Youth should be through serving by 6:00pm. All volunteers will put their name into a drawing for a trip to Disney. If interested please contact Miss Christi at the 4-H office. Also, please note this will go towards community service awards.



## **Agriculture in the Classroom**

Ag in the Classroom will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at DeSoto Middle School. This event is held to exhibit the role that agriculture plays in our everyday society. The presentations are given to 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth to help jump start their knowledge of this large scale industry. Mrs. Cindy Kinard chairs this event along with the help of the Farm Bureau. The county 4-H organization contributes to this learning experience by allowing Miss Christi to share her knowledge pertaining to 4-H and agriculture. In addition, Miss Christi is looking for 13 4-Hers to help make this event a success. If you are interested please call the DeSoto County Extension Office.

## **Tropicana / 4-H Public Speaking Contest**

The 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest is right around the corner and this is a great opportunity for the younger kids to discover what a speech contest is all about. This contest helps children in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, learn how to research a topic, organize materials, acquire the ability to speak convincingly in public, express ideas effectively, and develop confidence and poise. This years Tropicana event will be held in April on dates TBA. If you're interested or have any questions please call the 4-H Extension Office, (863)993-4846.

## **County Events**

It is time once again to develop a talk on that subject that you just love to discuss. County Events is your opportunity to share with everyone your knowledge about a subject you love. County Events will be held at the Turner Exhibit Hall, on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The program will begin with registration at 5:30 pm and the opening ceremonies will begin at 6:00 pm. County Events is also host to the 2010 Share-the-Fun Talent Event and Fashion Review. This is a great opportunity for the DeSoto County 4-H members to show off their talents. All first place winners, in each section, will move on to district events. Registration forms for both demonstrations and Share-the-Fun Acts are due in the 4-H office, to Ms. Cherie, by March 19, 2010. Stop by the county extension office to pick up your forms. There will be a county event workshop this year. The workshop will be held March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. If you have any questions PLEASE call or come by the Extension Office and see Miss Christi or Ms. Cherie, (863)993-4846.

## **4-H Scholarships Available**

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. Scholarship applications are available at the extension office. If you would like more information contact the 4-H Office.

## **Educational Spot Light - “Feeding your Horse”**

### **According to Nutrient & Digestive Requirements**

Horses are some of the most enjoyable animals to have around and one of the most expensive animals to own. Moreover, it's not the initial purchase of the animal; it's the cost of feeding and maintaining that animal. This expense can be minimized by properly feeding your horse, which in turn preserves health. Feeding a horse is unique because of their unusual digestive system and their function as an athlete. This means he must be fed for health, longevity and athletic performance; in addition, to normal growth and development. Furthermore, it is essential that horseman understand the horse's digestive system, nutrient requirements and how to utilize the proper feedstuffs to produce the desired results.

### **The Digestive System**

The digestive system of the horse is very unique compared to other farm animals. The horse's stomach is small and will hold a maximum of 2 to 4 gallons, which is only about 8% of the horse's digestive tract. The small intestine is the major site of nutrient absorption; approximately 65 to 70 percent of all nutrients are absorbed in the small intestines.

The next structure in the digestive system is the cecum, which is responsible for breaking down roughages such as grass and hay and converting them into useful energy for the horse. Unfortunately, the cecum and the large intestine, known as the colon, make up almost 65% of the digestive tract but are responsible for only 25% of the nutrient absorption.

Feed passes through the horse's stomach and small intestine in one or two hours. In a normal system of digestion, grain and highly digestible nutrients are utilized in the stomach and small intestine. Roughages and more coarse feeds such as hay and grass are broken down in the cecum and large intestine and utilized thereafter.

The small stomach and rapid rate of feed indicate that a horse must be fed relatively small amounts of feed on a regular basis. A small amount can be 1 to 2 scoops. In nature, the horse is basically a continuous eater of forage, and therefore the digestive system is not normally overloaded. The advantage of the rapid rate of passage through the stomach and small intestine is that within a couple of hours after feeding the horse can normally be ridden without danger of digestive problems. Unfortunately, if the horse is fed large amounts of grain, the undigested feed may move through the upper portion of the tract and overwhelm the lower gut. Grain that is passed into the cecum and large colon is fermented, which normally results in production of gas and gaseous colic. Therefore, horses are quite susceptible to digestive problems if large amounts of grain are fed, indicating the need for feeding small amounts of grain on a regular basis.

The lower gut, namely the cecum and colon, are designed for the utilization of forages, but are relatively inefficient in the digestive and absorptive process. As a result, it is difficult to feed horses on forage alone. Therefore, horses which have any additional requirement other than maintenance, such as performance horses, growing foals and lactating mares, will need additional high-quality feeds in order to meet their daily requirements. High quality hay and forage is also needed in order to achieve adequate utilization of feedstuffs fed to our horses.

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## **Educational Spot Light - “Feeding your Horse”**

### **According to Nutrient & Digestive Requirements – Cont.**

Forages move through the digestive system slower than grains. Therefore, by feeding hay prior to grain, the grain portion of the ration can be slowed down through the digestive system and utilization of the grain is increased as well as reducing the potential for over-loading the hind gut

#### **The Nutrient Requirement**

The daily nutrient requirements of the horse are based on a critical need for protein, energy, vitamins, minerals and water, to enable the horse doing a specific job to achieve its genetic and physical capabilities. The daily requirements vary according to the age, size, use, and reproduction status of the horse. Feed companies have given today’s horseman an advantage. They have done extensive research to develop and provide rations that will meet the needs of horses in various stages of growth and use. These rations are balanced for protein, energy, minerals, and vitamins. This takes the guess work out of developing a ration for our horses. If fed properly and according to the label, these commercial feeds will meet the nutritional requirements of our horses.

Young growing horses consume small amounts of feed but require more protein, energy, calcium, and phosphorous than mature horses on a percentage basis. The Total Digestible Nutrients or energy needs of the horse increases as the horse becomes larger and as more work is added to his daily routine. As a result, hardworking horses require more energy but only slightly more protein than idle horses of the same age and size, as indicated by the increases in feed intake.

As a horse owner, it is important to know the nutritional requirements of your horse. As mentioned earlier, these requirements change with age and use of the horse. For the most part, the feed companies have done large amounts of research to develop feeds that will meet the nutritional requirements of today’s horse. As a horse owner, it is your responsibility to read the feed labels to feed the correct feed in the proper amounts to your horse. Remember that feed intake needs also change with the amount of activity that your horse is involved in. A horse being ridden daily will have a higher nutritional requirement than a horse that is ridden a couple of times each month.

It is also very important to give your horse adequate amount of time between feeding and riding. Riding a horse too soon after feeding could cause digestive problems for your horse or cause your horse to tie up. Additionally, it is important to allow your horse an adequate cool down time before you feed as well. Feeding a horse while it is hot from work or immediately after work could cause major digestive problems such as colic. One very important nutrient that is often overlooked or taken for granted is water. It is critical to provide your horse with plenty of clean fresh water daily. If watered in a bucket, the bucket should be emptied, cleaned and refilled daily. If a trough is used, it should be cleaned regularly and placed in the shade to prevent the summer sun from warming up the water and making it too hot to drink. All these nutrient requirement guides combined with the knowledge of the digestive tract will help the horse owner learn how to feed their horse properly, minimize costs, and maintain health.

#### Sources:

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“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/>

**FEBRUARY**

27 Anglers Fishing Club – Bait Shop – 8:00am

**MARCH**

- 01 Leaders Meeting – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 01 County Council – County Extension office – 6:00pm
- 04 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 08 DeSoto Rabbit Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 13 Trailduster's Horse Club – Saddle Club – 10:00am – 12:00pm
- 18 DeSoto Shooting Sports Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 19 County Event Forms Due – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 22 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 23 Ag. In the Classroom – DMS
- 27 Bartow Rabbit Show –

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**APRIL**

- 01 Jr. Cattlemen's Club – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 01 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm
- 05 Leaders Meeting – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 05 County Council – County Extension office – 6:00pm
- 06 County Events – Turner Exhibit Hall / County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 10 Trailduster's Horse Club – Saddle Club – 10:00am – 12:00pm
- 10 DeSoto Has Talent – Turner Center -
- 12 DeSoto Rabbit Club – County Ext. Office – 6:00pm
- 13 Scholarship Applications DUE - 5:00pm -C. E.O.
- 15 Shooting Sports – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 16-17 DeSoto County Ranch Rodeo – Rodeo & Fair Grounds
- 20 Beaks and Bills Poultry Club – County Extension Office – 6:00pm
- 24-25 4H Area E Horse Show Qualifer for Nationals
- 26 A Stitch in Time Sewing Club – County Ext. Office – 5:00pm

**MAY**

- 01 District Events – Highlands County - TBA
- 03 Leaders/Volunteer Meetings - 6:00pm - C. E.O.
- 15-16 Kim Thomas Barrel Clinic – Traildusters 4-H benefit

***About Our Organization.....***

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