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The 4-H Green Express

For 4-H Program
Information Please
Contact:

- CHRISTI PRYOR
4-H Extension Agent
863-993-4846
cpryor@ufl.edu
- ANNA BESWICK
Extension Admin. Sec
863-993-4846
abeswick@ufl.edu
- CINDY HEFLIN
Extension Admin. Asst.
4-H Clerical & Web
clheflin@ufl.edu

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IFAS Extension - University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural

Leader - Volunteer Round UP

Well it's that time of year again, time to get together and start our 4-H year out with a bang. On August 26th we are going to host our first leaders meeting and volunteer training. In addition, we will be starting to implement the chaperone training certification to all leaders bringing DeSoto 4-H up to state code. This meeting will be a long one as there is so much to accomplish. This function starts at 6:00pm and dinner will be served. This meeting will also suffice for the September 6th leaders meeting, as that is Labor Day weekend. Please call to RSVP your spot.

4-H OPEN HOUSE

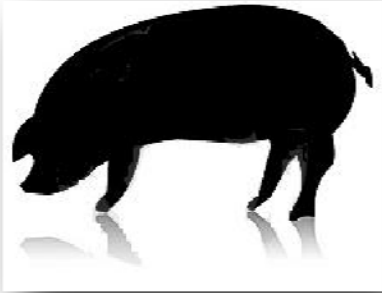
DeSoto 4-H will be hosting their annual Open House on August 30th at the Turner Exhibit Hall. This event will start at 6:00pm and last till 8:00pm. We will have project club signups and refreshments. The open house also serves as a membership drive, with awards given to the club who enrolls the most *NEW* members! So, kids bring your friends and have them join today!! For general questions, please call 863-993-4846.

4-H County Council

County Council meetings are a great way to stay updated about County and Club level activities. These meetings are open to all Club Delegates, Leaders, Volunteers, and Parents involved with the DeSoto County 4-H program. The **first County Council meeting of the year will start October 4th, 2010 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.

MANDATORY FAIR MEETING FOR SWINE EXHIBITORS



This event will take place on September 7th, at 7:00pm, at the Desoto County Fairgrounds – Exhibit Hall.

The DeSoto County Fair Association has set up a **Mandatory** Swine meeting for all 4-H and FFA youth planning to show in the 2011 county fair. This event will take place on September 7th, at 7:00pm, at the Desoto County Fairgrounds – Exhibit Hall.

This meeting will review all fair expectations of swine exhibitors and their parents or guardians. In addition to fair guidelines, fair membership forms will be filled out and collected that evening, along with the \$25.00 membership fee. If you have any questions pertaining to this event, please contact the DeSoto County Swine Chairman: Jami Olive @ 863-990-5062 e-mail: jamiolive@embarqmail.com

The Swine Weigh-In will be held on October 3rd at The DeSoto County Fairgrounds. Weigh-In Time will be from 8:00am to 10:00am.

Helpful Hints.....

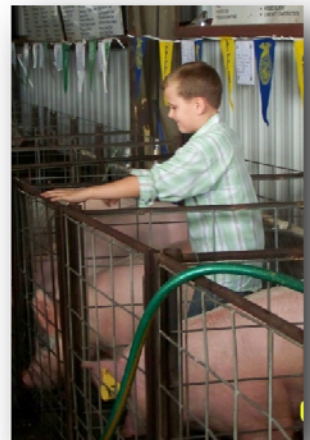
- Hogs should be bought the weekend of Sept 18th & 19th or 24th & 26th.
- Hogs should be bought between 40 & 60 lbs., if bought two weeks early.

DeSoto 4-H Rooters Swine Club

Calling all 4-H Swine Exhibitors!!!!

It's that time of year again; 4-H meetings are beginning and fair projects are being discussed or picked out!! This being the case DeSoto 4-H Rooters Swine club will be holding their **first meeting on September 14th, at 6:00pm.** All swine meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please mark your calendars. This meeting is imperative for all Swine exhibitors and their parents to attend. We will be enrolling all youth, signing bonafide forms, discussing upcoming meetings and workshops, and answering all questions. We hope to see everyone there!!!

There *WILL* be some changes this year to the swine club format, which will be discussed at the 1st meeting.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES.....



Congress

Three DeSoto County 4-H'ers attended Congress the week of July 26th – 30th. This event is where a limited amount of 4-H youth from across the state made their way to the University of Florida campus for "Florida 4-H Congress." Throughout the week youth participate in competitive events, leadership programs, sustainability programs, and other educational workshops. Moreover, the state competitive events are where the best of the best showcased their skills through demonstrations, judging events, scholarship portfolios, and award interviews.

This year DeSoto County sent three 4-H youth to congress; however, only two competed. These two individuals were William Crites and Zachary Knight. William was a District X - Public Speaking winner and Zachary Knight a computer science illustrated talk, event winner. Both the youth represented our county very well. William was noted for his impromptu abilities and placed among the top five and Zack became eligible to take his illustrated talk to the national level. Furthermore, DeSoto County 4-H is very proud of these boys. CONGRADULATIONS!!

4-H Camps

This year DeSoto County 4-H held Two day camps. These camps included a sewing day camp which was hosted by Janet Howard and a Sea Camp conducted by Danielle Pfeil, Christi Pryor, and Anna Beswick. These camps were full of fun and education. Some 4-H youth loved learning about different sewing techniques and crocheting and others were amazed about sea life and how pollution affects our oceans. These camps were offered to the general public, not just youth previously enrolled in our program and because of the fun had by all, DeSoto 4-H gained new members!!

Thank You Janet Howard & Danielle Pfeil for all you did!!



A few members of the sewing group, with their fearless leader!!



How many 4-H'ers does it take to cut out a pattern?



Ms. Janet gives Emily some words of advice.....

Sea Camp

Youth learn about pollution & what happens to the ocean and marine life after an oil spill.



Sea Camp

At Mote Marine Youth learn about aquatic life.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES Cont.

Jr. Cattlemen's 4-H

On July 22nd the Florida Cattlemen's convention began; moreover, during that time the Jr. Cattlemen's state competitions were held. DeSoto County Jr. Cattlemen / 4-H club participated in this activity by competing in the BEEF Quizbowl competition. The all girl team consisted of April Walker, Bailey Lyons, Kodi Strickland, and Haley Webb. The girls were coached by the 4-H Agent, Christi Pryor and studied relentlessly for hours, learning Beef Industry material. The DeSoto team competed from the beginning of round one to the dire end going undefeated until the final match. Furthermore, the DeSoto County 4-H Jr. Cattlemen's Club placed 2nd in the State. This was a great accomplishment for our club and community, as recognition to the youth proved that DeSoto County is still raising smart agricultural youth!!

DeSoto 4-H also wanted to give a special **THANKS** goes to the DeSoto Cattlemen for their support and financial help.



Team (L to R) April Walker, Bailey Lyons, Kodi Strickland, & Haley Webb.



The girls receiving their awards!!

3rd Annual Youth Field Day

(Hosted by the Ona research Station and the SF Beef Forage Program)

This annual event was held June 29th at the Ona research station. The classes were designed to give students more in-depth, technical, hands-on instruction to strengthen their knowledge in a variety of agriculture disciplines. DeSoto County had several youth attend and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves; as well as, learn a great deal of information.

(L) Austin Beswick Learning to Implant Beef Cattle.



(M) Raif Prevatt enjoys learning about Wildfires !!

(R) Lane Prevatt is taking notes on plant identification.

4-H Awards Information....

4-H Awards



DeSoto County 4-H Awards are given to youth who turn in Blue Ribbon record books, fill out Achievement, Citizenship, & / or, Leadership forms, and Standards of Excellence forms. **All the forms and Record books are due back into the office by Thursday, September 16th at 5:00pm.** Youth receiving awards from forms will be eligible for the Awards trip. The awards trip will be determined by the county council delegates, in October.

In addition, to receiving awards from these forms, youth may also receive recognition for events they have participated in or accomplishments they have gained throughout the year. If you have any questions concerning awards, please contact Miss Christi at the 4-H office.

2009 – 2010 4-H Awards Banquet

The 4-H year starts September 1st and ends August 31st. Therefore, DeSoto 4-H has opted to hold their *Year End* Banquet in October. By doing this it allows all the youth and volunteers to get recognized for their accomplishments from the entire previous year. This year's banquet will be held on October 14th at 6:00pm. This event will be held at the Turner Center. DeSoto 4-H plans to recognize all volunteers, youth, and fellow associations who helped make this organization thrive. We hope to see you there!!

For members planning on attending please bring a covered dish that feeds your family plus 4. You will need to RSVP to Mrs. Cindy Heflin by Friday, October 8th at 5:00pm. (863-993-4846)

It is **Highly Suggested** for all 4-H members to wear 4-H Official Dress!!

4-H Volunteers

The DeSoto county 4-H program is still expanding. This being said, our youth are out numbering the amount of adults that is necessary to provide proper education. Moreover, if you have several hours to provide in a month, and are knowledgeable in a project area, DeSoto 4-H would love to have you.

Our current clubs consist of:

The BEEF Club

The Traildusters Horse Club

The Shooting Sports Club

Anglers Fishing Club

The Swine Club

The Rabbit Club

Jr. Cattlemen's 4-H

The Cooking Club

The Just Kidding Goat Club

The Beaks & Bills Poultry Club

A Stitch In Time Sewing Club

All clubs would appreciate help. Moreover, if there is any project area not listed above which you think would provide a positive, educational & fun experience for our youth, let Miss Christi know. DeSoto 4-H is always looking to expand their horizons.

Please keep in mind it only takes 5 youth and a leader to create a 4-H club. There is national 4-H curriculum available at the extension office. This curriculum can serve as a guide to help provide a new and encouraging experience to engaged youth.

“What Makes a Good 4-H Club Officer”

It's the moment of truth and you hear your name. This is followed by your leader stating all in favor of, please raise your hand. You then hear the same phrase for your competitor. The next thing you know both of you are being escorted back into the room. You look around and people are smiling and winking; your just not sure who their smiling at. Before you can figure it out, your leader announces your name and that you were elected to the office which you were running for. The crowd goes wild, you smile, say thank you and wonder....now what? You want to do a good job but you can't help pondering..."what makes a good club officer."

If this scenario sounds familiar, here are some helpful hints to guide you along the way.

To be a good 4-H officer you must know what is expected of you and how to carry out your responsibilities. You must also know the duties of other officers so that all of you can work together as a team. The 4-H Officer Guide will help you prepare for the job ahead. Read it carefully. You may also obtain help from your leader, junior leader, or others who have served as officers in the past. Plan to attend officer training meetings if they are held in your county. Learn as much as you can about how to work as an officer.

Responsibilities of 4-H Officers:

Being an officer of a 4-H club carries special responsibilities. Review them often to determine how well you are doing. Help the club set goals for the year, then work with all of the members to reach those goals. Help the club work together in harmony. The club does not belong to the officers nor is it necessary for the officers to do **everything**. Make certain everyone has a chance to speak, even the youngest and newest members of the group. Help all members feel good about belonging to the group. Be willing to give credit to others. Help other members be involved. Encourage younger members to participate in discussion and activities and older members to do some of the more difficult tasks. Be fair to everyone and respect their rights to ideas and opinions. Be a good example for the club. Be on time, be courteous to members and leaders, and do your best on tasks assigned to you.

Author: http://4h.unl.edu/pdf/officer_guide.pdf

Altered By: Christi Pryor – 4-H Youth Extension Agent I

New Year Officer Training & Installation

Every year DeSoto 4-H holds their officer training to familiarize youth of their position responsibilities and allows them to learn how to properly conduct a meeting. Every office and officer is vitally important because this group is a Team of Leaders. It takes the team working together to engage and teach all the youth in their club. DeSoto 4-H will be hosting their training on Thursday, October 28th at 6:00pm. The event will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church, in Rice Hall, located on E. Oak St. All leaders and volunteers are welcome to come and participate. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Going Green

As DeSoto County strives to “Go Green” and help reduce waste in our community, so does our county 4-H program. This being said we are looking at all factors to help minimize the utilization of natural resources. Therefore, in the 2010 – 2011 we will try to switch youth and parents over to an electric form (e-mail) of the Green Express. To do this properly, I need parents and youth to e-mail Miss Christi @ cpryor@ufl.edu stating that they would like an electronic copy of the newsletter and will no longer require it in paper form. The great thing about doing this, is that the electronic copies of the newsletter will be received 1 to 2 weeks prior to hard copy forms. Moreover, if there are any last minute changes or additions to club functions, you can be notified in a very timely manner.

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/>



AUGUST

30 4-H Open House – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm

SEPTEMBER

- 02 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 07 Mandatory Fair Swine Meeting – Fair Exhibit Hall – 7:00pm
- 09 Shooting Sports (Rifle) – DeSoto Gun Club – 6:00pm
- 10 Shooting Sports (Shotgun) – Imperial Polk Gun Club – 6:00pm
- 13 4-H BEEF Meeting – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 13 4-H Rabbit Club – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 14 Rooters Swine Club – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 16 Just Kidding Goat Club – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 16 Record Books and Award Forms Due – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 16 Shooting Sports (Rifle) – DeSoto Gun Club – 6:00pm
- 17 Shooting Sports (Shotgun) – Imperial Polk Gun Club – 6:00pm
- 19 “Rabbit Workshop Expo ” – Manatee Co. Fairgrounds
- 20 Fair Association Meetings – Fair Exhibit Hall – 7:00pm
- 21 Beaks & Bills Poultry Club – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 27 Traildusters Horse Club – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:30pm
- 27 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – C.E.O. – 5:00pm

OCTOBER

- 03 Swine Weigh In – Fairgrounds – 8:00am – 10:00am
- 04 Leader and Volunteer Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 07 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 07 Shooting Sports (Rifle) – DeSoto Gun Club – 6:00pm
- 08 Shooting Sports (Shotgun) – Imperial Polk Gun Club – 6:00pm
- 08 **RSVP for 4-H Banquet**
- 11 4-H BEEF Meeting – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 11 4-H Rabbit Club – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 12 Rooters Swine Club – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 14 4-H “2010” Banquet – Turner Arena – 6:00pm
- 18 Fair Association Meetings – Fair Exhibit Hall – 7:00pm
- 19 Beaks & Bills Poultry Club – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 21 Just Kidding Goat Club – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 25 Traildusters Horse Club – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:30pm
- 25 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 28 Officer Training & Installation – Calvary Baptist Church – 6:00pm
- 30 Poultry Swap Meet – Fairgrounds – 8:00am – 1:00pm
- 31 **Halloween**

About Our Organization.....

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