

Dec. / Jan.
2010 Vol DC2

The 4-H Green Express

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

Leader - Volunteer Round UP

As the year has progressively rolled on the attendance in the leader / volunteer meetings have been amazing. We have packed out the Symons room on numerous occasions and the discussion for all 4-H county events has been plentiful. Business discussed has included four community service events, additional leader trainings, educational seminars, county finances, club activities, youth field days, and more. The executive board was elected; officers include, President: Jayme Skinner, Vice President: Danielle Pfeil, Secretary: Cindy Heflin, and Treasurer: Susan Hatcher. The next meeting will be held January 3rd at 6:00pm.

4-H County Council

The county council is off to a great start. We have had representatives from all active clubs and the discussion has been wonderful. The club delegates are working hard by participating in community service events for DeSoto County, they are planning our upcoming holiday party, giving ideas for county events, and taking a leadership role by presenting the information to their individual clubs.

Our last meeting primarily focused on the county Christmas Party, the Darrel Nicklow Jr. Fundraiser, Christmas Card Lane, and the dynamics of being a county council member. The next County Council meeting will be held on December 6th, at 6:00pm at the County Extension Office.

A Country Christmas

DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual Christmas Parade and Christmas Card Lane contest. DeSoto 4-H has opted to participate in both events. The Christmas card was produced by the county council delegates on November 23rd at the County Extension Office. The event was overseen by Miss Christi and Mrs. Sandy Mansfield. The youth started working on the card at 10:00am and continued to work hard throughout the day. The county council delegates voted to tie the Christmas card in with 4-H support for Darrel Nicklow Jr.

Moving on, the parade chairperson is Valerie Robinson. She is putting together a small float and is asking for all youth and horse riders to participate. The float is being assembled on Saturday, December 4th, in the parking lot of the C.E.O. at 9:00am; please come if you are going to partake in this event. If you have interest in this area please contact her at froghollerfarm@embarqmail.com

2010-2011 4-H Club Officers / Installation Update

On October 21st DeSoto County held their annual officer Installation and training for all club officers, at the Calvary Baptist Church. This short-course program allows all youth to learn how to properly fulfill their office duties as well as, allows them a chance to apply their knowledge before taking an official office. Once the training is complete the 4-H youth were installed into their elected positions.

The Following youth should be congratulated for attending this program and on the winning positions:

COUNTY COUNCIL

President	April Walker
Vice President	Brandon Hutson
Secretary	Alana Lee
Treasurer	Emily Hatcher
Historian	Kyrsten Barrera

ROOTERS SWINE CLUB

President	Maison Skinner
Vice President	Donavan Day
Secretary	Brittney Rittenburg
Treasurer	Rogan Davis
Reporter	Pyper Skinner
Historian	Darrell Nicklow Jr.
County Council	Dustin Yauilla Will Nelson

BEEF CLUB

President	Bailey Lyons
Vice President	Bailey Turner
Secretary	Kodi Strickland
Treasurer	Rob Adams
Historian	Hector Manrequiz
County Council	Katie Turner Beth Fussell

BACON BITS SWINE CLUB

President	Taylor Day
Vice President	Seth Zolkos
Secretary	Cameron Day
Treasurer	Bailey Bryant
Reporter	Shea Lipe
Historian	Aubree Patton
County Council	Tyler Mansfield Keirstyn Barrera

TRAILDUSTERS HORSE CLUB

President	Emily Dyal
Vice President	Laryn Pyper Skinner
Secretary	Olivia Dunshee
Treasurer	Alana Lee
Reporter	Carli Romine
Historian	Cassidy Furr
County Delegates	Destiny Malsbury Jonathon Robinson

JUST KIDDING GOAT CLUB

President	Megan Upshaw
Vice President	Caroline Livingston
Secretary	Ashley Trone
Treasurer	Amanda Morgan
Historian	James Gray, Kori Davis, Christina Nelson
County Council	Luke Fields, James Gray Adam Gray

2010-2011 4-H Club officers / Installation Update - Continued

POULTRY CLUB

President	Makayla Kinard
Vice President	Megan Kinard
Secretary	Tyler Margita
Treasurer	William Crites
Reporter / Historian	Ben Knight
County Council	Emily Hatcher / Gregory Pfeil

RABBIT CLUB

President	Kelli Allen
Vice- president	Cheyenne Holt
Secretary	Haylie Barnhill
Reporter	Jessica Backer
Historian	Tiffany Bowen
Treasurer	Megan Upshaw
County Council	Kirstyn Barrera Hayley Allen

SEWING CLUB

President	Emily Hatcher
Vice President	Jonathan Robinson
Secretary	Destiny Parish
Treasurer	Ricky Hatcher
Historian/Reporter	Emily Dyal
County Council	Lauren Hatcher Hailey Parsley

SHOOTING SPORTS

President	Emily Hatcher
Vice President	Tyler Margita
Secretary	Sully Crawford
Treasurer	Rustin Dupuis
Reporter	Hayleigh McCall
County Council	David Herbert
County Council	Alana Lee

COOKING CLUB

President	Jonathon Robinson
Vice President	Pyper Skinner
Secretary	Kristen Vermiler
Treasurer	Gage Baucom
Reporter	Macy Baucom
Historian	Kolby Baucon
County Council	Seth Baucom Carly Romine

JR. CATTLEMENS CLUB

President	April Walker
Vice President	Bailey Lyons
Secretary	Kodi Strickland

**THANK YOU to ALL the Volunteers
who helped with the 4-H Installation and Officer Installation**

4-H Jackets

DeSoto County 4-H will be doing their annual 4-H jacket purchase this year on DECEMBER 22nd. This means if you are interested in purchasing a jacket to exhibit your project in, you need to have your order submitted to the extension office before this date. Moreover, please remember the more jackets we order, the greater the price reduction. There will be trial sizes available at the County Extension Office, on Dec 10th.

If you already have a jacket but your youth have out grown them you can put them up for a reduced resale here at the extension office and we will help sell them. Please call Miss Christi if you have additional questions. 863-993-4846

Holiday Events

Christmas Party

On December 16th, 2010 DeSoto 4-H will be holding their annual holiday party. However, this year the party will be sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dow; so be sure to THANK them when you arrive and before you leave. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers served. The party will be held at the fairgrounds, starting at 6:00. In addition, there will be plenty of games to participate in and fun will be had by all.

The theme of this party is the *Gators*; which was selected by our county council delegates. So, be sure to coordinate your holiday attire with orange and blue.

Toys 4 Tots

DeSoto 4-H would like to help the 1st Church of the Nazarene in their quest to raise toys for the *Toys 4 Tots* program. Steve Rackmill, from Art Creations of Arcadia is leading this project. He will be dropping off the official box at our county extension office. If you choose to participate in this event by dropping off a toy, DeSoto 4-H will add this to your community service list; which goes towards the end of the year awards. Moreover, this is a great way to help out our community youth, who are less fortunate. For further questions, please call Steve at 863-491-0202.

Fair News

As the fair draws near it is important to check your rule book and see what defining dates are coming upon us. Please see the following as helpful reminders.

BEEF:

12/1/2010 – 3 Buyers letters due. They are to be turned into the County Extension office no later than 5:00pm. There will be **NO** extensions!!!!

SWINE:

12/12/2010 - 3 Buyers letters due. **Bring to Fairgrounds** between 8:00am – 9:00am. Letters are to be self addressed, stamped, and unsealed. They are to be handed to Mrs. Jamie Olive. Failure to due this will result in the disqualification of showing your hog.

POULTRY:

Check in is on the 21st from 4-7pm for the Layer Show. The Layer show is on the 22nd at 12pm. Check in for exhibition is on Sunday, the 23rd from 3-4pm; moreover, check out for layers' is at the same time. Exhibition show is Saturday the 29th at 1pm - Showmanship with judging directly after. Check out for all birds is on the 30th at 1pm. Contact Danielle Pfeil if you have any questions.

****All fair exhibitors need to have NPIP numbers before fair check in. Any birds that do not have their NPIP will not be allowed to check in.****

FAIR SPONSORSHIP:

The DeSoto County Fair Association is starting an ad contest where youth winners of each project area can win \$50.00. Any ads sold must be given to the Fair Program Chairperson, Jayme Skinner. In addition, all ads sold must have an Ad sheet completed. Moreover, the business may want to submit payment to the PO Box listed on the advertisement sheet. This is permissible; however, a copy of the completed advertisement sheet must still be given to the Fair Program Chairperson by the date specified. Awards will be given for the exhibitor or contestant who sells the most Ads in regards to the amount of money that was collected per their division.

Fair News Cont'd

SCARE CROW DECORATING CONTEST:

The DeSoto County Fair has come up with a new contest for all 4-H clubs and FFA chapters to participate in. Winners will receive cash prizes of 1st - \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd - \$15. The rules are as follows.

1. FFA Chapters or 4-H Clubs must pre-enter by January 7, 2011.
2. The Desoto County Fair will provide a 5' x 3' wooden frame for each participating Chapter/Club to decorate.
3. Scarecrows should be decorated according to either the theme of the Fair – “Making Tracks to the Fair” or their individual group project area.
4. Entries will be judged on eye appeal, construction, use of materials, and creativity.
5. Scarecrows must be decorated and entered at the Fairgrounds by Thursday, January 20th, 2011, by 7:00pm. Entries will be judged Sunday, January 23rd, 2011.
6. The scarecrows should be decorated with a good clean wholesome nature. No vulgar or suggestive decorations will be allowed. Please call Danielle Pfeil with any questions at (863) 990 - 4280.
7. Decorations should be weather and wind-proof.
8. NO Commercial or Political party signs of ANY KIND are allowed.
9. Decorations may not be removed from scarecrows before Sunday, January 30th at 1:00 p.m. Decorations must be removed starting at 1:00pm. Any scarecrows / decorations not removed by Sunday, January 30th, 5:00pm will be discarded

4-H EXHIBIT BOOTH:

As we prepare for fair season, it important to remember that we have an exhibit booth to fill up. **There are numerous arts, crafts, and food projects that can be done and displayed for all of our community to see.** Entry forms and projects guides may be picked up at the County Extension Office. The booklet / guide will be readily available on December 1st. The entry deadline for the exhibit booth is Wednesday, January 12th at 5:00pm. Please return your forms to the 4-H office. The judging for exhibits will be Friday, January 14th at 6:00pm. We would appreciate as many youth participating in this event as possible.

Also, if you are interested in helping create and decorate the fair exhibit booth, please contact Miss Christi 863-993-4846. As usual she needs all the help she can get ☺ Furthermore, this years fair theme is “Making Tracks To The Fair.”

4-H FAIR CONCESSION:

The 4-H will be doing their annual concession stand during the fair. Every club is responsible for running at least one day of this concession. The starting date will be Friday, January 21st and the closing date will be Saturday, January 29th. All Clubs will be responsible for filling their time slots. Parents please know the more of you that sign up the less time you will need to donate. Sign ups for the club concession dates will be held at the leader volunteer meeting. Moreover, once a club has secured a date, the leaders will bring it back to their clubs and parents may sign up for slotted times. Parents if you have any questions please talk to your club leaders. Thank you!!

SPECIAL NOTES FOR ALL 4-H CLUBS:

The DeSoto County Fair begins on Thursday, January 20th and ends on Sunday, January 30th. Moreover, DeSoto 4-H works closely with the fair association during the entire two weeks (January 16th – 30th). With this being such a hard time there will be no scheduled 4-H meetings during this period. Youth should use the allotted excess time to work on exhibit booth projects, animal exhibits, or concession stand help. Furthermore, when the fair is over, 4-H meetings will fall on their normal scheduled times and dates.

Club Reports

Rooters Swine Club:

The past two meetings covered a lot of ground. We talked about different types of hogs, parts of the hog, and where we could get hogs. We also held club officer elections and participated in several group activities. Overall the meetings were very informative and we got a lot done.

A Stitch In Time Sewing Club:

Our club has been working on the 4-H quilt and sewing aprons. Moreover, we had a business meeting, in which we talked about several fundraising ideas and other objects we could create. Other activities we are working on include skirts and hand bags. Furthermore, our next meeting is on December 2nd.

Cooking Club:

The last Cooking Club Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. We met at the Turner Exhibit Hall and enjoyed the space that was allotted. During the meeting we went over several new recipes' and how to properly measure and cook food. In addition, we talked about duties of officer positions. Following the descriptions of officer positions, we elected officers. The meeting was really good and we hope to have just as much fun at the next meeting.

Beef Club:

The beef club has been very busy this year. The past few meetings have allowed us to travel to the market where we have learned about real prices of cattle. We have also had Purina representatives come in and talk to us about feeding our calves, as well as, we have talked about signs of sickness. Our next meeting is on December 13th at 6:00pm at the County Extension Office.

Bacon Bits Swine Club:

The last meeting was held on November 9th. Mrs. Cindy met with the officers early to go over their speaking parts. Moreover, during this meeting we did a crossword puzzle that named parts of the swine animal, we talked about the Darrel Nicklow Jr. BBQ benefit, Miss Christi talked about how to complete our record book, and more. It was a really good meeting and we had a lot of fun.

DeSoto Rabbit Club:

The Rabbit Club met on November 8 at the Turner Exhibit Hall and enjoyed the space that our growing club desperately needed. The club has grown to now 45 members! During the meeting we went over several bunny subjects like rabbit selection, breed identification, health and nutrition. We have since had two workshop where we went over showmanship, grooming, proper handling and tattooing to get the rabbits ready for show. On October 9th we had two members attend an ARBA rabbit show in Sarasota, FL where they did well.

1st Annual Okeechobee Youth Field Day

The 2010 Okeechobee Youth Ag Field day was developed to provide a technical, hands-on learning opportunity for participants enhancing their knowledge in a variety of agricultural related area. This year's program will have a specific focus on beef cattle production and ranching in Florida. The Okeechobee Youth Ag Field Day strives to educate MATURE students between the ages of 8 – 18 years of age. In order to maximize the quality of this presentation, space is limited to 150 participants. Registration is REQUIRED for all participants including adults in attendance. Registration includes lunch and any literature. Groups will rotate through activities, allowing all students to participate in each learning activity. For further information contact Miss Christi at 863-993-4846.

Field Day Activities
Bug Free Beef
Workin' Cows
Packing the Cowherd Pounds
Weed Scavenger Hunt
Beef Reproduction
Kelly Blue Book for Beef Cattle.

Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop

The Florida State Fair, along with multiple county fairs, throughout the State of Florida believe that every youth exhibitor should receive proper training and information for raising and showing animal projects. With this in mind, the Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Training Program was developed. DeSoto County Fair does NOT require this course; however, several surrounding counties do, including the state fair. Therefore, DeSoto County is hosting an ethics training on December 4th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. To register for this event please go to <http://www.floridastatefairag.com/ethics>

This program has been endorsed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

Going Green - Reminder

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 electronic 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.

If an electronic copy or e-mail notification does not work for you, please know that your information will remain on hand and you will receive the Green Express bi-monthly.

Darrel Nicklow Jr. – 4-H Fundraiser BBQ

On November 13th, Desoto 4-H held a BBQ fundraiser to help support Darrel Nicklow Jr. and his family. The BBQ was coordinated by Cindy Heflin, our 4-H Bacon Bits leader and the bake sale was headed up by Susan Hatcher, the Shooting sports club leader. Darrel has Muscular Dystrophy (MD) which has caused his heart to go into congenative heart failure. With this being stated he and his family have been in and out of Children’s Hospitals. During this hard time his family has been suppressed economically; therefore, Desoto 4-H wanted to help in any way possible.

As Mrs. Cindy began to coordinate the BBQ numerous volunteers jumped into help; several items were donated and multiple donations were given. The BBQ turned out to be one of the greatest fundraisers we’ve ever had. Between the BBQ and the Bake sale; DeSoto 4-H raised almost \$2,500.00, which was presented to Darrel and his family on November 15, 2010. Upon the check presentation we had major supporters come out to greet him.

A special THANKS goes out to the entire Patton family, Jim Selph, Buddy & Sandy Mansfield, Cindy Heflin, Susan Hatcher, DeSoto Sign – Johnson, and all those who participated in this event. We appreciate all your help in making this occasion a huge success.





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 4-H DEPARTMENT
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 or



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18 U.S.C. 707

"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."

About Our Organization.....

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. The Florida 4-H Program is the youth development program of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Larry R. Arrington, Dean.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

DECEMBER

- 01 Beef Letters Due – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 01 Rabbit Pre-Entries are due – C.E.O. – 5:00
- 02 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – C.E.O. – 4:00pm
- 03 Shooting Sports - Imperial Polk Gun Club – Leave C.E.O. @ 4:00pm
- 04 Ethics Seminar – C.E.O. – 9:00am – 12:00pm
- 04 Beaks & Bills Poultry Club – C.E.O. – 1:00pm
- 04 Parade Float Decorating – C.E.O. Parking Lot – 9:00am
- 04 Shooting Sports (Rifle) – DeSoto Gun Club

Promptly 9:00am – 10:30am

Promptly 10:45am – 12:15pm

Call in or e-mail time slot preference 863-990-0718 or daddyhatch4@aol.com

- 06 Leader and Volunteer Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 06 County Council Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 11 Just Kidding Goat Club – Fairgrounds – 11:00am (**Mandatory**)
- 12 Swine Buyers Letters Due – Fairgrounds – 8:00am – 9:00am
- 13 4-H BEEF Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 13 4-H Rabbit Club – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 14 Rooters Swine Club – Fair Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 14 Bacon Bits Swine Club - Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 16 DeSoto 4-H Christmas Party – Fairgrounds – 6:00pm
- 17 Shooting Sports - Imperial Polk Gun Club – Leave C.E.O. @ 4:00pm
- 19 "Rabbit Workshop Expo" – Manatee Co. Fairgrounds
- 20 Fair Association Meetings – Fair Exhibit Hall – 7:00pm
- 27 Traildusters Horse Club – Arcadia Saddle Club – 6:30pm

JANUARY

- 03 Leader and Volunteer Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 03 County Council Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 06 A Stitch In Time Sewing Club – C.E.O. – 4:00pm
- 07 Goat Record Books Due – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 07 Shooting Sports - Imperial Polk Gun Club – Leave C.E.O. @ 4:00pm
- 08 Shooting Sports (Rifle) – DeSoto Gun Club

Promptly 9:00am – 10:30am

Promptly 10:45am – 12:15pm

- 10 4-H BEEF Meeting – C.E.O. – 6:00pm
- 10 4-H Rabbit Club – Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 11 Rooters Swine Club – Fair Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 11 Bacon Bits Swine Club - Turner Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 12 Exhibit Booth Entry Deadline – C.E.O. – 5:00pm
- 13 Just Kidding Goat Club Workshop – T.B.A. – 6:00pm
- 14 Exhibit Booth Judging – Fair Exhibit Hall – 6:00pm
- 16 Hog Final Weigh In – Fairgrounds – 8:00am – 9:00am
- 17 Steer Weigh In – Arcadia Stockyards – 8:00am – 9:00am
- 18 Beaks & Bills Poultry Club – Fairgrounds – 6:00pm
- 21 Poultry "Layers" Check In – Fairgrounds – 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- 22 Rabbit Check In - Fairgrounds – 7:00am – 8:00am
- 23 Poultry "Exhibition" Check In – Fairgrounds – 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 23 Poultry "Layers" Check **OUT** – Fairgrounds – 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 26 Goat Check In – Fairgrounds – 3:00pm