NEW YEARS GREETING’S

I wanted to take the time to wish all of our 4-H youth, parents, and volunteers a happy New Year. I am very pleased with how our 4-H programs going. This coming February will be my two year mark as your agent. Moreover, as I look around I see many of our youth gaining numerous life skills; as well as, independence, mastery among project areas, and generosity towards others. These skills and characteristics are what make our youth today the positive role models for tomorrow. With that being said, I want to commend the youth for being open minded to new suggestions, applaud our parents for staying involved with our youth and this 4-H organization, and honor our leaders and volunteers because without their knowledge and dedication our program would cease to exist. Furthermore, I hope the 2009 year brings everyone an abundant amount of laughs and pleasant memories.

4-H LEADER/VOLUNTEER/_PARENT MEETING

Leader/Volunteer meetings are a great way to stay updated about County and Club level activities. These meetings are open to all Leaders, Volunteers, and Parents involved with our County 4-H program. These meetings are a way to discuss and plan events for the youth throughout the year. All meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. The next meetings will take place on Monday, February 2, 2009, 6:00 PM at the DeSoto County Extension Office.

The January leaders meeting was well attended with the majority of discussion focusing around fair. The 4-H exhibit booth combined the state 4-H 100th year Centennial theme with the 2009 fair theme; “Family Fun at the Fair”. The county 4-H program also conducted a strawberry shortcake concession stand, in which every club took on one day. In addition to the organizational happenings, the club leaders talked some about their club programs and important dates that were to come. All in all, it was a very informational meeting and I appreciate everyone’s suggestions and attendance.

The February Meeting was equally as important as we set some tentative dates for the banquet. We are looking at several possibilities for the month of May. It was suggested to leave the theme up to the youth and to keep this event youth lead. The leaders also went over 4-H’s purpose in Ag. In the Classroom; as well as, dates for County Events. All in all it was a good and brief meeting. If anyone is interested about additional happenings please call the 4-H office and speak with Miss Christi 993-4846.
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The County council has really grown this year and our youth have been responsible for making several really important decisions. I appreciate their dedication and their enthusiasm as it makes these business meetings fun. The January meeting was one of the shorter meetings as we reviewed and discussed the Christmas party, the county pledge contest, the Christmas card, and several other items. We then talked about upcoming important dates and fair. The meeting ended at 6:30pm.

All meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. The next meeting is March 2nd at 6:00pm. We will start focusing on the end of the year banquet and club delegates are encouraged to be there. Each of the 4-H clubs is asked to send their County Council delegates (President, and one elected official or two appointed delegates) to the council meeting, to represent their club. 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.

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 University of Florida / IFAS DeSoto Turner Exhibit Hall, on Thursday, April 2nd. 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 2008 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 16, 2009. Stop by the county extension office to pick up your forms. There will be NO county event workshop this year due to lack of attendance from the previous years; however, if you have any questions PLEASE call or come by the Extension Office and see Miss Christi or Ms. Cherie (863)993-4846

AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Ag in the Classroom will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at DeSoto Middle School. This event is held to exhibit the role agricultural plays in our everyday society to our 6th grade youth. Miss Christi will be sharing a multitude of information pertaining to 4-H and agriculture. In addition, she is looking for 13 4-Hers to help make this event a success. If you are interested please call the DeSoto County Extension Office.

DESOOTO COUNTY CATTLEMEN’S RANCH RODEO

The Florida Cattlemen’s Association held there state wide circuit finals in October of 2008. This event was a huge success. This being the case, The Arcadia Rodeo Association, DeSoto County Cattlemen’s, and DeSoto County 4-H have decided to host the 2nd Cattlemen’s Ranch Rodeo and qualify two new teams to participate in the 2009 circuit finals. This local ranch rodeo will be benefitting DeSoto 4-H. This large scale fundraiser will need numerous volunteers to become a success. The date for this event to take place is, April 17th and 18th at 7:00pm. There are team slots available and sponsorships needed. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact Miss Christi at the 4-H office, 863-993-4846.

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 4th, 5th, and 6th 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.
TRAILDUSTERS HORSE CLUB MEETING
The January meeting of the Trailduster’s horse club was at Mrs. Robinson’s barn. At our meeting we talked about the upcoming fair and signed the schedule to work at the DeSoto County Fair on Friday evening, January 24 from 5:00 till 10:00. All the members enjoyed brushing the horses and after that we saddled them and were able to ride that day.
The next meeting will be Saturday February 14, at 10 AM at the barn at the Robinson’s. We would like to invite all our members to this important meeting.
Submitted By: Emily Dyal

COMPUTER WHIZ KIDZ
Over the last several meetings we have taken computers apart and learned about the various parts of these computers. Zack Knight made a power-point presentation to help educate the club on computer software. Over the next several meetings this club will further investigate several computer software programs. We have a lot of fun and we hope to see everyone at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held February 19, 2009.
Submitted By: Zack Knight

A STITCH IN TIME SEWING CLUB
The last few meetings have entailed a lot of sewing work. Our club has learned how to sew and how to work sewing machines. We have made purses and are currently working on cuddle buddies. Several people submitted their sewing projects in the fair and received BLUE RIBBONS for them. We are all very proud of them. Our club is very fun and we invite more people to come and participate in this club. Our next meeting is February 5th, 2009. We hope to see you there!!
Submitted By: Alana Lee

ROOTERS SWINE CLUB
At our last meeting we went over a variety of fair rules and talked about our swine projects. The meeting was short and to the point, as it was only several days away from the hog final weigh in. Our next meeting is on February 10th at 6:00pm. We would like to tell all the participants’ of the 2009 DeSoto County Fair “CONGRATULATIONS,” for a job well done. In addition, we wanted to thank everyone who helped out with the concession our club appreciates you time and support.
Submitted By: Kellie Emery

DESOТО ANGLERS FISHING CLUB
The fishing club recently took a fishing trip to the South Florida Community College. We had a lot of fun and learned a lot too. In addition, we have a fish fry planned for February 20th, in which our entire club is looking forward to. We also have another fishing trip planned for the 9th of February; Mrs. Foley will discuss the details to that adventure at our next meeting on February 5th at 4:00pm. Our club has a lot of fun and we all really enjoy catching FISH!!
Submitted By: Marissa Reed

JR. CATTLEMEN’S CLUB
Our last meeting was held in December, which was a dinner meeting. We discussed a few of our upcoming events and noted that our February meeting will start a Full Throttle of events. We appreciate all the parents who helped prepare a dish for our meeting and we Thank them for their support. Our next meeting will be held on February 24th @ 6:00pm.
Submitted By: Jessica Heflin
FAIR NEWS
THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS, LEADERS, AND PARENTS FOR HELPING THE 4-H SHINE AT THE DESOTO COUNTY FAIR!!!

This year’s Exhibit Booth was decorated by a small group of members, parents, and UF Extension staff. The DeSoto County fair had a theme of “Family Fun at The Fair” in which the 4-H tied into also shining the light of our centennial year. Thus the 4-H fair booth read, “100 years of Family fun at the Fair” The booth was decorated with over 44 4-H exhibits and a looped video of the 2008 end of the year banquet slide show. The booth was heavily complimented by members of our community and received a blue ribbon from the fair exhibit booth judges.

The 4-H concession stand also held its own this year. The stand was open for ten days due to the wonderful leaders, parents, members, and volunteers. In addition, DeSoto County 4-H is also very thankful to everyone who baked cakes for the strawberry shortcake and for all the individuals who pitched in and made delicious sweet tea!! We do realize that it has been a very hard year on everyone and your donated time and baked goods mean a great deal. DeSoto 4-H would also like to thank the Shelfer family, as Joshua Citrus donated an abundant amount of their famous strawberry orange juice. Their kindness really contributed to the success of our concession booth.

A special thought of appreciation goes out to Jaclyn for her help in exhibiting the 2008-2009 4-H scholarship steer. Jaclyn won second in the weight gain competition and exhibited her steer exceptionally. Mosaic Phosphates Company purchased the 4-H steer. Not to mention, we are continually grateful to Mosaic for their generosity and support.

DeSoto County 4-H is also very proud of the youth that took the time to create and place exhibits in our Exhibit Booth!!

**2008 LIVESTOCK WINNERS**

DeSoto County 4-H would also like to congratulate all the 2008 County Fair Winners:

### Steer Exhibitors
Grand Champion: Cory Fussell
Reserve Champion: Olivia Shelfer

### Hog Exhibitors
Grand Champion: Donovan Day
Champion: Bailey Sands

### Poultry
Open Grand: Alana Lee
Open Reserve: Megan Kinard

### Grooming Exhibitors
**SR. DIVISION**
1st – Justin Fussell

**JR. DIVISION**
1st – Bailey Turner

### Showmanship Exhibitors
**1st** – Gary Brown

### JR. DIVISION
1st – Bailey Turner

### Weight Gain
1st – Bailey Turner @ 640 lbs.
2nd – Jaelyn Rickenbrode @ 635 lbs.
3rd – Gary Brown @ 600 lbs.

### Rabbit Exhibitors
Open Grand: Jacob Holder
Open Reserve: Colby Carroll
Youth Grand: Lacey Lester
Youth Reserve: Megan Upshaw

### Beef Breeding Exhibitors
Grand Champion: Krista Court
Reserve Champion: Justin Fussell

### Rabbit Showmanship Exhibitors
Open: 1st Erica Prestipino, 2nd Robbie Dixon, 3rd Jacob Lambert
Jr: 1st Harley Allen, 2nd Lacey Lester, 3rd Kristen Barrera
Sr: 1st Kelly Allen, 2nd Megan Upshaw, 3rd Daffeny Churchill

### Goat Showmanship Exhibitors
Open: Madison Hanners
Jr: Emma Heitman

### Goats
Grand Champion Meat Goat: Alan Michael Floyd
Reserve Champion Meat Goat: Madison Hanners
Grand Champion Dairy Goat: Luke Fields
Reserve Champion Dairy Goat: Clinton Keen

**Showmanship Exhibitors**
Open: Madison Hanners
Jr: 1st Makayla Kinard
2nd Emily Hatcher
3rd William Crites
This program consisted 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 are transferred into our 4-H youth’s decorated flower pots.

In December the planters were distributed by our 4-H’ers to patients at DeSoto Memorial Hospital, DeSoto Manor, and the Arcadia Oaks Assisted Living. In doing this, 4-H hoped to brighten up the Holiday Season. This program involves citizenship, creative arts, and horticulture for the 4-H members and school students. In addition, it is a fun way to create a small friendly competition amongst the youth. The winning results are as followed:

HOLIDAY PLANTERS WINNERS 2008

**Top Three Senior 4-H**

1. Kellie Emery - Swine Club
2. Kodi Strickland - Beef Club
3. Josie Davidson - Beef Club

**Senior club motif**

1. Anthony Bonds - Fishing Club
2. Zackary Knight - Computer Club
3. Michael Pelham - Swine Club

**Intermediate 4-H**

1. Lauren Hatcher - Poultry Club
2. Alana Lee - Horse and Sewing Club
3. Emily Hatcher - Poultry Club

**Intermediate club motif**

1. Marisa Reed - Fishing Club and Horse Club
2. Shenna Wordell - Sewing club
3. Nathan Rayburn - Fishing Club

**Junior 4-H**

1. Tyler Margita - Poultry Club
2. Brianna Gibson - Rabbit Club
3. James Gray - Fishing Club

**Junior Club Motif**

1. Gunner Pelham - Swine Club
2. Sean Prestipino - Rabbit and Poultry Club
3. Savana Barney - Horse Club and Scarpbook Club

**Clover buds**

1. Jacob Lambert - Poultry Club
2. Madison Hanners - Goat Club
3. Luke Hatcher - Poultry Club
4. Erica Prestipino - Rabbit and Poultry Club
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

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, 993-4846.

100 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

Florida 4-H will kickoff the Centennial Celebration at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, FL, February 5-16, 2009. Different Counties will be hosting a hole putt-putt golf course in the Ag Hall of Fame Building on the Florida State Fairgrounds. Each hole will be decorated to represent a different program area offered in 4-H. Every 4-H district will be represented with a district banner hanging from the ceiling. This celebration will be one to be remembered so be sure to get down to the state fair and participate in all the fun.

Farm Fest

DeSoto County 4-H will be participating in Farm Fest this year. Farm Fest is an annual event with food vendors, arts & crafts, truck, car, and tractor displays, tractor pulls, rides, music all day, bbq contest, numerous vendors, various livestock shows, and more attractions being added. This is the Turner Centers grand return after missing a few years due to damage from the '04 hurricanes. What a great way to spend the day with the family. 4-H will be serving strawberry shortcake and possibly helping host a poultry show. The dates for this event are: March 21st & 22nd and time start on Saturday at 11:00 am-11:00 pm; Sunday at 11:00 am-6:00 pm. This is a great family event and we look forward to seeing everyone there.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

38th Annual Valentine’s Day Horse Show - This show is put on by Indian Rivers local Horsemasters’ 4-H Horse Club. All proceeds benefit the 4-H’ers of that club. This fine event takes place at Indian River Riding Club Arena – Vero Beach, Sunday, February 15, 2009 - 8:00am – RAIN OR SHINE

4-H Sporting Clay Shootout – This event is sponsored by the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation. It takes place on February 7, 2009 at Sarasota Trap, Skeet and Clays (Knight Trail Park – 3445 Rustic Rd. Nokomis, FL) For more information and Registration go to www.sc4hfd.org

Central Florida Fair 4-H Fashion Show 2009 – This Fashion Review Show is an open chance to all 4-H’ers who have an interest in the fashion or sewing industry. All garments must be constructed and modeled by Florida 4-H Youth. In addition, the contest consists of three age divisions each with different garment categories. DEADLINES are as followed: Entry Forms are due by Friday, March 27th (postmarked). Juniors forms must be sent to: Sherie Wildermuth, Orange County Extension Office, 6021 S. Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812. Intermediate forms must be sent to Pat Trautman, 4-H Office, 700 Park Ave. Titusville 32780. Finally, Senior forms must be sent to: Shirley Ellison, Volusia County Extension Office, 3100 E. New York Ave, Deland, FL 32724. The Fashion Show will be on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Central Florida Fair. For further information please contact Miss Christi at cpryor@ufl.edu or 863-993-4846.

Poultry BBQ Demonstration Contest - The state contest is tentatively set to be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at 4-H Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid (Highlands County), Florida. The contest will begin at 9:00am with set-up at 8:30am. The purpose of this contest is to develop leadership talents and to work toward achieving the broad objectives of developing sound character and effective citizenship. It is also to help youth acquire scientific knowledge and improved understanding of the economy, versatility, and nutritional value of chicken broiler meat and its relationship to human nutrition and health; as well as, to help 4-H’ers develop skills in the preparation and use of chicken and to acquire the ability to express their ideas through participation in projects, talks, discussions, demonstrations and exhibits. For more information please see the Florida 4-H website http://florida4h.org/events/poultry_events.shtml

2009 Spring Kowtown Klassic Open Youth Beef Heifer Show - Feb 14 – 15 2009 at Osceola County Fair, 1911 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Bateman at rbat2@osceola.org – Moreover, please mail all entry forms to: KVLS, Inc. c/o Priscilla Edwards 260 Woodlawn Terrace Kissimmee, Fl. 34744 or Fax to 407-891-2800. Make checks payable to KVLS. Entry fee is $25.00 per head. All pre entries must be postmarked by Friday, February 6, 2009 to avoid a $10.00/per calf late fee. Showmanship is $10.00 per entry. Show to be held at the KVLS Building at Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee. Arrival - Times: Friday February 13, 2009 3-6 p.m. or Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:00 -10:00am

Horse Appreciation Day – On March 7th Smith’s Ranch & Garden will be hosting an Equine Clinic to pay tribute to the horse appreciation day. This clinic entails a speaker from Purina, speaking on animal health and nutrition. The Traildusters 4-H horse Club will be holding a concession during this time as well. The time of the event will be from 12:00pm – 4:00pm. All are welcome to come, as they will have feed, tack, and health supplies on sale. For more information on the event please contact Durward or Justin Smith @ Smith’s Ranch & Garden.
**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>A Stitch in Time Sewing Club – 5:00pm – C.E.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Anglers Fishing Club - 4:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Beef Club - 6:00pm - Fussell’s Frozen Food Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>DeSoto Rabbit Club – 6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Anglers Fishing Club - 4:00pm – Chamber of commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rooter’s Swine Club - 6:00pm Turner Exhibit</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sewing Club - 6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trailduster’s Horse - 10:00am – Valerie Robinson Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Scrapbooking - 5:30pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Whiz Kidz Computer – 6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Anglers Fishing Club Dinner Gathering – 5:00pm – Turner Ex. Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>A Stitch in Time Sewing Club – 5:00pm – C.E.O.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Poultry Club -6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Jr. Cattlemen’s Club - 6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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**MARCH**

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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>County Council - 5:30pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<td>Leaders Meeting - 6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>County Events – 5:30pm – Turner Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>County Council - 5:30pm - C.E.O.</td>
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<td>00</td>
<td>A Stitch in Time Sewing Club – TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>DeSoto Rabbit Club – 6:00pm - C.E.O.</td>
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*Watch For Changes in April Schedule*
DeSoto County 4-H  
County Events Registration Form

Individual or Team Demonstration or Share the Fun Act __________________________________

Title of Demonstration or Act ________________________________________________________

Name __________________________________________ Phone ______________________________
Date of Birth ___________________ Age (as of Sept 1, 2008) _____
Address _______________________________________________________________________

Name __________________________________________ Phone ______________________________
Date of Birth ___________________ Age (as of Sept 1, 2008) _____
Address _______________________________________________________________________

******************************************************************************

Please check the appropriate category for your demonstration

_____ Aquatic & Marine En.   _____ Health   _____ Horse
_____ Career Exploration, Citizenship, & Leadership
_____ Clothing**   _____ Companion Animal
_____ Human Development _____ Consumer Education
_____ Leisure Arts/Recreation _____ Earth Connections _____ Safety
_____ Mechanical & Electronic Science _____ Energy _____ Media Arts
_____ Food Preparation _____ Food Science & Safety _____ Plant Connections
_____ Forests & Other Terrestrial Environments _____ Foods & Nutrition _____ Waste Managements
_____ Veterinary Science _____ General Animal Science _____ General Category
_____ Petroleum Power & Small Engines **Clothing - record book must be submitted with Fashion Revue

AREAS OTHER THAN DEMONSTRATIONS/ILLUSTRATED TALKS (CHECK ONLY ONE AREA)

_____ Automotive Driving  _____ Fashion Revue  _____ Public Speaking Contest
_____ Horse Public Speaking  _____ Share-the-Fun  _____ Photo Exhibition

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLUB LEADER, CHRISTI PRYOR OR CHERIE HOLLINGSWORTH AT 993-4846.

Deadline: Thursday, March 16, 2009