



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

University of Florida / IFAS

Sarasota County Extension

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4-H CLUBS:

4-Her's
4 Paws
Aquatic All-stars
Blazers
Canine Connections
Clogging Clovers
Eagles
East County Steer & Swine
Eastside Rabbits
Florida Crackers
Foxmill Kids & Colts
Fruitville Exceptional Equine
The Green Team
Half Pint Pullers
Home Grown Explorers
Horse N Around
Indian Creek 4-H Club
Jr. Cattlemen
Kelly Community Clovers
Little Rascals
Livestock Club
Miakka Allstock
Mini Hooves of Sarasota
Muddy Boots
Myakka Ranchers
North Port Explorers
Open Gaits
Positive Teens
Reef Rovers
Ridin' Rednecks
Sarasota County Ranchers
Sarasota Sharp Shooters
Sarasota Swine
Southern Spurs
The Club
The Group
Venice Bits & Spurs
Wood Crafters
YMCA Youth



The Clover Times



FROM THE AGENTS DESK- Keith Wilson

Color photos (5x7) taken at this years Sarasota County Fair by a professional photographer are still available for purchase. You may either visit the April 16th 4-H leaders meeting (7:30pm) to view them or call Don Strickland at 371-1771. The leaders meeting will provide leaders an opportunity to discuss suggestions for next years County Fair.

The 2007 Sarasota County Fair was a great success and the staff at the 4-H Office wishes to thank the **Sarasota County Fair Board** for providing the wonderful ribbons, trophies and premiums for all of the events. It is a tremendous amount of work to plan and manage this event every year and the support staff at the **Fair Office** were fantastic in providing for the needs of our 4-H program. The **4-H volunteers** and **Livestock Committee** who gave a tremendous amount of their time setting up, running and cleaning up after the plant and animal competitions were invaluable. The **buyers** of the animals and plants at the fair auctions provided excellent financial support for 4-Hers and FFA youths. We can't thank them enough for being there and participating in the auction. The **Sarasota County 4-H Foundation** completely devoted themselves to selling elephant ears to raise money which supports 4-H programs and scholarships and we thank them all.

Michelle Creed who works for the new minor league baseball team, **the Redfish**, in Charlotte County has invited interested 4-Hers to participate in their special group rates for youth organizations which includes a picnic for only \$3.00/person. Michelle can be reached by calling 629-2287.

Finally on a sad note **Steve Cooper**, the manager of 4-H Camp Cloverleaf, recently lost his son Josh in a tragic car accident. I am sure words of sympathy for his family would mean a great deal to Steve from those who remember his son's passion as a 4-H camp counselor.

Please remember to wear your seatbelt at all times when riding in a vehicle. Protect yourself and others you care about.

Keith Wilson, 4-H Agent

*I pledge,
My Head*

to clearer thinking,

My Heart

to greater loyalty,

My Hands

to larger service,

And My Health

to better living,

For my club, my community,

My country and my world.



What Are You Doing This Summer?

Attention Camp Cloverleaf Counselors and CIT's

The dates for Camp this year are: June 4th–8th. If you would like to be considered for a camp counselor or counselor in training position—please don't miss these important deadlines! Call NOW to receive your camp packet and set-up a time for an interview. Interviews will be conducted May 8th–11th. Counselor and CIT training will be on held May 25th, 9:00 AM until noon at Twin Lakes Park.

We are looking forward to a GREAT week at 4-H Camp!

If you have any questions call the 4-H Office at 861-9812.

Florida 4-H Legislature session is in!

Tallahassee, FL June 25-29, 2007

The deadline for registration is here! If you are interested in attending Florida 4-H Legislature call the 4-H Office - TODAY!!!

Florida 4-H Legislature is open to Senior 4-Hers ages 14 to 18 as of September 1, 2006. The Registration Fee is \$225.00 for youth and adults. Registration forms and deposits in the amount of \$110.00 are due in the 4-H office by April 12th.

Youth and adult registration forms can be found on the Florida 4-H web site, or by calling the 4-H Office 861-9812. Also, in preparing for Legislature the "2007 Legislature Bill Book" has been updated and can be found on the Florida 4-H web site.



Shooting Sports and Sportfishing Camp

When: July 16-20, 2007 **Where:** Camp Ocala

Learn life skills through fun non-competitive activities. Campers participate in several different tracts such as archery, rifle, shotgun, angling skills, aquatic life, tackle crafting, and more. Campers will also learn about Florida's unique natural resources through a variety of games, and group experiences. Add in swimming, canoeing, recreational games, campfires, nature center activities, and trail hiking!

The cost for 4-H Member is 200.00 and 215.00 for Non 4-H Members, youth ages 10 and older. Registration deadline is June 4th.

"Gator Adventures"

Camp Cloverleaf July 16-20

"Gator Adventures" is coming to Camp Cloverleaf this summer July 16-20 for youth ages 8-13. This full week of fun activities such as canoeing, swimming, recreational games, campfires, fishing, and much more!

The cost is 200.00 for 4-H members and 215.00 for non 4-H members.

Florida 4-H Congress

The dates this year for 2007 4-H Congress are July 23-27. Held at the University of Florida campus, this is a fabulous week long experience in which 4-H members can have fun and learn alongside other 4-H'ers from all over Florida.

Congress is divided into a competitive and non-competitive sessions. The non-competitive portion is devoted to educational workshops on a variety of subjects. The competitive portion is where the first place senior District Winners (Demonstrations, Fashion Revue, Horticulture Judging, Public Speaking and Share the Fun) compete with other district winners. Community Pride winners are recognized, interviews for State Recognition and Scholarship applications are also conducted during this event. Participants must be 14 years old prior to September 1, 2006, and have completed at least one year of 4-H work.

State Marine Camp When: July 16 -20, 2007

Where: Camp Timpoochee, Niceville, FL

Are you interested in learning more about marine life, going fishing, or exploring the underwater world with a mask and snorkel? Camp Timpoochee allows campers first hand experience with Florida's marine environment from above and below the waterline. Timpoochee's marine lab is equipped with large aquariums supporting life from both fresh and saltwater habitats. Sport fishing sessions will help youth learn about local fish and how to catch them.

The cost for 4-H Member is 210.00 and 220.00 for Non 4-H Members, youth ages 8 -13. Registration deadline is June 4th.

Welaka 4-H

Horsemanship School

Are you looking for a great horse adventure this summer? Why don't you try Welaka Horsemanship School? Professional trainers, quality stables bunk-house camping, and 4-Hers from around the state just like you who love horses! Enjoy activities on and off your horse in a beautiful location nestled among the pine and oak trees in the Welaka State Forest.

Disciplines: Each week will have instructors in both English and Western riding. Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes will be offered. Trail and Speed events will also be covered.

Expense: \$280.00 includes all meals, snacks, t-shirt, lodging, stabling, and over 30 hours of instruction for the week.





Summer is on its way! And summer means camp - Camp Cloverleaf!

Camp Cloverleaf is located in Lake Placid and offers a week of fun, and exciting summer activities. The dates for camp are June 4th—8th, 2007. Applications are due on or before May 7th. The cost this year for camp is \$185. Please, make checks payable to the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation.

Note: T-shirts will be sold at camp for \$10.00. Do not include t-shirt fee with camp payment.

Make plans now for a fun filled week of swimming, fishing, canoeing, crafts, sports, campfire songs, and new friends! Space is limited, ***you must*** return this **registration form** and **\$90.00 deposit** to reserve your spot and receive a "2007 Camp Cloverleaf Packet". Camp is based upon "first come - first serve"!

Partial camp scholarships are available to 4-H members upon request using the "**Scholarship Request Form**" which will be included in your camp packet. You ***must*** complete a "scholarship request form" to be considered for a camp scholarship.



4-H CAMP CLOVERLEAF JUNE 4th—8th, 2007 REGISTRATION FORM



Please circle packet request:

Camper Age 8-12
(as of 9/1/2006)

Counselor-In-Training Age 13
(as of 9/1/2006)

Counselor Age 14-18
(as of 9/1/2006)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Request (1) cabin friend _____

Reservation form due MAY 7TH

Date received _____

Check# _____

Amount _____

**This form must be filled out completely with your deposit attached
to receive your camp packet.**

2007 State Livestock Judging Contest

By Don Strickland, Team Coach

In all the twenty some odd years I have been coaching livestock, this has been one for my record book! If your interested, I will tell you all about it sometime, but for now in order to keep this report within the allotted space I will report just the results.

There were 10 counties represented. Jarrod Albritton, Trevor Burns, Patricia Durso, and Molly Miller were the Senior Team. Trevor was 2nd high overall in beef, 9th overall in reasons & questions, Patricia was 2nd high overall in evaluations, Molly was 5th high overall in swine, 9th total overall individual ranking. The team placed 3rd overall. I am very thankful to the 4-H Foundation for financial support and for Mr. Terry Burns for help with transportation. I keep thinking it is time to give this up, but every year the kids come thru with their totally unexpected super results and I look forward to next year.

FREE: Two large bird cages for small birds. Great condition. No longer need. Call Julie at 378-4013.



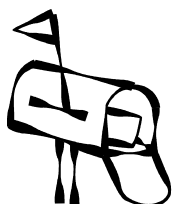
Goat Field Day

Florida A&M University will hold a Goat Field Day on Friday, April 13, 2007, beginning at 9:00 AM. The Goat Field Day will be held at the FAMU Research and Extension Center, 4259 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy, FL 32352.

The focus of this year's field day will be on Herd Health. The field day will include workshops on topics such as common goat parasites, pregnancy toxemia, caseous lymphadenitis, and regulatory issues. As part of the afternoon sessions, two forums chaired by producers and professionals will take place in order to identify issues and challenges facing local producers and to begin the dialogue for a strategic plan to address these issues. Lunch will be provided and will include various value-added goat meat products produced at University of Florida and Florida A&M University to raise awareness about the marketing opportunities that exist for goat meat.

Registration for the Goat Field Day can be done by fax at (850) 561-2151, or by sending an email to ray.mobley@famu.edu with the number of participants, and their names. This event will be free to all participants.

Don't forget your "Thank-you" letters



The Fair Office will be sending you buyer and add-on information. They are working very hard to get this information to you next week—so watch you mail boxes and get these letters out ASAP so buyers know you appreciate them!

Your "thank-you's" should be placed in a self addressed stamped envelope and sealed.



Watch your flowers grow!

April 19th French Window Boxes:
Watch your flowers grow! Join us for this fun and educational horticulture workshop.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and will include plants, soil, and container. Register by *April 12th*. This workshop will be held at Twin Lakes Park, 4:45—5:45 PM.

Please don't forget to register with the 4-H office at 861-9812.

2007 State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest

The State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest will be held in Gainesville on Monday, June 11, 2007. This event provides 4-Hers with an opportunity to evaluate egg quality, ready to cook carcasses, parts and identification, and past production. Counties may send any number of junior teams, but only one senior team. The winning senior team will attend the National Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in November. If you are interested in Poultry Judging contact the 4-H office for more information. A fact sheet on Guidelines for the Florida 4-H Poultry Judging Contest is at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PS011>

2007 Florida Dairy Poster Contest

Design a poster telling a story about milk, cheese and/or yogurt using the theme:

"A Healthy Day the Dairy Way"

1. The poster must be 14" x 22".
2. Incorporate the 4-H emblem and 3-A-Day logo in the poster design.
3. Do not attach anything to the poster that is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick.
4. Complete the certification/score form and place it on the back of each poster. The certification/score form must have the participants name, complete mailing address, grade in school, age, and county.
5. Posters must be submitted to the 4-H Office by May 1, 2007



Lost? Found?

Please check & double check any record books you may have picked up after the fair. Justin Burnett is missing his swine record book. Thanks!

Look What We Did at the Sarasota County FAIR!



STEER

Grand Champion - Chris Giummo
 Reserve Champion - Dylan Jansch
 Showmanship Jr. - Kelsey Powers
 Showmanship Sr. - John Karl Albritton
 Gain-In-Weight - Chris Denney
 2nd Gain in Weight - Lindsey Routh
 3rd Gain in Weight - Sable Walker
Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Dylan Jansch
Sr. Superior Exhibitor - John Karl Albritton

BEEF BREEDING FEMALE

Grand Champion - Trish Durso
 Reserve Champion - Jamie Lee Johnson
 Showmanship Jr. - Marie Durso
 Showmanship Sr. - Jamie Lee Johnson
Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Marie Durso
Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Jamie Lee Johnson

DAIRY CATTLE

Grand Champion - Marie Durso
 Reserve Champion - Bailey Martin
 Showmanship Jr. - Danielle Gill
 Showmanship Sr. - Kaci Duggan
Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Danielle Gill
Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Kaci Duggan

SWINE

Grand Champion - Justin Burnett
 Reserve Champion - David Clemons
 Showmanship Jr. - Justin Burnett
 Showmanship Sr. - Colton Castro
Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Justin Burnett
Sr. Superior Exhibitor - David Clemons

LLAMA

Showmanship Jr - Alex Rodman
 Showmanship Sr. - Karli Wilbanks
 Obstacles Jr. - Katie Logan
 Obstacle Sr. - Karli Wilbanks
Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Katie Logan
Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Karli Wilbanks

DAIRY GOATS

Grand Champion - Rose Cardinal
 Reserve Champion - Sonia Miller
 Showmanship Jr. - Rose Cardinal
 Showmanship Sr. - Kristen Potts

PYGMY GOATS

Grand Champion Doe - Colton Clark
 Reserve Champion Doe - Lewis Plush
 Grand Champion Wethers - Lewis Plush
 Reserve Champion Wethers - Colton Clark
 Showmanship Jr. - Colton Clark
 Showmanship Sr. - Jarred Padgett

MINIATURE HORSE SHOW

Jr. Superior Exhibitor: Shelby Stasik
Sr. Superior Exhibitor: Erin Bumpus

DOG SHOW

Jr. High Point
 First - Courtney Degenaro
 Second - Calyn Beese
 Third - Nicole Shoults
Jr. Superior Exhibitor: Courtney Degenaro
Sr. High Point
 First - Molly Miller
 Second - Cody Doran
 Third - Emily Bowman
Sr. Superior Exhibitor: Molly Miller

WYAD 3-07 WYAD 3CT



NOVICE

1st Arianne Kopacz
 2nd Jenny Federico
 3rd Jeremy Whitton
 4th Matt Koss
 5th Lane Taylor

JUNIORS

1ST Caitlin Morrison
 2nd Courtney Wingate
 3rd Dalton Comer
 4th Travis Albritton
 5th Nicole Harkness
 6th Steven Desantis

SENIOR

1ST Trevor Burns
 2nd Kristin Potts
 3rd Jarred Padgett
 4th Devin Balsinger
 5th Kaylee Behn
 6th Katie Harkness
 7th Molly Miller
 8th Jarrod Albritton
 9th Sarah Masengale
 10th Jaime Bland

Livestock Judging

FFA

1st Brett Dahlgien
 2nd Ashley Jordan
 3rd Trish Durso
 4th Danny Lewis
 5th Nate Massengale
 6th Lydia Masengale
 7th Holly Vincent



Did at the Sarasota County FAIR!

PLANT SHOW

Overall Best of Show - Krista Schrock
 Display & Showmanship Jr. - Danielle Gill
 Display & Showmanship Sr. - Krista Schrock
 Superior Exhibitor Jr. - Danielle Gill
 Superior Exhibitor Sr. - Krista Schrock

HORTICULTURE JUDGING

JUNIOR

First - Maxim Lowe
 Second - Megan Knipper
 Third - Michael Dean
 Fourth - Danielle Gill

SENIOR

First - Laura Knipper
 Second - Kayla Knipper
 Third - Kaila Hess
 Fourth - Daniella Brown
 Fifth - Jared Padgett
 Sixth - Christine Magill

CONSUMER CHOICES

JUNIOR

First - Danielle Gill
 Second - Rebecca Griffin
 Third - Erin Gilliland
 Fourth - Maxim Lowe
 Fifth - Christine Magill
 Sixth - Megan Knipper
 Seventh - Lane Taylor

SENIOR

First - Daniella Brown
 Second - Kayla Knipper
 Third - Laura Knipper
 Fourth - Jared Padgett
 Fifth - Jarrod Chapman

FASHION REVUE

Clothing Selection

Best Model: Laura Knipper

Clothing Construction

Best Model: Laura Knipper



SHARE THE FUN

JUNIOR - Kayleigh Likens
 INTERMEDIATE - Autumn Duyn
 SENIOR - Sean Russell
 SENIOR TEAM - Pearl Scarbrough
 & Tracy Reed



MINI BUILDING; BEST OF SHOW

Class 11 Horticulture- Ornamental

Best in Show: Jr. - Allison Bisel Sr. - Krista Schrock
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Danielle Gill
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Krista Schrock

Class 12 Fruits & Vegetables

Best in Show: Jr. - Allison Bisel Sr. - Trevor Brown
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Trevor Brown

Class 13 Sewing - Boys & Girls

Best in Show: Jr. - Elizabeth Hall Sr. - Keara Vargha
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Keara Vargha

Class 14 - Foods

Best in Show: Jr. - Danielle Gill Sr. - Sofia Annis
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Rebecca Griffin
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Jared Padgett

Class 15 Food Preservation

Best in Show: Jr. - Allison Bisel Sr. - Kayla Knipper
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Allison Bisel

Class 16 - Basic Crafts

Best in Show: Jr. - Michael Dean Sr. - Laura Knipper
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Maxim Lowe
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Laura Knipper

Class 17 - Fine Arts

Best in Show: Jr. - Maxim Lowe Sr. - Erin Post
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Maxim Lowe
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Kayla Knipper

Class 18 - Photography

Best in Show: Jr. - Brad Boserup Sr. - Laura Knipper
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Brad Boserup
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Heidi Schwartz

Class 19 - Needlework

Best in Show: Jr. - Allison Bisel Sr. - Sarah Magill
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Sarah Magill

Class 20 - Creative Writing

Best in Show: Jr. - Christine Magill Sr. - Laura Knipper
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Sean Russell

Class 21 - Miscellaneous

Best in Show: Jr. - Erin Gilliland Sr. - Sean Russell
 Jr. Superior Exhibitor - Maxim Lowe
 Sr. Superior Exhibitor - Sean Russell

Look What We Did at the Sarasota County FAIR!



Small Animal Barn Results...

Rabbit

Best In Show - Sofia Annis

1st Reserve in Show - Brittney Thompson

2nd Reserve in Show - Nick Linthicum (FFA)

Rabbit Superior Exhibitors:

Jr - Brittney Thompson

Sr - Sofia Annis

Rabbit Judging

Junior

1st Brittney Thompson

2nd Hannah Smith

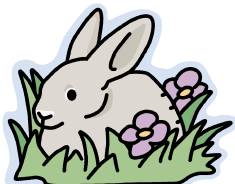
Senior

1st Sofia Annis

2nd Daniella Brown

3rd Roy Thompson

4th Meagan Smith



Poultry

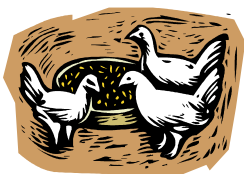
Best In Show -

Meagan Smith

Reserve Best In Show -

Sofia Annis

Best Commercial Bird - Lisa Richards



Poultry Superior Exhibitors

Junior - Hannah Smith

Senior - Sofia Annis

Poultry Showmanship

Junior

1st Brittney Thompson

2nd Hannah Smith

3rd Jared Kelderman

Senior

1st Roy Thompson

2nd Sofia Annis

3rd Meagan Smith

Cavy

Best In Show - Alison Bisel

Reserve Best In Show - Hannah Smith

Superior Exhibitor Cavy

Jr. - Alison Bisel

Sr. - Meagan Smith



Florida State Fair Sarasota County Winners

Champion of Champions 6th Place: Sofia Annis

Champion Youth Senior Dog 2nd Place: Molly Miller

Champion Youth Senior Rabbit 2nd Place: Daniella Brown

Champion Youth Rabbit Show: Roy Thompson

Champion Youth Poultry Show: Sofia Annis

Champion Overall Youth Poultry: Meagan Smith

Champion Bantam Youth Poultry: Meagan Smith

Champion Youth Poultry Best Purebred of Show: Meagan Smith

Champion Youth Poultry 1st Place Senior Showmanship: Sofia Annis

Champion Open Rabbit Himalayan Best Opposite Sex: Roy Thompson

Champion Youth Rabbit 1st Place Intermediate Division Showmanship: Brittney Thompson

Champion Youth Rabbit 1st Place Senior Division Showmanship: Roy Thompson

Champion Youth Rabbit Himalayan Best of Breed: Roy Thompson

Champion Youth Rabbit Tan Best of Breed: Sofia Annis

Champion Livestock Judging 5th Place: D. J. Lewis, Trevor Burns, Molly Miller, and Jarrod Albritton

Champion Poultry Judging Senior High Individual 4th Place: Sofia Annis

Champion Poultry Judging Senior High Individual 5th Place: Meagan Smith

Jared Padgett; played the keyboard in the State Fair Talent Showcase, volunteered at the Operation Military Kids Booth, was selected to attend the AG Hall of Fame Dinner and Exhibited in the Family Living Competition and won 9 blue ribbons, 10 red ribbons, and 3 white ribbons. Danielle Padgett won a Agricultural Hall of Fame Scholarship for \$500.

Mini Hooves by: Shelby Stasik

Hi, Wow March was a very busy month. Everyone in our club was busy doing demonstrations. We had a bunch of really great demonstrations and a lot that also did county demonstrations.

We were also very busy getting our horses ready for the fair. Hope everyone did well and had fun. We are having our Horse Show at Paragon Farms on Sunday April 1st. Thank you Nimi Gill for allowing us to have our show there and for judging. We will be planning our Liberty Show soon and that will be at Fallen Pine Farm.

Welcome to our newest members.

Good luck to all.....Shelby





Home Grown Explorers: by Heidi Schwartz

Hello everyone! This fair season has been a great one. Our club has made leaps and bounds with our efforts and entries! Each person in our club succeeded as we entered in the Mini Building and the Plant Tent. Our very own Krista Schrock and Nicholas Pellegrino won awards in the Horticulture category! In addition, a few of our club members also entered in the Hobby Show and received various awards. It has been great seeing the hues of blues that have been granted to our Home-grown Explorers!

This month our club traveled to the Annis' Rabbitry Farm for an interactive field trip. I am very much looking forward to that outing! :-) Hope ya'll had a fantastic March!

Canine Connections

Eight members of the Canine Connections 4-H Dog Club recently competed in the Sarasota County 4-H Dog Show with the following results: First year Junior competitors: Andie Herrig and her Wire Fox Terrier, "Bailey" earned a 3rd place in Jr. Showmanship and received a "Best Groomed" trophy. Camille Armington won 2nd place in Basic Obedience and 1st place in Basic Agility 8" with her toy poodle "Daisy Mae". She was also given the "Cutest Dog" trophy in Jr. Showmanship. Julie Shouts and her Silky Terrier, "Angel" received 1st place in Jr. Showmanship and her twin, Nicole Shouts earned 2nd with her Miniature Schnauzer, "Cupid". Julie was 2nd in Basic Agility 8 inch with Angel and Nicole was 1st with Cupid in 12 inch. In Basic Obedience Nicole received 1st with Cupid and Julie was 3rd with Angel. As a result of her high scores Nicole Shouts received a large rosette ribbon for 3rd place Junior High Point. Second year Junior competitor Rachael Cramer earned a 1st place in Intermediate Agility 16" with her Sheltie "Dora". She also earned a 2nd place with her other Sheltie, "Kiki", in Sub-Novice A Obedience.

Senior competitor Molly Miller earned 1st place in Advanced Jr. Showmanship and then went on to win the Best in Show Jr. Showmanship award with SCWT, "Noelle". She also earned 3rd place in Sub Novice B Obedience and 1st in Advanced Agility with Noelle. With her Sheltie, "Brady", Molly received a 2nd in Sub Novice B Obedience and a 2nd in Advanced Agility. Due to her high scores Molly earned the Senior High Point trophy and the Senior Superior Exhibitor trophy (this award is based on her dogs' scores plus record book scores) for the dog show. The next show that members of Canine Connections will attend is the Invitational Show put on by the K-9 Kids 4-H club in Manatee.

Horse 'N Around: by Maxim Lowe

February 27, 2007 was our second meeting of the year! After the usual reports (Brianna Hackett - secretary's report, Elizabeth Hall - treasurer's report, Danielle Gill - County Council), Danielle discussed fair due dates, the elephant ear booth, various 4-H camp registrations, Junior Congress (April 14th) and more. Don't forget you have to be at work day (March 10th) if you are entering something in the fair.

Next, a few people did demonstrations. Elizabeth demonstrated how to blend clay colors using a pasta making machine, and showed us her red dragon and cave clay sculpture. Thanks to the pasta machine, she was able to make nice, thin wings. She also showed us how to do wood burning --carving a design in wood by burning it. Then Brianna did two PowerPoint presentations, one on plant care, and one on creative writing. She used cool special effects between slides. Danielle Hackett then did three short presentations: how to make a dish garden, horse shows, and photography. The dish garden sounds like a great project to do!

During the last part of our meeting, Nimie Gill did a presentation about nutrition and exercise. Do you know that if you drink two cans of soda a day for one month, you gain 5 pounds of sugar, which turns to 2 pounds of fat? To burn that extra fat, you need to walk 100 miles a month! What was really helpful is that Nimie showed us squishy little gel models of the fat you gain after eating various snacks: a doughnut, apple pie, ice cream, candy bars, a Twinkie, etc. Now that we've seen the chunks of fat, we'll think twice before we eat sugary snacks! And at least, we'll know to walk it off. Then Elizabeth shared cake muffins and a chocolate/peanut butter cake unfortunately *after* we heard the lecture about fat. I hope we all exercised when we got home!

Florida Crackers

Hey ya'!!! Our club has accomplished so much! Under our fearless leader, Eileen DeJonge, our club is doing absolutely fantastic. Everyone did so awesome at the Fair. Our average sale price was 3.60/lb. Everyone was ecstatic about their ribbons, sale price, and what-not. All of our pigs received blue ribbons, two of our members received first in their class, and three received second. Our lone steer did great in the show/auction as well. There was a couple of teary-eyed Crackers when the pigs were taken away, but everyone is happy with their experiences and have fond memories from them. Autumn Duyn won the intermediate class talent show, and Erin DeJonge won Miss Clover. Congrats girls! Our club also took on a shift in the 4-H elephant ear booth. It was so much fun! It was another great experience we all got to share together. Our club is going to hold a buyer dinner to show our appreciation for the buyers who bought our pigs. All-in-all, it was a great Fair.

Next month we are going to sell candy as a fundraiser for our club. Well, that all for now! I hope you enjoyed reading about



Miakka All-Stock Club: by Arielle Macuch

There are so many exciting events coming up, and with that countless fun times to be had. However, others need to be thought of first. Any Miakkan All-Stocker (hey, not a bad name) can check the green club newsletter provided at meetings to discover all sorts of achievements that people have accomplished in our club. Be sure to not only congratulate them for their fine work but give Dean & Susie Lutz and Mrs. Allen some warm words of appreciation for speaking on swine showmanship. The presentation was helpful and definitely well worth listening to.

The upcoming months bring all sorts surprises to Miakka, including the new officers for next year. Anyone who is responsible and would like to shine in an important position will be a welcomed candidate. The members of age need to take this unique opportunity to say that they held a leadership position or were even the president of a large, community-friendly club. Efforts will not go by without their reward!!!

For the members who are not elected, they can still do their part by taking and turning in some 4-H pictures to Mary. She probably would like to add fair pictures and record book pictures, too, so why not help our club out? There is also a delicious candy bar sale- especially those new dark chocolate raspberry ones. Don't bring any back for Mrs. Heidi Brown to sell, because she will not. Lastly, Camp Cloverleaf is coming up this summer. All of you ready to have fun should try to be early with your application and money so that you are guaranteed that spot on the bus. Given nobody waits too long, there will be room for everyone to join in on the action.

Your friendly reporter, Arielle Macuch

Reef Rovers- By Madison Chapman

This month, the Reef Rovers had two fantastic adventures. Our first fieldtrip was a kayaking expedition with retired marine biologist Jack Taylor. We explored the mangrove tunnels of South Lido Beach and saw tons of cool animals. When we stopped on a sandbar, we found ice cream cone worms, lightning whelks, baby stone crabs and other awesome animals. As we kayaked, we noticed the abundance of *Cassiopeia* jellyfish. They have become more and more common because the sea turtles, which are their natural predators, are being killed off by red tide. Also, Sarasota Bay is being filled with more and more nutrients from run-off, which the *Cassiopeia* eats.

What was our second project? Bat houses galore! We built, stained, caulked and installed five bat houses across Sarasota and Manatee counties. The project was funded by a grant from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Bat houses are wooden boxes where bats can live, because their natural habitat is being destroyed. Bats are important because they eat tons of pesky insects, like mosquitoes. One bat can eat 3000 bugs per night! Our bat houses went up at Longwood Run Park, Crosley Mansion, Pine View School, Pocono Trail and Twin Lakes Park. Next time you stop by the 4H office, go to the West Lake island to check out the new bat house!

County Council Report: By Laura Knipper

Our last meeting was held on February 26. There was no meeting in March on account of the fair. Our February meeting's theme was rednecks; nobody had too much trouble dressing up for that! The winner of the Spirit Award was the Mini Hooves club; they also won the Spirit Stick. Great job Mini Hooves!

This month, club reports were given by the Green Team, Southern Spurs, Venice Bits & Spurs, Horse N Around, and Ridin' Rednecks.

For our new business, the following were discussed: fair work day, fair check-in and release dates, the Salvation Army Easter Party, French window box horticulture workshop, Camp Cloverleaf, Kids That Care, the next county council meeting, and District 9 Congress. Speaking of District 9 Congress, every one needs to keep their eyes open for smooth, wide mouth, glass 14 - 16 oz. jars. (Stuff like Salsa is usually sold in them.) We will need a lot for the mosaic candle jar craft workshop at District 9 Congress. You may drop off your jars at the 4-H office before April 14. We need lots, so every jar will be greatly appreciated!

After the old and new business was discussed, everyone got creative and made some Easter cards as part of our Kids That Care Project. We will pass them out to the residents at the Pine's Assisted Living Home at our next visit.

Next, we had some refreshments, and then the door prize was drawn. Molly Miller was this month's lucky winner. Congratulations Molly!

Don't forget that our next meeting will be held on April 16th. The theme will be a sports theme, and whichever club is dressed the "sportiest" will be the winner of the Spirit Award. Also, remember that this meeting is our election of the new county council officers, so if you would like to run for an office, come prepared.

That's all for now, so until next time, keep on making the best, better!



Operation Military Kids

As many of you know the Sarasota County Council was involved in a county wide community service project during the 2005-2006 4-H year that supported our State Community Service Project: OMK Operation Military Kids. We helped the families of a group of 65 soldiers from the 31116th Field Artillery MLRS which is part of the 651 MP Company of the National Guard based in Arcadia. Since September 2005 we stepped forward when they needed help by providing child care during family support meetings, collecting toys and providing presents for the children at Christmas, by providing craft activities and games at holiday parties, providing the supplies and packing shoeboxes for the soldiers, and finally collecting items for a garage sale that would help provide money for family support gathering.

We are pleased to report that all 65 soldiers in this unit returned home on October 30, 2006 with out loss or injury to any soldiers. Members of County Council were invited to their "Welcome Home Party" on March 3 in Arcadia. The families and guest were treated to a catered dinner by Carrabba's Italian Grill. Attending were Kaila Hess and the Padgett Family (Danielle, Jared, Joe, and Glenda) County Council received a plaque thanking them for their support. There were two news stations present as well as the local paper. This was a wonderful community service project that made a positive difference in the families of this National Guard Unit.

Thank you to all the members through out our county who participated. Submitted by Jared Padgett and Kaila Hess.

Health, It Matters...



Start! Walking At Work Day on April 25, 2007

Adults everywhere can support the fight against heart disease by participating in Start! Walking At Work Day on April 25, 2007. It's a simple, powerful way to pledge to make your heart health a top priority and also a symbol of your support for the Start! movement. By joining thousands of other Americans nationwide, you'll be part of the solution to get America walking. Visit the American Heart Association's web site for details... and START!

Make Little Changes That Count!

Small changes in your diet and activities can add up to big changes in how you look and feel. Here are some suggestions:

- Cut down on your TV, computer, or video game time.
- Exercise, get moving!
- Never skip breakfast, eat fruits, grains, and vegetables.
- Ask if you can choose the snack foods for your family. Choose healthy snacks such as fruits, bagels, yogurt, and raw veggies, rather than doughnuts, potato chips, soft drinks, and candy.
- Start a water habit. If you're thirsty, drink water instead of sugary juice, iced tea, or soft drinks.

Happiness and Health

Your emotional health depends upon how you feel about yourself and how you feel about others. Three important guides to good emotional health are:

1. Know Yourself
2. Accept Yourself
3. Be yourself

Shop Healthier, Faster

Heart-Healthy Grocery Shopping Made Simple.

With so many product options — and messages on packages — it's hard to make healthy food choices with confidence. Look for the red and white heart-check mark in your grocery store to select foods low in saturated fat and cholesterol. When you see this distinctive symbol on a product, you'll instantly know the food has been screened and proven to meet the American Heart Association's certification criteria to be low in saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2. By issuing its heart-check mark, the American Heart Association gives consumers a tool to quickly and reliably select foods that meet nutritional criteria.



Make Your Plans NOW!



National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2007

- 2 4H Foundation Scholarships Due
- 8 **Happy Easter**
- 9 Foundation Meeting
- 11 Horse Advisory Meeting
- 14 District 9 4-H Congress
- 16 Leader and County Council Meeting
- 19 Project Workshop—French Window Box
- 28 & 29 Area E Horse Show—Tampa

Summertime Fun

May 2007

- 5 District Events Day—Pinellas County
- 9 Horse Advisory Meeting
- 13 **Happy Mother's Day**
- 14 Foundation
- 18 State Forms are DUE!!!!
- 28 **Memorial Day**—4H Office Closed

Winning Art Work



CAMP CLOVERLEAF ART CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Kayla Knipper!

Kayla is a member of the Green Team 4H Club, and submitted the winning artwork for our Camp Cloverleaf art contest. Her drawing will appear on camp flyers, camp applications, and camp programs.

Great Job KAYLA!

Happy Birthday

Logan Alder, Joseph Atyeo, Enriqueta Balandra, Devin Balsinger, Stephen Balsinger, Tara Blackburn, Madelyn Bowman, Samantha Carey, Justin Cauffman, Rebecca Coates, Jovana Cristiani, Alexis Davis, Courtney DeGenaro, Lexi Dills, Cody Doran, Grace Duyn, Britnie Fultz, Tiffani Gaster, Jeffery Giacomoni, Erin Gilliland, Christopher Giummo, Andrew Gray, Rebecca Griffin, Morgan Hill, Kristin Hrycyk, Alexander Hughes, April Jackson, McKenna Jackson, John King, Devon Kirkley, Sydney Linthicum, Arielle Macuch, James Magill, Timothy McAlister, William McGhee, Balien McVey, Brittany Mills, Shane Oss, Rick Palmer, Austin Ray, Christian Reeves, Pearl Scarbrough, Maria Stanek, Katelynn Stasik, Clay Strauser, Taylor Swartz, Jaimie Tabar, Michelle Theriault, Roy Thompson, Rosie Tuzik, Dylan Walburn, Olivia White, Colton Whittier, Derek Woodward, and Tyler Yow.

Happy Birthday
to YOU!!!

