4-H Council Meeting
The next 4-H Council meeting will be held on June 9, 2009 at the GSA small conference Room at the UCCE/Amador County, 12200 B Airport Road in Martell.

Greetings for Military Kids
Is your club looking for a fun service project to help military children? Well look no more! Operation Military Kids (OMK) supports California’s military youth by providing them with Hero Packs. One of the items we include in each pack is a letter of support and encouragement written by another California youth. If your club would like to write letters to military kids or learn more about how your club can get involved in the OMK hero pack project, please contact Sylena Wise at the CA 4-H State Office, smwise@ucdavis.edu.

Pen Pals Anyone?
Are you interested in establishing a pen pal relationship with a student in Kenya? California 4-H has made a contact with a school administrator who oversees a Catholic school in Kenya and will establish a pen pal program so that students 13 to 17-years-old can communicate with one another and share information about their lives. Please contact Pat English at penglish@ucdavis.edu or 530-754-8520 if you are interested in communicating with a Kenyan youth.

4-H Booth: Want to go to the California State Fair?
August 21 through September 7, 2009 | Cal Expo in Sacramento

Applications Due: August 1, 2009
http://www.ca4h.org/wrp/statefair/

The California 4-H Foundation is recruiting 4-H members and leaders to help staff the 4-H booth. This is a great opportunity for 4-H members and volunteers to share with the public their 4-H experiences, as well as, the wide range of projects and leadership opportunities that are available to youth through participation in the California 4-H Youth Development Program. Small 4-H projects are welcome to accompany you (robots, rabbits, arts/crafts, service dogs, etc.) to give the public a “feel” for what types of projects are available. Examples of community service projects also make for good stories to share with the public. Please feel free to bring photo albums or record books with you to show anyone who may be interested in learning even more about your 4-H project.

Parking passes and fair admission tickets will be provided to 4-H members and adults who sign up for a 2-hour shift. A maximum of 4 youth and 2 adults per shift will be allowed. Further, each shift must have an adult or older teen in the booth at all times.

Calendar

Military Kids Greetings
Pen Pals
California State Fair 4-H Booth 8/21-9/7
Promote State Fair Presentations 8-21, 22, 23
Archery Leader Needed
Operation Military kids
Livestock News ~
Upcoming Ethics Training June 20th
Avian Science
Fair Supplemental
Swine Flu
Promoting the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program
August 21, 22, 23, 2009 | Cal Expo in Sacramento
Applications Due: June 15th, 2009 (Word) (PDF)

Help promote the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program at the 2009 California State Fair! 4-H members have an opportunity to present and interact with public audiences on August 21, 22, and 23 in the Youth Arts & Design Expo building.

1. **Non-Competitive 4-H Presentations** – 4-H members receiving a gold seal at the State 4-H Presentation Day on May 30, 2009 at UC Davis are eligible to present, non-competitively, at the California State Fair. 4-H members will present 1-3 times during an hour-long block of time on one day. Impromptu and A/V categories not eligible. More information 4-H Presentations is available at http://www.ca4h.org/leadership/spd/.

2. **Hands-on, Interactive, 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Activities** – Groups of 4-H members, volunteers and staff are invited to engage the public in quick hands-on SET activities. The group will conduct activities with the public for at least an hour block of time on one day. More information 4-H SET is available at http://www.ca4h.org/set/.

**Archery needs one more Leader for Amador County**

A 4-H shooting sports workshop for the archery discipline will be held on **May 30, 8am-5pm and May 31, 8am-5pm** at the UC Cooperative Extension Office, 1031 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue in Bakersfield. Participants must attend both days of training to receive certification. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be certified as an archery volunteer and can lead an archery project at the club level or at summer camp. The cost for the course is $20 and includes Saturday lunch, snacks, and course materials. Please RSVP to Robert Claffy at 661-829-1658 if you plan to attend. If you need to receive certification as an (archery) leader trainer, please let Mr. Claffy know prior to **May 30, 2009.** Contact Mike Anderson in Amador if you are still interested in a being a Leader but are unable to attend this training. (916) 439-3350

**Operation Military Kids**

Did you know that First Lady Michelle Obama in recent weeks has said that more national attention must be paid to the plight of military families, and has turned their needs into one of the signature issues on which she will focus her attention? Supporting military families, she has said, is an issue "close to her heart." "They are husbands and wives keeping the family on track while their wives and husbands are deployed, on duty. They are grandparents, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers who are taking care of children while single moms or dads in uniform are away." To learn more about 4-H's role in addressing the needs of military children, please visit our national site: [www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org).

**Livestock News**

**Quality Assurance Training for Fair**

This year we want to get all members who bring animals to fair at this training. The training will be at Amador County Fair Grounds on June 20th from 10:00-12:00 Lunch Break then 1:00-2:00.

**There is no cost for this event.**

The topics will include:
- Showmanship
- Feeding/housing
- Quality assurance
- Ethics training
- A veterinarian will be there
- And other guest speakers!

The members will receive a certificate of completion (which is mandatory for State Fair) and a syllabus to take home with them. Look for a flyer to be passed out at Weigh-In that will have more details.
Avian Science Notes
If you are in a poultry project, you may want to be put on the mailing list to receive the Avian Science Notes newsletter. The newsletter is written by Dr. Francine Bradley, from UC Davis. It contains lots of information about upcoming shows, disease alerts and State Fair information. To be put on the mailing list, call Dr. Bradley at 530/752-6316.

Winning – At What Cost?
The following two articles are printed annually in this newsletter.

As fair time and various competitions approach we often hear parents and leader concerns about the ethics of some participants in the 4-H program. The following short story fits very well in the discussion of WINNING IN 4-H.

We hear, "We just know that member did not do the work on the outfit entered in the 4-H Home Arts Expo -- her mother did it!" "You know that kid who was County Winner -- his parents did the record book!" "Did you see those parents grooming that animal at the fair...and then the kid wins the showmanship contest!" "I just know that member has not had that animal for 60 days before the fair. This is obvious favoritism".

Sometimes, there is little or nothing that can be done about personal ethics as it affects the way people behave when they are involved in a competitive situation, or any situation for that matter. 4-H is not set up with a system of policing and it shouldn't be. The infractions that help youth WIN AT ANY COST are few. People will violate the rules, whether it is ignoring the speed limit, cheating just a bit on income tax or littering along the highway. Because 4-H involves people it is unlikely that those who have such values and standards will be eliminated.

But there is an opportunity to open lines of communication with the young members of the program about what is right and wrong and that right and wrong are personal decisions. We can help them when they are young, but that will be THEIR decision to make as they grow older and become more independent members of the great American society. Those who must WIN AT ALL COST are the losers in life's game.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SHOWING LIVESTOCK
As the Amador County Fair nears, read these “Ten Commandments for Parents of Youngsters Showing Livestock” by Clyde Lane, Jr., Extension Specialist from the University of Tennessee.

1. Thou shalt not feed, train, and care for thy animal for thou art trying to teach the child responsibility.
2. Thou shalt forgive a child for making mistakes in the show ring for thou hast made mistakes, too.
3. Thou shalt not get mad when thy child forgets items in the show box, for one day thou may forget the show box.
4. Thou shalt help the show management for they are doing a job that thou would not want to do.
5. Thou shalt see that thy child is on time for all show activities for thou would not want to wait on another.
6. Thou shalt be sure that thy child has the animals entered and the registration papers in order by the designated time.
7. Thou shalt teach the child that winning a blue ribbon is a desirable goal, but making friends along the way is a more worthy goal.
8. Thou shalt not complain about the judge, for it is his opinion that has been sought.
9. Thou shalt remember that livestock projects are teaching projects, not necessarily money-making projects.
10. Thou shalt remember that the livestock project is a family project that shall be enjoyed and supported by the entire family.
High fevers in infected pigs are common, and can result in reduced fertility or elevated abortion rates among sows.

Studies have shown that 30% to 50% of commercial U.S. swine have been infected with swine flu.

Pigs most commonly get infected with flu viruses from other pigs (swine flu), but also can get infected with flu viruses from birds (avian flu), and from people (human flu). This cross-species spread of flu viruses can lead to new types of flu viruses.

The number of subtypes and strains of flu viruses circulating among U.S. herds has complicated swine flu vaccine programs and resulted in increased economic loss from illnesses in pigs.

Swine Flu Virus Infections in Pigs

Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses and has a major economic impact on the swine industry.

Q As About Swine Flu

Q: How does swine flu spread among pigs?
A: Swine flu viruses are thought to spread mostly through close contact among pigs and possibly from contaminated objects moving between infected and uninfected pigs. Herds with continuous swine flu infections and herds that are vaccinated against swine flu might have sporadic disease, or may show only mild or no signs of infection. Inoculated swine are more likely to spread the virus between herds than unvaccinated pigs. Vaccination can help to develop management practices and biosecurity measures that can help prevent or reduce swine flu outbreaks.

Q: Can swine flu infections be prevented?
A: Swine flu infections can be potentially prevented by:
- Vaccinating herds
- Using good biosecurity measures and practices
- Encouraging good hygiene practices among workers
- Using proper ventilation systems
- Preventing pigs from coming into contact with uninfected pigs

Q: What about flu vaccines for pigs?
A: Flu vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. One reason is that several different strains of flu can infect pigs and vaccines might not protect against all strains.

Q: How can veterinarians help?
A: Veterinarians can help to develop management strategies to reduce the spread of flu among pigs, and to prevent the spread of flu among herds and species. Vaccinations can help to develop management strategies to reduce the spread of flu among herds and species.

Q: Can people catch swine flu from eating pork?
A: There is no evidence to show that swine influenza can be transmitted through food. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe. Cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills bacteria and viruses.

What You Can Do

First, wash your hands frequently after exposure to animals and avoid contact with ill appearing animals. If you or your family becomes ill with flu-like symptoms, let your doctor know if you have been around pigs that could have the flu. A nose or throat swab is needed to determine if you might be infected. Swine flu is spread to humans in the uniliated form. However, in the past, swine flu has been spread to humans. Influenza can be prevented by:

- Avoiding crowded places
- Washing your hands frequently
- Covering your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Keeping your distance from others
- Staying home when you are sick

Signs of swine flu in pigs may include:
- Coughing or “barking”
- Discharge from the nose
- Sneezing
- Breathing difficulties
- Difficulty feeding
- Loss of appetite
- Fever

In pigs, swine flu can result in high rates of illness and death, especially during winter months. Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs.
Flu Can Spread from Pigs to People and from People to Pigs

Swine influenza (flu) viruses can infect humans, but this is not common. Human and swine flu viruses are different. People who get vaccinated for human flu can still get sick from swine flu. Pigs that have been vaccinated for swine flu can still get sick from human flu.

Symptoms of swine flu in people are no different from symptoms that people get when they are infected with human flu viruses. People infected with flu typically have fever (often high), cough, body aches, headaches, fatigue and runny or stuffy nose. Vomiting and diarrhea may also occur.

Recent studies have shown that 15% to 25% of swine farmers might have been infected with swine flu viruses, as well as about 10% of veterinarians with swine flu viruses, as well as about 10% of swine farmers and veterinarians that have been infected.

Cases of swine flu have most commonly occurred in people with direct exposure to pigs, but some cases of swine flu have also occurred in people with indirect exposure to pigs. People who have had close contact with pigs while they were sick are at greater risk of getting swine flu.

Cases of swine flu in people with direct exposure to pigs have been reported.