

Timely Topics

February, 2011

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
4-H Youth Development Program



*The newsletter of the University of California
Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program,
Santa Clara County*

*Mission: The University of California 4-H Youth and
Development Program engages youth in reaching their fullest
potential while advancing the field of youth and development*

Caps for Good Community Service

By Madina Ferguson
El Sereno 4H

El Sereno is taking part in the Caps-for-Good community service project led by our Knit and Crochet Project team. Caps-for-Good is a charity campaign sponsored by “Save the Children” and “Warm up America” Foundations in association with many US organizations with the primary goal of reducing newborn deaths in under developed countries. For the last two meetings, the El Sereno knit and crochet project team has been busy knitting and crocheting more than 25 newborn hats to be donated to this cause. It is exciting to see how enthusiastic our club has been about participating in this project. Everyone is asked to bring their completed hats to our January 19th club meeting and deposit them in the labeled collection boxes.

Many thanks for the yarn donation from Chris Murchie and CJ Wahlen of San Martin 4H club. For more information on the Caps-for-Good program and the hat patterns please go to:

<http://www.goodgoes.org/take-action>

Thanks for your participation!

Cavy Crazy!

By Lauren Oliver
Pleasant Acres



In the last 4H Cavy Meeting, we learned about what different breeds require to be show quality. For example, an American Satin requires a shiny, glossy coat. Also, a self cavy (single-colored) requires the ears to be the same color as the coat. It gave us kids a pretty good idea of what a show quality (good for shows) guinea pig is like. We had lots of fun letting our cavies run around on the table and seeing everyone else’s guinea pigs. Everyone left happy and with more knowledge on cavies.

Battle Bots at El Sereno

-James Freeman

Recently in the El Sereno 4-H Technology Project we made battle bots. We spent 2 meetings building and perfecting them and on the third meeting we got to battle each other. We had to solder control switches onto a printed circuit board, assemble a gearbox, and build the body of the robot of Tupperware boxes. There was a wooden platform that we used to battle on. The object of the battle was to either push your opponent out of the ring or flip it over onto its back. I put a wedge on the front of my robot so it would scoop the opponent into the air and onto its back. I liked battling my robot against the other members of the project. It was really fun!

A Kid's View of Behind the Scenes

by Jackson Oliver
Pleasant Acres

After we signed in, we watched the movie Stuart Little in what felt like a theater. Once the movie was done, my brother Darrick and my friend Micah and I played with Legos. Then someone came in and said it was dinnertime. They had hamburgers and hot dogs, a bunch of chips, cookies, and juice boxes. I ate a hamburger, Fritos, and a juice box. Mmm, mmm! We played more Legos, and then started playing Apples-to-Apples with a bunch of kids. Next we played telephone with everybody in the whole theater. Everyone played! By the end, the words were crazy and didn't make sense! Soon, the parents were done and we went downstairs to have dessert that was made by the Pleasant Acres Cooking Project. Delicious! So while the grown-ups were learning about 4H, we were playing and having the best time!

Christmas Toy Drive

By April Alger, Coyote Crest 4-H Club

I, along with other members of Coyote Crest 4-H Club, participated in a community service project in association with South Santa Clara County Fire District. After receiving the trees in November, we were assigned to Bank of America and U.S. Bank in the Evergreen Area. We hung ornaments on the trees that included a child's age and sex. The banks were excited to see us set up the trees, even though we had to move furniture to make room.

Every week we checked the trees to collect the gifts. Sometimes we checked and there were no gifts, and other times there were lots. The bankers were friendly and were happy to see us; they even gave some tags to a neighboring branch.

On December 18th, we brought all of the gifts we collected to the toy sort at the San Martin Lion's Club. After we had a wonderful breakfast, the toys were unwrapped and then sorted by age and sex. When the toys were all sorted, we then got shopping lists to fill for families and agencies. Some of the age groups did not have as many toys as others.

At the end of December, we took down the trees and brought them and any additional presents to the storage area where they will be stored until the 2011 toy sort. I was surprised that more presents came in after the toy sort. The banks are looking forward to us coming again next year.

I want to do the toy sort again next year, because it makes kids have a smile on their face, on Christmas morning to have a toy and to know that somebody cares for them. It was a lot of fun setting up and checking the trees.



My Hollister Poultry Show Experience

JANNAH A. SHERIFF*

Hi my name is Jannah Sheriff. I am in the Cupertino Rolling Hills 4H Club.

This is my experience from the Hollister poultry show.

I went with Caroline and her mom. My mom drove us to the show. It took us about two hours to get to the Hollister show by van. The Hollister show was in the San Benito county fairgrounds at Bolado Park 7 miles south of Hollister.

There were a lot of show birds there. They were very pretty show birds. I got to touch a Silkie. It was black and white and very soft! The owner let us touch her.

I then went to the sale area. There were birds on sale. We got a duckwing bantam chicken (she is a very gentle and quiet bird). I liked to watch showmanship. The participants were pretty good at it! I learnt a lot from the showmanship.

Then we visited the vendor area where there was a vendor: "King's Feed". This company makes feed for poultry. We got Hen Scratch and Show'n grow pellets for the new hen we had bought at the fair.

My favorite part was when I got to see all of the show birds.

I really enjoyed sharing this with you!



Fun at the Poultry Show

By Emily Friesen
Coyote Crest 4H Club

On Saturday January 8, 2011, the poultry group of Coyote Crest went to a poultry show at the Hollister fair grounds. It was put on by the Gold Coast Poultry Fanciers. When we got to the place we bundled up because it was so cold (even inside)! When we got inside we could hear the sound of the chickens and ducks and geese. It was loud and a little smelly.

There were so many birds - all different shapes, colors, and sizes! We had an assignment to do. It was sort of like a scavenger hunt. We had two pieces of paper. One of the papers had pictures of different types of birds but without the names of them on the paper. On the other piece of paper there were pictures of different types of combs (the things on top of a chickens head). Next, with the pieces of paper we had to find what kind of comb it was and for the other page we had to find the right kind of bird it was. From the chickens at the show of course. Then we got to watch the poultry showmanship. There were lots of kids and they were really good at showing their chickens. It was a very good trip! The 4-Hers who went on this field trip were Emily Friesen, Santiago Piva, April Alger, Aaron Alger, and Nathaniel Paulson.

Gold Coast Poultry Show: Ballado Park Hollister

The San Martin 4H Poultry Project (Leaders Nicky Austin and Jayne Perriman) go to the Gold Coast Poultry Show as our January Meeting. The event is a big one with around 1000 birds and was on January 7-9th. The following were there: Jennifer Perryman, Gracie Dudeck, Hanna Austin, Taylor Morrison, and Sophie Hewitt. Taylor also showed in showmanship. Below is a story of my show experience with some helpful hints.

Starting of a show isn't just putting your bird in a cage at the show in the morning. First you need practice mental and physically. When you mentally practice this is to help you keep your focus. One should always do this before a speech, a game, or in this case a show. Everyone has their own style but start yours in a relaxed place, a smile on your face and take a deep breath, this will help you not get stressed and be relaxed, which judges like. Then physically practice. I don't mean lift weights, but you might have to if your bird is big and heavy. No, I mean find the showmanship step directions and practice them; of course practice will help you in doing most anything in life.

Now that you've practiced, you have to make sure that your bird is clean and has a leg number ring. When you clean your birds you may find that some are really not ready for the show and you just don't take them and write "scratch" on the cage card. With most shows you will have to bring the bird or any animal the night before or early in the morning. The thing that is really nice about bringing your birds early, especially the night before, is that you get to meet friends and new people who are also bringing their birds, and the people that run and set up the show. This show is neat, as they have a potluck on that night before. This time I got an awesome lemon meringue thing and bunch of other little sweets. Of course it is nice to bring some food too.

Once your bird is settled in its cage, now the show awaits, a good sleep is in order. Remember not to leave food in the cage, as a bird with a full crop does not show as well. Bring a



book to pass the time or you can look at all the chickens and you can talk everyone else, which I find so nice. I ended up visiting, watching and showing the whole day. Of course there will be birds for sale, but get there early if you want the best ones. I bought two the night before. Always tell the seller if you want to show the bird so that you don't buy a bird that is not show quality. You should also make sure that you have looked at your Standard of Perfection book or know what the breed traits are. Since showmanship was at 1 pm, I then changed into my show outfit (4H Whites) before your class and get your chicken and watch the other competitions until you're up. When you're up doing showmanship smile for the judge, your mom's camera, and the Press (reporters) You never know when one will be there and in my case there were a couple and they interviewed and took many pictures of me. I felt pretty special. After the showmanship relax and wait for the raffle and of course the placing announcement. I got a 3rd out of around 13 competitors in the 12-14 age groups and I felt really good.

After that you can also browse around to see who has won what and what chickens are left at the sale tables. At shows, competitors and sellers love to talk about their birds, their breeds and you can really learn a lot. I hope to get to another show or two. I hope to see my picture and an article in the Mercury News too!



Robotics Project

by Darrick Oliver
Pleasant Acres Club

Last month we created robots that could shoot balls at a target like a trebuchet. Using the Lego Robotics set, I was able to program the robot to move its arm 90 degrees from horizontal to vertical in 1 second. That would shoot the ball in the direction it was facing. We also created a car that would move by sound, and then used it as a target for the trebuchet. My brother would try to move the car out of the ball's way while I would use the touch sensor to shoot at it. I learned how to build a trebuchet and to use the voice-controlled input on the car. We enjoy this project very much. Thank you to Mr. Hares for teaching us!

County Presentation Day

Hello SCC 4-Hers! County Presentation Day is coming up on Saturday, February 12th. It will be held at 1555 Berger Drive,



San Jose, CA 95112, from 10 AM to 3 PM. For those new to 4-H, County Presentation Day is an event where 4-Hers from across the County perform presentations they have prepared and are judged according to a rubric. It is a great educational experience that counts for your record book, and if a 4-Her receives a gold award, he/she can move on to Sectional Presentation Day at UC Davis. The

guidelines for creating any type of 4-H presentation can be found in the presentation manual: www.ca4h.org/files/2192.doc

Please send in your applications, along with medical release forms, to 1553 Berger Dr. Bldg 1 San Jose, CA 95112 by February 2nd. The applications can be found here: <http://ucanr.org/calendar/?calitem=124937&group=2030>

Also, we will need judges and room hosts for this event. We need adults or 4-H youth over sixteen for this job. If you are a teen that wants to judge, you need to have presented previously. Room hosts need to be in sixth grade; they will assist in helping presenters set up and will announce presenters. An orientation for these jobs will take place the morning of February 12th. If you are available for one of these jobs, please send you reply to banachfam@sbcglobal.net.

Please consider being a judge or a room host, since County Presentation Day can't take place without your help.

We will also need help in setting up and cleaning up before and after the event; please reply if you are available to help with this.

Thank you,
Stas Banach
County Presentation Day
Youth Chair



SANTA CLARA COUNTY 4-H FASHION REVUE

- FASHION ENTS -

WHAT IS FASHION REVUE? It is an event that encourages members to focus on their personal appearance and their sense of style and fashion. Yes, it is for all 4-H members: girls, boys and clovers! Its primary purpose is to build self-confidence in young people by helping them find the style that suits them best and work on grooming, posture and stage presence.

Members may purchase an outfit or sew a garment for the event. The sewn category may use new fabric or the recycling of an old garment into a new one. This years challenge is to use consumer science skills while showcasing creativity and keeping to the \$15 limit for the entire purchased outfit (excluding sales tax and shoes).

Fashion Revue Date: April 30, 2011

Application Deadline: March 18, 2011

Time: Registration 9:30 AM/Judging 10:00 AM

Where: Calvary Church, Los Gatos, CA

Entry form will be available online soon

Categories to participate in: Traditional, Recycled, Purchased (note: there is a new maximum \$100), Needle Arts, Wearable Art/Embellished Clothing, and Design Contest - Make Fashion Cents. For more information about each category you can go onto the State Fashion Revue website <http://www.ca4h.org/Programs/Events/SFD/SFR/> and review the Fashion Revue Manual or you can contact a member of the committee listed below.

Thank you,

Fashion Revue Chairs

Junior Leaders: Kyle Geringer, Leah Hails, Eileen Hails

Adult Leaders: Sandi Geringer and Kelly Hails

srgerin225@sbcglobal.net

kelly564@juno.com

County Robotics Project Announcement

In an effort to help out clubs that have an interest in starting a robotics project Dave Izant from the Rolling Hills club and myself, Karen McCauley from the Adams club, are putting together a robotics

information/demonstration meeting on Sunday, February 13. It will be held at the Hope Services Facility at 3080 Alfred Street in Santa Clara near the corner of Scott Blvd. and Central Expressway from 12:00 to 2:00. The entrance and parking are in the rear of the building. For more information, Dave's cell phone number is 408-772-2542 and I can be reached best by email at kmac444@aol.com.

This will be an information session for all ages from beginner to advanced experience levels. It is also an opportunity for adult volunteers who are interested in leading a robotics project but aren't sure how to begin to find support and resources. We suggest working together with several clubs as a means of building knowledge and project membership. Dave and I have several years of combined experience teaching robotics as a hobby and for competition.

The demonstrations will include the Rolling Hills Green Machine robot, the Adams Rover, several Lego Mindstorms robots, a couple junk drawer type bots, and some creative building exhibits by younger project members. Information will be available on obtaining curriculum, building kits and materials as well as our own lessons learned. There will also be information about fair entries for robotics and the FIRST, First Lego League or First Tech Challenge competitions for next season, for anyone interested. The amount of participation in these events is up to the project members and competition is not required.

Please also note that there is a FREE robotics workshop being offered through the 4-H Science, Engineering, and Technology organization on February 5 from 9AM to 4PM. This is for youth and adults and registration information is at <http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/SET/Initiative/Workshops>.

The deadline to register is January 24, 2011.

Karen McCauley
(408) 846-2936

4-H Calendar

February 2011

2/4-6 Leadership Overnight
Walden West Science Center

2/12 County Presentation Day
Berger Drive Auditorium
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

March 2011

3/5 Favorite Foods Day
Berger Drive Auditorium
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

3/18 County Fashion Revue
Registration Due

April 2011

4/30 County Fashion Revue
Calvary Church, Los Gatos

UPDATES FROM THE STATE

4-H Updates E-News February 2011

Welcome to the February 2011 issue of 4-H Updates E-News.

You may access the PDF document at: <http://www.ca4h.org/files/71131.pdf>

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program



*Making a Difference
for California*

TIMELY TOPICS

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month

*Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday*

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http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development

**All meetings and events are open to EVERYONE!
And everyone is encouraged to attend!
Contact the office for special accommodations for disabled persons.**

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