



# TIMELY TOPICS



## FEBRUARY 2010

*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 Development Program engages youth in reaching their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development.*

### NEWS/EVENTS



#### **Put It On Your Calendar NOW!!**

**April 24th 10:am - 1:00pm.**

#### **"How To Prevent Itchy Scratchy & Dead"**

This workshop will have 5 panel speakers composed of a veterinarian and representatives from Santa Clara County's Vector Control, Animal Shelter and others, that will teach us all about bio-security, animal to human diseases, how to handle all types of rodents and critters, and how to handle the public and your animals together.

This is for anyone that has or wants an animal from hamsters to horses. Bring your questions too because there will be time for asking the entire panel things you want to know. We might even have a "live" necropsy! Only in 4-H can you get this type of fun. Questions? ask anyone on the ranch committee or Aminah Ramezany 408-363-1855

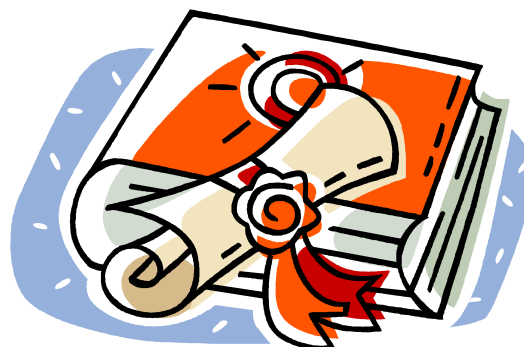
### Yearbooks Yearbooks Yearbooks

Yearbooks are still being sold, but the price has been reduced to \$25. EVERYTHING MUST GO! Every club has their own page and it also includes County and State events. Is your club doing outreach? Bring a yearbook to every event and show the public exactly what 4-H is all about! Use it to recruit your friends, raise money for your club or a 4-H event, or show all those people you meet that don't know what 4-H is how much fun it can be. Bring it to Supervisors meetings, City Council, Operation Military Kids events, petting zoos, and everywhere else in between.

The book was made completely by 4-Hers, and we worked really hard to make it the best it could be. If you haven't seen one yet, ask around, someone you know has one. I am also visiting all the clubs in either January or February, so you can pick it up then. If you have any questions, or would like to purchase a yearbook, you can contact me at

[rsramezany@gmail.com](mailto:rsramezany@gmail.com).

Rahimeh Ramezany, 408-363-1855



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## California Gardeners Can Grow Vegetables All Year-Long

### February Planting Guide

**Sow directly:** Beets, carrots, chard, onions, peas and snow peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach

**Start in Flats:** Bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce.

(From <http://www.commongroundinpalto.org/plantingcalendar.htm>)

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## River of Words Workshop- Retreat



This workshop is designed especially for you!  
Revitalize your teaching by revitalizing yourself!

- Where:** Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose
- When:** February 27, 2010
- Time:** 9 am – 4 pm with Lunch provided
- Fee:** \$65.00
- Included:**
- \* A 270-page "Watershed Explorers Educators' Guide" (K-12) designed to build multiple literacies and to help students develop an informed "sense of place."
  - \* Children's Discovery Museum's BioSITE (Students Investigating Their Environment) Environmental Science Curriculum for High School- Elementary Service Learning Program.
- RSVP:** By 2/1/2010  
To Sandy Derby- 408.298-5437 x261  
[sderby@cdm.org](mailto:sderby@cdm.org)  
Details will follow RSVP

River of Words® (ROW) is a nature-based science, art and poetry program created to promote watershed awareness, literacy and the arts. Through our annual youth art and poetry contest and educator's tools, River of Words helps young people explore the natural and cultural history of their own communities.

The River of Words (ROW) workshop provides K-12 educators (classroom teachers and other non-formal educators) with ideas and inspiration for integrating nature exploration and the arts into core subject areas like science and math, social studies, and language arts.

Explore creek ecology and the natural and cultural history of the area's watershed, combined with a study of the "art of creeks" and the "language of landscape"  
Learn to inspire nature-based art and poetry  
Learn about your watershed and bioregion  
Make and take your own journal  
Explore new resources, from videos to books and websites  
Inspire and spark students' imagination and sense of wonder

**Facilitated by Pamela Michael, ROW executive director and co-founder**

**PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR  
REGISTRATION FORM**



## **4-H Shooting Sports Workshop Rifle Discipline El Centro, CA**

**Saturday, June 12, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, June 13, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

A 4-H shooting sports workshop for the rifle discipline will be held at Border Tactical Range, 925 North Imperial Avenue, in El Centro, CA (Imperial County).

Participants must attend both days of training to receive certification. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be certified as rifle trainer and can lead a rifle project at the club level or serve as county trainer to certify other leaders. There is no cost for the course. To register for the course and receive more information contact John Borba at: [jaborba@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jaborba@ucdavis.edu)

For information about the facility and a map, please visit the range website at:  
<http://bordertactical.com>



### **Bee Project Community Service Project** *By Sanika Puranik, Rolling Hills 4-H Club*

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the 4H Rolling Hills Bee Project set out to solve a problem and do community service to enhance Mc Clellan Ranch. The problem is the lack of native plants. These plants also help the bee project because they will help attract bees, needed for honey. The solution? A native plant habitat restoration project at McClellan Ranch.

Barbara Banfield explained why we needed native plants. These plants would attract native bees. Not only that, but once established they will become drought resistant. Since the plants are being planted in

their natural soil, they are adapted to it and require less water, a definite PRO considering California's severe drought. The types we planted were golden-rod, yarrow, buckwheat, asters, and toeynoes.

In the past decade or so, native plants have been ripped from the soil and replaced with buildings, recreational areas, and schools. What many people don't realize is, these plants are important members of our food chain. Animals, such as bees, are naturally attracted to the blossoms. When the plants go away so do the bees, with no bees, no pollination to other plants.

While there are countless advantages of native plants, none are put in effect unless planted properly with full protection. Unfortunately, our plant's new home was also residence of gophers, and an occasional grazing site for deers, squirrels, and other plant eating animals. Also, we had to give the plants sufficient space to grow, providing spacious holes.

However, those perils are put to sleep with a bit of math and cages made of wire. Our plot of land was large enough so that we could space the plants two feet apart, and carve the holes two times as wide and deep as the pot itself. Although, that in itself was a challenge due to the various roots, and rocks nestled into the tough dirt. Several shovel scoops, and pick hammers later, we were left with a beautiful round hole.

The plants we had were newly shipped, and relatively young. Also, they were in the type of containers that requires gentle tapping and sometimes squeezing to slowly ease the plant out of its plastic prison. This step is extremely important, as to not break off the roots or damage them in any way. We then placed the plants in the ground, and covered the roots. As previously mentioned, one of the worries was plant destroying animals. Homemade cages made of wire were snugly tucked into the soil, around the plant to block off intruders.

As our work was coming to an end, we were greeted by a surprise. The head writer of the Cupertino Courier was there to take pictures, and a nice color photo was featured in the January 6<sup>th</sup> issue! This event was made possible by the funds raised through honey sales, and the help from Barbara Banfield and Cheryl Turner, subject matter experts at Mc Clellan Ranch and we wish to thank them. We are hoping to repeat this event and hope others will join us!

## **Calaveras Hills at State Rabbit Field Day** **By Oracia Brown Calaveras Hills 4-H Club**

My sister, Sarai Brown, and I, Oracia Brown, of Calaveras Hills 4H Club, participated in the State Rabbit Field Day held in Sonoma County.

It was a great day of learning. Each participant took a rabbit knowledge test, showed their judging skills, took a breed identification test and did showmanship on a provided rabbit. We met a lot of breeders and other 4H'ers from around the state.

We hope to bump into many of our new friends at future rabbit shows. It was a wonderful day. The testing was nerve-wrecking because we had never been to the State Field Day before, but everyone, especially the hosts were amazingly helpful. We have to admit that we finished our tests last and a little into lunch, but we finished!

For the novice division, I won first place in showmanship and in the knowledge test, second place on judging and third place in the breed identification. I also won first place in the educational poster contest. I made a poster about the smallest of the ARBA breeds, because I like tiny rabbits. To my happy surprise, I won first place in the Novice division overall! My sister, Sarai did great also! She won third place on novice showmanship, fifth place on breed identification and fourth place in judging. We are definitely more interested in our rabbit project now and are ready to try raising some of the cute breeds we saw. I can't wait to go back next year. It was a lot of fun!

## **Adams Attends FTC Robotics Workshop**

*By Karen McCauley, Adams 4-H club*

Kenny and Kellen McDevitt participated in a First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Build Workshop on December 5, 2009 at the Berger Drive Auditorium in San Jose.

The workshop was part of this year's effort by Playing@Learning to promote Robotics in Northern California through the FTC program. The Clover Foundation received a grant from Playing@Learning to purchase the first FTC robotics kit.

The challenge is to build the kit and have it running for tournament day on February 27. Kenny and Kevin have really stepped up to the challenge and

have the assembly of their robot nearly complete. Next, they will program it to move and plan to attend another workshop on January 14 in Newark.



## **Gold Coast Poultry Show**

*By Lauren Pauley, Adams 4-H Club*

The 22nd annual Gold Coast Poultry Fanciers Show was held January 15-17 at the San Benito County Fairgrounds. There were both adult and junior exhibitors. Members from the Adam's 4-H Poultry Project did a great job! Clover, Kaylee Heron, won Junior Champion Dutch and Reserve Champion Dutch with her Dutch Bantams. Danniele Nilmeyer won First Place with her White Crested Polish. Lauren Pauley won Second Place with her Black Cornish Bantam and Ryder Pauley won Best Reserve Variety with his Black Cornish Bantam. Kaylee, Lauren and Ryder purchased some new chickens to add to their flocks. The show was a lot of fun for all ages and for anyone who has an interest in Poultry.



## Updates from the CA 4-H Office

- **Visioning, Strategic Planning, Measuring Outcomes, and Meeting Youth & Community Needs** The New Year brings many opportunities for reflection and refocusing. As you all know the federal government continues to wrestle with an unprecedented economic downturn and California is in a budgetary crisis that is impacting nearly every aspect of daily living. The University of California, parent of the 4-H Youth Development Program, has also been faced with significant budget shortfalls. I remind everyone of these issues, as it requires us to critically examine our existing programming and applied research goals. It has never been more important for us, at every level of our organization, to renew our commitment to our California 4-H Mission to engage youth in reaching their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development with a new and more focused vision that assures we are maximizing our resources to have the greatest impact on improving the life trajectories for the young people in our programs and identifying the best practices that can be replicated in other communities and programs. Over the coming year, the California 4-H Youth Development Program will be refocusing all of its programming and deliveries using logic model frameworks that clearly articulate the vision, strategic use of resources, and intended outcomes of these efforts. We will communicate with stakeholders, funders, and others of our successful achievement of these outcomes. We will invest considerable resources in the development and training of our volunteers and older youth in a positive youth development framework that assures every 4-H member achieves their fullest potential. Please watch for upcoming communications as these new opportunities rollout over the coming months. Our success will depend on each of us! adopting a "growth mindset" allowing each of us to contribute to our fullest potential.
- **State Qualifying Dairy and Livestock Judging Contests** The 2010 Judging contests will be held **April 17, 2010** at Fresno State University in conjunction with a state FFA judging contest. Applications are due by **February 19, 2010** to the State 4-H Office. The entry fee is \$25.00/team or \$5.00 per individual. The applications are available [here](#). Check [here](#) for the rules governing state dairy and livestock judging contests.
- State 4-H Leadership Conference Director is looking for a small group of 20 members ages 15 and older at time of conference to help with SLC. The **2010 State Leadership Conference** is planned for **July 29-August 1, 2010**. Please contact Quang "Hogan" Tong 530-752-5644 or [qtong@ucdavis.edu](mailto:qtong@ucdavis.edu) for an application.
- Students who will be entering their senior year of college in Fall 2010 are eligible to apply for an **8-week summer Undergraduate Research program** at The Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. The program is for students from underrepresented backgrounds and allows an opportunity to participate in education research for schools, classrooms and additional youth settings. Visit: <http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/ep-ads> for an application. The deadline to apply is: **February 1, 2010**.

Sharon Junge  
Acting Director,  
California 4-H Youth Development Program

## Updates from the CA 4-H Office (cont'd)

- Applications are now being accepted for the **Military Extension Internship Program**. College-age students and recent graduates who are interested in childcare and youth development with military child, youth, and family programs are encouraged to apply. Applications received will be considered for summer and fall semester, 2010. You can access more information and application materials at: <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/military>.
- The 4-H Military Partnership Program is offering free Training courses on the **4-H Babysitting Curriculum** at the following locations: . UC Davis 4-H Office Feb. 20 & 21, 9:30-4:30 . Yuba/Sutter 4-H Office March 13 & 14, 9:30-4:30 . Beale AFB April 5 & 6, 9:30-4:30 The Babysitting Curriculum is designed to help middle school and teenaged youth to learn what it takes to be responsible, caring, trustworthy, competent, capable and safe babysitters. This course can be beneficial in training youth in your 4-H clubs and military afterschool sites. The training is open to all 4-H Staff, 4-H Volunteers, and Military and Community Partner Agency personnel. You will receive a Babysitter's Tool Bag, an Instructor's Guide and Student Handbook. Bring a doll! For more information, contact Jeanne Christenson, [jpchristenson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jpchristenson@ucdavis.edu) or 530-219-6608.
- The **26th Annual State 4-H Shooting Sports Match** has been planned and those interested in participating will need to contact their county 4-H staff members to submit registration forms. On or before the postmark date of **March 5, 2010**, UCCE 4-H offices must submit registration forms to the Siskiyou County Leaders Council. For more event information, please click here for [Procedures and Rules](#), [Registration Form](#), and [Categories & Awards](#) details. Contact Jacki Zediker, [jkzediker@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkzediker@ucdavis.edu).
- The **2011 State Ambassador Application** has been posted on the CA State 4-H website. All interested Members who qualify should fill out an application form, <http://www.ca4h.org/leadership/ambassador/>. Applications are due by **March 31, 2010**. The State 4-H Office is also looking for qualified volunteers who are interested in being advisors for the 2011 State Ambassador Team. 4-H State Ambassadors are expected to make a 14-month commitment to the program beginning on July 1, 2010 and ending August 31, 2011. 4-H State Ambassadors may only serve one term. Please contact Quang "Hogan" Tong, [qtong@ucdavis.edu](mailto:qtong@ucdavis.edu) for more information
- The **2010 California Camping Conference** will be held at the Nevada State 4-H Camp near State-line, Nevada (at Lake Tahoe) on **April 23 - 25, 2010**. The conference serves as a valuable resource for camp administrators, camp staff (youth and adult), and Extension Staff in planning and implementing all types of camp programs. Important conference topics include the new Camp Safety Manual addressing California Health and Safety Code requirements for camps; engaging fun activities for your camps; archery certification; and camp staff training. Registration fees range from \$120-125 depending on payment method. The registration and event brochure will be posted on the CA 4-H website by Jan. 22, 2010. Please contact Marianne Bird, [mbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mbird@ucdavis.edu) for questions.
- The **Championship 4-H Horse Show** information and rules are posted at <http://www.ca4h.org/projresource/horse/classic.asp>. The dates are **June 25-27, 2010** at Santa Cruz County Fair, Watsonville, CA. Entries are due June 1st with an Early Bird Special by **May 15, 2010**.

## Updates from the CA 4-H Office (cont'd)

- Please also see the **4-H S.E.T.** (Science, Engineering, and Technology) Updates newsletter, <http://www.ca4h.org/SET/updates/index.asp>, for additional funding opportunities.
- The Foundation of the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. is sponsoring the annual **4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest**. Active members of 4-H clubs are eligible to submit an essay for consideration. Please click here for contest rules. Submissions must be received on or before **February 12, 2010**.
- 4-H youth, in grades 7-12, with an enthusiasm for agriculture and its importance in society are encouraged to consider submitting for the **National Ag Day Essay Contest**. The submission deadline is **February 12, 2009**. The national winner selected will receive \$1,000 prize and a trip to Washington, D.C. for the award presentation. Visit: <http://www.hpj.com/agdayessay> for an entry application and contest rules.
- Calling all 4-H youth, 7-12th graders and adults working with 4-H youth! You are invited to attend the **7th Annual Northcoast Youth Summit**. This year's theme is: "Connect for a Cause!" and will be held on **February 27, 2010** at the College of the Redwoods, 9am-3:45pm. Click [here](#) for more details on the event and registration details.

**For more information on upcoming 4-H events visit us at**  
**<http://www.ca4h.org/4hinfo/calendar/>**

### 4-H Calendar

#### February 2010

- 2/8** Ranch Committee Meeting,  
1555 Berger Drive,  
Auditorium  
7 pm to 10 pm.
- 2/9** 4-H Executive Board Meeting  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
7:15 to 9:15 pm
- 2/13** Presentation Day–  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 2/24** Adams Chevy's fund raiser  
Gilroy
- 2/27** Favorite Foods Day– Berger  
Drive Auditorium
- 2/27** River of Words Workshop  
Children Discovery Museum  
San Jose  
9 am to 4 pm.

#### March 2010

- 3/9** 4-H Council Meeting  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
7:15-9:00 p.m.

#### April 2010

- 4/24** "How to Prevent Itchy,  
Scratchy and Dead"  
10 am to 4 pm

University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Santa Clara County  
4-H Youth Development Program  
1553 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112  
[http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth\\_Development](http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development)



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

All meetings and events are open to  
EVERYONE! Please come!

***TIMELY TOPICS** is published monthly through the cooperative efforts of the  
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***Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.***