

Diggings May 2009

Visit <http://ceamador.ucdavis.edu> for information.

May 8, 2009

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.



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.

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.

This newsletter is online along with Record Book forms, scholarship applications, registration forms and more! Visit <http://ceamador.ucdavis.edu/newsletters.htm> for information. Please submit any articles about your club to lefossen@ucdavis.edu or mail them to UCCE/4-H Office, 12200 B Airport Rd, Jackson, CA 95642 by the middle of each month.

Pen Pals Anyone?

Are you interesting 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 pnenglish@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

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.

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".

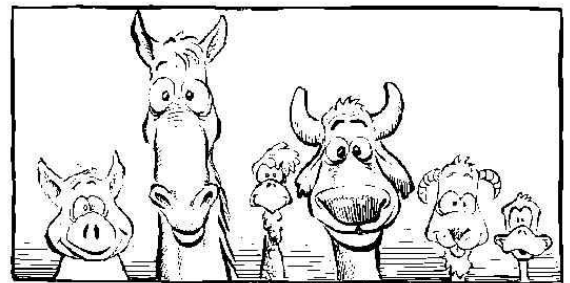
Sometimes, there is little or nothing that can be done about personal ethics as it affects the way people behave when they are involved in a competitive situation, or any situation for that matter. 4-H is not set up with a system of policing and it shouldn't be. The infractions that help youth WIN AT 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 hath 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.



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 in the United States. Flu outbreaks in pigs are common, especially during winter months. Swine flu can result in high rates of illness in herds.

Signs of swine flu in pigs may include:

- coughing ("barking")
- discharge from the nose
- sneezing
- breathing difficulties
- going off feed

- 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 virus circulating among U.S. herds has complicated swine flu vaccine programs and resulted in increased economic loss from illness in pigs.



Qs & 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.

Q Can swine flu infections be prevented in pigs?

A Swine flu infections can be potentially prevented by:

- Vaccinating herds
- Using good biosecurity measures
- Encouraging good hygiene practices among workers
- Using proper ventilation systems

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 herds and to prevent the spread of flu viruses between pigs, people, and birds.

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 with a swine flu virus.

Most cases of influenza in humans are caused by human flu viruses. However, in the unusual event that you are infected with a swine flu virus, the health department will want to talk with you about your illness and make sure that other people you live and work with are not sick with swine flu. Influenza medications are available to treat swine flu illness in people. These medicines should be started in the first 2 days of being ill to be most effective.

It is important to know if swine flu viruses are spreading among people so that public health authorities can work to prevent future cases.



Flu Can Spread from Pigs to People and from People to Pigs

- Swine 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.
- Cases of swine flu have most commonly occurred in people with direct exposure to pigs, but some cases of human-to-human transmission have been reported.



For more information, visit

www.cdc.gov/flu/

www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/default.asp

www.pork.org/PorkScience/Documents/PUBLICHEALTH%20influenza.pdf

www.befoodsafe.gov

SWINE INFLUENZA (FLU)



in pigs
and people

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