

Madera County 4-H History

Madera County's 4-H spirit continues to flourish since the year 1915 to the present. With the exception of a few years suspension due to the World War I and World War II all out war efforts, club efforts continued to inspire formation of new clubs. In the 1920's livestock project clubs were creating quite an interest among Madera County youth. Calf clubs, pig clubs, heifer clubs began springing up and some of the animals were exhibited at the County Fair. 4-H clubs also took part in Farm Bureau meetings by giving talks and demonstrations to its members. In the early days, clubs had project tours and walked from one to another following the Saturday meetings. As time went on cars became more prevalent and parents helped transport members and the tours increased in size and mileage.

At the end of 1927 all ag club members who completed their project and turned in a record book were presented a California Achievement Pin. Since this time, awards and incentives have played an important role in recognizing Madera's youth for a job well done. 1928 was the beginning of the community club concept, combining agriculture and clothing groups with one set of club officers. In 1927 the first summer camp was held at Whitaker Forest in Tulare County, where club members from Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Kings and Madera held their combined camp. In 1929 a Model 4-H Club Meeting was presented by Dixieland 4-H Club and the new 4-H Community Club concept was born and spread throughout Madera County. By 1937-40's club members were transported to the Madera Theater by grammar school bus for the Countywide Achievement Day where achievement pins and awards were presented along with a free show by the management.

In the 40's the Madera County All Star Award was initiated for outstanding boys or girls in the 4-H work within the county. By the early 40's thirteen 4-H clubs were in place: Alamo, Ripperdan, Alpha, Dairyland, Eastin, Ashview, Arcola, Dixieland, LaVina, Record Breakers, Berenda, Fairmead, and Sharon.

Since the 1940's 4-H clubs have increased in size, projects and activities for Madera County youth to participate. The 4-H projects of 2000 are diverse and challenging to youth and their adult volunteers in order to meet demands of today's society. The 4-H program continues to be family based with emphasis on adult leaders to help make the 4-H program a reality for some youth looking for a second home and family. Madera County's 4-H Program is a team effort between youth and adults working together to make better citizens and community.

MADERA COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

Year Chartered/Organized

*Currently operating

Ahwahnee	1950	*Raymond	1947
Alamo	1930	Record Breakers	1937
Alpha	1932	Ripperdan	1932
Alpine	1971	Shamrock	1969
*Alview-Dairyland (Alview)	1957	Sharon	1940
Amistad	1945	Sherman Thomas	2009
Arcola	1935	*Sierra Shadows	1984
Ashview	1930	*Spring Valley (O'Neals)	1953
Bass Lake	1961	St. Joachims	1959
Berenda	1938	Wasuma	1965
Bethel	1932	Webster	1981
Central Community	1948		
*Chowchilla	1932		
Cimmarron	1971		
Cloverleaf	1953		
*Coarsegold	1948		
Columbia	1963		
Dairyland	1930		
*Dixieland	1932		
Eastin	1932		
Eastin Arcola	1950		
Equestrian	1969		
Escarmoza	1976		
Fairmead	1939		
*Golden Oak	2003		
Golden Chain	1984		
Golden West	1984		
*Howard (Jetland)	1947		
James Monroe	1976		
John Adams	1976		
LaVina	1936		
Little Acres	1976		
Longhorn	1969		
Madera	1952		
Maverick	1969		
Mission Bell	1968		
North Fork	1947		
Oakhurst	1947		
Palm Vista	1969		