



TIMELY TOPICS

June 2009



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

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

4-H AT FARM DAY

by Kerri Alaimo

On May 15, 2009, Jason Bombardier, Thomas and Taylor Burback, and I went to Laneview Elementary to advertise 4-H at their Farm Day. Thomas brought his steer, Taylor and Jason ran a planting booth, and I brought my rabbits and chickens. We had about 550 students come around to the booths. There were kids from kindergarten all the way to 5th grade.

There weren't just 4-H booths. Students also got to learn about horses, bees, and bugs and also got to see presentations from the Santa Clara County Cattle Women's Chapter and the Farm Bureau. It was a great learning experience and an awesome event. The 4-Hers had a lot of fun, too. I can't say I can resist the swings, and I don't think Thomas, Taylor, or Jason can say that either. We all had a great time playing on the playground, playing basketball, or playing catch while waiting for the next group.

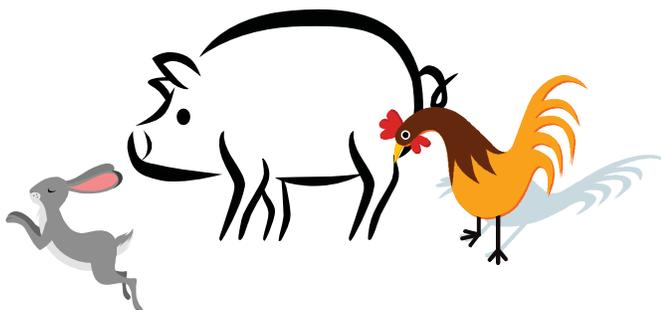
4-H had an amazing Farm Day. Couldn't have asked for a better day, a better event, or a better group of people.



FIRST ANNUAL SAN MARTIN 4-H SPRING RABBIT CLASSIC

by Amy McBirney

On Saturday, May 9, the San Martin 4-H Rabbit Project put on their first annual American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) sanctioned rabbit show held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. We were in a fully covered outdoor area which was very spacious and worked out just perfectly. Judging went smoothly and we believe that everyone learned a lot. We also had a "Youth Breeder Class" where youth had the opportunity to enter their best homebred rabbit (a rabbit they have produced). We hope to make this class a little more clearly understood next year so we can have many participants! We had around 100 rabbits and we appreciated





that people took the time to come out and show. We hope to continue to get many more exhibitors coming to this show as we work to make it more well-known in the future.

In addition to breed judging, we had several fun classes available for the kids. We had rabbit races, rabbit dress-up, a pet bunny class, a rabbit knowledge bowl, teen judging, and a poster class. With all these fun classes everyone was able to participate in something and have a great time while doing so. We had a lot of response from parents saying how glad they were to see a show like this. We did the best we could to make the show very "user-friendly" to people that were new to rabbit shows as well as making sure to offer the "Youth Breeder Class" and the usual breed judging for youth breeders who are already involved in breeding and showing their rabbits.

A few Thank You's we'd like to mention: We had Judge Troy Ihrke come judge for us and he did an outstanding job with the kids and their rabbits. We also had two showmanship judges: Jeanne Haggerty and Teresa Oldefredi. We want to give them a huge thank you for taking the time to work with all the kids and help them learn while participating in our well attended showmanship classes. Another thank

you goes out to the Rabbit Producers of Santa Clara Valley, (RPSCV) club for helping to provide the judging coops and specifically

Dara Oldefredi for bringing the cages and supporting us in our adventure of putting on this rabbit show. We had a silent auction that had a TON of beautiful items.

The food table served some delicious food made by some of our 4-H club parents who did an awesome job. Their pulled pork sandwich and hot dog meals went over well, along with all their yummy home baked goods. We also want to thank Nancy Hinkston, our show secretary, for being SO wonderful and doing our entries for us. Without her, we would not have had this show. And there are so many people who stepped up to help us in whatever area we needed. Everyone was involved in helping to make it a wonderful show.

We hope to make this an annual event that everyone will look forward to. Thank You to all who attended and we certainly hope to see you again next year!





**FIRST ANNUAL
SAN MARTIN 4-H
SPRING RABBIT CLASSIC**



Record Book Workshop

Wednesday, June 3
1555 Berger Drive,
Bldg 2.
San Jose, CA 95112

Was your 4-H year full of difficulties and challenges or tremendous growth and achievements? We would like to hear how your 4-H year went. This opportunity can be achieved by completing a 4-H Record Book.

Record books are very important in 4-H. We use them to assess what happens in projects, and how members are progressing in them. Most importantly, doing them teaches record keeping skills and writing and evaluation skills in analyzing achievements or disappointments. It also creates a collection of useful and sentimental information for future reference for college applications and creating a resume.

The new Record Book forms are now available in PDF format with form fields at: <http://ca4h.org/4hresource/ir/recordbook/index.asp>, and members can download the file onto their own computer. Information and additional forms are available at: <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/ir/recordbook/competition.asp> For instructions, please download the 4-H Record Book Manual and Instructions. The PDR Form is available in long, short, or mini-short length. The *Project Report Form* is available in long or short form. A Junior / Teen Leader Report is due for each project that you were a Junior / Teen Leader. Please follow the directions carefully!

Please read the Record Book Club Evaluation Template and use it as a guide in



writing your book. Books are judged on the member's 4-H work, leadership and citizenship development, and personal growth.

If you are planning to complete record book for State competition please carefully follow all the directions provided on the State 4-H website at <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/ir/recordbook/competition.asp>

County Record Book judging will take place on Tuesday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Berger Drive Auditorium. Record Books may be entered in the Santa Clara County Fair.

If you have any questions please call Theresa Johnson 408-270-3620 or email: go2johnson@sbcglobal.net.

Our PTA Booth Rules!

by Aminah Ramezany

I want to thank everyone that came out and helped with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) booth April 1. It was a great success and I think we all had a great time reaching out to the public and sharing our love of 4-H.

We made great contacts and a lot of people wanted more information. Thank you again to everyone that worked the booth and made sure the computers were taken home every day and brought back. If you haven't taken the time to look at the pictures please do so. The booth looked great.

Welcome to our New 4-H Secretary

by Aminah Ramezany

Everyone please welcome our new 4-H secretary, Valeh Pakdaman.

Valeh has worked for Santa Clara County for 3 ½ years. She started out her county career with GWSS or the Glassy Wing Sharp

Shooter department as Administrative Support for 1 year before coming into her current position as the receptionist for Agriculture and Environmental Management.

Valeh holds a BA in Geography from UC Davis. She speaks and writes French fluently as well as some Farsi. She continued with her education with classes in Nutrition and Geographic Information System (GIS). Valeh also managed the website for the departments of Animal Control and Weights and Measure.

With hobbies such as swimming, reading, tennis, hiking, and her love of traveling, Valeh brings her friendly demeanor and helpful nature, all great assets to the 4-H program. I know we all will do our part in making her feel welcome in this new position. Valeh has never been involved with the 4-H program so she will need all our help in understanding just what it is that we do and how her job fits into it. When you stop by the office she is the first person you will see to greet you.

I asked Valeh what the one thing she would like me to share with all of you as she begins this monumental task of getting to know all our programs, accepts your paperwork for events, answering the 4-H phone line, and handling all the online registration. She asked that the 4-H family be extra patient with her as she learns all the ins and outs. I am sure we can all remember being new at something and hoping everyone will understand that making mistakes is a part of the learning cycle and success. I assured Valeh that she will be great at whatever she tries and we will all be more than happy to help and answer any questions as she embarks on her first year in 4-H.

Welcome Valeh! We are thrilled to have you as part of the 4-H family.



Adult volunteers we need you! by Aminah Ramezany

Are you looking to be more helpful and involved in your 4-H club? Do you know that all clubs must have 6 to 8 adult volunteers as Community Club leaders and chairs to run the club effectively? Did you know that you can take on one specific section of the Community Club leadership not the whole club?

All of this is true and you can help!

In today's world our lives are very busy. Today we not only have our jobs but our children are involved with many more activities such as sports, clubs, and school and all of these are vying for our time. We would all like to be the best at all of these but there still is only 24 hours in the day. As the trends in volunteerism show, the volunteers of today prefer short tasks, clear roles, and expectations.

These volunteer trends do not support the 4-H club structure of having one or two adults serve as the "one-stop shop" for managing a 4-H club. With this in mind, a group of club leaders met on January 2008 to describe all of the roles that are needed to manage a club,

wrote job descriptions and proceeded to implement a new club management structure with great success. To ensure sustainability of the 4-H club program ALL 4-H Clubs need to adopt the new management structure. This is not an option it is a necessity. Congratulations to Adams, El Sereno, and Rolling Hills for embracing the new club management structure.

4-H in Santa Clara County has more volunteers than three of our neighboring counties combined. With that much talent and interest in our programs we should feel obligated to let everyone have a piece of the action. Here is a short description of the jobs each club needs to have filled. I will also be working with each club to help find that special position that works for you.

COMMUNITY CLUB

LEADERS AND CHAIRS

Club Leader- Executive Board/Community Meeting Planning

- Advisor to Executive Board
- Meet monthly with Executive Board
- Plan Committee Meetings
- By-Laws, Budget, Ranch agreements/ annually
- Decide Club Newsletter Content
- Attend SCC 4-H Council
- Recruitment/event planning
- Buddy and New Members Orientation
- Conduct Training for all Project Leaders with Project's Chair

Club Leader- Enrollment/Report Submission/ County Office

- Conduct Enrollment/ data base entry submit to Communication's Chair
- Outreach documents to 4-H Youth Advisor (data base entry-submit to Communications Chair)

- Facility Use agreements to 4-H Secretary
- Treasurer's Report for 4-H Youth Advisor
- Keep Club Flyer information current for 4-H Secretary
- End of year reports- due July 1 and Oct
- Annual Budget to CE office- after club vote by youth members

Chair- Communications (computer skills are needed)

- Attend Executive Board
- Member of email/yahoo groups from national to local level
- Oversee club web site
- Manage yahoo group/ calendar / upload roster
- State, National opportunities for club youth and adult members
- Stay current on E-Calendars, update accordingly
- Assist in application process, both financial assistance, scholarship and event application

Chair- Awards and Recognition

- Keep records of proficiencies awarded
- Coordinate annual awards, records of club awards
- Submit award data to County Chair for Achievement Night
- Develop Adult Volunteer Recognition/ record

Chair- Record Book (Could be a club project)

- Attend county training in fall and spring
- Conduct club trainings / fall and spring
- Oversee club record book judging
- Support Teen and Junior Leaders Project records
- Keep Current on State Incentives and Recognition (I & R) Program Requirements

Chair-Projects Manager- (Mostly tele-phone)

- Maintain Updated Project Information (projects membership lists)
- Copy Medical Health Form packets for Project Leaders
- Create a System for Communicating with all Project Leaders, Adult, Teen, and Junior.
- Report back to Executive Board Monthly
- Encourage volunteers to attend County Leader trainings
- Attend/visit a meeting/ see a Project Live, Opportunity to take a Club Reporter or Photographer
- Answer Project Leadership Questions

Volunteer Coordinator Events Chair

- Talent Show
- Dance Chair
- Committee Over-seer
- Remind folks “your event is coming!”
- Get Club Articles into the TT (support youth to write articles)

Farm Manager (may not apply to all clubs)

- Farm Facility Use Agreement
- Oversee the Operations of the Farm



Farm Considerations

1. Barn safety- structure, member, public
2. Farm Leases
3. Animal Project Agreements
4. Feed and Clean Schedules
5. Shared Equipment Monitoring
6. Oversee Farm Meetings
7. Shared Purchase Agreements (example; buying feed as a group and sharing the costs)
8. Fee Schedules
9. Public Outreach

From the 4-H State Office Updates from the Director Strong Families Matter

4-H has long recognized the powerful influence families have on young people’s development. As recent studies confirm that family strengths are associated with significantly better outcomes for adolescents in both lower-income and higher income families. Family strengths include emotional/subjective strengths (such as close and caring parents); behavioral/concrete strengths (for example, parental monitoring and parent involvement); and passive parenting strengths (for instance, positive parental role modeling).

A new Child Trends brief, *Exploring The Links Between Family Strengths and Adolescent Outcomes*, reports several key findings: Adolescents who reported having close and caring parents are significantly more likely to perform well in school. Higher parental monitoring and parent involvement are also associated with better school performance.

These patterns were found in both lower- and higher-income families.

Adolescents in families with higher parental monitoring are more likely to avoid risky behaviors. Also, risky behaviors are significantly lower when parents are more close and caring and more involved. These patterns were found for both lower- and higher-income families.

4-H Youth Development Programs that value family involvement and focus on building family strengths can provide yet another protective factor for young people's positive youth development.

Programs

Pen Pals Wanted

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 pnenglish@ucdavis.edu or 530-754-8520 if you are interested in communicating with a Kenyan youth.

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 con-

tact Sylena Wise at the CA 4-H State Office, smwise@ucdavis.edu.

Did you know that the Army will be celebrating its 234th Birthday on June 14, 2009? This is a very important date for Army Families. Each year the Army develops a birthday book to mark the celebration. The Operation: Military Kids program will be posting several resources to the OMK website resource section under "Army Birthday Resources" to help promote this across the nation. Please visit <http://www.operation-militarykids.org> to find out how your 4-H clubs can support this celebration.

Treasurer's Report

by Aminah Ramezany

Just a reminder and clarification that the year end Treasurer's report and inventory are due in the CE office by July 19.

Please direct your comments to the web site and requests for web site updates to the UCCE office for Santa Clara County 4-



H. <http://scc4h.org> Click on the "Contact Us" menu item on the left menu.

Hey Santa Clara County!

by Rahimeh Ramezany

As the summer draws ever closer, the County Yearbook Project is scrambling to gather as many pictures as we can from all the 4-H events this year. Unfortunately, we have had little response and are still very low on pictures.

IF YOU HAVE TAKEN PICTURES OF ANY 4-H EVENT THIS YEAR, WE WANT THEM!

Here are the instructions on how to upload them:



1. Go to www.myyear.com
2. Click on the link at the very bottom left corner in the copyright information of the page that says 'Studioworks Photo Upload'. It's very hard to

find, but it's there.

3. Agree to the terms of service.
4. Type in Studioworks Project number (F00414).
5. You will be routed to an upload page where they can upload 5 pictures at a time. Next to each picture there is box labeled 'Caption'. In this box please type what event the and who picture is of. Without this we will have no idea where the picture should be placed.
6. Here is a list of the event pictures we need:

Leadership Overnight (LON)
 North Central Section Citizenship Weekend
 State Leadership Conference (SLC)
 6th Grade Conference
 Sectional Fashion Revue
 State Field Day
 County Fashion Revue
 Favorite Foods Day
 State Rabbit Field Day
 County 4-H Volunteer Achievement Night
 Harvest Festival
 Sectional Presentation Day
 County Presentation Day
 County Fair
 State Fair
 County Olympics
 State Classic
 State Leadership Forum
 Camp
 CAL Conference
 Avian Bowl
 ARBA Rabbit Show
 Dan Chittwood Memorial Beach Cleanup
 County Council
 Community Service

Recreational Events (dances...)

State Ambassadors

All Stars

Domestic Exchange

PTA Conference

Operation Military Kids (OMK)

SET

Petting Zoos

Clover Camp



Clover Camp
 this year will
 be Friday,

July 17 at

Camp Hidden Falls in Soquel, Cali-

fornia. Clover Camp is a single day

camp for Clovers, age 5 thru 8 and

is a time for Clovers to share in the

fun with the rest of the 4-H camp.

The cost for the camp is \$25.00.

Applications are due in the 4-H of-

fice on June 1, 2009 and are available

on the yahoo group at [http://groups.](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc4h/files/Summer%20Camp/2009%20Summer%20Camp%20Forms/)

[yahoo.com/group/scc4h/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc4h/files/Summer%20Camp/2009%20Summer%20Camp%20Forms/)

[files/Summer%20Camp/2009%20Summer%20Camp%20Forms/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc4h/files/Summer%20Camp/2009%20Summer%20Camp%20Forms/)

. If you have any

questions, contact: Cheryle Honerlah

at 408-682-2832 chkittie@aim.com

or Jenel Vincze 408-761-1203,

jenelv@pacbell.net.

CALENDAR

June 5, Friday 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.. Black Light Ball Dance at Berger Drive Auditorium, 1555 Berger Drive Bldg 2. This is a Countywide 4-H Outreach event for 7th grade and above so invite your friends and bring a snack to share. Beverages will be available for sale and it is only \$1.00 at the door. DO NOT FORGET to wear your glow-in-the-dark clothing !!! Contact: Jenel Vincze 482-0648.

June 9, Tuesday, 4-H County Council Executive Board Meeting. 7:15 p.m.- 9:15 p.m. Meets at 1555 Berger Drive, San Jose. Contact: Murlin Lee at murlin_lee@pacbell.net.

June 12, Last day to deliver Fair Entry Forms for most departments to: 344 Tully Road, San Jose, CA, 95111. Phone: 408-494-3100, Exhibits Office. Entry forms due in the Exhibits Office before 5 p.m.. Mailed forms must be postmarked

June 12 or earlier. Check Fair Book for details. The book is online at TheFair.org.

June 12, 4-H State Leadership Conference REGISTRATION.

June 15, Hands-on SET Activities Entry DUE – Primary Audience: Groups of 4-Hers at the State Fair 2009 Cal Expo. Contact: Michelle Johnson 916-263-7914.

June 15, Non-competitive 4-H

CALENDAR

Presentations at State Fair due. 4-H members earning a gold at the State 4-H Presentation Day Cal Expo. Contact: Michelle Johnson 916-263-7914.

June 17 to July 16, Australia Exchange Outbound Program for 4-H 16 years old or older and Volunteer Leaders, Victoria, Australia. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520.

June 20, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. Dan Chitwood Beach Clean-Up, Seabright Beach. Contact: Josh Fritz at: janet_fritz@sbcglobal.net.

June 20, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Orientation for 2009 Fair volunteers. Expo Hall, Fairgrounds. Phone: 408-494-3100, Exhibits Department. Volunteers are needed to help the reduced staff if we want the Fair to be successful. Volunteers are especially needed to help with the Stills Entries in Expo Hall from: July 11 through August 3.

June 21 to 30, Washington Focus #1 Road to Democracy for 4-H 16 years old or older and Volunteer Leaders Washington D.C. and Williamsburg. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520.

June 21 to 27, Washington Focus # 1 - Heritage Trail I for 4-H 16 years old or older and Volunteer Leaders Washington, D.C.

CALENDER

Pat English 530-754-8520.

June 21 to July 18, Costa Rica Exchange Hosting Program
Primary Audience: Costa Rica Hosting Exchange Program
Statewide. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520.

June 25, State 4-H Leaders' Forum Workshops Due. Contact: 4-H Volunteers and Staff SLF Workshop Chair, Tammy McFarland 530-268-4665.

June 26 to 30, California Focus in Sacramento. High School 4-H Members welcome. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520 .

June 26 to 28, State 4-H Horse Classic - Championship Horse Show. 4-H Horse Project Members Statewide. Contact: Jeanne George 530-527-3101.

July 1 to 31, Year of Science 2009: Astronomy for California 4-H Nationwide. Contact: Steven Worker 530-754-8519.

July 12 to 18, Washington Focus #2 - Heritage Trail II. For 4-H Members 16 and older, and Volunteer Leaders. Washington, D.C. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520.

July 12 to 22, Washington Focus #2 - Global Journey Primary Audience: 4-H Members 16 and older, and Volunteer Leaders Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520

CALENDER

July 14, Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Full 4-H Council Meeting. Meets at 1555 Berger Drive, San Jose. Contact: Murlin Lee 249-9454.

July 22, Wednesday. Fair Animal Exhibitors Orientation. Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Expo Hall, the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Phone: 408-494-3100, Exhibits Department. This is the yearly orientation meeting for all animals being entered in the Fair. There will be a review of basic rules and schedules for the 2009 Fair, plus a Question and Answer session. At this time Club Livestock Pen assignments will be finalized.

July 22 to July 18, Japanese Exchange Hosting Program. 4-H Members 10-years or older and their families Statewide. Contact: Pat English 530-754-8520.

July 27 - August 2, all day. Santa Clara County Youth Fair. Located at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds.

July 31, August, 4-H Stories due (from 4-H Record Books) Primary Audience: 4-H members. A chance to win \$25 gift certificate! State 4-H Office. Contact: State 4-H Office 530-754-8518.

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UCCE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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<http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/4h/>



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Monday through Friday

All meetings and events are open to
EVERYONE! Please come! Contact the office for
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