



# TIMELY TOPICS



## April 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.



### EARTH DAY

In **April** people all over the world celebrate **Earth Day**. Special events that have an environmental focus are organized as part of a day of service. This year, Earth Day falls

on April 22, 2010. If you and your 4-H club are planning an event for Earth Day consider joining the Global Youth Service Day. You can post your event at the following web link: <http://gysd.org/about>. So far, no 4-H events are posted, I challenge you to be the first!

Global Youth Service Day is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service and service-learning. Established in 1988, GYSD is the largest service event in the world and is now celebrated in over 100 countries. On GYSD, children and youth address the world's most critical issues in partnership with families, schools, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and governments.

### Local Earth Day Event

Los Gatos Creek Cleanup hosted by Assemblyman Jim Beall Saturday, April 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. as part of Earth Day activities.

Volunteers will meet at Campbell Park for registration at 8:45 a.m., trash bags, gloves and refreshments provided. The clean up will be followed by a free community barbeque cooked by the Santa Clara County Firefighters. For more info or to RSVP, contact Frances Grammer (408)282-8920 or [fran-ces.grammer@asm.ca.gov](mailto:fran-ces.grammer@asm.ca.gov).

### April is the Month of the Military Child.

Would your club like to show support for your local military youth? April is the Month of the Military Child and Operation: Military Kids would like to challenge 4-H clubs to draw, color, decorate poster boards or create computer generated posters that have a message that "speaks out for military kids" in the local community.

The theme of the posters can vary greatly and may include information about the number of military children from your local community, the personal sacrifices that they make and opportunities available to assist or support them. The posters could then be displayed throughout your community, at libraries, schools, businesses, etc. during April, Month of the Military Child. OMK has funding available to help your club purchase supplies for this poster project. For more information contact Sylena Wise at 530-752! -8585 or email [smwise@ucdavis.edu](mailto:smwise@ucdavis.edu).

### FAIR GALA

A group of dedicated individuals and under the sponsorship of the Clover Foundation will be hosting the Youth Fair Gala. . The Clover Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization.

The event will take place on **May 1, 2010**, (6:00pm to midnight). Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Expo Hall  
BBQ, Line Dancing, DJ, Silent Auction. All funds to go to support youth who participate at the 2010 SCC Fair. For more information contact your club leaders or Mary Bartlett, 408 354-9934, [mbart800@hotmail.com](mailto:mbart800@hotmail.com)  
John Haggerty, 408 867-6859, [jjhrealty@netscape.net](mailto:jjhrealty@netscape.net)  
Hans Toensfeldt, 408 202-2009, [hanstoensfeldt@gmail.com](mailto:hanstoensfeldt@gmail.com)  
[www.cloverfoundation.org](http://www.cloverfoundation.org)

## In Memory of Ed Vargas

By Hans Toensfeldt



Edwin A. Vargas, age 85, passed away on February 28, 2010, in Gilroy, CA. Ed was the leader of the San Martin 4-H Club back in the 1970's & 1980's, when it was the largest 4-H club in the county. He was a 4-H All-Star Advisor in 1985. He was the County 4-H Parliamentarian for over 20 years. He was also known to thousands as "The Boss" at the Santa Clara County Fair for something like 2 decades. Ed participated in and supported 4-H for almost 50 years!

He was a caring person who took a personal interest in our youth and enjoyed working with them and developing them into successful contributing adults. When he retired from the Fair his many friends contributed to the Ed Vargas Livestock Fund, which provides no-interest Livestock Loans for 4-H and FFA youth in Santa Clara County to purchase market animals for. There are currently 11 loans totaling \$5,400 for 2010. His leadership, guidance and drive to help youth in agriculture will be greatly missed.

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### 2010 State Fashion Revue May 29, 2010

#### *What's in YOUR closet?*

The 2010 State Fashion Revue (SFR) theme is "What's in YOUR closet?!?" If you are a county winner then you qualify for SFR. Each county may qualify one member to participate for each category and each age division. The categories are: Traditional,

Consumer Science- Purchased, Recycled, Wearable Art, and Challenge. The age groups include Junior (9-11), Intermediate (12-13) and Senior (14 & up). Online registration will be open from **March 1st to May 12th**. Additional entry forms, depending upon the category, will need to be e-mailed or mailed to the SFR Registrar by May 17th.

#### **Hats off for Kindness**

Hats off for kindness is a great state-level service project that is open to all 4-H youth and adults. Create a soft hat for a cancer patient by sewing, knitting, or crocheting. The entire hat must be soft and washable so please leave off floppy flowers, hard edges or attachments. All hat makers are invited to model their creations on stage before the SFR fashion show. If you're a SFR participant, you will need a substitute model. We hope to collect at least 250 hats. For pattern ideas check out <http://brimmingwithlove.com/patterns.html>.

For Hats Off information contact Rachael Gross at [kandragross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kandragross@sbcglobal.net)

#### **County Corner**

Project members are invited to work together to create one display to represent Santa Clara County at SFR. You may include:

- Photos from the 2010 County Fashion Revue & the program,
- Samples of sewing skills you are learning
- Information about a community service project (like lap quilts or cancer caps)
- Examples of sewing projects
- Fabric items made in 4-H that do not qualify for State Fashion Revue

Display space is limited to half a table per county, so please use a standard science-display backboard. Table space will be limited, so reserve yours early. We might ask you to bring your own table. To sign up, one person from the county should list it on your online registration. For more information contact Dnise or Chenoa Van Gerpen at [dvangerpen@gmail.com](mailto:dvangerpen@gmail.com).

## First Year Showcase

Come show us what you have in your closet! This special interactive workshop is for first year participants in county fashion revues who did not qualify to enter SFR. Come model your garment(s) at the First Year Showcase in a relaxed, non-competitive setting in Olson Hall. You do not have to qualify at your county event to participate, but you must be a first year sewer.

All categories are welcome to participate and you will receive recognition for your participation. Check in by 9:30 am in Olson Hall. The workshop is at 10:00 am in Olson Hall room 6. For more information, contact Kylie Deal at [dmtigers06@yahoo.com](mailto:dmtigers06@yahoo.com)

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## National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training Workshops

Two National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training Workshops will be held this spring, one in the western United States and one in the east. Listed below is some preliminary information about both events.

National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training Workshop, Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, May 3-8, 2010. Registration fees and postmarked deadlines are as follows:

- Received by April 1, 2010 - \$375.00 per person
  - Received April 2 - 15, 2010 - \$400.00 per person
  - Received after April 16, 2010 - \$425.00 per person
- The registration fee listed on the workshop application/registration includes the cost of meals, dormitory lodging, program fees, and insurance.

National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training Workshop, Grand Junction, Colorado. May 11 - 15, 2010. Registration fees and postmarked deadlines are as follows:

- Received by April 1, 2010 - \$275.00 per person
- Received April 2 - 15, 2010 - \$300.00 per person
- Received after April 16, 2010 - \$325.00 per person

The registration fee listed on the workshop application/registration includes the cost of most meals, workshop materials, program fees, and insurance. *Lodging is not included and attendees must make lodging arrangements in Grand Junction.*

If you would like additional information or registration forms for one of both of these events, please email John Borba at: [jaborba@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jaborba@ucdavis.edu)

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## 4-H State Leadership Conference

The 4-H State Leadership Conference is an annual event organized by youth and for high school aged youth. It is a great opportunity to meet 4-H'ers from across the state and to hone leadership skills during several days of workshops and social events.

This year's theme is...OPERATION 4-H! Are you ready to listen like a cadet to the inspirational public speakers? Are you outgoing like a Lieutenant and want to socialize with new people? Or are you prepared like a General and ready for anything? If you like to have fun, meet new members, and are prepared for a challenge, then this is the place for you! To learn more about this amazing boot camp... I mean conference... talk to your county or visit the website at <http://www.ca4h.org/>.

SLC 2010 Operation 4-H- July 29<sup>th</sup>- August 1<sup>st</sup> at UC Davis

*Can you complete the task ahead?*



## My New Red Shoes

By Susan Weaver, Pleasant Acres 4-H Club

Thank you to the people who donated new shoes at Favorite Foods Day.

We collected over 30 pairs of shoes that will be donated to the "My New Red Shoes" organization. Since 2006, My New Red Shoes has dressed over 4,600 children for success on the first day of school! This organization provides new shoes and a gift card to homeless children at the beginning of each school year.

This is an awesome organization that is doing something to help those in our community. For more information, go to <http://www.mynewredshoes.org/>



## Favorite Foods Day - 4H Youth are really cookin' now!

Susan Weaver, Pleasant Acres 4-H Club

Favorite Foods Day was held at Berger Drive Auditorium on February 27th. For those of you that missed it, here is a recap of the events. Bright and early that morning, 29 4-H members from Santa Clara County arrived to set up their theme place setting and displayed their "Favorite Food" entry. There was a short opening ceremony followed by activities and evaluations. While the participants waited to be judged, they did many activities: Molding Fondant shapes, playing games, learning about "black Light" bacteria and identifying potted herb plants.

One by one, the participants were called in to tell the judges about their entry. With enthusiasm and pride, each place setting and Favorite Food was presented to the volunteer judges. There were many positive comments from the judges, such as:

"even I learned something new." or "I've got to get that recipe!" After all of the evaluations were complete, scores were added and each participant received an award. Included in this article is a list of the awards youth earned:

**Clover Awards** - Malia Tieu, Alysse Heller, Dustin Geringer and Alexis Grove

For youth 9 and older, there are three opportunities to earn awards. The average score from 3 judges determines the award.

### Dessert Category ~

**Beginners:** Megan Chatsinchal - Red, Conner Hares - Blue, Erin Kerr - Gold, Julia Guerrero - Blue, Helen Grove - White,

**Juniors:** Kristen Chan - Gold, Kiely Rose Phillips - Gold, Sarai Brown - Blue, Gabrielle Schord - Blue, Josh Fritz - Gold, R.J. Bianco - Blue, Beth Funke - Gold

**Novice:** Sebrienne Ferguson - Gold, Taylor Schmidt - Blue, Mitchell Chan - Gold

**Seniors:** Kerri Alaimo - Blue, Allie Fritz - Blue, Danielle Bianco - Blue, Nick Funke - Blue

### One Dish Meals Category

*A new category*

**Juniors:** Oracia Brown - Gold, Kyle Geringer - Blue, Sophia Teixeira - Blue

**Seniors:** Cepideh Ramezany - Gold, Lana Kuffler - Gold

The **Peoples Choice** award was voted on by all in attendance:

**First Place:** Kyle Geringer, French Dip Sandwich

**Second Place:** Erin Kerr, Cheese-cake

**Third Place:** Nick Funke, Cinnamon Rolls

**Thank you !! to the volunteer judges and our youth helpers that helped to make this day run smoothly.**



## 4-H Club Leadership, We need you!

*Fe Moncloa, 4-H Youth Development Advisor*

This program year, there are 611 youth and 255 volunteers participating in 11 Community Clubs, ranging in size from 15 to 200 members. Each club holds monthly business meetings offers projects for youth, and leadership opportunities for youth and adults. Although youth run the monthly meetings and are the ones who vote on decisions, it is a group of extremely dedicated adults who ensure the success and continuity of the program.

For those of you who have stepped up to the plate at one point or another, and/or currently hold a managerial position in a 4-H Club as a 4-H Volunteer, you know the joys, opportunities and challenges that these positions hold. The 4-H Club program in Santa Clara County is primarily a volunteer organization. Projects, events, community service and outreach is conducted by a team of dedicated adults and youth. Thank you!

I take this opportunity to invite others to step up to the plate and serve in a leadership role in a 4-H Club. I firmly believe that welcoming new ideas and thus new leadership into these various roles contributes to the strength of the program. It is expected that a 4-H Volunteer will serve in one of these roles for no more than three years.

This ideal situation is true in several clubs, but not in all. In some clubs a few people do all of the work and resist help, in others a few people do all of the work, ask for more help and no one steps up. These attitudes stifle the club and the program and result in dropped enrollment.

If you are interested in serving in a leadership role in your club as a 4-H Volunteer, there are several positions available such as:

Awards: Collect club achievement data and conduct awards ceremony.

Club Leader Provide leadership and support to the 4-H volunteer leadership team. Serve as the main contact with CE office.

Communications: Implement all forms of communication for the entire club and update the club's file on

the county Yahoo group. Conduct a public relations campaign to promote 4-H in the community.

Enrollment: Coach new families in the enrollment process and collect all information from membership to submit to CE Office. Respond to calls from prospective members.

Events: Coordinate club events and participation in outreach activities.

Executive Board: One position. Supports the Club's Executive Board and attends Council meetings.

Project Manager: Supports the project leadership teams (Jr. and Teen Leaders and Project Leaders) to guide their learning of knowledge, skills and 4-H project guidelines.

Ranch: Oversee activities at the ranch and serve in county-wide ranch committee.

Record Books: Provide guidance to members on how to record their 4-H experience.

Ask your Club Leaders for a complete job description which are posted on the yahoo group. The number of positions varies among clubs and often depends on the size of each club.

**A training for all 2010-2011 Club Leaders will be held on May 22nd.**

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## 4-H Re-Enrollment in June

*Fe Moncloa, 4-H Youth Development Advisor*

Each year returning 4-H members and 4-H volunteers must re-enroll in the 4-H program. In the past re-enrollment took place in August or September. This year, re-enrollment for the 2010-11 year will begin and end in June. On July 1 the enrollment software will list all 4-H members and volunteers who did not re-enroll as inactive.

Information and training on the re-enrollment process along with strategies for success will be shared at the 4-H Club Leadership training in May.

## Updates from the CA 4-H Office

### 4-H Committees

- 4-H Youth, Adult Volunteers, and County Staff are all encouraged to apply to serve on a **4-H Statewide Advisory Committee**. Each committee is composed of staff, 4-H members, 4-H Volunteers, and CA 4-H Statewide Office staff. The committees you may apply for are:
  - \* *Policy Advisory Committee,*
  - \* *Incentives and Recognition Advisory Committee,*
  - \* *Citizenship/Service Learning Council,*
  - \* *International Exchange Support Advisory Committee,*
  - \* *Equine Education Advisory Committee,*
  - \* *Animal Science Education Advisory Committee,*
  - \* *Camping Advisory Committee,*
  - \* *CA 4-H Technology Leadership Team, and*
  - \* *Healthy Living Advisory Committee.*

Applications are due postmarked by **May 31, 2010**. You may contact the State 4-H Office for any questions, 530-754-8518.

### Events

- The State Office is organizing a **Field Day South** and is looking for interested members and Leaders to volunteer to organize the event. All interested should contact Quang "Hogan" Tong 530-752-5644 or [qtong@ucdavis.edu](mailto:qtong@ucdavis.edu)
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to submit projects for the **4th annual Rachel Carson "Sense of Wonder"** contest. Enter poetic works, photographs, essays or dances that highlight your love of some aspect of nature. The deadline for team entries is **June 16, 2010**. For more information, including contest rules, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>.
- The **2010 State 4-H Leaders' Forum**, with the theme of, "Upgrade! S.E.T. your system! Go!", will be held **November 5-7, 2010** at the Asilomar

Conference Center. Portions of the forum will focus on sharing ideas about the various ways that 4-H educates its members in the Science, Engineering, and Technology initiative, facilitated by volunteers and staff. Workshop proposals are due **July 1** and forum registration is due **September 1**. More information is available at <http://www.ca4h.org/conference/slf>.

- 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. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13, 2010**. 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 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>
- The **Championship 4-H Horse Show** information and rules are online at <http://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 15th. There are new classes being offered such as gymkhana walk/trot, versatility and elite showmanship.



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

### Project Opportunities

- **Are you looking for a community service project?** Check out <http://www.allpeoplequilt.com/> and click on the links to the **Million Pillowcase Project**. The project lasts through December 2010. The basic pattern is the easiest and is suitable for beginning sewers. Look at the link for a store near you that is accepting the pillowcases. They are donated to the homeless, foster children, cancer patients and others so they can be designed for boys, girls, and adults. In Tuolumne County, 4-H leaders donated leftover fabric and members sewed the pillowcases at their "Everything but Animals" Field Day.
- A training course for the **4-H Archery Discipline** will be offered as a workshop at the 2010 California Camping Conference, **April 23-25, 2010**. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be certified as archery volunteers and can instruct archery club projects and camp programs. For more information about registering for this course contact John Borba at (661) 868-6216 or email: [jaborba@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jaborba@ucdavis.edu).

### Awards and Scholarships for 4-H Youth and/or Volunteers

- The **Santa Clara County Farm Bureau** will be awarding two college scholarships for the Fall of 2010. To be eligible to apply, youth must have a 2.7 GPA or higher. Awards are based on scholastic achievement, career goals, leadership skills, community involvement, and accomplishments. The application includes a contact info form, brief list of questions, transcripts, and one letter of recommendation. Applications should be mailed or dropped off at the Farm Bureau office in Morgan Hill by **FRIDAY, April 30, 2010**. The application form and introductory letter is posted on the scc4hyahoo group. If you have any questions call Jennifer Williams at (408) 776-1684.
- The **2010 Statewide 4-H Higher Education Scholarships** are available for application and due to the State 4-H Office postmarked by **April 30, 2010**. To view the full list and description require-

ments of the scholarships available, visit: <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/ir/scholarship/>.

- The **Golden Clover Awards** recognize outstanding achievement of 4-H members, volunteers, 4-H program staff, and groups within the 4-H YDP. Applications are due postmarked by **May 31, 2010**. The 2010 applications are now available on the state website at: <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/ir/goldenclover>. Please nominate a worthy candidate that you believe is deserving of this great honor. Direct questions to Quang "Hogan" Tong at 530-752-5644 or email at [qtong@ucdavis.edu](mailto:qtong@ucdavis.edu).
- The UC 4-H Youth Development Program is committed to promoting higher education, in part through offering scholarships. **Statewide 4-H Scholarships** are currently available to students pursuing degrees and future careers in science, engineering, agriculture, large animal science, and/or beekeeping fields. Applications must be postmarked by **April 30, 2010**, and sent to the California State 4-H Office. For applications and more information, please visit <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/ir/scholarship/>.
- Nominate a young environmental hero for a \$2,500 award! **The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes** honors young people (ages 8-18) who have made a significant positive impact on others and our environment.

Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,500 to support their service work or higher education. Half the winners are chosen for their environmental work, and half are chosen for general leadership and community service. For more information, visit <http://barronprize.org>.

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Valeh Pakdaman, 4-H Secretary's  
phone number has changed. Please contact her  
at  
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## 4-H Calendar

### April 2010

- 4/12** 4-H Ranch Committee Meeting  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
7:00 to 9:00 pm.
- 4/13** 4-H County Council Exec Board Meeting  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
7:15 to 9:00 p.m.
- 4/17** Fashion Revue  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 4/24** "How to Prevent Itchy, Scratchy and Dead"  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
10 am to 4 pm

### May 2010

- 5/1** Fair Gala  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
6:00 pm to midnight

### June 2010

- 6/1** Summer Camp Applications due at 4-H county office

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

Contact Valeh Pakdaman for special accommodations for disabled per-