



Madison County 4-H News



January / February 2008

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR AND A NEW 4-H AGENT!!



Dear 4-H Families,

Happy New Year to everyone! With a new year comes a new 4-H agent and I am very excited to be here! I have

many plans for the 4-H program and am looking forward to getting a chance to meet each of the clubs.

Just to tell you a little bit about myself:

My name is Heather Johnson and I grew up in Jefferson County. I joined the 4-H and got involved with many different clubs at a young age and benefited greatly from those experiences. I participated in the Tropicana Speech contest and was able to compete all the way up to the state level. I also spent many years at

Camp Cherry Lake; first as a camper, then as a counselor, and later as part of the adult staff.

I received my BA in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education from Thomas University in Thomasville, GA. I have been teaching since I got out of school and have a deep love of youth development which I know I will be able to continue to do with all the programs here.

I am married to a great man whose name is James Johnson. He is a teacher at MCHS. The interesting thing about us is that we met at 4-H camp Cherry Lake! We were both in middle school at the time and we became friends, later started dating, and now we have been happily married for 3 1/2 years. But we might never have met if I hadn't joined 4-H and had that chance to go to camp.

When I look back on my life I see that 4-H has helped to mold me into the person I am today. Everything that I learned in the camps, clubs, and meetings I used to become successful. I know what 4-H can help a person do and I want to be that same influence in the lives of those I encounter here that my extension agent was to me. He showed me that beyond school and home there was great big world out there and that I could do anything that I put my heart into doing; then he gave me the opportunities to learn, to become skilled in things, to make new friends and to share what I know. And that is, after all, what 4-H is really all about.

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LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE

The Livestock Show & Sale held their Kickoff Dinner

on January 17th at the County Extension office. Here are a few important dates and reminders that were discussed at this meeting:

- ▲ All record books are due to the Madison County Extension Office by Friday, February 15th by 5:00 PM.

▲ Swine entries are on Monday, February 18th from 8am—1pm

▲ Steer entries are on Monday, February 18 from 1pm-5pm

▲ Swine show Monday, February 18th at 6pm

▲ Steer show Wednesday, February 20th at 6pm

▲ Pee Wee Scramble, Pig Scramble & Calf Scramble is

on Tuesday, February 19th at 7pm. Go online to download entry form

For more information please visit Madison County Extension's Website at:

<http://madison.ifas.ufl.edu>

(Click on 4-H Livestock Show)

4-H CLUB NEWS



Saddle & Spurs Club:

This club each year makes gifts for the Holidays and delivers them to the Senior Citizens throughout Madison County. A big thank you for their community outreach. On February 18-21 this club will be selling food at the Livestock Show and Sale. If you would like to help or donate food for their booth please contact Kathy Floyd or Sonia Morris. They meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm at the Madison County Extension Office.



Livestock Club:

During the Christmas holidays the Livestock Club members brought in gifts for the Guardian ad Litem which helps children that are in foster homes. A big thanks for helping their community. They meet the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Madison County Extension Office at 2pm. For more

information contact Tim or Paula Ginn.



Garden Club:

Their next meeting will be on Saturday, February 2nd at 10am. For more information contact Lee or Theresa Williams.



Jake's Shooting & Outdoor Sports:

Our next club meeting will be on February 2nd which is "Jake's Day"! We invite all 4-H clubs to come out and enjoy a day of shooting fun for all ages. The cost is \$5 and lunch is included. For more information contact Kathy Register.



L.I.F.E.

Guardians Club:

They will be attending a Honeybee seminar in High Springs given by Dr. Jamie Ellis with the University of Florida on

January 26th. Every year this club does a History Fair and invites everyone to come and see what they have done, this year's event is on Saturday, February 9th at 10am. They are getting geared up to raise money for the relay for life by having a Yard Sale at O'Neal's Restaurant on March 1st and a Bake Sale on March 8th at Winn Dixie from 9am-1pm. For more information contact Tina Langell.

Hickory Grove:

This club meets once a month. For more information contact Jennifer Williams or Beth Moore.

Any information that your club would like to enter for our next newsletter please call the Extension Office.

CLUB CHALLENGE



RAISE \$100 for RELAY FOR LIFE

We need clubs to work together to make this the best 4-H booth that we have ever had. We need your help! Our goal this year is for each club to be able to raise \$100 for the Relay for Life. Do a fundraiser and get the kids involved in this community wide event!

We have three 4-H clubs signed up to make a team. They are the L.I.F.E. Guardians Home School Group, Outdoor Shooting and Sports and Greenhouse/Garden Club. They need donations and your help!

This group will also have a booth at the **Livestock Show & Sale**. We need workers and donations! Donations can include glow bracelets, bottled water, individually wrapped brownies and rice crispy treats.

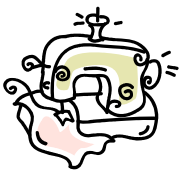
There is also going to be a **Yard Sale** on March 1 in front of O'Neals. We need donations.

On March 8th there will be a **Bake Sale** in front of Winn Dixie & Harvey's. Donations of individually wrapped goodies are needed.

This group is also putting on a **Fishing Tournament** to raise money, ages 2-16 ONLY. It will be held at Brittany's Pond on March 22 in Lee. Bring your own fishing pole. Bait and Tackle prizes will be given. Cost is \$12 per child in Tournament (includes lunch), \$2 for all those not fishing.

If you have any great ideas in ways that can be a great asset to any of these events or for more information if your club would like to participate in this opportunity, please contact Kathy Register at 971-5869, Tina Langell at 929-2482 or 973-0410 or the Madison Extension Office .

Friday Sewers



**Coming up: Three Fridays
in February**

- ^ February 15th, 22nd, 29th from 3pm to 5pm
- ^ Bring your own project
- ^ Bring your own materials

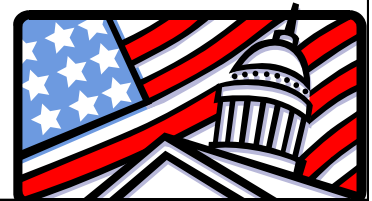


Call the Madison County Extension Office to sign up! For ages 8 - 18. (Space is limited)

4-H Day at the Capitol

All 4-H Teens that are interested in attending the annual 4-H Day at the Capitol, on Wednesday, March 12th need to contact Mrs. Johnson, 4-H Agent, at the Madison County Extension Office.

973-4138



GROUND BREAKING NATIONAL STUDY: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



The more time youth spend participating in youth development programs like 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Boys & Girls Clubs, the more likely they are to experience positive youth development and contribute to their communities, according to a national longitudinal study released today by National 4-H Council.

Findings from The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development (PYD) indicate that all youth, regardless of where they live, their family situations, their socioeconomic status, and their race or gender, have the capacity to thrive. Findings also show that when communities, families and schools provide access to youth development programs as well as opportunities for sustained adult interaction and mentoring, youth experience success.

“This study has allowed us to track the behaviors of youth over several years and to learn how family, school and community experiences are shaping their development,” said Tufts University Professor Richard M. Lerner, Ph.D., director of The 4-H Study of PYD and author of *The Good Teen* (Crown Publishers, October 2007). “We know that all youth have the potential to succeed, but we’ve found that the likelihood of success is greatest when youth regularly experience positive adult interaction and mentorship and are involved in youth development programs. We’ve also found that the nature and frequency of 4-H programs is associated with youth doing their best.”

The characteristics of a successful youth development program are being measured for the first time with The 4-H Study of PYD. Key findings of the study show that:

- Youth development programs are proven to affect youth success.
- All youth can succeed — involvement in youth development programs increases a young person’s potential of doing well.

- All youth need positive youth development. No young person is immune to the risks and challenges present in today’s society.
- Involvement in youth development programs reduces the likelihood that young people will engage in risk behaviors, such as underage drinking, smoking, bullying, etc.
- The quality and quantity of structured, out-of-school-time programs that youth are involved with matters. The more often youth are involved in high-quality youth development programs, the more they and their communities benefit.
- 4-H youth are leaders, contribute to their communities and are civically engaged.

While involvement in general out-of-school-time activities aids in positive youth development, those involved in 4-H are much more likely to contribute to themselves, their families and their communities by living a healthy lifestyle, supporting family activities and volunteering. Results also show that the more time youth spend involved in high-quality youth development programs the more likely they are to experience high-levels of positive youth development. This correlation is especially true of young people involved in 4-H programs that ensure environments that encourage sustained positive relationships with adult mentors, skill-building activities and leadership.

“As a leader in positive youth development programs, 4-H wants to better understand the environmental contexts and educational elements that provide young people with opportunities to experience success,” said Donald Floyd, Jr., president and CEO, National 4-H Council. “What we learn from this study will help 4-H programs across the nation ensure that 4-H continues to support young people’s growth into successful, contributing members of their communities.”

To learn more about PYD, 4-H and The 4-H Study of PYD, visit www.fourhcouncil.edu/newsroom.aspx

Is Your Youth a “Face of Florida 4-H?”

As a part of the kick off to our Centennial Celebration, the state 4-H office is looking for youth to become the “faces of Florida 4-H!” The state office will be filming a 10-12 minute video that will be launched at the 2008 EPAF conference and used throughout the Centennial year as a promotional piece for the Florida 4-H program. It will be a video highlighting why youth are involved in 4-H, what the program offers them, where they see the program going, ect.



Hopeful “faces” applicants can be any age. They will need to submit an application, resume, a one paragraph statement of why they should be considered and a five-minute video introducing themselves. This is a great way for your thought's personality to shine through and really “wow” the judges! Applicants can be nominated by an adult or choose to apply on their own. Applications are due into the State 4-H office by March 1. Chosen applicants will be notified by mid-March.

Selected applicants must be available to attend the videotaping session which will be held in Gainesville in April or May of 2008. They will also be responsible for travel and meal expenses during the day.

Visit <http://florida4h.org> for more information and rule of the contest or contact Julie Wilson at jswilson@ufl.edu

Good luck to all of our participants!

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 9th– History Fair 10am at the Extension Office
- 15th– Friday Sewers
- 18-21– Livestock Show and Sale– We need Donations
- 22nd– Friday Sewers
- 21st– Buyer’s Dinner and Sale
- 22-24—Camp Counselor Training
- 29th– Friday Sewers

March

- 1st– Yard Sale at O’Neal’s Restaurant
- 8th– Bake Sale at Winn Dixie
- 14th– 4-H Day at the Capitol
- 22nd– Fishing Tournament



BIRTHDAY WISHES



January Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Alexa Beggs - 3rd | Olivia Ziegler - 18th |
| Jacob Phillips - 5th | Keyon Bruton - 19th |
| Justin Phillips - 5th | Garrett Holman - 19th |
| Ethan Clark - 6th | Natasha Burnett - 20th |
| Brent Sims - 6th | Brooke Kinsley - 21st |
| Cody Jesse - 8th | Dorian Alberti - 22nd |
| Javorius West - 9th | Joshua Bradley - 25th |
| Kendall Hall - 12th | Kailee Morris - 27th |
| Coriana Peacock - 12th | Deondra Lee - 29th |
| Alan Register - 12th | Kayla Pippin - 30th |
| Sarah Kauffman - 13th | |
| Gregory Foust - 14th | |
| Noah Blair - 17th | |

February Birthdays:

- Hannah Zimmerly - 1st
- Pierce Minor - 3rd
- MyAsia Arnold - 4th
- Brittany Watts - 7th
- Rosalyn Livingston - 8th
- Loretta Burnett - 10th
- Jacob Howe - 14th
- Kimberly Perkins - 15th
- Jacob Moore - 17th
- William Pickles - 18th
- Sydney Jack - 19th
- Dakota Ely - 20th

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

Were on the web!!
madison.ifas.ufl.edu

New Year’s Resolutions

Make goals for this new year to become more involved in your 4-H club.