

FROM MRS. CASH'S DESK . . . AN UPDATE 2/6/09

We are working on the newsletter - last call for articles, Volusia County Fair participation and club updates. If you have specific requests or ideas, let us know!

Florida Agriculture Literacy Day 2009 is Tuesday, March 24. Volunteers are asked to go to a local school and read a special book, "These Florida Farms!" Requests for the books are due by March 13. We have the form in the 4-H Office or you can call the FAITC office at 352-846-1391. This is a great community service project – easily tied to agriculture/livestock.

The 2009 Florida 4-H Chicken BBQ Demonstration Contest will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 4-H Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid. The deadline to register is April 30. Contact Sonja Crawford at sycr@ufl.edu or 863-674-4092 or go to: http://florida4h.org/events/poultry_events.shtml.

The Poultry Superintendents for the 2009 Volusia County Fair are asking for your help. They need volunteers to man contests and sponsors for the contests (showmanship, record books, skill-a-thon, fashion show and more) – anywhere from \$5 to hundreds. Please contact Kathy Vojnar at 386-451-4495 for information.

Our Volusia County 4-H Schooling Horse Show is February 28 at the Silver Sands Equestrian Center. Registration forms are online and due February 13. The 4-H Office is extending the date because of our mass e-mail being down. Please spread the word about our super show. Volunteers needed!

THERE IS AN OPEN YOUTH BEEF HEIFER SHOW ON FEBRUARY 14TH IN OSCEOLA COUNTY. SHOWMANSHIP IS FEBRUARY 15TH. SEE THE WEBSITE UNDER "KOWTOWN."

The Umatilla FFA Alumni Jackpot Show is March 14 for the ewe sheep/goat show and March 15 for the steer/heifer show. Pre-registration is preferred – check the website for the form. The entry fee is \$20 for cattle and \$10 for sheep/goats.

CENTENNIAL T-SHIRTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUTH AND ADULT SIZES. THE COST IS \$10. CONTACT THE 4-H OFFICE AND WE WILL ORDER THEM FOR YOU.

Endangered Species Day is May 15th – go to <http://www.endangeredspeciesday.org> to view the video.

The National 4-H Council and Nickelodeon have partnered on the "Big Green Help" interactive on-line game called "Flip N' Flow." Go to 4-H.org and check it out!

THE ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER PLANT FAIRE WILL BE APRIL 4 FROM 8:30 A.M. TO NOON AT THE AG. CTR.

Those of you participating in the Citrus Tree project: March 21 is Citrus Pre-Judging. Go online to http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu/4h/4h_tree.shtml.

The Pajama Program – a national agency – works with other organizations to provide new pajamas and books to children in need and children waiting to be placed in permanent homes. Go to <http://www.pajamaprogram.org/program.html>. One 4-H club is already participating – how about yours? This is a great community service activity to go along with a sewing project . . .

Speaking of community service: Join the 12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count from February 13-16. Write down the birds you see and enter the information online. Go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. This is a form of Citizen Science - relied upon by ornithologists. This activity would go along with Wildlife or Forestry projects.

More community service!!! There will be an exotic plant removal this Saturday, February 7, at Green Springs Park in Enterprise beginning at 9:15 a.m. Gloves, water provided!

There will be an Open Archery Tournament on Saturday, February 14 in Orange County. Each team should be composed of 1 Junior, 1 Intermediate and 1 Senior. It costs \$5 per shooter and registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Please contact Mrs. Cash if you are interested.

The Bradford-Union County Fair 4-H Horse Show will be March 14. Entries are due by February 27 – let the 4-H Office know if you are interested and we'll mail you the information: lcash@co.volusia.fl.us. The 4-H Agent there, Debbie Nistler, was involved in a very serious car accident on Tuesday night. She is in Hands in Intensive Care – please keep her and your family in your thoughts and prayers.

The State 4-H/FFA Horse Judging Contest will be MARCH 7! Go to <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/Youth/horse/horsejudgingState.shtml>.

State Camp Counselor/C.I.T. Training will be March 6-8. The registration form is online and due to the 4-H Office by February 24. The cost is \$85 and checks should be made out to “Volusia County 4-H.”

4-H Summer Camp Counselor/C.I.T. applications are online – they are due in May! Check out the training dates – you should be present at all three! Filling out an application DOES NOT guarantee selection!

The 4-H Dog Club needs members – spread the word and contact the Majors at 386-785-4396! If you know someone that has a dog - invite them to join!

The Hernando County Open Beef Production Show will be April 4. If you are interested, please call the 4-H Office and we will mail the information to you. They need registrations by March 25.

Don't forget that the 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest deadline is coming up fast! Entries are due February 16 to the state. Go to <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/4H.shtml>.

Good luck to our Horse Judging Team, Livestock Judging Team and everyone showing at the Florida State Fair!!!! Go visit the Bee-Attitudes putt-putt golf hole!

The following are all scholarships with a deadline of February 28, 2009 (information is available at www.racingscholarships.com):

Thoroughbred Scholarship, Horsemen's Scholarship, Florida Resident/Gulfstream Park Scholarship, Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship, K.E.E.P. Scholarship, Youbet.com/NTWA Journalism Scholarship, A.A.E.P./Platinum Performance Winner's Circle Scholarship.

The Beef Ambassador Competition is now called the "Beef Consumer Representative." Youth must be between 13-20 years of age. The competition will be September 26. Let us know NOW if you are interested and we will mail you a packet.

The Fashion Revue will be held on February 21 from 2:00 to 7:30 p.m. All current 4-H'ers may participate in clothing selection or clothing construction. See the flyers on the website for all of the information. We need your registration and clothing items by February 16th. Workshops will be offered on Thursday, February 19: from 10 a.m. to noon and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Scores will include: skill-a-thon, clothing, modeling and judge interview. We need plenty of volunteers and judges!

I hope you are ALL already thinking about County Events! They will be held on March 28. Speech topics, photograph entries and posters are due March 13. We are having a workshop on February 16 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Citrus trees, illustrated talks, public speaking, demonstrations, posters and photography will be addressed. We will also have our Bowl-a-thon awards – bring all your donations and sponsor sheets with you!

The State Air Rifle Competition is March 7 in Brooksville and the State Archery Match is March 14 at Camp Ocala. Practices will be held February 8 and 15th, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. There is a planning meeting scheduled on February 17 at the Orange City Barnhill's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m.

Consumer Choices will meet: 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23 & 4/13 from 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. in preparation for the contest at the Central Florida Fair.

District Council Meeting - February 24 - Orange County - The van leaves the Ag. Ctr. at 4:00 p.m. and picks up at the Deltona McDonald's at 4:30 p.m. Bring \$5 for pizza.

The next County Council meeting will be March 10, 5:30 p.m. for dinner and 6:00 p.m. for our meeting. We need a club to bring dinner ☺!

3rd Executive Board will be March 20-22. Registration is due by February 27. You can find the forms on the website.

Spread the news - the Gator Gathering will be held at the Ag. Ctr., on March 31, at 6:00 p.m. High school youth and young adults - come meet the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Dr. Kirby Barrick, and his wife. Speak with UF students, eat great food and win door prizes!!!

March 6 – 4:00 p.m. to whenever? Pizza!!!! Collect tennis ball containers, bring them and we'll make fishing line collectors/recycling bins as a statewide service project!!!!!! There is a group coming to help – good community service project – Marine Ecology/Fishing!

**Whew! That was some update!
Take Care Everyone,
Mrs. Ca\$h**