

FROM MRS. CASH'S DESK . . . AN UPDATE, 12/24/2008

As you know, Jr. Congress has been cancelled due to a lack of enrollment. It was a difficult decision for the 4-H agents to make because Jr. Congress has been around for over 20 years and is a popular event. Hopefully, in 2010, we will once again have the event.

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA FAIR THEME HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED: "IT'S SHOWTIME."

T.G. Lee Scholarship interviews will be held at the next District VIII Council Meeting on Feb. 24th in Orange County. Applications are available in the 4-H Office or can be mailed to you. They are due to Osceola County by January 16th.

In celebration of the Centennial fashion Revue participants are invited to design and model selections of clothing in the decades from 1909-2009. For Congress an additional non-competitive category will be added for 2009 only.

Florida State Fair – Insect Encounters: Feb. 5-16 in the Agricultural Hall of Fame. For more info go to <http://floridastatefair.com/content/view/35/45/>. Termite mounds, displays and more. Extension Entomologist Thomas Fasulo has provided this tasty resource where you can order bugs to eat: <http://astore.amazon.com/planetscott>. For my birthday, a friend gave me an orange lollipop with a mealworm in it! No, I haven't eaten it!

The State 4-H/FFA Horse Judging Contest has a new date! It will be held on March 7. For more information, go to <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/horse>. Brevard County has an extra senior that would like to participate. If there is a team that needs another member, please let the 4-H Office know: 386-822-5778. The State 4-H Horse Events date is June 19th. The event encompasses: Horse Demonstrations, Horse Public Speaking, Horse Quiz Bowl, and Horseman of the Year Interviews. Go to: <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/Youth/horse/HorseEvents.shtml>.

The 2009 State 4-H Dairy Show Premium Book is now online: http://www.osceolacountyfair.com/KVLS%20Specialty_Cattle_Shows.asp. All Dairy Grade I.D. and Lease forms need to be turned in by Jan. 15th. Contact Brent Broaddus at broadbus@ufl.edu.

Hernando County Open Beef Production Show: April 4, Brooksville, Fairgrounds
The flyer is available in the office. If you are interested, we can e-mail or mail you the paperwork. Registration is due March 25th.

The Florida 4-H Camping Program is currently accepting applications for summer counselors. It is preferred that applicants have been out of high school for one year. Apply online at www.florida4h.org.

As part of the Florida Commission on Human Relations 40th Anniversary, a Public Service Announcement contest is offered to high school students. Students should create and record a video regarding human and civil rights and what they mean to them. Possible topics: color, race, age, sex, disability, religion, etc. All information is available in the 4-H office or at: http://fchr.state.fl.us/outreach/40th_anniversary_psa_contest or call Nakia Beasley at 850-488-7082 ext. 1076).

The Volunteer Forum will be held in April at Camp Ocala. Workshop proposals are due Jan. 9th. Information will be posted on the website for those interested in attending this event.

The 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest deadline is Feb. 16th. The 2009 topic is, "The Dance Language of Bees." All the information about the contest rules and awards are available at this link: <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/4H.shtml>.

4-H Special Offer - \$18 per person: January 1-31st at Daytona 500 Experience. Certificates available in the 4-H Office.

On Jan. 23rd, at the Deltona City Hall, there will be a Bat House Event. 4-H'ers are invited to display Bat Art: posters, etc. Also, you may set up a table about 4-H. Great community service! See the flyer on the website. Contact Al Manassa at atm41@bellsouth.net.

On March 18, the hospitals in Volusia County are conducting their annual exercise. They are requesting "victim" volunteers for New Smyrna Beach, Port Orange, Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach. Please let the 4-H Office know if you are interested and we'll put you in contact with the coordinators.

Just a few dates of interest:

January 2 – Teen Dance (see flyer on the website)

January 4, 25 – Outdoor Adventures practice, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Ag. Center

January 9 – Share-the-Fun applications due

January 6 – County Council (5:30 p.m. dinner – Who's Cooking? and 6:00 p.m. meeting)

January 12, 26 – Consumer Choices (5:15-6:30 p.m. for Juniors, Intermediates & Seniors)

January 16, 17 – Share-the-Fun Talent Show (Dress rehearsal and show – see flyer)

January 23-25 – Senior LAW (Registration due January 6, \$95, <http://florida4h.org/events/LAW.shtml>)

January 24 – Deland Area Pigeon Club Banquet & Seminar – Seminars open to 4-H'ers!

January 29 – County Council Officer Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

January 30 - February 1 – State Camp Counselor Training, Camp Ocala

February 1 – BOWL-A-THON at AMF Lanes in Orange City!!!!!!!!!!!!

February 3 – County Council

February 5-16 – Florida State Fair

February 8, 15 – Outdoor Adventures practice

February 13-15 – Intermediate State (Registration due January 19, \$95, <http://florida4h.org/events/LAW.shtml>)

February 16 – County Events Workshop

February 17 – Outdoor Adventures Planning Meeting, Barn Hill's Restaurant, Orange City, 6:30 p.m.

February 21 – Fashion Revue & Skill-a-thon (Workshops are planned)

February 24 – District Council

February 28 – Volusia County 4-H Horse Schooling Show

March 5 – County Council Officer Meeting

March 6-8 – State Camp Counselor Training

March 7 – State Air Rifle Match

March 10 – County Council

March 14 – State Archery Match

March 21 – 3rd Executive Board, Camp Cherry Lake

March 28 – County Events (& Tropicana Public Speaking)

Florida State Fair Sheep Workshop
January 10th: After Sheep-Tag Validation
Agricultural Center

Overview of State Fair Points System 12:30-1:00
Overview of Sheep Skill-a-thon 1:00-1:30
Sheep Showmanship Skills 1:30-2:15
Sheep Fitting and Grooming 2:15-3:00

All are Welcome: FFA and 4-H!