

Jackson County 4-H Clover Club News

March Updates

Spring is in the air, and it's time to launch the Florida 4-H Chick Chain! This program is designed to teach youth how to raise and show a chicken from a pullet, while learning life skills such as responsibility and record keeping. For more information about this new program and how to get involved visit:

<http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/4hn/>

Other important dates and events:

- March 5th- [State Rifle Match](#), Hernando Sportsman's Club
- March 9th- Deadline to register for [State Hippology Contest](#)
- March 12th- [State Shotgun Match](#), Polk County Trap and Skeet
- March 18th- Deadline to register for [Forest Ecology Contest](#)
- March 19th- [State Hippology Contest](#), Gainesville and [State Archery Match](#), Easton Newberry Sports Complex
- March 21st- [Make a Difference Monday](#): Healthy Living Projects, 7/6PM Central
- March 25th- Deadline to register for [State Horse Judging Contest](#)
- April 4th- [State Horse Judging Contest](#), Gainesville, FL

4-H Ranch Horse Clinic, March 12

Youth interested in the Ranch classes at the Area & State Horse Shows can receive one-on-one instruction at the 4-H Ranch Horse Clinic on Saturday, March 12. Participation (with your own horse) is limited to the first 12 riders that register, but an unlimited number may come listen from free. Registration is via Eventbrite, linked from the website below. Come learn techniques for Ranch Trail, Ranch Riding, and Working Cow Horse! <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/horse/RanchClinic.shtml>

4-H Horse Show - March 19

We have our last 4-H horse show on March 19, which is a makeup rain date. The Open Saddle Seat Pleasure, Open Saddle Seat Equitation and Open Road Hack classes are highlighted to recruit more riders for these categories. It is another opportunity for those seeking practice before Area shows.

http://florida4h.org/weeklyupdate/March_19th_Polk_County_Horse_Show.pdf

<https://www.horseshowing.com/show.php?show=3206>

Horse/Livestock/Meats Judging Dates & deadlines

Time to mark your calendars for the upcoming State judging contests in April:

- Horse Judging, April 2; entries due March 25
- Livestock Judging, April 9; entries due April 1
- Meats Judging, April 16; entries due April 8

Each event differs as to the number and ages of teams allowed, so be sure to check the website for details of each. We look forward to seeing you and your judging team members at one or more of these events! <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/>

Purple Up! for Military Youth

UF/IFAS Extension invites everyone across Florida to **Purple Up! for Military Youth** by wearing **purple** on **April 8**. April is the Month of the Military Child providing an opportunity to recognize and honor Florida's youngest heroes, over 51,000 military children. **Purple Up!** acts as a visible way to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. **Purple** symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green; Marine red; and Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force blue.

4-H Poster Contest Retiring Next Year; Replaced by Graphic Design Contest

Effective September 1, 2016 Florida 4-H will retire the Poster Contest. This program will be replaced with an exciting and modern alternative- the Graphic Design Contest. Rules and scoresheet for this new competitive opportunity can be viewed at: http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/_poster/

Again, this change is not effective until September 1, so this year's County and District Events may still offer the traditional Poster Contest, and send blue ribbon entries on to State Headquarters by June 1, 2016 to compete in the State Poster Contest during 4-H University.

International Exchange

It is happening again! Florida 4-H will be hosting Japanese and new for this year Korean exchange students for a month during the summer. Applications for host families are currently being sought for 20 families. Host families do not need to be a current 4-H family, but must have a same gender child (within 3+ years) of the exchange student. There are 6 male ages 12 to 17 and 6 female ages 12 to 14 from Japan. We are anticipating 8 exchange students from Korea and will have more information on gender and ages soon. In addition to the exchange students there is a need for host families for the 2 adult chaperones. Chaperones may be placed in 2 Host Families of 2 weeks each. Counties are responsible for the background screening, cost and host family home interview.

Please help to spread the word to your 4-H families. Interested families should fill out a Host Family Application which can be found at <http://www.states4hexchange.org/>

Families must select FLORIDA. For more information families can visit the State's 4-H Exchange webpage: <http://www.states4hexchange.org/>

Be sure to also check out Florida 4-H States' 4-H exchange on Facebook.

College of Veterinary Medicine OPEN HOUSE

The Class of 2017 hosts the College of Veterinary Medicine's annual **OPEN HOUSE** on April 9, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This unique event draws people from all over Florida for a full day of animal and educational activities. We'll have talks on how to get into vet school, canine and equine demonstrations by law enforcement, and special guest Chris P. Bacon!

We would like to extend a special invitation to the 4-H community. Attending as a registered group will allow you to receive:

- A private tour of our hospitals
- Priority equine treadmill demo tickets
- A unique Open House Passport to keep

Your group must pre-register at www.vetmed.ufl.edu/open-house-2016 no later than March 1 in order to receive these benefits

District Events to Include Fashion Revue

Fashion Revue is back! After a brief hiatus at the state level, this year's 4-H University will host a competitive 4-H Fashion Revue (clothing construction only, no clothing selection). In selecting and

preparing your youth for this event, all Districts are asked to include a competitive Fashion Revue opportunity within their District Events programs. Complete information can be found at: http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/_clothing

BONUS: This year's top Fashion Revue competitor at 4-H University will have the opportunity to represent Florida 4-H (at their own cost, currently no state funding available) at the Western National 4-H Round Up Fashion Revue event at Denver, CO.

Denver Trips to Fashion Revue and Public Speaking Participants

The 2017 Western National 4-H Roundup will be held January 5-8, 2017 in Denver, CO. The Western National Roundup provides a place for youth to compete nationally while encouraging teamwork and self-confidence. Educational tours and entertainment at Roundup provide service learning and community-based learning opportunities, focusing on the importance of each youth's citizenship within his or her team, community, and nation. This year Florida 4-H will offer (at the participants' cost, no state funding currently available) the top 3 senior public speakers, and the top Fashion Revue participant at 4-H University, the opportunity to represent Florida 4-H in the corresponding national level competition. Those earning the opportunity for a trip will be contacted after 4-H University. Please feel free to share with your senior 4-H'ers participating in County and District Events. <http://www.westernnationalroundup.org/>

AKC Opportunities for Dog Project Leaders and Youth free of charge

AKC is reaching out to FL 4-H (and are using Florida as a pilot) to try to get kids more involved in AKC activities. As those of you who attended the State Fair heard- AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) department head, Mary Burch, is offering 4-H Leaders a chance to become CGC Evaluators for FREE! AKC will waive the Evaluator fee & send you a FREE CGC Test kit. Then- as you test your kids & dogs- when they pass the CGC test- AKC will also waive the fee- for the kids to get their CGC certificate! AKC will even waive the kids fees to have their dog enrolled in CPP or PAL so they can secure an AKC number- and will be able to compete in future AKC events! See paragraph #4 in the Letter to 4-H Leaders where it says- "If the dog does not have an AKC number, contact cgc@akc.org and we will help; the fee will be waived." PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER! The more FL 4-H Leaders that sign up to become CGC evaluators- the more likely AKC will expand the program to other states AND will continue making free offers- to kids!

http://florida4h.org/weeklyupdate/2016_AKC_CGC_Letter_FL_4-H_Leaders.pdf