The 4-H Pledge

I pledge,

My Head to clearer thinking,

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service,

and My Health to better living,

for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

Keith Wilson, 4-H Agent

FROM THE AGENTS DESK— Keith Wilson

We want to welcome all 4-H members, volunteer leaders and their families back to the 4-H Program to begin the 2014-15 year. We hope all of you enjoyed your summer and are ready to pursue new 4-H projects and activities. The Sarasota County Fair is scheduled to take place from March 13-22, 2015. We want to welcome new 4-H clubs that are being initiated. One new club being initiated in Venice, will be the Mangroves 4-H Club, which is under the leadership of Yolanda Benoit, Juliet Buglisi, and Kate Adams.

We encourage each 4-H club to send a 4-H County Council delegate to the monthly council meetings which take place on the third Monday evening at 7:30pm in the 4-H Office at Twin Lakes Park. In addition, 4-H volunteers/parents are urged to attend the 4-H leader/volunteer meetings which occur at the same time as the County Council meetings, where leadership development activities are provided along with open discussions about 4-H club opportunities and partnerships.

Remember to check out numerous support materials available to 4-H clubs that may be checked-out for use in their programs. There are activity guides from a variety of project areas created by the National and State 4-H programs. Sewing machines, egg incubators, microscopes, fishing nets and much more are available.

May safety always be our number one priority in 4-H and may we all consider the risk we take when using cell phones while driving. Enjoy the year ahead!

4-H Awards and Recognition Night

Tuesday, October 7

Please make your plans to celebrate our 4-H members, leaders and volunteers, as we recognize everyone for their achievements and thank our leaders and volunteers for their dedication and contributions throughout the year. 4-H members will receive record book ribbons, year pins, project medals, and special awards. Leaders will receive year pins and we will announce the 2014 Sarasota County “4-H Leader of the Year”.

Don’t miss this BIG event! The date is Tuesday, October 7; Potter Building, Sarasota County Fairgrounds. Check-in begins at 6:30PM and the program will begin promptly at 7:00PM. Drinks will be provided, please bring a healthy snack or dessert to share!
Florida 4-H Day of Service  
Saturday, October 11
The Florida 4-H State Council is proud to announce our State Service Project – “Serving Those Who Serve Us.” This project is a call to action for 4-H members to engage in service projects that will help those who do so much for our community; such as teachers, fire fighters, police officers, librarians, military service men and women. 4-H members can use this project at a district, county, and club level.

Florida 4-H is partnering with Kentucky and Tennessee 4-H to have a 4-H Civic Engagement Day during National 4-H Week. The Florida 4-H State Project Committee has completed a “service manual” to help you and your fellow 4-H members get involved in this exciting initiative, and carry out your own service projects. The service manual contains sample project ideas, and a report back system, so you can share your work with others across the three states! Visit: florida4h.org or contact the 4-H Office for a copy.

Saturday, October 11, 2014, we invite you to join 4-H members across the southern region in a 4-H Day of Service by holding your own service project!
Please remember to share what you did. We want to hear about your service project, see your pictures, and learn how you impacted the community!

4-H State Marine Ecology Event (MEE)
The 4-H State Marine Ecology Event provides 4-H youth with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of the marine and aquatic worlds. To prepare, 4-H leaders and club members go on marine field trips, visit museums and aquariums, have group study sessions, conduct internet research, and develop their own “mock contests”. In the process youth learn important life skills.

The contest is divided into 5 sections:
1. Marine and coastal plant identification.
2. Marine invertebrate animal identification
3. Marine vertebrate animal identification
4. Natural History Scavenger Hunt
5. Knowledge of marine concepts and issues

NEW DATE! The 2014 State Marine Ecology Event (MEE) will be held on Saturday, November 8 at the Marion County Extension Office in Ocala, FL.

The State Marine and Aquatic Photography Contest is coming up as well. The deadline for all county photo entries to be received at State 4-H Headquarters is Thursday, October 17 by 5 pm. For guidelines and entry forms see: http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/marinephoto/

4-H Day at the Capital:
2nd; Jan. 16—18; 4-H Camp Ocala
3rd; April 17 –19; 4-H Camp Ocala

LAW—Leadership Adventure Weekend:
Sept. 19—21 Camp Ocala
Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference:
Sept. 25—28 Crossville, TN
Executive Board:
1st; Oct. 17—19;
4-H Camp Cherry Lake

Intermediate State
May 29—31; Camp Ocala

Florida State Fair:
February 6—17, 2014

Legislature
TBA; Tallahassee

Florida 4-H Congress
TBA; Gainesville
Visit: florida4h.org

Forest Ecology
Each year, 4-H youth from across the state test their knowledge of Florida’s forests. 4-Her’s test their identification skills, compass skills, and knowledge of forest ecosystems. You will be asked to identify tree and plant leaves and fruits, insect and disease damage from samples, and wildlife on a forest walk; follow a compass course, and answer multiple choice questions on ecology and topography maps. Seniors will also be tested on tree measurement and perform in a quiz bowl.

Interested in sending a team to the Florida 4-H Forest Ecology Contest in April? Start now by bringing interested youth, parents, and coaches to the 4-H Forest Ecology Clinic on September 27. Youth and adults of all ages and abilities are welcome to learn more about Florida forests and the skills they will need to successfully compete in the spring contest.

4-H Forest Ecology Clinic
When: Saturday, September 27, 2014
Where: Austin Cary Forest Conference Center, 10625 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, FL 32609
Registration: Register on 4-H online by September 10, with late registration extending until September 17
How much? Participants cost $5 each while observers (Youth and Adult) are free.
Ecosystems to focus on: Sand Pine Scrub and Pine Flatwoods

4-H Forest Ecology Contest
When: Saturday, April 18, 2015
Where: Austin Cary Forest Conference Center, 10625 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, FL 32609
Register: Registration will open in February 2015 on 4HOnline
Ecosystems to focus on: Sand Pine Scrub and Pine Flatwoods
FLORIDA STATE FAIR - EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR
The Florida State Fair offers an Educational Seminar for potential youth livestock exhibitors. This specie specific seminar is designed to help exhibitors prepare for their State Fair animal project and Skilathon. This year the Skilathon topic is Nutrition. Exhibitors may choose to attend the seminar to receive up to 30 points toward Achievement Premiums. Registration deadline is September 19. Register online at floridastatefairag.com Please Note: There will be ONE (1) Pre-Fair Seminar offered this year.

Schedule:
Registration for 1st Time Exhibitors: 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
1st Year Exhibitor Orientation: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Registration for Returning Exhibitors: 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Specie Specific Sessions: 10:30 am – 12:00 p.m.
Lunch Break 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Specie Specific Sessions: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lunch may be purchased on the Fairgrounds. ($6.00 - Hot dog, Chips & Soda)

2014/2015 YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW ETHICS AND ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOP
The Florida State Fair believes that every youth exhibitor should receive proper training and information for raising and showing a youth animal project. It is important that the exhibitors understand:
• The purpose of youth livestock projects
• The importance of ethics in youth livestock projects
• Proper animal handling and management
• The difference between animal welfare and animals rights
• Be prepared to be an ambassador for animal agriculture
This workshop is designed to certify students to meet the mandatory requirements that will be in effect for the 2015 Florida State Fair. NOTE: Certification is valid for a three (3) year period.

ALL STUDENTS THAT ARE ENTERED IN THE 2015 FLORIDA STATE FAIR YOUTH SHOW MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE ETHICS TRAINING TO SHOW AN ANIMAL AT THE 2015 FLORIDA STATE FAIR.

Workshops will be offered around the state. Check their website (floridastatefairag.com) for updated dates and times.

News You Can Use...

DON’T MISS CASINO NIGHT!
Saturday, November 15! This is the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation’s BIGGEST fundraising event 4-U! The Foundation supports YOUth, Leaders, and the 4-H Program. We can’t provide scholarships to camps, trips for leadership events, senior scholarships, and much MORE without their support. Together we can build a strong 4-H program!

The South Central Leader and Teen Forum is in Our Backyard—Don’t miss this opportunity!
Attention all 4-H organizational, project, and activity leaders - Do you want to be in the know so you can help your 4-H’ers succeed? Teens: do you want to sharpen your leadership skills? If you do, come to the South Central Leader & Teen Forum on Saturday, October 11, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, at Colonial Oaks Park.
This is a FREE event! Breakfast, lunch (from Panera!), and snacks will be served throughout the day. Please pre-register at “Eventbrite” https://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-central-4-h-teen-leader-forum-tickets-12800828623 by Friday, October 10th. There will be 4 classes, each directed toward Teens, Leaders, & Project Areas. Leader workshops include: Robotics, Program Planning and Diversity: 4-H Introduction to Culture. Teens will focus on Animal Science, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Shooting Sports. Learn more about your role in 4-H, project information, program opportunities, and upcoming events. For more information about this event contact Rebecca McCafferty at 941.861.9814.

Extension Events: Save the Dates!
Rebecca McCafferty, 4-H agent
Running from Monday, December 1st, until Saturday, December 13th, the Sarasota UF/IFAS will be offering “Gifts from the Garden”. This 2-week series will provide creatively-crafty gift activities for the holiday season. If you have them (not required to participate), you can bring items from the garden, your home, and/or the recycling bin! We will be making personalized, sustainable gifts for friends and family! (Or for yourself...) Classes include wreath-making, wildlife homes, & seed paper making, just to name a few! Cost is $5 per class or $30 for all classes in this 2 week series. More information to come in October’s newsletter, so keep your eye’s peeled!

4-H Horse Project:
Do you plan to participate at the 2015 Area E Horse Show? Follow these steps:
1. Own your project horse/or have a “horse lease agreement” (4-H514) on file at the 4-H office. (Before Jan 1, 2015)
2. Participate at the 2015 Sarasota County Horse Show.
3. Complete a Horse Project record book. Your record book must be up-to-date and checked at the County Horse Show. Completed record books are due with your Area E registration forms.
Are you interested in joining the Sarasota County 4-H Horse Advisory Team? We are looking for volunteers to help plan and facilitate events and activities for youth in the 4-H horse project. Anyone wishing to help or volunteer are asked to contact the 4-H Office: 861-9810
**International Coastal Cleanup!**

Join the 29th Annual International Coastal Cleanup. Saturday, **September 20**, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. This is the world’s largest one-day volunteer effort that supports our marine environment. Ocean trash is one of the most widespread problems threatening our oceans and waterways.

**Did you know...** An astounding 648,015 volunteers in 92 countries picked up more than 12.3 million pounds of trash during the 2013 International Coastal Cleanup.

A healthy ocean means more than beautiful coasts and vibrant ocean wildlife. A healthy ocean supplies the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. If the ocean isn’t healthy, neither are we. Be one of the millions of people who are making the pledge to support a healthy ocean and a healthy planet!

**To Register** your 4-H Club call 861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net keyword: Keep Sarasota County Beautiful. Volunteer t-shirts will be provided to the first 1,800 volunteers who register and participate in the event. Trash bags and gloves will also be provided to all volunteers.

**Community Pride, A Florida 4-H Citizenship Activity**

Each year many of our 4-H Clubs give so much to our community through service projects. Why not take the next step... the **Florida 4-H Community Pride Program!** This program is designed to give 4-Hers’ a better understanding of their community, encourage members to improve the quality of their environment, to plan and work as a team, and put a plan into action!

**Youth will:**
1. Learn about and understand their community and the impact it has on their lives.
2. Know how to relate, individually and through group cooperation, in order to work effectively in community activities, programs, and organizations.
3. Develop skills and knowledge in leadership.
4. Gain experience in carrying out community projects to improve their environment.
5. Develop an interest in and love for their community.

**First step:** As a club decide; the concern, problem, or need you would like to improve in your community.

**Second:** Plan out your project (what will it take; materials, supplies, and how much will it cost), complete and submit a "Community Pride Proposal" to the 4-H Office by **November 1**. A step-by-step guide can be found in the "Florida 4-H Community Pride Leaders Guide". Your proposal will be forwarded to the Florida 4-H State 4-H Office for review, and your club will be notified if it is chosen to receive a "Community Pride Grant".

**Third:** After completion of your project submit a "Community Pride Report" by **June 1** for State judging.

The top five projects are recognized at Florida 4-H University during a Community Pride Luncheon. Contact the 4-H Office 861-9810 for more information, forms and help.

**4-H To Receive Proclamation!**

On Tuesday, September 23, the Board of County Commissioners will recognize 4-H in honor of National 4-H Week. The meeting will be held at 9:00AM, Sarasota County Administration Building, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Board of County Commissioners Chambers on the first floor.

Proclamations are the first items on the agenda. Members of our County Council will attend this meeting to accept the proclamation. This is a great opportunity for youth to experience a Commissioners meeting and view government in action.

**County Council—Rebecca McCafferty, 4-H Agent**

This year, the County Council will be engaging in the community through various community service activities focusing on poverty & food insecurity! To kick things off, we will be collecting canned food at our September meeting. But if you can’t make it, have no fear! This opportunity will be on-going through the 2014-2015 4-H program year.

We will also be hosting a year-round Change Wars! competition. Each Club is challenged to collect as much loose change, throughout the year, as possible! But don’t forget, bills count against your total!

County Council is also hosting a t-shirt design contest. Designs are due (& will be voted upon) at the Monday, September 15th, County Council meeting. The winning design will be used as part of a year-round t-shirt fundraiser! The contest winner will receive a free shirt and a $50 monetary prize! Here are some things the shirt should/not include:

- year (we want to be able to sell these for more than just this program year!)
- The design must, somewhere, include-  
  - #SRQ4HCouncil
  - Be creative!
  - Design something YOU would want to buy & wear.

And most importantly, don’t forget that County Council is open to ALL 4-H youth! We love Club representation, so if any of the above mentioned strikes your fancy, we meet the 3rd Monday of every month, 7:30 PM, at the Sarasota UF/IFAS Extension Building (Twin Lakes Park).
ATTENTION 4-H LEADERS: it is so important that you complete all the UF requirements to be a "leader in good standing" and move forward into the new 4-H year.

UF Youth Protection Training (# YCS800) is required of all volunteers working with youth. The training lasts about 20 minutes and includes a brief quiz that must be completed successfully. It is currently posted at Volunteer Resources found on the Florida 4-H website: florida4h.org. Once you have completed the quiz email the results to the 4-H Office.

Also, needed from ALL leaders:
- Affidavit of Good Moral Character
- Volunteer Leader Renewal Form
- Organizational Leaders ONLY – fingerprinting

If we can help with this process please let me know.

Let’s Review…
Florida 4-H has expanded their volunteer website at florida4h.org with more information, training, and resources 4-YOU. We would like all 4-H leaders to review this information.

Florida 4-H Online Volunteer Orientation
Why does 4-H require volunteers to participate in this orientation? Many seasoned volunteers may ask, “Why do I have to take this orientation?” We want to provide as much training as possible so Florida’s youth have the best possible 4-H experience.

⇒ Volunteers deserve to be well prepared
⇒ We value you and the work that you do for 4-H
⇒ Our children and youth are worth our time in training
⇒ Trained volunteers are essential to a quality 4-H program
⇒ We want to lay a foundation for success in your 4-H work with young people

Please take a moment to review the 5 videos in the Volunteer Orientation section. After complete, move on to the Volunteer Training:
Section 1: Introduction to 4-H
Section 2: Starting Your Own 4-H Club
Section 3: Enriching the Club Experience
Section 4: Understanding Youth and Their Needs
Section 5: Volunteers and 4-H Program Management

Florida 4-H relies on dedicated volunteers to promote its mission to help youth gain the knowledge and life skills they need to be productive, responsible citizens. Your time as a volunteer will provide these youth the safe environment they need to pursue whatever interests, causes, and leadership roles that are most important to them. And, to adults who are not currently 4-H volunteers, we invite you to become a volunteer and share in the positive experiences of the Florida 4-H program.

Just a few things as we start the new 4-H year…
Annual 4-H Club Charter - Each year, every club must complete an “Annual Request for Club Charter”. Do you have a new 4-H club? Complete the “New 4-H Club Charter Application”. Forms are on the Sarasota County 4-H website, or contact the 4-H office.

2014–2015 Club Information – this information is very important to update our 4-H website. And—we need this AS-SOON-AS-POSSIBLE, as new families are reviewing this information to join!

Please let us know if your club is open / closed, focus, new location, time, and contact information. To review your 4-H clubs current information visit the Sarasota County 4-H website.

You Need to Know…
Expectations of 4-H Club Members
In general, all 4-H club members are expected to meet the following standards each year:
⇒ Attend at least 70 percent of regular club meetings.
⇒ Complete a 4-H project, doing one’s own work with minimal assistance from parents or others.
⇒ Give a club, community, or county 4-H presentation.
⇒ Complete a 4-H project record book.

These are the minimum expectations. Each club may have additional requirements. All club rules and policies should be contained in its club by-laws.

4-H Emblem
The emblem is a four-leaf clover with a capital H in each leaf, standing for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. To use the 4-H name and official 4-H emblem, federal law requires approval by the county 4-H staff.
Attention Steer Exhibitors...

The first steer weigh-in will be held at the Sarasota County Fairgrounds on: Saturday, September 6, 7:00—9:00AM.

Exhibitors must be present at the initial and final weigh-in unless excused with prior approval.

Exhibitors: you are responsible to bring:
1. Steer Entry Form (page 51, Sarasota Fair Rulebook),
2. Bill of Sale (page 48, Sarasota Fair Rulebook), if you received a receipt / bill of sale from the seller; transfer the information to the form found in the fair rulebook and attach the original document.
3. Entry fee: $10.00.
4. “2014 Revised” Steer Project record book (all required signatures on front cover and page 2)
5. Livestock Housing Agreement this form is required ONLY if your animal is not kept at your home / property. Please have all paper work completed, with all required signatures. (an agent will be available, to sign your record book, at the weigh-in)

Let’s All Dig in...

Plant Entry Forms—Plant show and sale entry form “A” only, are due on Friday, October 4, by 5:00 pm at the FAIR OFFICE with entry fee – they will not accept late entries! Form “B” (classes 41 & 42) are due January 30.

A Plant Screening — will be conducted by members of the Florida Nursery Growers Association, on Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 am - 12 noon at the Fairgrounds (Potter Building Parking lot). Plants will be checked and identified, record books MUST BE up-to-date. All exhibitors must be present with their plants and record book—attendance is mandatory.

Please note: Each exhibitor is eligible to enter and sell in a maximum of TWO LOTS in any ONE CLASS, not to exceed a TOTAL number of six (6) lots, FOR A FINAL TOTAL OF ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL CONTAINERS OF PLANTS TO NOT EXCEED TEN (10) MAXIMUM. THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES FROM ANY LOTS AND SETS WITHIN...FROM PART A FORM + PART B FORM...MUST NOT EXCEED MORE THAN TEN (10) INDIVIDUAL CONTAINERS OF PLANTS.

FLORIDA YOUTH DAIRY DATES

September 2014
9/1: GA National Fair Entries Due
9/14-18: All-American Dairy Show – Harrisburg, PA
9/20: NAILE (Louisville, KY) Entries Due
9/27: State Fair Educational Seminar – Tampa, FL
9/28-10/1: National 4-H Dairy Conference – Madison, WI

October 2014
10/4-5: Alabama Dairy Judging – Montgomery, AL
10/8-12: GA National Fair – Perry, GA
10/14-16: Sunbelt Ag Expo – Moultrie, GA
10/27: Bartow Fall Classic Jackpot Show Entries Due

November 2014
11/5-11: North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE)– Louisville, KY
11/22-23: Bartow Fall Classic Jackpot Show & Workshop - Bartow, FL
11/23: Bartow Fall Classic Calf Auction – Bartow, FL

December 2014
12/1: South Florida Fair Dairy Show Entries due
12/1: Florida State Fair Dairy Show Entries due
12/1: Application for FL Youth Dairy Ambassador due
12/12: Essay Contest, Folding Display Contest, Speech Contest – FL Jr. All-Breeds Convention due
12/12: Registrations for FL Jr All-Breeds Convention due

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 1

Poultry & Rabbit Workshops 4-U!

There is a lot happening in the Small Animal Tent!

Two workshops are scheduled for Saturday, November 1, at the Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI), located at 4748 S Beneva Road, Sarasota.

Don’t Just Scratch the Surface… Learn More

Poultry Clinic from 9:00 am – noon.

Learn hands-on instruction by Cindy Kinard. Topics will include: Poultry Basics, Care and Handling, Grooming and Showmanship, and so much MORE! Don’t forget to bring your birds—this is hands-on learning!

Hop to it!

Rabbit Clinic – 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

This is a great way to learn more about your 4-H rabbit project. Topics will include: care, grooming, handling, ready—set… take your rabbit to the show! Did you know… a Rabbit Showmanship class has been added to the Sarasota County Fair? Get step-by-step instructions from Heather Brown.

Make your plans NOW!
YOUR Club News...

Ridin’ Rednecks 4-H Club
Our Annual Summer Reading Celebration with Gulf Gate Library was a great success. Our members served and greeted the "readers" and gave our 4-H Information. We are promoting 4-H and our members to the general public and Library readers and staff.

On Sunday we had our Annual Round Up with an exciting Ice Cream Social complete with toppings, cool whip and sprinkles. We were able to greet our former members and meet new ones wanting to learn about 4-H and join.

We will have a full schedule this year and our first meeting will be Sept.4, Thursday at Lakeview Elementary at 7:15 PM in the cafeteria. Our leaders will be explaining club rules, activities, our calendar and projects as well as Fair Rules; new and old. Looking forward to another exciting year!

Hearts & Horses; by Nicole Versovsky
Welcome back 4-H Hearts and Horses!
On August 18, 2014, we had our first meeting after summer break.
We want to welcome our new Hearts & Horses President, Angelina Kossoff! At our meeting, we discussed the horses for the new 4-H year, community service projects, horse training, farm dates, and meeting dates.
Speaking of dates, our next meeting will be on September 15 and our next farm day will be on September 20. We hope on seeing everyone on our next meeting!

The Wavemakers; by Tony Cruz
We are high school, homeschool, honors marine biology students and proud of it! On the first day of our marine biology class, we conducted our first lab experiment. We tested the salinity of different types of water. As we were observing the experiment, I could feel the enthusiasm and good attitudes in everyone and it was truly amazing! The curriculum that we will be using this year, is "Exploring Creation with Marine Biology" by The Apologia Educational Ministries, inc. The nominated web officers for the Wavemakers are as follows: Joshua Clayton as President, Esther Rennhack as Vice President, and Reporter Tony Cruz. You are cordially invited to visit the official Wavemakers website anytime at wavemakersrq.wordpress.com

County Council: by Kelsee Desmarais
Hi everyone! I hope you all had a great summer! It is that time of year again! Hooray for 4-H. Monday, August 19, 2014, was our first county council meeting! We had a great beginning to the meeting and continued throughout the meeting. We have brought committees to the council. They include fundraising, community pride, community service, workshops and events and even a historian.

Doing more and getting out into the community is our main focus this year. We all, on the council, would like to show everyone what 4-H is really made with. From birthday bags to care packages to the homeless, we are doing it all! I encourage everyone to come to our meetings and find out what the county council has in store.

We have snacks and even ice breakers. Kelsey Morrison, led us in our first ice breaker, the objective was to get everyone across the “River,” our first try we did not have such luck but our second try we got a little better. Everyone come to the meetings and find out about all of our fun and projects this year. Our meetings our every third Monday of the month, minus March. Hope everyone is having a great start to the school year!

Make Your Plans NOW...

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To Make The Best Better

Sarasota County 4-H