Busy times for Suwannee County 4-H

It has certainly been a busy time for Suwannee County 4-H. Judging teams have competed at state contests, county events have finished up, and graduation for our seniors is just around the corner. If you are graduating, congratulations! If you are not, keep working as you will get there soon enough.

Congratulations go out to the senior and intermediate meat judging teams as they won the state contest! Congrats also go out to the livestock judging senior team as they placed 6th at the state contest. Good luck goes out to all of the participants that will represent Suwannee County at District Events and to those Pony Express members that compete at the Area “B” 4-H Horse Show in Clay County.

Day Camps will start the second week of June, so please contact the 4-H office or check our website or blog for more day camp information. We hope to see you this summer!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about Suwannee County 4-H, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 386-362-2771 or bestevez@ufl.edu.

Brian Estevez
4-H/Youth Development

District Events in Taylor County

Congratulations to all of the winners at County Events on Saturday April 25. Those that will represent Suwannee County in Perry on May 2nd are as follows:

**Share the Fun**
Scarlett M.
Andrew H. and Erik S.
Tineke S.
Tori H.

**Fashion Revue**
Kelsey A.
Carley H.
Tori H.

**Public Speaking**
Caroline H.
Andrew H.

**Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks**
Tineke S.
Clayton K.
Erik S.
Fallon K.
Samantha S.
Sara S.
Carley H.
Tiffanie W.

**Yard Sale**
Exhibition II-7:00am
May 16

**Calling all Volunteers**
3

**Meat Judging State Champs**
2

**Livestock Judging**
2

**Day Camps**
3

**Yard Sale**
3

**Mystery Reader**
4

**Photos and Pictures**
Denver C.
Garrett G.
Terrah H.
Cole H.
Preston H.
Braxton H.
Carley H.
Kenneth M.
Scarlett M.
Morgan S.
Justin H.
Garrett G.
Clayton K.
Tineke S.

Good Luck!
4-H Teams Win State Meat Judging Contest

Suwannee County 4-H is proud to announce that the senior and intermediate 4-H meat judging teams won first place at the state meat judging contest. The contest was held on April 18 at the Meat Processing Center at the University of Florida. Participants had to identify 40 retail cuts, place four retail/primal/carcass classes, identify parts on a beef and pork carcass, and answer questions relating to the meat industry. The senior team included TJ B., Tineke S., and Andrew H. The intermediate team included Erin B., Abbey B., Carley H., and Ashley L. The junior team comprised of youth ages 8-10, included Nathan B., Garrett G., and Cole H. Although the junior team was not old enough to attend the state contest, they did practice with the older teams.

The meat judging teams first started practicing back in December, when they attended the 4-H Meat Science Workshop. This was the first introduction to meat science for most of the participants. Practice was held every Thursday starting in January. Meat judging consists of participants acquiring knowledge and skills in meat identification and grading techniques and then applying those basic skills to the selection process. Participants developed an understanding and appreciation of the basic scientific principles involved in eating and cooking quality, nutritional value, and consumer appeal of meat. 4-H members on the team also learned to be more effective decision-makers.

The meat judging teams would like to thank Publix Supermarkets and Mobley’s Custom Cuts for allowing the teams to practice at their facilities. Community support like this helps the Suwannee County 4-H program remain successful. Thank you for supporting the youth in Suwannee County and helping us win a state championship!

4-H Livestock Team places 6th at State

Congratulation to TJ B., Samantha S., and Tineke S., as they represented Suwannee County 4-H at the State Livestock Judging Contest held in Gainesville at the Horse Teaching Unit. The team placed 6th in the overall contest, 2nd overall in Cattle Evaluation, and 3rd overall in reason and questions. Tineke placed 9th in the overall contest and 4th overall in cattle evaluation. TJ placed 5th overall in the cattle evaluation and 8th overall in evaluation and selection. Sara placed 11th overall in cattle evaluation.

In August livestock judging practice is going to be starting back for any junior, intermediate, or senior who is interested in learning about the current livestock industry. There are several contests that we will be attending throughout the 4-H year. The 4-H’ers will be taught how to evaluate cattle, swine, and sheep. They will also learn how to give reasons for placement of livestock. 4-H members should take advantage of this opportunity. For more information about practice times and dates contact Brian Estevez at 386-326-2771 or bestevez@ufl.edu.

Read this newsletter on the web
http://suwannee.ifas.ufl.edu/4h.shtml
Summer Day Camps

Day Camps are coming up soon. Start thinking about what camps you will want to attend this summer. The following camps will be offered:

- Hamburger Day Camp
- Life 101 Day Camp
- Sewing Machine Certification Workshop
- ConKerr Cancer Pillowcase Sewing Workshop
- Pajama Bottom Sewing Workshop
- Camp Cherry Lake
- Shooting Sports Day Camp
- 4-H Camp Eco-Fun
- Who Wants to Be a Millionaire Day Camp

Booth set-up is from 7:00 AM-7:30 AM on May 16. You must call ahead to the Extension Office, 386-362-2771, in order to reserve your spot. All proceeds from the booth rentals will be used for the annual 4-H awards banquet.

If 4-H clubs would like to have a booth, please contact the 4-H office as soon as possible.

County Council Yard Sale May 16

The Suwannee County 4-H Council is sponsoring a community yard sale Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM. It will be held at the Suwannee County Agricultural Complex inside air conditioned Exhibition II. Individuals may rent table space inside for $10.00 per table. Space will also be available outside for $5.00. In the event of rain, outside tables can be set up in sheltered areas.

Calling all volunteers

Are you an adult volunteer who has been thinking about getting more involved? Well we have just the thing for you! The 4-H office is looking for active volunteers for the following:

- Advisory Committee Member
- Recruitment Committee Member
- Mentors
- Club Leaders
- Council Advisors

- Judges
- Special Events Leaders
- Events Committee Leaders

If you are interested in participating in any one of these openings, please contact the 4-H office today.

Our volunteers help make the best, better!
Guess who’s reading
Suwannee County 4-H News

This month’s mystery reader is originally from South Haven, Michigan. She has degrees from Central Michigan University and the University of Central Florida. Her hobbies include jewelry making, theater, and listening to live music. Check your guess in next month’s issue or online beginning May 1 at www.suwanneecounty4h.blogspot.com.

March’s Mystery Reader
Mrs. Lynn Touchton

Last month’s mystery reader is originally from Clearwater, Florida. Her favorite hobby is fishing and she has been raising cows and chickens for the past 18 years. She is also “fair”ly good at her job as Suwannee County Fair Manager. Mrs. Lynn Touchton was the April mystery reader! ✈