

San Carlos Eaton Hills 4-H

Issue Four <http://www.sancarlos4h.org>
December 2009

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Next General Meeting:
Dec. 15, 2009 at 7 pm,
Clifford School



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Since I last wrote to you, we have had our annual 4-H New Member Breakfast. New members awoke in the early morning hours to 4-Her's at their door and were taken to our breakfast. We all ate great food, played games, and learned the 4-H Pledge. The breakfast was very successful and introduced our new members to our wonderful 4-H community

December has arrived and that means holiday festivities! At this month's general meeting we will have our annual Holiday Gift Exchange. Please bring a gift that is appropriate for both boys and girls and that is also suitable for your age group. The two age groups are members ages 8 and under or ages 9 and older. Please spend no more than \$10 on a gift and please remember to wrap the gift as well.

The theme of the month is "Holiday Cheer" so dress to impress and show your Holiday spirit by wearing fun Holiday hats and apparel Can't wait to see you all at the next meeting!

See you all soon,

~ Jeff



This month:
Wear holiday
accessories and bring
a wrapped present to
exchange

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Dec. 15	7 pm	December General Meeting
Jan. 19	7 pm	January General Meeting
Jan. 26	7 pm	Record Books 101

Member Gift Exchange at this Month's Meeting

Each club member who wishes to participate in our annual member gift exchange must bring a wrapped gift appropriate for both boys and girls in one of two age groups: primary members (ages 5-8) or regular members (ages 9-18). Please mark the outside of the gift with the appropriate age group. Be creative, and please do not spend more than \$10 on the gift. Please make sure the gift is something you would like to receive.

Record Books 101

Are you new to 4-H? Have you ever turned in a record book? Do you know what a record book is? Maybe you turned in a primary record book but turned 9 this year and need to move on to a new set of forms? If any of these apply to you, please come to "Record Books 101" on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 7 pm in the Clifford School library. This meeting is intended to be an introduction to record books. We will go over some of the basics and give you ideas on how to keep track of information that you will need for the book.

Maeve and Bruce Knoth

Reports from Members

Farm Meeting

On December 1st I went to Clifford school for the farm meeting. At the meeting I learned all the farm rules such as farm hours are 6am to 9pm, respect the neighbors, no visitors in the animal pens, no non 4-H child or adult may feed animals, wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, and lots more. We also talked about the construction on the farm which is coming along nicely, but help would be appreciated. The new fair date is Saturday, June 12, 2010. If you would like to have an animal this year you must have it by March 12. This year only meat animals will be allowed at the farm, so no dairy goats. I learned that having an animal on the farm is a big responsibility and that you have to be committed to caring for your animal.

~ Claire Woodell, age 11

Bee Keeping

To get the honey out of the comb, we used a special fork to get the wax off. Once the wax was cleaned off, we put the tray with the honey in the machine and cranked it to make the honey fall off. Once the honey was off, we got a bucket with a filter to remove the rest of the wax. We took home honey that was harvested last Spring because the honey we harvested is still filtering.

~ Evelyn Rossi

On Sunday 12/6 we had a Bee meeting. I liked it and it was fun. We extracted honey and the honey tasted really good. When we were spinning the extractor around it was really fun. I liked seeing the honey come out of the extractor and into the bucket.

~ Christopher Nielsen

On November 15 I had my first Bee-Keeping project for 4h. For a Bee-Keeping project, you need a bee suit, gloves and a bee hood. The bee hives are shaped like a square and rectangle. The bee suits are large, medium, and small. Now there is a thing called a smoker. The smoker is used to calm the bees down so they don't sting you. Then you keep making the smoke come out of the smoker, so you can take out the honeycombs. Then came the sugar water; you can feed the sugar water to the bees. To make sugar water you just need water and sugar. You have the sugar water in a sealed plastic bag then you cut 3 little holes in the bag, and don't cut all the way. Then you press on the bag to make some sugar water come out, then you put your whole finger in the water, and put your whole finger near a bee, while still wearing gloves. The bee will not sting you; the bee will only lick the sugar water off of your finger. When the project is over your hands might be sticky, so bring wipes to clean your hands. At the beginning of the project I was scared of getting stung. After the project meeting I felt good.

~ Elyssa Lucas

Bethlehem A.D.

On Saturday 12/5/09 I walked in the Redwood City Hometown Days Parade with the Bethlehem AD group. I was dressed as a shepherd along with my mom Robin Nielsen, and our friends Jenny and Laurel Nelson. We also walked with our sheep, Sean Cassidy and Sheryl Crow. We had to walk a loooooong way down Broadway St. in Redwood City. There were a lot of people and they all wanted to pet Sean and Sheryl. Sean got very tired and tried to stop half way through and we had to push him to keep him going.

Volunteering at Bethlehem AD is a great way to show the public our 4-H animals. Bethlehem AD will take place on December 21, 22, 23 in Redwood City.

~ Christopher Nielsen

San Carlos/Eaton Hills 4-H

Manga Project

Manga is a Japanese art cartoon style. During our second meeting of Manga I improved a lot on my drawing skills. I developed my characters by thinking about their personalities and strengths and weaknesses. We also looked at a lot of Manga books.

Manga is a great and fun way to improve your drawing skills by creating creative creatures and cartoon figures.

~ Laurel Nelson

Cookie Decorating Project

For this meeting we made our own sugar cookies and brought them to be decorated. We learned about the different types of icing (and made some) and learned how to make a "sweet" pattern on the cookies. We used toothpicks to create details and coated some of the cookies with special sanding sugar. They looked good and tasted good too!

~ Laurel Nelson

Water Project

I attended the first meeting of the water project on Saturday December 5th. Mr. Warrick had planned a lot of different demonstrations and experiments involving the various states of water. We made a model of a molecule of water using colored Styrofoam balls. We discussed that it takes energy to convert water from one state such as a solid (ice) to a liquid (water). We used litmus paper (pH indicator strips) to test the pH of tap water and other water-based solutions such as vinegar. We measured the temperature of both ice and water near boiling using an electronic temperature probe. We studied how the addition of salt organizes water molecules. This affects the amount of energy needed to boil or freeze water. Finally, we separated the water into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis. It was a wonderful meeting.

~ Peter Warrick

Poultry Meeting

In the poultry meeting on December 6th, we began by taking notes from a section from Backyard Chickens about feed. We learned that if you own chickens, then you have to provide most of their diet to keep them healthy. Insects are a good source of protein and snails are good for chickens too. Hens that lay eggs need a special layer feed, and too much protein for them is bad. Chicks need more protein than full-grown chickens and show chickens need different food than meat chickens. For meat birds, growing too fast isn't good and can cause leg problems. Too much weight, for example 16 lbs, will cause death or meat birds that won't walk.

At the end, there were three stations with different activities. The first one was where you had to grade pictures of eggs, judging by what they looked like. The grades were: grade AA-high yolk good white=great, grade A- mostly high yolk good white=good, grade B-low yolk slightly watery white=bad and loss/inedible-blood spots, white tinted with blood, watery white etc. = don't eat it! We also reviewed the main parts of an egg such as the yolk, white, and chalaza. In the second station, we looked at pictures of chicken breeds and read out loud where they originated from and one interesting fact about the breed. Then we took some pins and placed them on a map, where our breeds came from. Most of them originated from England. Also, Perry took out one of her roosters and showed us the parts of a chicken. Finally, at the third station, we wrote down the breed of chicken we were going to show on a index card and looked up their class, weight, comb type, breed, feather type (hard or soft), and other things in The Standard of Perfection.

~ Maddie Mills

Rabbits for Sale

Anyone interested in entering in the Grand National cow palace meat rabbits and need rabbits please let me know as I will breed my California's . Or if you want rabbits for rabbit meat project for fair. They take 30 days from breeding to birth and I will need to know when you need them by and the age that they have to be. Thanks. \$10.00 per bunny if you take the whole litter, or \$15.00 per bunny if you just pick one - three.

Contact:

Grimsby Farm, Judy Grimsby
339-1846 Or judy.grimsby@yahoo.com



Here are pictures of 4-H carolers at the Carlmont Gardens in Belmont. Annually we visit the Carlmont Gardens and sing songs for the citizens at the facility. Our recent visit, on December 8, 2009, brought about 20 members plus their family, too. Thank you to everyone who participated. And a jolly, happy thank you to our guitarist Jim Stevens.

Upcoming County Events Calendar

- Dec. 12 Make-A-Wreath Workshop, San Bruno 4H Farm, 10AM to 1PM
- Dec. 14 Lifeskills & Hobbies meeting/cookie exchange, Fox School, Belmont 7PM
- Dec. 15 Fur & Feathers entries due
- Dec. 15 LAG Meeting, SMC Fairgrounds Boardroom, 7PM
- Dec. 21-23 Bethlehem A.D., Redwood City
- Jan. 16 Fur & Feathers – small animal
- Jan. 22-24 CAL Conference
- Jan. 25 County 4-H Council meeting, Fox School, Belmont, 7PM
- Jan. 26 SET Steering Committee meeting, Warrick home, 235 Alameda, RWC 7PM
- Jan. 29 Presentation Day entries due, County Office by 5PM

Feb. 6 Presentation Day, Crystal Springs Methodist Church, San Bruno

Want to Find Out More About 4-H?

California Connection is a newsletter of the California 4-H Youth Development Program and the California 4-H Foundation. You can find it online at <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/connection/index.asp>.

Next newsletter deadline: January 12, 2010

Email articles to Shelle McGee-Lucas at straycatgt@comcast.net