



NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2006

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H MEMBERS, LEADERS & PARENTS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

RABBIT ROMP ROUND UP!

The SLO County 4-H's first annual Rabbit Romp was held on October 15, 2005, at Del Mar Elementary School in Morro Bay. This event, organized by Catherine Baynham of the Estero/Morro Bay 4-H Rabbit project, was put on in order to give rabbit raisers across the county a day of fun and education about their furry friends. The day was split up into activities, quizzes, guest speakers, and a pizza lunch.

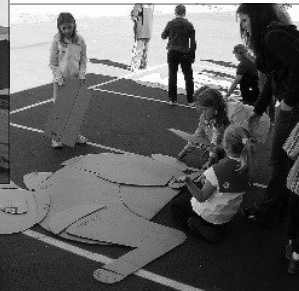
The day started out with a power point presentation by Dr. Maxwell Conn, a veterinarian specializing in the care of cats and other exotic animals, such as rabbits. In his presentation he talked about rabbit care, and how to know when your rabbit is sick, stressing that you should check your rabbit for symptoms of

illness daily, or as often as possible.

Another guest speaker was Tamara Johnson of A Pozo 4-H, who gave a presentation on how to do showmanship. This presentation was very helpful to many of the participants, as she is an ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association) qualified judge, and was able to show us what she and most others look for in a routine.



These 4-H members are identifying rabbit parts as they make a rabbit!



Reanna Martinez, All Star from Cerro Alto 4-H, ran a quiz station for people from their primary years up to the parents! The quizzes of each age group were scored, and the top testers won

prizes for their knowledge. After the test was finished the rabbit rompers were free to go look around at the different breeds of rabbits that had been brought in, and browse through some poster boards about rabbit care *Continued on page 3.*

Make a Difference

Hello. My name is Deirdre Laird and I am twelve years old. I am the reporter of the El Camino 4-H club. I feel that everyone is aware of what is happening in the world, but nobody is doing much about it. I would like to encourage 4-H to get *more* involved and be *more* active. We should donate to the Red Cross, because as you know, the Red

Cross is helping out those who have lost their homes, family, food and clothes due to the recent disasters. Sometimes people may feel sorry for themselves for little things, but we all need to remember that other people have lost so much and yet many just stand here doing nothing and thinking, "So many other people are helping," *Continued on page 3.*

... inside ...

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Pass It On | 2 |
| Dreams/Scholarship | 3 |
| 4-H Activities/Events | 4 |
| Mid-State Fair Update | 5 |
| Beef Ambassador | 6 |
| Leader Forum Report | 7 |
| Calendar—See Updates | 8 |

Pass It On...

SLO Co. Website: www.clubs.ca4h.org/sanluisobispo/
California 4-H Website: www.ca4h.org.
4-H USA website: www.4husa.org
National 4-H website: www.4-h.org.

State 4-H Web Server! 4-H Clubs may register for space on the State 4-H Web Server. Go to <http://clubs.ca4h.org> for more information.

California 4-H Fair Share Program. The National 4-H Supply Service will return 10% of your ordered merchandise total to California 4-H! All you have to do is ensure that your order is counted towards the Fair Share total is click this special link whenever you place an order at: <http://www.4-hmall.org/california>. The link is also available on the www.ca4h.org homepage.

Western Regional Leaders Forum. March 1-5, 2006 in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Forum Cost: Regular, \$260 by 1/13/06 and Late, \$290 by 2/10/06.** Accommodations have been made at the Sheraton City Center for \$89 per night, but it is up to you to make your own reservations. Call Sheraton at (801) 401-2000 or their website is www.sheraton.com/saltlakecity. Join over 500 volunteers from the 13 western states in a fun, learning environment. It is a great opportunity to meet others and share ideas that can be implemented in your local 4-H program. You need not be a volunteer to participate.

Info and applications for the **2006 California and Washington Focus Programs** are on the web at <http://www.ca4h.org/>. 2006 Dates: California Focus: June 23-27 - Washington Focus #1 / Road to Democracy: June 24-July 3 - Washington Focus #1 / Heritage Trail: June 24-July 1 - Washington Focus #2 / Global Journey: July 8-19 - Washington Focus #2 / Heritage Trail II: July 8-15. **Registration Due: January 13, 2006** for Washington Focus, and **January 31, 2006** for California Focus. A non-refundable deposit is due with each registration.

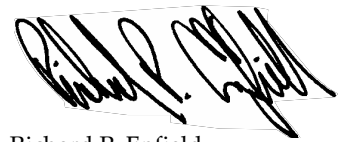
News & Views Online! Go to <http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/newsletter99.htm> to view or download. Even better, you can subscribe to the newsletter online and have a notice waiting for you in your email box. Think of it, you can get News & Views before everyone else. In addition, you can help the 4-H Office save money by canceling your newsletter mailing, every little bit helps. Call the 4-H Office today, 781-5943, and say "I'm getting my News & Views Online!"

2006-2007 4-H State Ambassador applications are now available online. 4-H State Ambassadors are selected to represent the California 4-H Youth Development Program, plan the State Leadership Conference, and complete a service project. More info at <http://ca4h.org/leadership/ambassador/>. **Due March 31, 2006.**

No computer? Call the 4-H Office, 781-5943, for assistance.

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Richard P. Enfield,
4-H Youth Development Advisor

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No endorsement of named products and/or companies is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products and/or companies which are not mentioned. Persons with special needs wishing to attend a program should contact the 4-H Office in advance. Efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Rabbit Romp

Continued from page 1. and showing.

The last group was run by Sheri and Jim Hayes, Estero/Morro Bay 4-H, and it was the Rabbit Parts game. In this game, there were two teams and they had to put together a big cardboard rabbit. Sound easy? Well, rabbits have a lot of parts, and it wasn't easy remembering the difference between the loin and the hindquarters.

In the end, between 75 and 90 people showed up to the Rabbit Romp. We would like to give special thanks to Malia Baynham, Reanna Martinez, Michelle Burns, Sophie Flemion and Lily Stewart

for their help, and to The Garden Gallery, Templeton Feed, The Flemions, Estero-Morro Bay 4-H, Abbey's Carpets, and Farm Supply for donating the door prizes. We hope to see you at next year's Rabbit Romp. If you would like to help create next year's Rabbit Romp, please contact Catherine at 772-8852 or ray-bay@slonet.org.



Rabbit Romp Planning Committee

Make a Difference

Continued from page 1. why would it make a difference if I did?"

Well, it does make a difference because right now, they need all the help that they can get. Also, don't forget about our troops in Iraq either. They have been working hard fighting for our country, and many soldiers die every single day. So, please 4-Her's get more involved

and know you will make a difference to others.

Sincerely, Deirdre Laird

Templeton 4-H was involved with "Make a Difference Day" The 4-H members worked at the EOC Adult Day care center in Templeton on Saturday, October 22, 2005. They did yard work, made planter boxes and built a dog run. Everyone had a



great time. Pictured above are: left to right - Kayla Whitson, Kasey Urman, Kodie Hood, Tyler Evangelista, Jasen Friedle.

Dreams and Themes

Estrella 4-H Club Swine project member, Jeremy Moring, submitted a fair theme to the California Mid-State Fair for their 2006 Fair Theme Contest. There were over 300 submissions, and Jeremy's theme, "**Blue Jeans and Country Dreams**" was selected by the Board as this year's winner. Fair board artists will design a logo to reflect this theme. Jeremy felt that his theme most clearly represented what the biggest little fair anywhere is all about. He said that agriculture, farming and ranching was his inspiration.



Animal Project Scholarship

Congratulations to Rachel Dewar of Huasna Valley 4-H Club, *pictured at right*, for being selected to receive the Animal Project Scholarship. Rachel will use the scholarship on a turkey project and plans to donate all proceeds from the project to Guide Dogs. Thank you, Rachel, and good luck with your project. We also want to thank the other individuals who took the time to submit a letter applying for the scholarship. They were all excellent, and it was a difficult decision to make.



HORSE PROJECT NEWS

The Horse Project has undergone an exciting change. San Luis Obispo County 4-H Youth Development Program has adopted a new Horse Level Testing Program, taken from the Certified Horsemanship Association's (CHA) "Certified Horsemanship Manual, Levels 1-4." Study guides for each level test can be obtained at the following website, http://cetuumlumne.ucdavis.edu/4-H_Program/Horse_Lease_-_Level_Testing.htm, or from the 4-H office. The manual is available directly from the CHA, or it

can be purchased through the 4-H Mall/Catalog (4hmall.org).

It is not mandatory to buy the book to take the test, but it will make it easier. The *Horse Project Policy Guide* has been revised to reflect current policies.

Written Level Tests are tentatively scheduled for **February 26, 2006**, in the San Luis Obispo UCCE Auditorium, with mounted tests tentatively scheduled for **March 19, 2006**. Please watch future News & Views for scheduling updates. Once dates are confirmed, a letter will go out



to Community Club Leaders and Horse Project Leaders.

We want to thank **Karen Flemion** and **Faye Fears** for their work in adapting the best and most appropriate program for our county. They did a superb job. For more details about the new Level Testing Program, please contact your Community Club Leader, Horse Project Leader or the 4-H office.

Horse Field Day - Kelly Osumi, of Adobe Nipomo 4-H, has volunteered to chair Horse Field Day in 2006. This is a big job and cannot be done alone. **Please call Kelly at 489-1112** and volunteer to help out.

Record Book Workshop

The San Luis Obispo County 4-H All Stars invite all 4-H members to join them on:

Saturday, March 4, 2006

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

UCCE Auditorium

2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo

for a County Record Book Training. They will be demonstrating how to successfully complete record books for ALL projects. All the way from the Avian Science Record Book to the Personal Development Report!

The All Stars will also explain opportunities available through record books and they will be available to answer all of your questions. This is definitely a day to look forward to! Please watch for more information coming soon in future news & views! If you have questions or would like to RSVP, please call the 4-H Office, 781-5943 or email jgarcia@co.slo.ca.us.



Presentation Day Workshop

The SLO Co. 4-H Youth Ambassadors are coordinating a workshop that is all about Presentations! It is definitely a workshop that you will not want to miss! It will be held:

Saturday, January 21, 2006

9:30 am to 2:30 p.m.

2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo

2006 SLO County 4-H Presentation Day!

Please update your calendars—2006 Presentation Day will be on:

Saturday, February 11, 2006

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Registration information for both workshop and Presentation Day have been mailed to Community Club Leaders. If you would like a registration form, please call the 4-H Office, 781-5943.

California Mid-State Fair - New Livestock Show Policies for 2006

The California Mid-State Fair Board of Directors adopted policy changes relative to the Junior Livestock Show, effective for the 2006 Fair. New policy changes are as listed below:

- 1.) Relocate the Petting Zoo and the Tractor Restoration Exhibit from the front entrance of the Livestock Pavilion to make more room to house livestock project animals as well as create more space for show and sale rings within the Livestock Pavilion.
- 2.) Relocate the rabbit and poultry champions to the Ag Education/Industrial Arts Building.
- 3.) Create two (2) show rings within the Livestock Pavilion to facilitate and run two (2) simultaneous livestock shows during one (1) day thus reducing the schedule and number of days required to be on the Fairgrounds by one (1) full day.
- 4.) Eliminate the use of beef blocking chutes to create additional cattle ties where blocking chutes are currently located. There will be no blocking chutes allowed.
- 5.) Sell market steers and replacement heifers on Friday, August 4, 2006 starting with the steers at 2:00 p.m. and the heifer sale to start at 6:00 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres would be served between sales. Market hogs, market lambs, market goats, rabbits and poultry would be sold on Saturday, August 5, 2006 starting at 8:00 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.
- 6.) Increase minimum weight limit on market steers from 1,000 pounds to 1,100 pounds; and increase minimum weight limit of market lambs from 100 pounds to 105 pounds. Maximum weights for market steers, lambs, swine and goats will remain the same as in 2005.
- 7.) Change market steer breed classes from All Red Steers, All Black Steers, and All Other Colored Steers to: 1) Black Crossbred Steers with less than 40% white; 2) All Colored Steers (Black with over 40% white, Red, Smokey, etc.); and 3) English Breeds (Angus, Hereford, Shorthorns).
- 8.) Change market hog breed classes from Yorkshires, Hampshires, All Other Breeds, and Crossbreds to: 1) Yorkshires; 2) Hampshires; 3) Durocs, and; 4) Crossbreds.
- 9.) All market hogs must be clipped (fitted) prior to arrival onto the Fairgrounds; only minor touch up will be allowed on the Fairgrounds.

For more information call the CMSF Administration Office at (805) 239-0655. The California Mid-State Fair will run July 26 – August 6, 2006 with the theme "Blue Jeans and Country Dreams."

SLO Co. 4-H Calendar Updates

4-H Junior/Teen Leadership and Club Officer Training! Saturday, March 26, 2006 at the UCCE Auditorium. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there will be Junior/Teen Leadership training, then lunch, then from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. will be Club Officer training. This event is sponsored by the

Youth Leadership Program Development Committee.

The SLO County 4-H Youth Ambassadors is organizing a **Primary Field Day Workshop**, to be held Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 2156 Sierra Way—UCCE Auditorium, from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m.

The SLO Co. 4-H **Youth Leadership Camp**, which will be conducted by the 4-H Youth Ambas-

sadors, has been scheduled for:

Friday, May 12 through Sunday, May 14, 2006. Check in begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon at Rancho El Chorro. Yes, that is Mother's Day weekend.



Information will be mailed to Community Club Leaders when plans become finalized.

Young Achiever Program

Photographer Needed

We are sorry to inform you that there will be no Young Achiever Program for 2006. Recruitment for a photographer is still ongoing and therefore, if you know, or are aware of a photographer who may be interested, please call the 4-H office at 781-5943 for more info.

The Great Adventure!

On Friday, October 21, 2005, at the Mid-State Fairgrounds there was an event called The Great Adventure. Beverly Gingg, project leader, Alisa Runstrom, project assistant, and Amanda Clark, project participant & SLO Co. 4-H All Star ran a 4-H SERIES Oak Woodland and Wildlife session. This session involved teams of 2 squirrels and 2 woodpeckers. These two species compete for food in the oak woodlands and they must both gather enough acorns to survive and reproduce.

Two "squirrel" participants were given small plastic baggies, then they were instructed to "gather acorns" and stuff their "cheeks" (baggies). "Squirrels" had to collect 3 acorns.



Left to right: Amanda Clark, Beverly Gingg and Alisa Runstrom are pleased with the "woodpeckers" work.

Two participant "woodpeckers" were instructed to gather acorns and store them in a tree. Egg cartons posed as Oak Trees and the "woodpeckers" poked the acorns into the "tree." "Woodpeckers" had to gather 6 acorns.

The two "species" competed for the same acorns in a two minute time frame. Those that met the goal were able to compete in the next "season."

It was not as easy as it sounds, but everyone seemed to have a great time and we learned a lot from our "woodland friends."

2006 SLO County Beef Ambassador Program

The 2006 San Luis Obispo County Beef Ambassador contest is open to **all county youth** and will be held on **Wednesday, February 22, 2006** in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in San Luis Obispo.

The contest will include:

- 5-8 minute prepared speech on beef or the beef industry
- Three impromptu questions from judges
- A possible brief interview by the judges

Eligibility:

- Be 17-20 years of age to participate in Senior Division
- Be 14-16 years of age to participate in Junior Division (NEW!)
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA or better
- Desire to improve his/her leadership skills

Prizes:

- 1st Place in Senior Division - \$500 scholarship
- Prizes for the Junior Division and runners up in both divisions to be announced

The winner of each (Senior/Junior) contest will go on to represent San Luis Obispo County at the state level and become eligible for even more cash prizes and scholarships. Only the Senior Division winner at the state level will go on to represent California at the national level.

Further info about the program, (i.e. national rules, Cattle and Beef Handbook), are available at www.nationalbeefambassador.org. The impromptu questions from the judges are derived from the handbook, and it offers contestants a good source of factual information about the beef industry.

There is no due date to apply for Beef Ambassador Program. Please contact Lindsey Gibson, (805) 680-0674 or gibson.lindsey@att.net, before February 22, 2006, if you would like further info.

Wanted!

Field Day Event Chair!

The San Luis Obispo County 4-H Field Day is our biggest event for our County 4-H members.

In order for this event to be successful, an Event Chair is urgently needed, so that planning for the 2006 SLO Co. 4-H Field Day can begin.

Event planning experience is helpful but not required. If you are interested or want more information, please contact the 4-H Office, 781-5943 or email jgarcia@co.slo.ca.us.

WELCOME—JOANNE CUMMINGS

We are happy to announce that Joanne Cummings has joined the San Luis Obispo County 4-H Program Development Board as Large Animal Science Key Leader. Joanne has many years of experience in the 4-H Program. First, as a member herself, then, as a leader while her children were members, and continuing to the present as a Project Leader for Meat Goats and Dairy Goats, and as an Asst. Project Leader for sheep in the Santa Lucia 4-H Club in which her grandchildren are members. Joanne wants to use her knowledge and experience to improve the livestock experience for our youth. Please join us in welcoming Joanne in her new role. If you would like to work with her in the area of Large Animal Science, please call the 4-H Office at 781-5943.

State 4-H Leader Forum Report

Hi, my name is Sherry Martinez, I am a Dog Care and Training project leader for Cerro Alto 4-H Club. Recently, I have taken on the position of Youth Leadership Key Leader with the Program Development Board. I have had the pleasure of serving the 4-H Youth Development Program in several different areas in the past five years.

In November 2005, I was fortunate to have received a scholarship to attend the California 4-H Leaders' Forum. This was a very exciting and relaxing conference. I was touched, enlightened and able to thoroughly feel and understand the impact that the 4-H Youth Development Program is having on the future leaders of our world.

There were many educational forums to choose from: arts

and crafts to deeper topics like, Youth in Governance. The sessions were led by many talented people and they showed us how Adult and Youth Partnerships work so well together, combining strengths and weaknesses to overcome challenges. Some sessions were lead by seasoned leaders, who shared their insights, knowledge and ideas, in which we gained encouragement and passion. There was also a community service project. I enjoyed the service project because it gave me a chance to meet new people from all over the state. We had so much to talk about, since we all share a common bond - 4-H!

The memory at the top of my list is hearing a former 4-H member, who is now a 4-H leader, talk about how the 4-H program changed her from being shy little girl to becoming a successful college graduate and how she landed a very high ranking

job straight out of college. Her new boss informed her that he hired her because he knew that from her 4-H career she had the skills necessary to handle the position even though people more experienced had applied. To hear her story, I felt honored and privileged to see first hand the impact that 4-H Program has on our leaders of tomorrow. I walked away with great pride for the choice I have made to serve in this life changing program.

I'll close by saying, make the time to seek out opportunities to refresh, renew and recapture the vision that we all share for our 4-H Youth Development Program, which is always changing to fit the world we live in. You are a part of our future today. Be a great 4-H leader and know that you change lives and those lives will make our world a better place.

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SLO Co. 4-H Program Calendar

2005

JANUARY 2006

- 7-8 CA 4-H Computer Corps Orientation,
UC Davis
- 13 DUE: Washington Focus Registration
- 13 DUE: Western Region Leaders Forum
Registration
- 14 South Section Leaders' Council Meeting,
Mt. Sac
- 17 SLO Co. 4-H Program Development
Board Meeting, UCCE Conference Room
- 18 SLO Co. 4-H Management Board
Meeting, UCCE Auditorium
- 20-22 Teen Involvement Conference (*TIC*),
Pathfinder Ranch
- 21 NEW! Presentation Day Workshop,
UCCE Auditorium, San Luis Obispo
- 27 DUE: SLO Co. 4-H Presentation Day
Registrations, 4-H Office

- 31 DUE: California Focus Registration

FEBRUARY 2006

- 4 Avian Science Day, UC Davis
- 10 DUE: Late Registration for Western
Region Leaders Forum
- 11-12 CA 4-H Horse Leadership Conference,
UC Davis
- 11 Update! SLO Co. 4-H Presentation Day,
Cal Poly
- 18 Western Bonanza, Mid-State Fairgrounds
- 22 SLO CattleWomen's Beef Ambassador
Program interviews,
- 23-26 National Collegiate 4-H Conference, OH
- 26 SLO Co. 4-H Horse Level Testing, UCCE
Auditorium