



Lafayette 4-H Hotline

4-H has a new website!



Check out the fun, new website for club members in grades 4 - 6 www.4-Hclubhouse.com. This new website was designed based on the "Discovering 4-H" Project book that all new 4 - 6 grade 4-H members receive when they join 4-H. This awesome new site features games, quizzes, downloadable activities, and videos.

A few of the games offered on the Club House site are: "The Farmer," a game designed to help you learn how food is grown; a Louisiana agriculture jigsaw puzzle, and a duck hunt game to test shooting skills. Some cool videos include how to make a solar oven and how to get chickens ready for livestock show competition. So, come on and discover everything 4-H has to offer on the new 4-H Club House site!

Cyber Safety

Our educational program at the monthly club meeting will focus on how to keep yourself and others safe. Each lesson will address specific Grade Level Expectations that will hopefully be helpful in standardize testing. This month we will learn about Cyber Safety.

Most people who go online have mainly positive experiences. But, like anything there are some risks and annoyances. You can get a lot of benefits from being online, but you can also be targets of crime and harassment in this as well as in any other environment. Respect other people's online rights. People on the internet have rights just as they do in everyday life.

Never reveal you full name, social security number, address, or phone number to someone you meet online. Predators hoping to build an online relationship will look for clues to describe what you look like, who you are and where you live. Don't give out this information because it can be used to find you. And, never post your picture on a site. Someone might just copy, edit, and post it to illustrate you in an embarrassing manner.

Consider a random user name or login making sure it doesn't reveal your name, school, age, or hometown.



December 2008

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Points of interest:

- ☺ Service Learning
- ☺ December CRD
- ☺ Character Counts
- ☺ Award of Excellence
- ☺ Key Club Award
- ☺ Arbor Day
- ☺ Club of the Month
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- ☺ Junior Leader Meeting
- ☺ Hoops and Clovers Night
- ☺ Special Thanks!



Service Learning - Needs Assessment



Last month, we discussed student and community ownership in preparation of your project of idea. This month we are continuing the cycle on needs assessment. Students will learn how to identify a genuine need in their community and learning new things about it.

How would you begin to identify a project? You should begin by answering several questions. They are who? Needs What? According to Whom? and Why? Some examples of questions may be; what does the community need? How can we choose a project that truly makes a difference? How do we go about planning the project? How do we ultimately implement the project? How do we evaluate our efforts?

There are several ways to begin this process. Transform an existing project, (example: canned food drive); standard curriculum (learning citizenship through discussion with elected officials); begin with broad theme or topic, (cancer); students define problem or need, (transform empty lot into playground); and community request assistance, (tutoring).

A good way to get feedback from your community can be taking pictures of needs, surveys, focus group meetings, interviews or even reading through the newspaper and identify themes. Help people think about community planning and other issues that they might not otherwise consider. You should ask a variety of people, even those you don't know to get a well-rounded picture of the needs, why it is important, and how the results will be used in a few short sentences and try to be unbiased. Next month, we will focus on preparation and planning.

December CRD



Your Food For Families Drive should be in full swing now or nearly completed. All 4-H clubs have done such a terrific job in collecting canned goods and other items for the needy. You should all be very proud of the work you've done. Keep it up and set your DVD's to record the Meet Your Neighbor program on TV 10 on December 10, 2008, the day of the Food for Families Drive.

Thanks to all clubs who participated in this annual event. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Character Counts



December is a great month for *caring* and that's the reason the Pillar of the Month for December just happens to be "CARING". All of us should be caring individuals. We should be compassionate, kind, loving and considerate of others. Another ways to be a caring person is to be thankful and express gratitude for what others do for you. Don't ever be mean, cruel, or insensitive.

All of these are suggestions for all of us to follow, especially during the holiday season. Remember, a good person is someone to look up to and admire; a person who lives according to the "Six Pillars of Character".

Award of Excellence



The Louisiana 4-H Foundation Award of Excellence for Junior 4-H members is an award any 4-H'er should be proud to receive. Only a select group of 4-H'ers will be given this honor during 4-H Honors Program ceremonies.

The basis of the award will be on a scorecard which was mailed to all qualified 4-H'ers. The 4-H'er must be under 14 years of age on January 1 of this school year, must be in the 7th or 8th grade, must have at least two years of 4-H club work and must score at least 100 points on the application and can win the award only once. Submit completed scorecard to 4-H agents no later than **December 15, 2008**.

Key Club Award



The Louisiana 4-H Foundation Key Club Award is for Senior 4-H members is an award any 4-H'er should be proud to receive. Only a select group of 4-H'ers will be given this honor during 4-H Honors Program ceremonies.

The basis of the award will be on a scorecard which was mailed to all qualified 4-H'ers. The 4-H'er must be 16 years of age on January 1 of this school year., must have at least three years of 4-H club work, have completed one year of Junior Leadership and must score at least 140 points on the application and can win the award only once. Submit completed scorecard to 4-H agents no later than **December 15, 2008**.

Arbor Day



Each year Arbor Day is celebrated in Louisiana on the third Friday in January. That date this coming year is **January 16, 2009**.

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages people to conduct tree planting and learn about proper care of trees. When determining a location for a new tree it begins with careful planning. With a little research for the right tree, it can add a new attraction to your landscape. A few points to consider are to avoid collisions with power lines, sewage lines and foundations of buildings.

We are inviting all clubs to do something special for Arbor Day as the January CRD project. Here are a few suggestions:

- * Trees can be planted at school or on other public property, with permission.
- * Trees could be planted and dedicated as a memorial, a living monument to those who have made contributions to your community or school.

Club of the Month

In general, all November 4-H meetings were very good. Meetings were a real pleasure to attend. The officers and members are doing a great job in conducting the meetings and taking care of club business.

Judging for Club-of-the-Month will continue this month. Here are a few items we will be looking for at club meetings the rest of the school year:

- * The secretary's minutes should be written and read as minutes. Do not use the notes taken at the meeting on the information sheet.
- * CRD, Treasurer, and Reporter reports should be given, using the forms handed out earlier. A report should be at least one paragraph long.
- * The Program Leaders should have a Project Report, Guest Speaker, Skit or Play, or a Demonstration to get the full points in this part of the meeting.
- * A member, not an officer, should make motions and second the motions.
- * Listen carefully to what the president is saying. If he/she asked, "Are there any corrections to the minutes?" Don't make a motion! Wait until asked.

To see a list of last month's Club of the Month winners please go to our parish website.

Clover Corner



Hi New 4-H Members!

I'm back again as promised and checking on your 4-H work. How is that book coming along? I made lots of suggestions in the November *Hotline* and if you finished all of the work, you're doing great.

December is a good month to work on some of the pages towards the front of the book. Last month I suggested you could get a head start on pages 12 to 23. If you haven't started, now is the time. This section starts with "*Let's Look At You*". This is a fun section because you are the "star". When you learn to sew on a button on page 13 don't sew it right on the page, follow the directions carefully. Follow step 4 on page 14 when you do the backstitch!

All of the food projects are fun. Be sure to write down everything you did. The Dig Deeper on Page 17 is easy, don't forget it.

After the *Working with Children* Section is the *Energy* Section. Do all of it, you probably learned some of this in a Science class. Before you know it, that section is finished.

The *Animals and Us* Section is a good one to do when the weather is bad. All of it can be done indoors, and it's fun, too. It includes pages 47 to 55.

Use the holidays to do things you skipped. In January, finish the Plant Section and the Environment Section. You can get started on these if you want to. We are going to also talk about records, the back of the book, and then you are finished.

Remember to keep your book neat and clean and decorate it if you wish. Pictures are always a good idea. Have a safe and happy holiday and see you next month.

Happy Holidays!

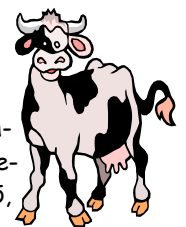
Yours Truly,

Clover

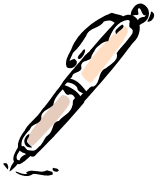


Livestock News

The 4-H Livestock shows are fast approaching. Deadline for exhibitors to turn in livestock show entry forms was November 15, 2008. We hope you got yours in on time. Upcoming activities include:



Hoof Trimming Clinic - January 8, 2009
Parish Show & Sale - January 29-30, 2009
District Show - February 4-7, 2009
State Show - February 14-21, 2009



Important Dates



December

- 1 Possession Date for Swine
- 3 Livestock Advisory Board Meeting
- 4 Junior Leader Officer Meeting
- 5 Validation/Possession Date for Market Swine
- 15 Award of Excellence Applications Due
4-H Office
- 15 Key Club Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 9 Record Book Workshop, Lafayette Middle School
- 10 Body Walk, Woodvale
- 10 4-H Food for Families Drive, Cajundome
- 11 Body Walk, S.J. Montgomery
- 12 Body Walk, Live Oak
- 12 Area Beef Clinic, Sugarena, New Iberia
- 12-13 Cajun Classic Beef Show, Sugarena, New Iberia
- 15-16 Annual Agent's Conference, Baton Rouge
- 18 Junior Leader Meeting
- 24-1 **Christmas Holiday/New Year's Holiday, 4-H
Office Closed**

January 2009

- 5 Showing Character Meeting, 4-H
Office
- 7 Horse Advisory Meeting, 4-H Office
- 8 Hoof Trimming Clinic, Blackham
- 8 First Day of Club Meetings
- 9-10 State Executive Committee Meeting, Camp Grant
Walker
- 15-18 Mid-Winter Rodeo, Blackham Coliseum
- 15 Jr. Leader Meeting, 4-H Office
- 16 Arbor Day in Louisiana
- 19 **M.L.K. Holiday, 4-H Office Closed**
- 29-31 Parish Livestock Show & Sale, Blackham Coliseum

Junior Leader Meeting

If you are still interested in joining the Lafayette Parish Junior Leader Club, it is NOT too late! The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2008, at the 4-H Office at 6:00 p.m.

This is the final meeting to join at a membership rate of only \$5.00. Starting at the January meetings, yearly membership dues will increase to \$10.00 for all new members

2009 Hoops and Clover Night



Are you ready to rumble with the New Orleans Hornets? To experience the fun and excitement of Hornets basketball, 4-H members and their families have been given the opportunity of a lifetime. Come out and watch the Hornets take on the Milwaukee Bucks on February 27, 2009, at 7:00p.m. in the New Orleans Arena.

Tickets can be purchased for \$22 through your local 4-H office by January 30th. This event will allow over 200 4-H members the opportunity to participate in the pre-game and halftime activities.

Special Thanks!

A special thanks to all volunteers at our 2008 4-H Fall Fest. Thanks to Evangeline Elementary for allowing us to conduct our annual Fall Fest. Also, a HUGE THANKS to all of our Jr. Leaders, 4-H Volunteers, and Judges for assisting with the contests held that day. We could not have had a successful Fall Fest without your help! Thanks AGAIN!



Sincerely,

Angie Arnould

Angie Arnould
Associate County Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

Charles Hebert

Charles Hebert
County Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

Nikki Mouch

Nikki Mouch
Assistant County Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish