

4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 29, 2004

BUTTE COUNTY 4-H - UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

4-H—A Family Affair

4-H is a family oriented organization where children and parents can have fun and learn together. A successful experience for 4-H members, at least in the first years of membership, involves the support and participation of his or her parents or other supportive adults.

Parents are urged to attend Community Club meetings. Watch and ask questions. Many project

groups, especially those for projects involving animals, encourage parent attendance at meetings. If you are not sure, ask the project leaders. Most project leaders welcome parent participation. Even if parents are not needed at meetings, help is necessary for special events and activities. It's fun to be involved.

Parents should read the monthly Butte County 4-H Newsletter, the CLOVER-



LEAVES. It contains useful information about events and activities, as well as date changes.

What's Required of me in 4-H?

The Butte County 4-H Council has established requirements of 4-H members who wish to enjoy the privilege of exhibiting, or selling at a junior

livestock auction at the Butte County or Silver Dollar Fairs. These requirements ensure that members are active in their 4-H club, project

groups and county events.

Several of these requirements will be discussed here as they relate -cont.

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PRIMARY
MEMBER
POLICY

Children can join 4-H as “Primary members” at five years of age. They are not eligible to participate in beef, swine, horse, sheep or large goat projects. They can participate in pygmy goat, dog, poultry, rabbit, cavies, reptiles, and other small animal projects. They can also participate in any other projects. Some project leaders may have additional age requirements.

Cont. 4-H Requirements

to first year 4-H members.

Meeting Attendance. Attend 80% of club and project meetings. Youth should notify their leader prior to missing a meeting. One excused* club and project meeting can be made-up.

Remember, individual community clubs may have policies in their by-laws that are more strict than the county requirements. Please contact your community club leader for your clubs requirements.

*See form for details regarding excused absences and how to make-up an absence.

Event Attendance. Members should participate in at least three (3) designated 4-H sponsored events.

Participate in Presentation

4-H Countywide Events

There are many 4-H events during the year that are open to countywide participation. First year members are welcome as participants at any event, but it is also possible to attend and just watch the action. This may be a good choice for families new to 4-H.

It's not possible, or expected, that members, especially younger members, attend all of these events, but members do miss out on fun and learning

Day. First year regular members must give a presentation at the project or club level to five unrelated individuals. An evaluation is required.

Record Book. Members should complete a record book each year listing their club and project activities and involvement.

Enrollment. New 4-H members must enroll in the club and project prior to January 1st of the program year.

To take a closer look at the complete requirements established by the county council, go to the Butte County 4-H website at:

<http://cebutte.ucdavis.edu>

Click on “4-H Youth Development” and then again on “Forms”.

experiences if they do not come to some.

Following are brief descriptions of many of our countywide events. Each of the events listed qualify as a designated 4-H sponsored activity for meeting fair participation requirements.

Check the calendar page in the Cloverleaves newsletter for dates and times as well as for any up-to-date changes.

Countywide Events cont.

Foods Fiesta

This event is typically held each November. Participants do not need to be enrolled in a cooking project. Any 4-H member can enter this cooking and table setting competition by preparing a dish or desert.

Entries are within one of five divisions: dessert, bread, salad, main dish, or appetizer/snacks. Rosettes and ribbons are awarded. Special awards are also presented for food categories which include: poultry, beef, pork, fruit, vegetable, honey, nuts, rice, beans, and cookies/confections. Awards for table setting and decoration are also presented.

Participants share food with judges and give a short explanation about the dish and its preparation. At the event conclusion, participants and their families have the opportunity to taste the different entries. A cookbook of all the recipes is compiled and distributed.



Craft Field Day

This event, typically held each January, is a judging and educational event for non-livestock projects such as arts, crafts, photography, woodworking, and quilting.

Participants do not need to be enrolled in an arts or crafts project. This event is open to all 4-H members. Members will display their entries and provide judges with short explanation about the entry.

Rosettes and ribbons are awarded. This event is good preparation for fair entries.

Fashion Review

Typically held in April, Fashion Revue provides members with the opportunity to show their sewing and quilting projects.

Quilts and clothing items are displayed and judged. A runway show also provides members the opportunity to model their creations.

For many years, The Sewing Studio in Durham has generously donated a sewing machine as the grand prize at this event.



All Star Fun Run

The Butte County 4-H All Stars sponsor an annual countywide fundraising event. The organization of this event provides them with opportunities to develop and practice their leadership skills.

This 3K and 5K event is held at the CSUC Farm and is open to all 4-H'ers and the public. The proceeds of the event support the Butte County 4-H Scholarship Fund and a local non-profit organization of the All Stars' choosing.





Presentations help young people build confidence by practicing and developing their public speaking skills.

This is one of the most beneficial and growing activities in the 4-H program.

Countywide Events cont.

Pre-Fair Day

Held in April at the Butte County Fairgrounds in Gridley, it provides a good chance for those with animal projects to practice for the Fairs. Members are encouraged to bring their animals and participate in this educational event. Judging at Pre-Fair Day is intended to be low-key, with an emphasis on learning rather than competition. This is an excellent opportunity for new members to get some showmanship experience under their belts.

Pre-Fair Day has also expanded to allow members to display their still-life projects.

Presentation Days

4-H members learn to speak and think on their feet. An important part of the development of their public speaking skills is the giving of presentations. Past 4-H'ers say that although not fun at the time, Presentation Days were one of the most beneficial experiences they had while in 4-H. Presentations can be:

DEMONSTRATION: The member shows how to do something. Appropriate props are used as well as posters or other visual aids.

ILLUSTRATED TALK: The member tells about something. Posters are used to help explain the topic.

PUBLIC SPEECH: The member gives a formal prepared speech or an extemporaneous speech. This is a choice offered for older members.

Primary members are not required to give a presentation. First year regular member's presentations are typically short. They can be given at a project or community club meeting, and must be in front of five unrelated individuals. The important thing in the beginning is that the member get up and say something. Simple visual aides are helpful.

A certification form for first year regular members must be filled out and signed by an adult certifying completion of the fair requirement. This form must be returned to the 4-H office. It is available on-line at: <http://cebutte.ucdavis.edu>

Members in their second year and beyond, must participate in the county Presentation Days. First year members may want to consider attending a county Presentation Day just to observe.

Each club should have an experienced volunteer and member designated to help club members with their presentations by answering questions and providing support or trainings.

Countywide Events cont.

Fun Night

Fun Night is Butte County 4-H's largest fundraiser of the year. It is held the 1st Saturday in February at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds Commercial Building.

4-H Clubs participate by sponsoring booths, games, pre-selling tickets, and donating cakes for the ever popular cake-walk. They also assist by soliciting donation items from local business for the silent auction.

This event is open to the public and is a fun evening for the whole family.

Awards Night

This is the 1st countywide event held each year. It is typically held in October at the CSUC Farm Pavilion. This event is open to all 4-H members and family.

This evening provides the opportunity to recognize the efforts and achievements of members and volunteers over the last year. Recognition is provided for record books, fair entries, volunteer leader service, meritorious service, 4-H scholarships, and All Stars.

The evening also includes dinner and a live basket auction which supports the 4-H Scholarship Fund.

Record Keeping in 4-H

All 4-H members are encouraged to keep records as a part of their project work. As with other parts of the program, the requirements can seem overwhelming, if not kept in perspective. The expectations of members completing their first year are reasonable—strive for a simple basic record of what was done during the 4-H year.

There are several objectives for record keeping in 4-H. Some of these are:

1. To help the member keep a record of accomplishments.
2. To help the member realize how much has been accomplished and how much growth has occurred.
3. To help the member see the investment of time and effort put into a project.
4. To provide a basis for awards and recognition.

4-H Record Books are a great way to help kids learn how to keep a variety of records. They are also great for looking back in to remember all the fun people and things in 4-H.





4-H Record Books provide a system for showcasing completed work, developing record keeping skills and organization, and recognizing outstanding 4-H work.



Record Keeping cont.

Record Book covers are available from the 4-H office. Record Book Forms are available both from the 4-H office or on line at: <http://cebutte.ucdavis.edu> Click on "4-H Youth Development" and click on "Forms".

The goal of 4-H record books is to see a multi-year commitment to the program and have a tangible record that shows a members growth and progress from year to year.

In the beginning, records will be simple and basic with one or two beginning type projects. In future years, records should show growth and greater detail showing a much more mature young person with a more complex involvement in the program and detailed records relating to this involvement.

Forms Used for Record Keeping

Personal Development Report. All 4-H members complete this form. There are two versions of this form. This form summarizes the members accomplishments during the year. Primary members will use the Primary Member Report Form version.

The Personal Development Report form for regular members has been greatly revamped. It is much more user friendly. Instructions and details about where to list information on the form is also available on-line.

Project Report Form. This form is project specific and regular members should complete one form for each project. Primary members will continue use the Primary Member Report Form.

4-H Horse Project Record. Horse project members (regular members) will use this report form which is specific to equine projects.

As members progress in their projects and involvement an Advanced Livestock Report Form will be used by members in livestock projects after 3 years.

What Happens to Records?

At the end of each year, each club has a process which they follow of collecting record book. This generally takes place in early June. Contact your club leader for your club's process and due date.

Record books are judged by project and club leaders and are given gold, blue or red seals. The top books in various project areas are then sent on to County Judging where they compete against record books from around the county.

Record Book Forms cont.

Primary Member and first year regular member record books are not eligible to be sent to County Judging.

At the County Judging, all books are evaluated and ranked as Reviewed, Honorable Mention, Medalist, or County Winner. The State 4-H Office is currently revamping the process by which members can submit their record books to the sectional and state levels for additional recognition.

Records and Continued Participation

The County 4-H Council has required that members turn in a record book at the club level for any previous 4-H year as a component of the fair participation requirements. Most clubs also have related requirements regarding record books. *Because these vary from club to club, check with your club leader to be sure you understand what is expected in your club.*

Additional Opportunities for Participation

4-H Camp

Camp provides members the opportunity to make new friends, build self-confidence, and work as a team in a fun and exciting atmosphere. 4-H camp is held annually in July, Wednesday through Sunday, at the Buck's Lake Campground. Regular members up through Freshmen can sign-up to attend on a first-come first-serve basis while space is available. Members who are sophomores through seniors can apply to become Teen Counselors who assist in planning, organizing, and leading the camp.

Citizenship Trip Opportunities

Each summer a number of opportunities exist for 4-H members to learn more about how their government functions. At the State level, we have California Focus. This program takes place in June and is for teen members. During this four day trip, members visit the State Capital, have a chance to meet with some leaders in state Government and together with members from throughout the state, put some of the ideas to work with those involved.

Similarly, Washington Focus is conducted on a national level at the National 4-H Center just outside of Washington DC. Members are lead on tours and helped as they practice some of the procedures of government. *Watch the Cloverleaves in November and December for information.*

**Primary
Member and
first year
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Judging.**



Experience has shown that if parents become involved in 4-H with their children, their children have successful and tremendous experiences in the 4-H program.

Participation Opportunities cont.

Exchange Programs

4-H members have the opportunity to host youth from Japan for a month during the summer. This program also allows older members the opportunity to travel to Japan for a month. This program provides young people with wonderful experiences to learn about a different culture.

State Leadership Conference

In August of each year, California 4-H sponsors a leadership conference. Members who have completed the eighth grade can choose to attend. The conference is held at a University of California Campus and gives participants a chance to see what campus life is like, while participating in activities chosen to enhance personal and leadership skills. Leadership conference has traditionally been held on the Davis campus, however has been held at both SDSU and Riverside.

Emerald Star Leadership Project

This star rank is given to any member who submits a plan of leadership in the 4-H Program or in the community. The youth then put forth the leadership necessary to accomplish the plan. The opportunity is open to youth age 13 or older who have received their gold star rank.

All Star & State Ambassador

Those members attaining the highest star ranks in the awards and incentives program have unique leadership opportunities available. The rank of All Star is the highest member recognition provided at the county level. These young people can be seen at various county events and at club meetings helping to provide leadership in a variety of ways. The All Stars also organize and sponsor the Annual 4-H Fun Run.

State Ambassadors are chosen for each region in California. They represent 4-H on a statewide basis and have a variety of responsibilities which include the organization and administration for the state Leadership Conference.

Scholarships

Scholarships for continuing education are available for high school graduates. Through a Scholarship Fund, each year, the Butte County 4-H Council awards financial assistance to deserving



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...high school students. Additionally, there are scholarship opportunities at the state and national level.

Junior and Teen Leadership

As members progress and mature, they will have opportunities to provide assistance and leadership within their respective projects. Members can sign up for these leadership roles as early as 6th grade. They will begin to provide assistance and support to younger members and as their leadership and public speaking skills continue to develop will assist the project leader in conducting activities. This opportunity provides significant growth in young people.

Cross-Club Projects

Your 4-H community club may not offer a project in which you may have a great interest. That does not mean that you are left out in the cold—so to speak. Another club may offer that very project.

Approval to attend a project in another club is possible with permission from the project leader, community club leaders, and the 4-H Youth Development Advisor. There is a form that needs the various leaders signatures. It is available at: <http://cebutte.ucdavis.edu> Click on “4-H Youth Development” and click again on “Forms”.



Tips for Parents:

- 1) **Don't be shy - get to know some of the other parents.**
- 2) **Attend the meetings with your kids - there are a lot of important announcements made at the meetings. Be sure you know what's going on.**
- 3) **Don't be afraid to ask questions - there's a lot going on in 4-H. Nobody expects you to jump in and know everything right away.**
- 4) **Read the Cloverleaves for information and event dates and times.**

