



OCTOBER 2011

# Cloverleaflet



Make the best better



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**Mark your Calendars!**

**Marin County 4-H Newsletter**  
 Marin County 4-H  
 Youth Development Program  
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<b>October</b>	
Oct. 2	Achievement Day Buck Center
Oct 11	Camp Board Meeting Marin 4-H Office
Oct 13	New Leader Orientation Marin 4-H Office 6:30pm
Oct 15	Emerald Star Applications Due Grant Applications Due
Oct 25	Officers' Training Marin County 4-H Office 7:00—8:00 pm
Oct 28	Enrollment Due to 4-H Office
<b>November</b>	
Nov 2	Marin County 4-H Council Meeting, Pt. Reyes 6:30pm
Nov 4	Peer Summit College of Marin

*The newsletter is sent to all 4-H families with completed and approved registration. A digital version of the newsletter is available on our website. To discontinue receiving a paper copy, call the office at 415-499-4207.*

*From the council president...*

## National 4-H Week



The first week of October is National 4-H Week. I think of the entire month of October as 4-H Month. It is a good time to reflect on 4-H, where it came from, and where we are going with it.

4-H was started about a hundred years ago, woven from two separate strands of innovation. Educators wanted to understand how children learn best, and how to give children a relevant education that would prepare them for a prosperous future. Scientists wanted to see agricultural innovation implemented. In 1902, an educator named A.B. Graham brought together educational and scientific innovation when he started an after school club in Clark County, Ohio, to teach school aged children about new methods of agriculture. The club was called the "Corn Growing Club" or the "Tomato Club".

A hundred years later, 4-H is one of the largest youth development organizations in the United States, serving over seven million youth. Most people think of 4-H as an organization that is all about agriculture. This is understandable, since 4-H started in a rural area to teach kids about agriculture. This point was brought home to me when I floated the idea of starting a robotics project and another 4-H parent responded that robotics was "not very 4-H". However, something like robotics is very 4-H if you believe, as I do, that 4-H is all about innovation. Yes, 4-H started as a club to teach kids about agriculture--about being on the cutting edge of agriculture by using the latest technology.

In the 21st century, 4-H continues to move with the times, providing youth with relevant education through project-based learning. In a time when school budgets are being cut, and anything but the 3-R's is being dropped from school curricula, 4-H is putting augmenting the 3-R's with S-E-T. Recognizing that the United States is falling behind the rest of the world in some crucial ways, 4-H has become one of the largest providers of Science, Engineering, and Technology education in the United States. 4-H members are learning about robotics, computers, community mapping with GPS, veterinary science, biosecurity, and much more.

National 4-H Week is a time to publicize 4-H. This week, and this month, bring a visitor to your club meeting or recruit a new 4-H member. Get the word out that 4-H is not only about agriculture but that 4-H is also about innovation, SET, project-based learning, and above all, about making the best better.

*~Alexandra Matthews*



**C.A.L. 2012**  
“Creating A Leader”  
Leadership Training Conference  
**WHERE LEADERS ARE DISCOVERED!**  
January 27, 28, 29, 2012

C.A.L. Conference is for 4-H Youth members in grades 6-12, and is a weekend long event that helps members discover and develop their leadership skills.

The conference takes place at Walker Creek Ranch and is \$150 per member.

Marin County 4-H council often makes partial scholarships available.

Please contact the 4-H office if you would like a registration packet at 415-499-4207  
Or email at [alkeaney@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alkeaney@ucdavis.edu)

**Achievement Day**

4-H Members of Marin County celebrated their successes for the 2010-2011 program year on October 2nd. Star Rankings were given out and outstanding record books were recognized with Gold and Silver pins. Members also earned pins for project excellence.

Outstanding supporters of the Marin County 4-H Program were recognized and thanked for their contributions.

Mary Jo Maendle—Outstanding Volunteer

West Marin Rotary — Friend of 4-H

Lenore and Tony Ryan—Meritorious Service

Glenn Parks and Mike Tomasini— 50 Years of Service and the  
Marin County 4-H Hall of Fame

Many thanks to our host, The Buck Institute for Research on Aging and Judy Montoya for making it possible for us to have our Achievement Day in such a beautiful venue.

*Congratulations to all!*

**EMERALD STAR**

The Emerald Star program is a leadership opportunity for those 4-H members in middle school and above who have received their gold star and are ready for something more. An Emerald Star member completes an application and plans a special project that will benefit the Marin County 4-H Program. Upon completion of their service and delivery of their Project, the member will receive their Emerald Star.

The deadline for the Emerald Star application is October 15th.  
Please call the 4-H office at 415-499-4207 for an application or contact your Community Club Leader.



# Club News

## **Community Service: Beach Cleanup**

**By Skye and Liam McCormick**

September 17th, 2011 was the 26th annual California Coast Cleanup Day. About twenty San Rafael 4-H'ers, plus a few friends and family members, picked up trash at McNear's Beach in San Rafael. Last year more than 82,504 volunteers from all over California picked up a total of 1,224,663 million pounds of trash and recyclables from California beaches, rivers, and lakes.

It is important to pick up trash off the beach. If it is in the ocean, it can choke sea life. Fish consume plastic and birds eat styrofoam because they think it looks like fish eggs. It is not good for the animals to consume plastic because it not nutritious. Also, if fish eat plastic, and we eat the fish, then we are eating plastic.



## **Keep Your Chickens Busy**

**by Zoe McCormick**

At the September poultry project meeting we made "chicken busy blocks". What is a chicken busy block, you are asking? A chicken busy block is a block made of scratch and gelatin that chickens can peck. It keeps your chickens entertained. There are not very many chicken toys out there but this is a combined treat and toy.

### **Chicken Busy Block Recipe**

1/2 cup cold water  
1-1/2 cups boiling water  
4 packets unflavored gelatin  
8 cups of scratch

First, we mixed four envelopes of unflavored gelatin into 1/2 cup cold water. (You have to mix the gelatin into the cold water first because if you put it directly into hot water, it will turn into hard little globs.) Next, we boiled 1-1/2 cups of water and mixed it into the cold water/gelatin mix. Stir the gelatin mixture into 8 cups of scratch. Press into one large mold or several small molds. Refrigerate over night. In the morning, you can give it to your chickens and watch them eat it.

At the project meeting, everybody brought 1 cup of scratch. We added 1/4 cup of the gelatin mix. The project members mixed it and they pressed it into a cup. A paper Starbucks cup works well. You can mix it in the cup that you are using as your mold. Everybody enjoyed doing this project.

### Becoming a 4-H Leader

The heart of the 4-H youth development program is the collection of talented volunteers who lead clubs and projects for our youth members. The breadth of projects that a member can take in a club is a direct result of volunteers who decide to share their interest or passion with their club members and lead a project.

Would you like to become a leader? It's easy! We have curriculum, outlines and training to help you get a project started.

Leaders need to attend a New Leader orientation and be fingerprinted for clearance. Sometimes our scheduled orientations don't work for busy folks, and I am happy to work your schedule.

**New Leader orientation is scheduled for October 13th at 6:30 pm at the 4-H office. Orientation takes about 1.5 hours. THIS IS A NEW DATE!**

Please contact Allison at the office at 415-499-4207 to sign up or to get answers to your questions.

### October Community Service: Eyeglasses Collection

By Skye McCormick and  
Liam McCormick

Have you ever tried on someone else's glasses? Was it hard to see? Now imagine that was how you saw every day. Could you have a job or do well in school with eyesight like that? Many people all over the world do see like that and they can't afford glasses.

The countywide community service project for this month is collecting gently used eyeglasses for OneSight. OneSight collects used eyeglasses and delivers them to people all over the world who can't afford them. Give them to your club leader or community service leader.

Here are some ideas for how you could get eyeglasses to donate:

- Look in your drawers to see if there are any glasses you no longer wear
- Ask your friends and family
- Ask your classmates
- Ask your neighbors

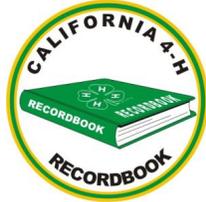
Which club in our county will have the most eyeglasses to donate?

### Update Your PDR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Level</u>
Various	Served on Club Peer Review Committee	Leadership (4)	L
Various	Attended Club Planning Meeting	Leadership (4)	L
9/27/11	Attended Officers' Training	4-H Events (3)	C
9/2011	Beach Clean-Up	Comm. Service (5)	L
10/2/2011	Attended Achievement Day	4-H Events (3)	C
10/2/2011	Led 4-H Pledge/Flag Pledge at Ach. Day	Communication (6)	C
10/2/2011	Served as Greeter/Set Up Committee	Leadership (3)	C
	Clean Up Committee at Ach. Day		

# From the Staff

## 4-H has launched the New Online Record Book!



The new Online Record Book is ready for members to use! As soon as your 4-H enrollment is approved by the office, you may access the ORB with your email address and password used for your online enrollment.

The Online Record Book should make logging PDR items much easier and information is saved to the state service so members can work on their record book from anywhere.

Security is definitely a concern for everyone! To learn more about security protocols of ORB, please visit <http://www.ca4h.org/files/121078.pdf>

*You must be enrolled in the 4-H Online system to access the record book!*

### Log In Today!

Visit the system at <http://www.ca4h.org/orb/>

## Enrollment Time Again!

To enroll, please visit the Marin County 4-H website at:

**[cemarin.ucdavis.edu](http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu)**

Click on **“Programs”** under the header to find a pull down menu. Click on **“4-H Program”** which will be the first on the list.

Once on the 4-H page, look to the left-hand margin and click on the button for On-line Enrollment. This will take you to the enrollment page with complete instructions and links to the enrollment system.

Please print the medical form, fill it out, and give it to your Community Club Leader at your first meeting along with a check for \$20 for each youth member and \$6 for each adult leader.

Note: If your child is an officer or a Jr./Teen leader, please indicate that they are a “volunteer” by checking the bubble on the first enrollment page. (It’s just before the “ethnicity” box.

If you do NOT have internet access, please contact the office so we may assist you.

**Please don’t hesitate to call the 4-H Office with questions, problems or concerns at 415-499-4207.**



This Newsletter is Presented by :

Jane Chin Young  
4-H Advisor

Allison Keaney  
4-H Program Representative

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