**San Jacinto County 4-H News**

**January/February 2012**

**Howdy!!** I hope all of you had a great and blessed Christmas and New Year. I know that most of you are not too excited to be going back to school but with the new year comes many 4-H activities to get excited about. We have more and new adult leaders that will be offering new projects and fun programs. Some of the things to look forward to is the resurrection of the horse club which will begin meeting in February. Also, there will be a new project that gives you a chance to bring your pooch. Yes, it is a dog project! This newsletter is full of new and more activities for you and your family. Remember that 4-H enrollment is open year-round so bring your friends!!

**Major Presentation!!!**

The State 4-H Center located in Brownwood is an amazing place to attend camps and leadership events and activities. Many of you have asked questions about the opportunities at the center. On Tuesday, January 10, 2012 Dr. Darlene Locke, Director of the State 4-H Center, will be at the Evergreen 4-h meeting to give a presentation on the opportunities. This is a very unique visit by Dr. Locke and you will gain some amazing knowledge about the 4-H Center opportunities. I know that night other clubs are meeting but, I have asked all club managers to send all 4-H members to the Evergreen meeting to listen to what Dr. Locke has to say. If you make it to Brownwood once; you will find a way to go back!! The meeting will be held at Evergreen Baptist Church beginning at 7:00 pm. Please make plans to attend.

**Shooting Sports Funday**

The next shooting sports fun day will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2012 beginning at 1:00 pm at the Sumrall house in Coldspring. We will be shooting shotgun, rifle (.22 cal only), and archery. You can bring your own gun if you like or we can find one for you. You will have to bring your own bow. You will need to bring ammunition with you regardless if you bring your gun or borrow one. If you borrow a gun, bring either 12 or 20 ga. ammunition for the shotguns or .22 ammunition for the rifle. We will be shooting clay skeet so either bring a box of skeet with you or you can pay $5 per shooter and we will provide the skeet. You will have to bring eye and ear protection or you will not be allowed to shoot!!

**Shooting Sports Coaches Training**

Texas 4-H requires shooting sports leaders to be certified as coaches through Texas 4-H Shooting Sports trainings. Any 4-H youth competing must be accompanied by a certified coach. Currently there are many San Jacinto County 4-h youth wanting to take the project to a new level but we do not have anywhere near enough certified coaches. There are several trainings offered around the state to certify coaches. If you would like to become certified please, call the Extension office and we will find training for you. We can not compete without certified coaches.

**Pecan Sales**

We have a few remaining bags of pecans that need a home. Please pass the word and help out a homeless bag of pecans. To place a single bag of pecans in a good home will only take a $12 per bag contribution that is tax deductible (SERIOUSLY!!). Checks can be made payable to Evergreen 4-H.

**County Health and Safety Expo**

We need your help with an outstanding program to be offered at Coldspring High School on January 14, 2012 beginning at 9:00 am. We will be hosting a free health and safety expo open to all residents in the county. We will be offering many free health screenings/test in addition to vast amounts of needed health and safety information. We are anticipating 1000 residents through the door that day and we need your help to make it a success. Please call the Extension office if you can help. 628-6407. A brochure about the event is included in this newsletter. Please pass the word!!

**4-H Facebook**

The Extension office is still recovering from the loss of Shelbie and her position. One of the many things Shelbie kept up with was the 4-H Facebook. We now have two 4-H adult leaders that will be maintaining the 4-H facebook page. Please check it out frequently in the future as we may be phasing out the mailed 4-H newsletter.

**Here Comes Horse Club!!**

Many of you have expressed you interest in horse club and getting it going again. We now have a great new leader that will be taking on the horse club and offering a great level of expertise to the project. The first meeting will be held in February. You will need to stay in contact with your club manager, the Extension office, or facebook to get the time and location of the first meeting. Make plans to attend and meet the new leader and get the old pony out for a stretch.

**4-H Going to the Dogs**

The fastest growing project in Texas 4-H involves you and your pooch. The 4-H Dog project is, by far, the fastest growing project in the state. San Jacinto County 4-H will be adding this project in 2012. We already have the leader confirmed for the project and the first meeting will be held in February. As with the horse club; stay in touch for the information on time and location of the first meeting. This will be a great project for any youth!!

**4-H Adult Leaders Meeting Schedule**

The San Jacinto County 4-H Adult Leaders will begin holding meetings in all odd months on the last Monday beginning at 7:00 pm in the Extension office. This will be an ADULT ONLY meeting. We need all hands on deck for this very important meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 7:00 pm. Please make plans to attend!

**2012 4-H Calendar**

The 2012 San Jacinto County 4-H Calendar will be posted on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. This calendar will include all meeting information, camps, activities, retreats, project informational activities, and much more. If you would like to have something included in the calendar, you will need to be at the next adult leader meeting on January 30 or the next youth meeting on February 7.

**County 4-H Roundup**

San Jacinto County 4-H Roundup will be held on Monday, April 2, 2012 in the Extension office beginning at 6:30 pm. This is the first step in the competitive series to get to State 4-H Roundup which will be held in Lubbock this year. You must participate in county to advance to the next step. If you need more information on Roundup, attend your next club meeting or come to the next adult or youth meeting (dates above).

**4-H Ambassadors**

San Jacinto County 4-H will be implementing a 4-H Ambassadors program. This program is a great opportunity to get information about the whole 4-H program in the public eye. This opportunity is open to all 4-H members with the desire to be a leader at the next level. You must be selected to serve as an Ambassador. The first step in the selection process is a 2 page handwritten essay submitted by February 1, 2012. This essay should be on the topic of why you want to be an Ambassador and what qualities do you have in order to be a great Ambassador. We will be looking at your ability to write effectively. When you turn in your essay you will be given the date, time, and location of the required interview. The interview will be conducted during the month of February or early March. The date is not negotiable. This process is intended to be stressful in order to determine if you can operate under stress and on short notice. Many times Ambassadors will be asked to speak or provide a service on a short notice which will require sacrifice on the part of the Ambassador. Call the Extension office if you have any questions.

**County 4-H Food Show**

The county food show will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in the Extension office beginning at 6:30 pm. We will be following all State 4-H Food Show rules. You can pick up a copy of the rules at the next food club meeting on January 17 at 6:30 pm. You will have fun at the county food show and must compete at county to advance to district.

**Other Activities on the Calendar**

January 12…Vet Science meeting, Extension office, call for time

January 17…Food Club meeting, Extension office, 6:30 pm

January 31…Outdoor Education meeting, Sumrall house, 6:30 pm

February 5…Shooting Sports meeting, Sumrall house, 1:00 pm

February 21…Food Club meeting, Extension office, 6:30 pm

February 25…Outdoor Education meeting, call for location, 1:00 pm

See you at the activities!!

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