



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION



# 4-H Newsletter

January 2006



Detective Ryan and Sheriff Scott



Outside the Sheriff's Office, Lee County 4-H Council poses with Detective Ryan and chaperones before heading to Mel's Diner for lunch



On a new public awareness adventure, the Lee County 4-H Council has taken on a project called "Know Your Government." Council members Jessica Campbell (Tally Ho), Nichole Canady (4-H Round Up), Abigail Fleischman (Clever Clovers), Shannon Gilmore (Southern Collage), Melissa Kovacs (Southern Collage), Vanessa Lemieux (Independent), along with chaperones Renee Lemieux and Wendy Coleman, and Mel Markward, 4-H Agent, toured and asked questions at the Lee County Sheriff's Office on Cypress Creek Road.

Sheriff Mike Scott greeted the group and took time to answer all questions. The elected tour guide was Detective Ryan, the one who solved the Gateway murder case.

"I can see that they are real people and nice to talk to," commented Council President Jessica Campbell. All agreed over lunch at Mel's Diner that the tour was good and informative.

The Council's next field trip will be Monday, February 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the old Lee Courthouse, 2120 Main Street, Fort Myers, to see a mock trial. They will watch the State Attorney's Office prosecutors present the case of "Justice is Blind" written by Chere Avery, Communications Director for the State Attorney's Office. For more information, contact Chere Avery at 335-2766.

**4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.**

# 4-H Club Reports

## Hog Wild -N- Steer Crazy

Ready, set, go! Wow, we have had so much going on in November. We voted on making a butterfly garden, but the destination for it has not been decided yet. In December we had a fundraiser to buy gifts for a needy family and delivered them. We also donated dinners for Christmas to other needy families as well. We had our Christmas party and exchanged gifts, ate great food and had a lot of fun! Some of our members went to the Rabbit Show/Clinic and said they learned a lot and had a great time as well. In January we will be doing our demonstrations. Heather Tyndall is in charge of our Fair Booth this year and we are looking forward to getting it together. We will be checking and going over our project books and getting ready for the Fair. In February we will be getting our new club jackets and shirts, will plan some field trips and will schedule some guest speakers for our meetings. We would also like to say good luck and farewell to our seniors, Emmilee Marinell and Stephanie Keeling. We will miss you. Good luck at the Fair everyone!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Kole Dean/Miranda Yancey,  
Club Reporters*

## Southern Livestock

We had a lot of fun at our Christmas Party at Babcock Ranch. We invited a small group of mentally challenged adults to our party and purchased Christmas gifts for them. We all went on a tour of the ranch and had a BBQ afterwards. Rib City catered the meat, and we all brought side dishes. We also held a meeting and went over project books. We will begin demonstrations next month. Our next meeting is January 21.

*Kaitlyn Sarlo,  
Reporter*



porter

## Fair Youth Chicken BBQ Contest

Do you like to cook on the grill?  
Want to share that new BBQ sauce recipe?

*Trophies....Ribbons....Cash Premiums*

When: Monday, February 27, 5:00 pm  
Where: Fairgrounds - Location TBA

**Entry Deadline to Fair Office: February 22**

Entry forms are available at the Civic Center Box Office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm or call the Fair Office at 543-8368.

*Senior winners can advance to District & State competitions.*



## Lee County 4-H Awards Program

Cloverbud	ages 5-7
Junior	ages 8-10
Intermediate	ages 11-13
Senior	ages 14-18

Open to all Lee County 4-H members.  
See your 4-H club leader for information.

## Florida Beef Ambassador

The Florida CattleWomen are looking for a Beef Ambassador. For information about district, state and national contests, go to <http://www.nationalbeefambassador.org>



## Dairy Poster Contest

Design a poster telling a story about milk, cheese and/or yogurt using the theme "ReCharge! The Healthy Way with 3-A-Day of Dairy"



Entries are due at 4-H County Events on March 25. Winning posters will compete at state competition. Prizes include certificates, medals, and savings bonds.

Contact the 4-H office for information or go to <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu>



## Alternative Hay - Perennial Peanut

*Roy Beckford – Ag & Nat. Resources Agent*

The perennial peanut is a crop that will never make peanut butter or even produce peanuts. This is because it is a forage feed for horses, goats, steer and even rabbits. If you currently feed alfalfa to your project animals, maybe it's a good time to look at an alternative feed source with even higher energy.

Perennial peanut got to Florida by mistake. A couple of rhizomes were sent from Brazil in shipping containers, and rather than destroying them, researchers kept them around. A few years later the *Florigraze* cultivar of perennial peanut was developed from this small patch. The great thing about this cultivar is that it can actually be grown on pastures in Southwest Florida. This gives perennial peanut hay the advantage of being sourced fresh and green, and with less transportation and handling damage than alfalfa.

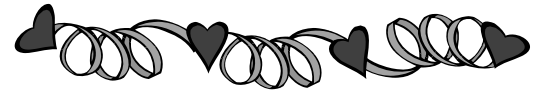
Spend some time looking at the advantages of perennial peanut. This information can be found on the web at [florida-agriculture.com](http://florida-agriculture.com). There is also a Perennial Peanut Producers Association in Florida (850-838-3508). They will provide information on where to find local suppliers as well as other valuable information on the forage or hay.


Many perennial peanut producers advertise in the *Florida Farm Bulletin* which is a monthly free subscription newspaper produced by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Giving your animal that extra edge to beat out the competition is always a good thing. Perennial peanut is definitely worth looking at.



February 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium →	4
5 →	6 4-H County Council Mtg., 6:30 pm Lee Co. Ext.	7	8	9 Florida State Fair <a href="http://www.floridastatefair.com">www.floridastatefair.com</a> (Feb. 9-20)	10	11 4-H Fair Exhibit Judging, Lee Co. Ext.  4-H Day at State Fair (free admission with ID)
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18 4-H Day at State Fair (free admission with ID)
19	20	21	22 4-H Club Fair Booth Set Up 3-8 pm	23 4-H Club Fair Booth Set Up, 3-8 pm	24 SWFL & Lee County Fair →	25
26	27	28				→ March 5

# ◆◆ NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ◆◆

**The deadline for submitting *any and all* information for the 4-H Newsletter to the 4-H office is the 15th of every month.**

University of Florida  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
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For more information about the 4-H Program, please contact the Lee County Extension Service at (239) 461-7517 or (V/TDD) 1-800-955-8771. For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for any scheduled 4-H program or event, please contact the 4-H Office at the above number within three days of the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

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**Head, Heart, Hands, Health**

4-H Program  
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**We're on the web!**  
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu>



**"4-H instilled in [me] values that transferred well into my adult life. Essentially, it taught me how I wanted to live. It was invaluable."**

*Allen Boyd*

*United States Congressman from Florida*



Mel Markward, Extension Agent - 4-H