



## University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | 4-H Youth Development Program

### Timely Topics, February 2015

#### Rolling Hills' Pygmy Goats Team Up with Acterra

By Astoria Ho



McClellan Ranch Preserve's 18 acres are abundant in weeds and invasive plants which are preventing the beautiful native plants from thriving. Acterra, a non-profit environmental organization, has been working on the preserve to restore its natural habitat. They have been planting native plants and pulling unwelcome weeds, but even with its volunteers working as efficiently as possible, the weeds are ever growing. Looking for local environmentally friendly ways to exterminate these weeds, they asked Rolling Hills if any of their animals would be willing to graze on the fields and eat the weeds. The Pygmy Goat Project was intrigued by the idea and met with a team of Acterra Restoration Specialists. After sharing ideas and questions, the project decided that their little goats would be a great candidate for clearing weeds and brush. Hopefully starting in a couple months the pygmy goats will be able to go out with the Acterra volunteers twice a month during their events and munch on delicious thistle plants. On the account that the pygmies would be willing to try new food that is fresh and organic.

Please note: the UCCE Santa Clara 4-H Office will be closed Feb 16-19 for President's Day and staff training.



### 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop – Rifle Discipline

**Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 15, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Lincoln Rifle Club – McBean Park Indoor range**

**Lincoln, CA (Placer County)**

A 4-H shooting sports workshop for the rifle discipline will be held in Lincoln, CA at the Lincoln Rifle Clubs indoor range in McBean Park. Participants must attend both days of training to receive certification. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be certified as a rifle trainer and can lead a rifle project at the club level or serve as county trainer to certify other leaders. The cost for this course is \$40.00 to cover the instruction binder that each participant will receive as well as lunch on Saturday. Teen leaders are invited but must attend with an adult. Participants can bring their own eye and ear protection if desired but is not necessary. To register please visit <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=14587>. The application for certification will need to be approved and signed by the county staff prior to attending this class.

For questions about the course, to download the application for certification and the medical release forms please go to <http://ucanr.edu/sites/placercounty4h/?calitem=230011&g=25577>. To receive additional information, contact Eric Vander Linden at [shootingsports4h@gmail.com](mailto:shootingsports4h@gmail.com) or 916 257-4796. Please bring your completed medical release form with you on the first morning of class.

**Registration is due Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and space is limited.**

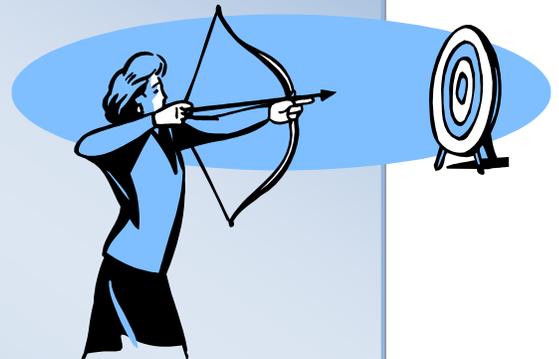
### 3rd Annual State 4-H Shooting Sports Archery Match

It's time to sharpen up your archery skills for the 3rd Annual State 4-H Archery Match, in partnership with the state 4-H shooting sports program and Mendocino County 4-H Council. Entries must be postmarked by **March 16, 2015** and returned by June 16, 2015.

Don't wait until the last day to enter ... once your entries are received the targets and scorecards will be mailed.

DIVISIONS: Age as of December 31, 2014  
Junior 9-10 years of age  
Intermediate 11-13 years of age  
Senior 14-18 years of age

CATEGORIES: 1. Traditional – Longbow and recurve bows.  
2. Compound – Any bow that uses pulleys, wheels or cams



Contact your club's archery project leader for more information!

## State Shooting Sports Match

It's time to sharpen up your shooting skills and start preparing for the 31st Annual State 4-H Shooting Sports Match, sponsored by the Siskiyou County 4-H Council. Registration closes Friday February 20, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Forms and Fees are due to the 4-H Office no later than Wednesday March 4th to receive your targets.

Cost: \$4.50 per category

- Rifles and ammunition all provided by the Santa Clara Valley Rifle Club
- Practice sessions will be announced by email to those who register
- Record targets will be shot in June at the 10th Street Range

[Rules and Category Descriptions](#)

[Registration Link](#)

Please contact Mike Davis at [davisfamilyfarm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davisfamilyfarm@sbcglobal.net) with any questions



**4-H EQUINE**  
field day

**FEB 28**

**WHAT:** 4-H Equine Field Day  
**WHEN:** February 28, 2015  
9:00am-4:00pm  
**WHERE:** Fresno State  
Agriculture Pavilion  
**COST:** \$10  
**YOUTH AND ADULT TRACKS**  
Registration and workshops  
coming soon!

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[4h.ucanr.edu/4-H\\_Events/Small\\_Animal\\_Field\\_Day/](http://4h.ucanr.edu/4-H_Events/Small_Animal_Field_Day/)

## Summer Camp Study

Karen Werner Bryce, UCCE Santa Clara

Santa Clara 4-H has long hosted a week-long summer camp for all youth in region. Camp is staffed by youth who receive training in best-practices of camp management. Adult chaperones partner with youth to offer support. Fe Moncloa, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, joined fellow Advisors representing six different counties across California to collaborate on a camp study. Each Advisor evaluated their respective 4-H Summer Camps using a common evaluation protocol (a post-camp paper survey). The information gathered from the participating 4-H Summer Camps was shared among the Advisors, and common themes were identified. This information revealed what is going well at our camps, and also what could be improved. There is an abundance of camp data that has been published, containing information about sense of belonging, safety, fun, etc. Very little is known about WHAT causes those feelings to increase or decrease with a particular camp. UC's team of Youth Advisors will be taking the preliminary data we got from this year's study and will build on that to try and figure out the "WHY". If we do that, we could help improve youth experiences, not just here at home but all over the country.

National statistics show that girls feel safer at camp than boys, and that teen camp staff have more of a sense of belonging than campers. For our study in the six counties, we found similar results. While all youth had a strong sense of belonging, felt safe, and felt like their ideas count; girls felt more respected by teen staff, and camp staff had a stronger sense of belonging than campers. We found that campers who were not part of the club program had more fun than youth who were club members, and that more girls expressed that their "ideas count" than boys.

When asked what the best part of camp was, most campers responded with the dance and campfire. In addition, many campers talked about the delicious food, as well as skills they acquired at camp like archery, making lanyards, learning camp songs, arts and crafts, and gaining knowledge about trees and wildlife. Others talked about relationships when asked what they'd learned; how to make new friends, how to be a good leader, how to be funny, and how to get along. All campers responded "yes" or "maybe" to the question "Do you plan to return to camp next year", with the large majority saying "yes".

All in all, Santa Clara's 4-H Summer Camp went exceptionally well this past year! The success of camp is in large part thanks to the coordination and leadership of the committee of youth and adult volunteers, who facilitated planning and coordinating of camp activities leading to the amazing camp experiences reported. We are confident camp will be just as good, if not better in 2015!

## Calling Gilroy Teens: High School Age Mentors Wanted!



You could get...

- Community service credit - up to 48 hours in 3 months!
- An opportunity to work with kids, and build your leadership, decision-making and planning skills.
- Free monthly bus pass to travel to Elliot and/or Glenview Elementary School locations in Gilroy.

Are you:

- Enthusiastic about working as part of a great team?
- Interested in learning new ways to teach and learn science? Tech Wizards mentors teach hands-on activities to 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders in afterschool programs.
- Able to commit 4+ hours per week (on Tues or Thurs, or both) between Jan-Mar 2015, with the possibility of extending into summer?

Then apply here! <http://ucanr.edu/gilroytechteen>

Applicants need not be 4-H members, please spread the word!

## Resource Spotlight: Star Gazing

Are your 4-H'ers interested in astronomy? As the weather warms and we start spend evenings outside, especially away from the city glow of our homes, consider leading some star-gazing activities. Don't know where to start? Here's some resources.

### Astronomy from the Ground Up

AFGU is a growing community of educators who share hands-on activities to engage learners. <http://www.astrosociety.org/education/parks-museums/>

### There's an app for that!

Check out iOS and Android apps for astronomy. Some are free! Most use your smartphone's GPS data to recreate the slice of sky you're pointing it at, and filling in details, IDing constellations, planets, even fast-moving objects like comets or the International Space Station passing overhead.

### 4-H Curriculum

Have you lit a spark? Want to start an astronomy project? There are great curriculums available for free, like this [one from Cornell](#).



## 4-H Calendar

### February 2015

- 2/16 4-H Office closed for holiday/ staff training, reopens 2/19
- 2/20 Leadership Overnight (LON), Saratoga
- 2/28 Presentation Day, Berger Auditorium
- 2/28 4-H Equine Field Day, Fresno

### March 2015

- 3/14 Favorite Foods Day, Berger Auditorium

[http://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth\\_Development/Events/](http://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development/Events/)

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Office hours: 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.  
Monday through Friday—please  
make an appointment so we can  
best help you.

All meetings and events are open  
to EVERYONE! Please come!

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**Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.**

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