What’s Inside the Box?

By: Santiago Piva - Jr. Leader
Aaron Alger - Member
Kevin Cremin - Member
Aiden Fleury - Member
Coyote Crest 4-H

Biggs Cardosa Associates, Inc. donated computers to the Coyote Crest 4-H Computers and Internet Project. Due to their generosity, we were able to explore how a computer works without worrying about the outcome. We took the computers apart, reassembled them, and tested them to see if they functioned. We learned the coding module (we participated in The Hour of Code) while learning about decision-making, safety, critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork.

This has sparked our interest in our future ideas for jobs and careers. 4-H is a youth-adult partnership program that focuses on teamwork and leadership. The 4-H philosophy is “To learn by doing,” and our motto is “To make the best better.” This donation has certainly helped us achieve those goals.

Some things our members are saying about the project are:
“Computers are super swag” (Aiden)
“Assembling computers is challenging. It was hard to remember where all the parts went.” (Aaron)
“Getting the computer to turn on was awesome.” (Kevin)
“Getting error messages on the screen was worthwhile because they meant that the computer still worked.” (Santi)
Earth Day at Full Circle Farm

Annie Moultray, 5-year member of El Sereno’s 4H Agribusiness Poultry Project team and Sophomore at Archbishop Mitty High School, was invited to deliver a class on ‘Raising Backyard Chickens’ during the Earth Day celebration at Sunnyvale’s Full Circle Farm. (See: http://fullcirclesunnyvale.org) At her coop-side workshop, Annie shared the many benefits of raising one’s own chickens, how to select the right breeds, and the materials and housing needed for a backyard flock. Families were treated to a depth of information about chicken care, how to build or buy a chicken coop, and how to purchase chicks through her 4-H project. Many of the attendees remarked that they were happy to learn about active 4-H clubs in their neighborhood.

Contribute to Research!

In an effort to provide evidence-based information about human and animal health to 4-H, researchers at the University of California’s Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources have recently embarked on a study focused in the Santa Clara area whose goal it is to measure adult livestock/poultry producers’ opinions about biosecurity and animal husbandry practices.

The population of interest in this study is adults associated with the 4-H Youth Development Program who are involved with raising livestock / poultry animals (either as part of a child’s 4-H animal project – or—for market / breeding). Researchers are hoping to use the results of this survey to help inform 4-H policy and decision-making in respects to understanding the risks associated with zoonotic pathogens (animal diseases which may spread to humans).

Please find the survey link here: https://eSurv.org?s=LNOEGH_5c829abc

Participants in the survey have the chance to win a $25 gift card.
New Project Opportunity—Biosecurity
Karen Werner Bryce, UCCE Santa Clara

I attended the CA 4-H Animal Science Symposium in Davis last week, which was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from all over California, as well as get an introduction to a newly-developed animal science curriculum—Biosecurity. The project is very well written, and designed to allow youth to perform self-directed audits of biosecurity practices where they keep their project animals. The project is of most use when run simultaneous to animal projects, especially market animals.

The animal agriculture industry is afraid of you! Historically, small producers, including backyard poultry and 4-H project animals, have been the site of disease outbreaks, which can endanger large commercial herds and flocks. So it’s really important for 4-H to make a concerted effort in keeping YOUR animals healthy! This curriculum has proven to reduce pathogens (“germs”) in facilities housing 4-H project animals!

And, best of all, the project also allows youth to achieve proficiency pins!

Watch this space for further details...

New 4-H Clubs Coming!

UCCE Santa Clara staff are working hard to charter two new 4-H clubs in our county. We hope to base them at Martial Cottle Park in south San Jose, and Bear Creek Stables in Los Gatos. Please spread the word! Want to know more? Please contact Karen (details on back page).

Green Kids Conference

Saturday, June 13, 2015 - 10:30am to 3:30pm
Microsoft campus, Mountain View

Kids 5-18 and families can learn about environmental issues at this event. 4-H will be hosting a table, with information about our programs and a hands-on activity. Stop by, say hello and learn about opportunities for kids to go even greener!

Find out more about the Green Kids Conference.
Advance notice! Have you been an adult volunteer for SCC4-H for 10 years or more? If so, for the 2015-16 program year, we'll need you to renew your Live Scan fingerprinting. Your club’s Volunteer Enrollment Coordinator will have further information soon.

Thanks!

Buyer Solicitation Letters

I had an enquiry this week about what youth ought to include in their market animal buyer solicitations, especially in regard to tax implications. Here's my suggested wording:

“A portion of your purchase at auction may be tax-deductible.”

You can learn more from this National 4-H Fact Sheet: https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource003445_Rep4917.pdf
Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday—please make an appointment so we can best help you.

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

TIMELY TOPICS is published monthly through the cooperative efforts of the University of California Cooperative Extension and the County of Santa Clara.

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

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