

JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Monticello, Florida

February, 2021



Dear 4-H'ers:

Can you believe it is already February and this year seems to be flying by. Soon it will be spring again and our area will be coming back to life.

Hope everyone is staying safe and getting through these colder months.

There are new programs emerging that are available for one and all. Be sure to check out Florida 4H for all the latest news and updates. Things seem to be ever changing in this new world of covid. Follow the protocols and stay safe.

We are all in this together and if you need any type of Agricultural support just contact our office.

We have a new program that will be launched February 16 that will help you use your land better and more sustainably called the Land Explorers Club.

Make sure you look through our newsletter and see all the wonderful opportunities. There are some cool tidbits to help with your gardening and wildlife needs.

If you wish to be put on our email list please email us and we will gladly put you on our list. Take care and see you in March.

Sincerely,

Bryan Danford
Programs Assistant



Extension Staff:

John G. Lilly, Sr.
Agent IV
4-H Coordinator/UF
jgl@ufl.edu

Ana Portillo
Admin Assistant
ana.portillo@ufl.edu

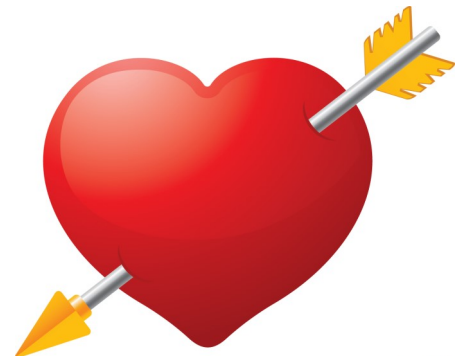
Danielle Sprague
Ag/Natural Resources
Extension Agent I
dsprague@ufl.edu

Dwanda Skipworth
Office Secretary
dskipworth@ufl.edu

Bryan Danford
Program Assistant
Bryan.danford@ufl.edu
Program Assistant

Address

Jefferson County Extension Services
2729 W. Washington Hwy
Monticello, FL. 32344
(850) 342-0187



4H HAPPENINGS

4H Keeping Jeffco Beautiful

On January 23rd, 2021, a group of six teens and 4H staff cleaned up a two mile section of Lake Road. Ditches were filled with water and most of us had wet shoes by the end of our two mile trek picking up all the wet trash. We managed to pickup 6 big bags of trash plus other items totaling about 250 pounds of trash. Thank you to all of our teens for helping. GREAT JOB!!!



Left-Right: MadiLynn Boyd, Maggie Boyd, Reed Brookins, Quinn, Brookins, Jason Mosley, and Charles Boyd.



4-H Teen Council Service Project

Jefferson County 4-H Teen Council is comprised of teens between the ages of 12-18 who work cooperatively with the Jefferson County 4-H Agent to plan and implement 4-H Events in their area. The organization stresses youth leadership training, development, and **community service-learning projects**.

Jefferson County 4-H members pledge their hands to larger service, making community service an important part of club membership. 4-H has historically given back to the community by encouraging young people and adults to volunteer. Giving

back to the community allows members to learn the value of helping others, develop leadership and communication skills, feel empowered, grow their decision-making skills, builds civic skills, and improves academic achievement.

Jefferson County 4-H Annual Community Service Projects:

- 4-H Adopt-A-Road Project, Lake Road
- Making COVID masks for front line workers
- Jefferson County Senior Citizens Landscaping Project
- 4-H Nature Trail Clean-up
- Holiday Nurse Home visits
- JOY (Jefferson Outreach Youth) – sorting and bagging Christmas toys
- Day & Overnight Camp Counselors

Annually, Jefferson County teens can accumulate up to 120 community service hours.

All individuals involved in 4-H clubs and individual members are eligible to participate in a Community Pride Project. This project is a great way to directly impact your community through a special service-learning project of your choice. Service-learning is an experiential learning activity.

Service projects are an excellent method of targeting life skills in the “head and heart” areas of the targeting life skills model. Teaching our youth to care about others instills empathy while teaching them the spirit of giving activates community service volunteering.

For more ways for youth to volunteer in Jefferson County, contact John Lilly, Jefferson County 4-H Agent at jgl@ufl.edu.



February Wildlife Happenings

Birds

- Purple martin scouts appear in Florida. Raise bird houses or gourds.
 - Screech owls begin nesting in the central region of the state.
 - Ospreys will begin nesting in north Florida near the end of the month.
 - N. Florida woodcocks begin courtship behavior. Listen at dusk for their "peenting" in open fields.
 - Pileated Woodpeckers begin mating season and drum on objects to show territory.
 - Little Blue and Tri-colored Herons, Wood and Mottled Ducks, and Snail Kites begin nesting.
 - Purple Finches and Pine Siskins will leave and begin migration back to northern nesting areas.
- Swallow-tailed kites begin returning to Florida from South America

Mammals

- Eastern Moles are breeding this month in tunnels under our lawns.
 - Striped Skunks begin their breeding season.
- Pocket Gophers begin their spring breeding season.

Reptiles

- Alligator snapping turtles start mating this month and continue through spring.
- Gopher tortoises seldom seen outside burrows

Fishing

- Crappie and Striped bass are spawning
- Large schools of Spanish mackerel roam Florida Bay

Plants

- Look for yellow jessamine in treetops
- Trilliums and dogtooth violets bloom in Panhandle Ravines

February Gardening Guide

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plants that can take a chill include dianthus, pansy, viola, and dusty miller.

Bulbs: Try dahlia, crinum, and agapanthus. Provide adequate water for establishment and protect them from cold with mulch.

Flowering plants: Many trees and shrubs will be in bloom, including red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and star magnolia (*Magnolia kobus* var. *stellata*).

Vegetables: Plant potatoes now. Start with healthy seed pieces purchased from a local nursery or online seed catalog. Continue to plant cool-season crops.

What to Do

Palms: Give cold-damaged palms proper care to encourage their recovery.

Citrus: Avoid pruning until spring. Cold temperatures may still injure citrus.

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks after pruning.

Shrubs: Make certain that you know the height and spread of any shrub you plan to install. Not all shrubs are suitable for planting next to homes or under windows.

Lawn: Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a "weed and feed" fertilizer) when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 days to prevent warm-season weeds. Timing is important for good control.

Citrus and other fruit trees: Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree.



Youth Boat Challenge

Calling all youth, are you ready for a challenge? Then I have a challenge for you. It is called the **STEM boat challenge**. This is meant to be a fun boat challenge to do at home and those that participate and have the highest numbers will be attached to the next newsletter.

Challenge:

I want you to use: popsicle sticks, construction paper, straws, glue, aluminum foil, pipecleaners, rubber bands, cloth, and other office supplies. **NO WOOD** but you can use popsicle sticks. (make a plan before buying all of these items) You can make a 2-3 boats an modify them a 2-3 times as they go through the challenges.

1. how much weight can your boat take before sinking (use pennies as the weight)
2. How long can your boat float before it sinks (stop at 4hours if not sunk)
3. How far can your boat move. (you can use wind power, a way to propel it forward, etc)

Note: your boat doesn't have to be able to go through all challenges. So you could have one boat for weight, one boat to not sink, and one boat that can move.

This is just a fun challenge that anyone can do and make sure you record it and send your pics and results to bryan.danford@ufl.edu. Those that have the most weight, furthest distance, and didn't sink will be attached to our March Newsletter. Please be truthful and post the real results. We can't wait to see your creations and what you can build.



4H EVENTS

4H Demonstration Workshops

Calling all 4Hers, are you wanting to do a talk where you get to be the expert and show others how to do it. Now is the chance to do just that with our annual County Event talks. A demonstration or illustrated talk is a “show and tell” type of presentation. This presentation uses posters and visual aids to share information or ideas with others. Youth give demonstrations or illustrated talks at the county level and their presentation may proceed on to district and state level competitions’.

We will have a workshop on this very project on Wednesday **February 11th** starting promptly at **4pm via zoom**. During this workshop we will explain all the details of what is involved and get you on the right path. Come join us in this fun hands on project.

Please RSVP by February 1st. To register or if you have questions, please contact Mr. John Lilly at (850) 342-0187 or email jgl@ufl.edu. We need at least (5) five youth to join us on this workshop to make it happen. See you there!

(See Article on Next Page)



County Events

The annual “county events” will be Thursday, **April 8, 2021, starting promptly at 4pm** via Zoom. This will be the platform used to perform your Demonstration Talk or do it on another topic. Other topics include public speaking, Share the Fun, or on Horse Public Speaking.

Age divisions are: *Clover Buds* (5-7 years old), *Juniors* (8-10 years old), *Intermediates* (11-13 years old), and *Seniors* (14-18 years old).

All winners will receive a ribbon the same day and a trophy at the end of the 4-H fiscal year. County Events winners will advance to compete at District Showcase.

Senior 4-H’ers (ages 14-18) winners at District will advance to 4-H University, held at the University of Florida Campus in July.

Time allowance per category are:

Demonstrations: Juniors: 3-12 minutes Intermediate: 3-12 minutes Seniors: 5-12 minutes

Public Speaking: Junior: 3-7 minutes Intermediate: 3-7 minutes Seniors: 5-7 minutes

Horse Public Speaking: Junior: 3-7 minutes Intermediate: 3-7 minutes Senior: 5-7 minutes

Share-The-Fun: Junior: 3-5 minutes Intermediate: 3-5 minutes Senior: 3-5 minutes

If you would like to come to the 4-H Office to work on your demonstration or speeches, please feel free to use any equipment. If you need help with your project, call Mr. Lilly to set up an appointment. **PLEASE START ON YOUR PROJECT NOW!!!**



The Land Explorers Club

Coming February 16 is our new land exploration club designed to help you live better with your land. We will talk about how your land can be used differently and will look at what is already there. Most of the videos will be prerecorded and can be viewed any time. There are worksheets that go along with it and to follow along what we are learning about.

Topics Covered:

- ◆ How Indians and Settlers lived
- ◆ Making a Plan for your land
- ◆ Intro to Gardening/Landscaping
 - ◆ What animals are there
 - ◆ What plants are there
 - ◆ Outdoor safety
 - ◆ Intro to Livestock
- ◆ **Life skills:** time & money management, using resources wisely, and more

When: Every Two weeks a new section will be added to do on your time. (Can be viewed online anytime through recordings)

Where: Online with worksheets
Note: this a program which you can ask questions, talk to fellow participants, and have live updates with Bryan (the instructor)



Your 4-H Demonstration

Most demonstrators, even those well experienced in presentations, find it helpful to prepare a written outline of the demonstration's parts. Most outlines can be divided into three parts: WHY-this is the "introduction" to the demonstration. HOW-this is the "body" of the demonstration. WHAT-this is the "summary" of the demonstration.

I. INTRODUCTION

Be original and brief. This is your interest-getter, the follow-up of your catchy title. Make the listeners feel the subject is important, practical, and worth your time to demonstrate, and theirs to listen to and see. Tell why the topic was selected. In giving a team demonstration, one member introduces himself and his team-mate. If it is an individual demonstration, don't over-look the introduction unless already introduced.

II. BODY OF THE DEMONSTRATION

This is the "show and tell" part. Show and explain all the necessary steps in the process. Develop thoroughly one central ideal or practice and show each logical step-in order. As each step is demonstrated, tell what is being done and why it is used in preference to other methods. If this phase or step of the demonstration is not completed, give additional information about the material or equipment being used. **EXAMPLE: ACTION:** While egg whites are being folded into the cake, tell **WHAT:** The egg whites are folded into the cake batter. **HOW:** The spoon is brought down the side of the bowl, across the bottom, up the other side, and over the top, folding the mixture. **WHY:** Egg whites are folded into the batter to prevent the breaking of air cells. **Other explanations:** Slotted spoon is an ideal piece of equipment for this purpose. Air beaten into the egg whites helps to serve as a leavening agent. (There also might be some discussion of the food value of eggs).

Include only enough explanation to fill the action time required for each phase of the demonstration. Demonstrators should always use their own words to describe the action. Material memorized from the other sources never sounds convincing. In presenting a team demonstration, divide the work and explaining, so each team member has about the same amount to do. Make the divisions where it would appear natural to shift from one process to another. The rule of thumb is that the person demonstrating should also be the one telling about it. While one partner is demonstrating, the other serves as a helper.

Correct methods and skillful work are important throughout the presentation. Equipment used should be proper for the job to be done and should be used enough to show skill in operation. Work for simplicity and attractiveness of products while avoiding the appearance of too much "housekeeping" before the audience. Build to a climax. You are demonstrating all steps of the process. Some demonstrations pose special problems, such as a long waiting interval in baking rolls, making cheese, or painting furniture. In this case, it may be best to have the material in several stages of completion, to show all steps of the process. If the process can't be finished in the allowed time show a finished product that has been prepared previously, such as a cherry pie or a chilled gelatin salad.

III. SUMMARY

Last chance to get it across. In the summary, the points of the demonstration, the audience should remember and ways this topic can be valuable to those concerned should be emphasized.

Display the finished product attractively, so even those on the back row can see well. Allow the judges to ask questions.



**Public Speaking
and
Project Demonstration
Presentation Videos**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Forest Ecology

Each year, 4-H youth from across the state to test their knowledge of Florida's forests. Six contest stations enable youth to test their identification skills, compass skills, and knowledge of forest ecosystems.

Juniors and Intermediates will compete in the following 4 stations: Tree identification, Forest Health, Forest Ecosystems, and Map Symbols. Seniors will compete in these 4 stations: Tree identification, Forest health, Map symbols, and Forest Management. We will not be covering Plant identification, Tree height, Wildlife, or Compass skills, and we will not have a Quiz Bowl.

Youth will compete in the county extension office at a date to be determined. More details will be available from your 4-H agent. Please register for the contest through [4-H Online](#).

4-H Forest Ecology Contest

Date: April 17-18, 2021

- Quiz Bowl is Saturday at 2:00pm and is live.
 - Online contest will be open Saturday at 7:00am to Sunday at 1:00pm
 - **Cost:** \$5 for participants.
- Register:** Registration opens March 1 and closes April 1, 2021. Register through 4-Online. Register online

For questions about how to get registered, contact the state office at 352-846-444

For information about the contest content and what participants need to learn, see the [Contest Stations](#) page.

For information on who can participate and what to expect the day of the contest, see the [About the Contest](#) page.

Hippology Academy 2021

A short, online, course **designed for youth, adults, leaders, and extension personnel** to gain knowledge and practice on horse hippology content.

Content includes practice tests, slides, and digital stations in six areas in addition to twice weekly lectures. **Once available, all content will be accessible 24/7 for the duration of your subscription!**

Starts online February 8 and will be available for 6 months from that time (Aug 8) if you are in the Bronze level; and for 9 months from that time (Nov 8), if you are in the Silver level.

Topics covered will be:

- Equipment and Riding Styles
- Stallion Reproductive Anatomy
- External Parasites
- Pasture Management
- Donkeys
- Equine Breeds

Subscription levels:

Bronze Level = \$50. Access to content until August 8.

Silver Level = \$100. Includes 6-week access to instructors to ask questions, and access to content until November 8.

If you are a Silver level subscriber, each week, the Professor of the Week who provided the material will be available to answer questions on their topic. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to 'pick the brains' of these national experts. You can upgrade from Bronze to Silver at any time.

Registration here: <https://campus.extension.org/course/search.php?search=hippology>

NEW 4-H Specialty Plate

Pre-sale vouchers for a NEW 4-H Specialty Plate now available at your local tag office location. The voucher can be purchased at any time; you do not have to wait for your renewal period. To purchase you just need your Driver License number. You can also purchase a voucher as a gift from someone with the recipient's DL#.

3,000 vouchers must be sold by the state's deadline of Oct 2022, and once the goal is met the plate will be produced. 100% of the \$25 annual plate fee will support the Florida 4-H Foundation for the following statewide programs: Camping, Legislature, University and competitive event participation. With administrative processing fees the total voucher cost is ~\$33.



4H at Home

I know you all are tired of online programs but we just wanted to let you know of a cool 4H website that teaches you some cool things like a Mars rover and you get to make some rockets (paper airplanes). I encourage you to check it out and see for yourself. The sky is the limit.

<https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Florida 4H Statewide Clubs

Digital Dairy (Virtual Club)

- Virtual club learning about dairy cattle, dairy showmanship and the dairy industry.

Club Leaders: Dianne Spann (fdspann@ufl.edu) and Dr. Chris DeCubellis (cdecube@ufl.edu)

- **Meeting Times/Dates** – Meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Florida 4-H Virtual Horse Club

- Monthly virtual club meeting for youth interested in horses. For ages 8-18.

Club Leaders: Amanda Pittman (amorgan133@ufl.edu), Kelsey Irvine

- Meeting times/dates: 3rd Monday at 6 on ZOOM

Florida 4-H Virtual Poultry Club

- Meets once per month covering topics related to the 4-H poultry project.

Club Leaders: Chris DeCubellis (cdecube@ufl.edu) and others

- **Meeting Times/Dates:** Meeting one Tuesday per month at 5:30 pm eastern on Zoom

Florida 4-H Virtual Swine Club

- Meeting once per month covering topics related to the 4-H swine project, general animal science.

Club Leaders: Chris DeCubellis (cdecube@ufl.edu) and others

- **Meeting times/dates:** TBD on zoom

Teen Life Ready Club

- Teaching “adulting” skills and life skills. Career presentations. Learning tangible skills for life.

Club Leaders: Amanda Pittman (amorgan@alachuacounty.us) & Mary Lee Sale (msale@alachuacounty.us)

- **Meeting times/dates:** 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7pm on Microsoft TEAMS

Young Leaders Club (Virtual Club)

- Empowering youth to become the leaders they were meant to be. For youth ages 13-18. Meeting once a month via ZOOM.

Club Leaders: Derby Sale (sderby.sale@ufl.edu) and Stacey Ellison (staceye@ufl.edu)

- **Meeting Times:** Second Tuesday of each month from 4:30-6:00pm EST

Gator Pit is Ready to Launch!

Information can be found at the website: thegatorpit.com.

Virtual features:

Educate: utilizes online learning sessions paired with discussion sessions to prepare students to launch and execute a business.

Sessions cover everything from idea conception to prototyping and will answer most of the questions students have for getting started as an entrepreneur. Sessions are both live and by an auto-tutorial track.

Sessions are for youth who are just getting started or need a refresher on their business plan.

Sessions run Mondays and Thursdays in March, 4-5pm.

Inspire: Gator Pit hosts open discussion sessions between students and entrepreneurs diving deep into key elements of success. These sessions are for youth who have already completed entrepreneurship education in some facet (whether through us or someone else) and will host Q and A with entrepreneurs in the field. Sessions run Thursdays in April, 4-5pm.

Pitch: This Summer, Gator Pit will host a pitch competition with the opportunity to win real prizes. Our team will provide students with training before the event on what to do and what not to do, including opportunities to practice with mentors. Participants will be judged on creativity, passion and business viability. Sessions run Thursdays in May, 4-5pm.

Competition: Virtual in June 2021

Connect: The goal of Gator Pit is to not only provide students with the necessary education to incubate great ideas and foster an entrepreneurial mindset, but to also equip students with tools and connections to be successful post program participation. As such, Gator Pit also includes a virtual incubator space designed for emerging entrepreneurs and their coaches to network with the business community and access various resources.

For more information: contact Vanessa Spero at Vspero@ufl.edu.

Volunteers

Florida 4-H relies on dedicated volunteers to promote its mission to help youth gain the knowledge and life skills they need to be productive, responsible citizens. Your time as a volunteer will provide youth a safe environment they need to pursue whatever interests, causes, and leadership roles that are most important to them. Adults who are not currently 4-H volunteers, we invite you to become a volunteer and share in the positive experiences of the Florida 4-H program.

HOW DO I BECOME A 4-H VOLUNTEER

Contact the Jefferson County Extension office to learn about 4-H in your county and discuss opportunities with the 4-H Agent.

Enroll in 4-H Online 2.0 by completing an adult volunteer profile.* (Online Youth Protection successful completion and background screenings may be required)

- After meeting enrollment requirements with the collaboration of 4-H Agent volunteer service can begin

*Paper applications may be provided to those without Internet access.

*Applicants submitting the paper application must also complete the paper Participation Form

For questions about content on this page please contact John Lilly, Jeffco Ext Agent at 850-342-0187 or jgl@ufl.edu



February 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14  | 15  | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | |