

# Brevard County 4-H Newsletter



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

January 2026

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Can you believe we've made it into another year? I hope you all had wonderful 2025 and are ready to have an even better 2026. There's a lot going on in the next few months, so grab you boot straps and let's go!**



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The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office at [brevard@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:brevard@ifas.ufl.edu) or (321) 633-1702 at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, use the Florida Relay Service (TDD) at 1-800-955-8771 or 711.



Are you a 4-H member who likes helping others and teaching other youth members? Then this opportunity might be for you! Florida 4-H is offering a 4-week Health Rocks! Teens as Teachers virtual training for 4-H members across the State.

What is Health Rocks!? Health Rocks!® - National 4-H Council

This program teaches young people how to make informed choices when faced with difficult decisions. Health Rocks! utilizes the 4-H "Teens as Teachers" model to build leadership skills, leveraging the influence of young people by engaging teens to empower their peers and families to help establish life-long healthy habits. By participating in this training, youth will have the opportunity to bring the program back to their counties with support from Health Rocks! Florida team.

Sessions dates via Zoom, 7pm - 8pm EST

- January 19
- January 26
- February 2
- February 9

There will be some "homework" after each session; (15-20 minute-long videos to watch before the remaining sessions). By doing this, we can spend less time on Zoom to effectively train all the youth.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/31bg2ZmZQmGWogvLEN1d6w>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the meeting.

For more questions or information, contact Vanessa Spero,  
Regional Specialized 4-H Agent, [vspero@ufl.edu](mailto:vspero@ufl.edu).

# DISCOVER 4-H CLUB

**Monday, January 26, 2026**  
**6 PM - 7:30 PM**

## JANUARY TOPIC: PLANT IT!

Join the Brevard County Discover 4-H Club this month  
to dig into the world of plants!

*Let us know you're coming!  
Kindly RSVP to [tammy.adams@ufl.edu](mailto:tammy.adams@ufl.edu)*

## Poultry Project Program #3

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**6 PM**  
**UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE**

**This night will focus on writing buyer and thank you letters, both of which are required for those participating in the market poultry project.**

**You'll learn the purpose of these letters, requirements, what makes a good letter, and due dates, and will have time to start writing your letters. Whether this is your first time or you're a seasoned participant, this class can help put you on track to getting your letters completed.**

# COUNTY EVENTS

County Events offers junior, intermediate, and senior-level 4-H members the opportunity to showcase their knowledge on a topic of their choice. Youth have the option of presenting a speech, a presentation, or a demonstration as an individual or a team (max two per team). Participating in County Events helps youth learn to gather, organize, and present information, as well as practice their communication and public speaking skills.

**Join us to learn more about how YOU can participate in County Events. We'll discuss the various ways you can be a part, do a little brainstorming to get you started, and answer any questions you have. We can't wait to see you here!!**



**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

**UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County office  
33695 Lake Dr., Cocoa, FL 32926**

Register to attend by January 21st at  
[tammy.adams@ufl.edu](mailto:tammy.adams@ufl.edu)



# NextGenAg Tech Innovators

## Spark the Next Generation of Agricultural & Conservation Innovators

Join 4-H's newest special interest (SPIN) virtual club - NextGen Ag Tech Innovators!

With hands-on activities and guidance from UF researchers, Florida teens will explore how plant science and technology work together to solve real-world challenges.

Through a series of short-term SPIN clubs, teens will:

- Learn how UF researchers use technology in agriculture and natural resources.
- Try hands-on projects in AI, IoT, and robotics through coding and simulations.
- Learn through interactive lessons and guest speakers.
  - Build leadership and communication skills.
  - Explore careers and develop workforce readiness.

Each SPIN club will explore a unique technology driving the future of Florida's agricultural system.

2026 Series 1 | Smart\_Strawberry:

The Digital Irrigation Lab (Jan 26 - March 2)

2026 Series 2 | Agro-Robotics Lab:

Designing a Tomato Grafting Robot (March 9 - April 20)

2026 Series 3 | TBA (Begins April 20)

To learn more about this program, please visit the [Virtual Clubs](#) page or contact the [I2E2 program team](#).

Registration is through 4-H Online.

# BREVARD COUNTY 4-H FAIR

The Brevard County 4-H Fair and Poultry Show is April 13 - 18. We are looking forward to seeing all of your exhibits and animals. Fair rule books are available on the UF/IFAS Extension Website at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/brevard/4-h-and-youth/4-h-youth/>. These books have all of the information you need to know regarding categories, dates, and more.

Please read the rule books carefully. Participating in the fair is a part of the full 4-H youth program. To participate, youth must be Brevard County 4-H members who are in good standing. Good standing means that a youth is registered in 4HOnline, resides in Brevard County, and has paid the applicable membership fee. In addition, **members must have attended at least five (5) club meetings** (verified by club attendance sheets) **to participate in any fair competition or in the poultry auction.** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 5 and 18 as of September 1, 2025, to participate in the competition.

Registration for the fair opens January 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM.



# FLORIDA 4-H EXECUTIVE BOARD

All senior 4-H'ers (ages 14 - 18 as of September 1, 2025) are invited to join us at our Second Executive Board gathering on January 23-25, 2026, at Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid, FL. Registration is now open in [4-H Online](#) and available through January 12. Cost is \$175.

This is a great opportunity for senior 4-H'ers interested in becoming an Executive Board member to explore and discover what's available to them.

For more information, you can go to the website at Executive Board (Florida4-H.org) or contact [4hevents@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:4hevents@ifas.ufl.edu).

## SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Contact Gayle at [gowhit@ufl.edu](mailto:gowhit@ufl.edu) or 321-633-1702 for more information.



## Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol

**January 28, 2026**

The 4-H Day at the Capitol Program provides youth with an opportunity to learn more about their state government and experience the political process firsthand. During the day, participants will hear from public officials, spend time in the Capitol Building, and see their legislators in action.

**Cost: \$30**

For more information: <https://florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/events/day-at-the-capitol/>



# FLORIDA 4-H

## Leap into Legislature

February & March 2026  Virtual

4-H youth ages 13-18 as of September 1, 2025

[Register in 4-H Online: <https://LeapintoLEG.4honline.com>](https://LeapintoLEG.4honline.com)

Wednesday Nights at 7:00PM EST/ 6:00PM CT

**Club Meeting Dates:**

February 18, 2026

February 25, 2026

March 4, 2026

March 11, 2026

March 18, 2026

March 25, 2026

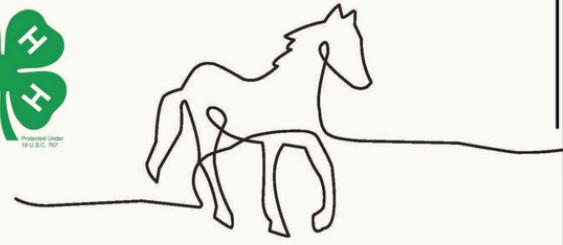
Join Florida 4-H for a virtual short-term club to explore civic engagement in your community and prepare 4-H members for Florida 4-H Legislature!

Topics covered: citizenship, three branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, understanding self and others, civil discourse, 4-H LEG roles and preparation.



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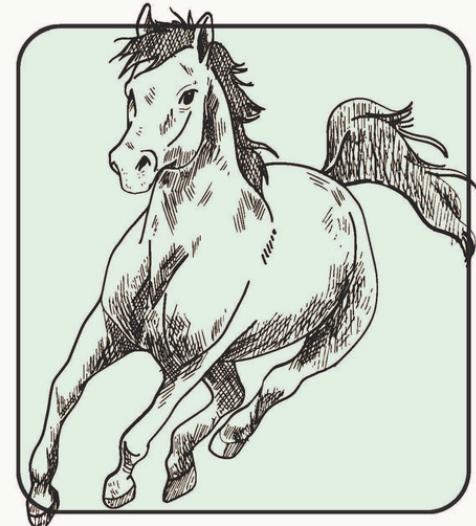
# Area East 4-H Horse Show Artwork Design Contest

**Prize for 1st Place**  
Free Area East t-shirt

1st Place Winner – Design  
will be used on T-shirts

## Rules

- The artwork must include the words "2026 Area East 4-H Horse Show".
- The artwork must include the official 4-H Emblem (as seen to right) and may not have any image superimposed on the official logo.
- Artwork must be submitted on white, unlined 8 1/2 x 11 paper.
- The artwork must be in black and white. The clover can be green.
- If the artwork is hand generated it must be in **black ink**.
- The artwork may be computer generated. Graphic images pulled from the internet must be the property of the public domain.
- Only one (1) entry per 4-H member.
- Artwork should either encompass all riding disciplines or be generic in presentation.
- Emphasis will be placed on original artwork.



**ENTRIES ARE  
DUE BY  
MARCH 2, 2026**

Entries must be submitted to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yxj9jppm>



If you have any questions regarding the contest, please contact your 4-H Agent

# Leader Spotlight

## *Kelly Moutsatsos*

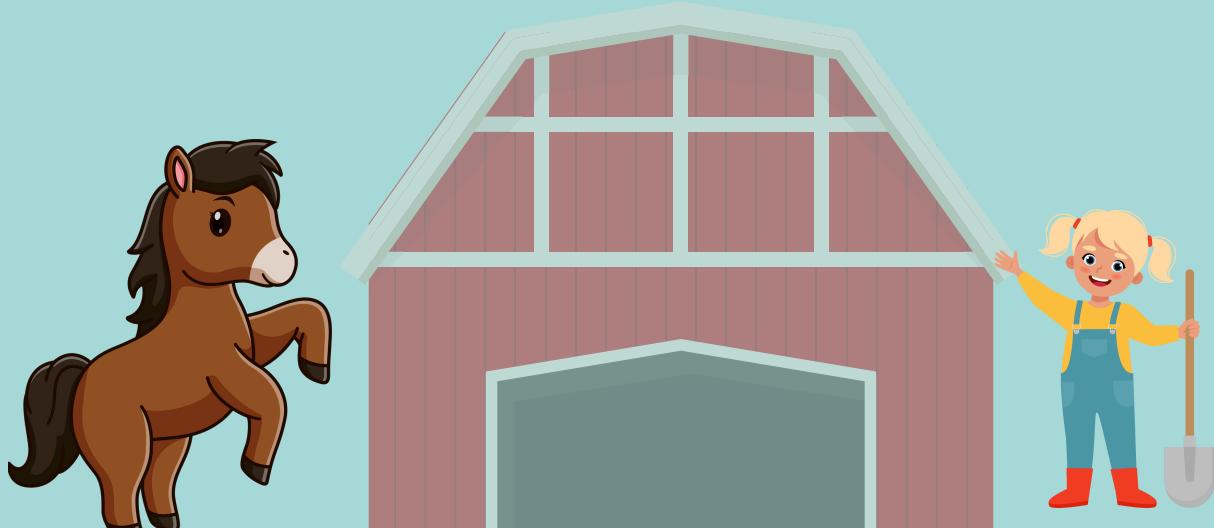
Kelly has been a faithful 4-H leader for over 10 years and continues to provide leadership for the 4-H Horse & Farm LIFE Club, even though her children have aged out of 4-H. She took on this role to help introduce families to agriculture through 4-H. Her favorite part of being a 4-H leader is working with the community. With all of her years in 4-H, Kelly brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as a love of 4-H to her club.

## *Leslie Ladner*

Leslie is in her second year as co-leader of the 4-H Horse and Farm LIFE Club. She became a leader to help grow 4-H participation in South and Central Brevard. Her favorite part of being a leader is working with youth. One very interesting fact about her is that both of her parents' families were farming pioneers in Florida, making her a true Florida native!

## *Emily Torlak*

Emily is in her second year as a co-leader of the 4-H Horse and Farm LIFE club. She became a leader to help provide a location for the club on her farm. Her favorite part of being a leader is sharing her passion for animals and agriculture with young people. Emily has degrees in aquaculture, biology, and entomology, allowing her to enrich her club members with a well-rounded knowledge of topics important in the club.



# Brevard County 4-H Clubs

**4-H Horse & Farm LIFE Club** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday/month, 9 AM, Happiness Horse Farm, Palm Bay

**4-H Life Club** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month, 6:30 PM, Mims United Methodist Church

**Barnyard Challengers** - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday/month, 6 PM, Ag Center, Cocoa and last Monday/month, 6 PM, Adaptive Recreation Center, Wickham Park, Melbourne

**Bug Club** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday/month, 5:30 PM, Ag Center, Cocoa

**Discover 4-H Club** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday/month, 6 PM, Ag Center, Cocoa

**Fantastic 4-H Farm Club** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday/month, 9 AM, Wickham Park

**Feathers & Fur Club** - Last Sunday/month, 2 PM, Melbourne

**Leadership Development Club** - 1st Wednesday/month, 5:30 PM, Ag Center, Cocoa

**Photography Club** - 4th Monday/month, 4:30 PM, Ag Center, Cocoa & various locations

**Pony Tails Club** - Every other Saturday, 10 AM, Robertson Ranch, Melbourne

**Primitive Opossums Shooting & Outdoor Skills Club** - Varies - contact thehomeschoolbus@gmail.com

**Sharp Eye Shooters Club** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday/month, 8:30 AM, Ag Center Shooting Range, Cocoa

**Tabletop Gaming Club** - 2nd Thursday/month, 5:30 PM, Ag Center, Cocoa

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 17 - Archery 3-D Match, Newberry, FL**
- **January 31 - Shooting Sports Instructor Training - Shotgun - in Osceola County**
- **February 2 - Shooting Sports Instructor Training - Rifle - in Alachua County**
- **February 5 - 13 - Florida State Fair (judging contests on multiple days) - Tampa, FL ([floridastatefair.com\join-the-fun\agriculture-programs\](http://floridastatefair.com/join-the-fun/agriculture-programs))**
- **February 7 - Insectathon, Gainesville, FL**
- **February 21 - Archery FITA Match, Newberry, FL**
- **February 23 - Ask 4-H About iLEAD - [Facebook](#)**

**For shooting sports information, go to: <https://florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/events/environmental--plant-sciences/shooting-sports/>**