

October 2008

# Tolland County 4-H Newsletter

University of Connecticut Department of Extension

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Dear 4-H members, volunteers and parents,

Rosemarie Syme,  
Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Educator

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## Operation No Fences—Hurricane Ike Horse and Cattle Relief

4-H clubs can donate to "Operation No Fences: Horse and Cattle Relief" actions supporting our agricultural community who have suffered from Hurricane Ike. Operation No Fences was organized and is managed by county Extension agents and Extension specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and your contributions will be rapidly directed to agricultural producers in need of assistance. See details about how to donate \$1.00 or more below.

### Description of State of Texas Actions

Operation No Fences Hurricane Ike Horse and Cattle Relief Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia has requested immediate relief to rescue and support 20,000 head of cattle and 100 horses that are free ranging in Chambers, Jefferson and possibly other Texas Gulf Coast counties due to 12'-20' surf surge from Hurricane Ike. These animals have been without food and only have salt water resources. 90% of the fences in the area were destroyed. Estimated cattle losses at this time is 5,000 head.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M System is a State Emergency Management Council agency has stood up a resource staging area, feed collection and transportation network to address the most immediate needs as follows: Operation No Fences Financial Donations Contact: Credit Card Donations at

<http://AgriLifeevents.tamu.edu/><<http://165.91.104.99/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://AgriLifeevents.tamu.edu/>>

Assistance with Credit Card Donations Valarie Weber, 979-845-2604, Email [help\\_grilifeents@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:help_grilifeents@ag.tamu.edu)

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## Helping Students in Distress

Guides are available for adults to assist students in need of counseling and mental health issues. The guides are well written and easy to understand. Suicide, anxiety, eating disorders and depression are just a few of the topics covered. Call the 4-H office if you would like to pick one up or download it from the website [www.dos.uconn.edu](http://www.dos.uconn.edu).

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## Congratulations!

The following volunteers and/or organizations were recognized at the 4-H awards ceremony held at the 2008 Cornucopia Fest.

Alumni Award

Erin Koehler – New Haven County

Meritorious Service to 4-H Award

Tolland County Agricultural Center Board of Directors

Lynn and Marjorie Brown – Tolland County

Linda Palmer – Tolland County

Sandy Thomas and Johnson's Duckpin Lanes of Hamden

– New Haven County

Leadership Award

Tina Moriarty – Tolland County

## Project FeederWatch Benefits Birds and People

The 2008-09 season of **Project FeederWatch gets underway November 8** and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges--a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.

"Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same time helps generate the world's largest database on feeder-bird populations," says project leader David Bonter. "We are grateful for the contributions our participants have made for the birds and are proud of the joy they say it brings to their busy lives. Since we started in 1987, more than 40,000 people have submitted observations, engaging with the wildlife beyond their windows."

Scientists learn something new from the data each year, whether it's about the movements of common backyard birds or unusual sightings of rarely-seen species.

Long-term data show some species increasing in number, such as the Lesser Goldfinch in the Southwest. Other populations continue a downward trend, such as the Evening Grosbeak throughout their range. Once one of the most common species seen at feeders in the northern half of the continent, the grosbeaks are declining for unknown reasons. Beyond the benefits to birds and science, however, is the benefit to participants. "Nature is not merely an amenity; it is critical to healthy human development and functioning," says Nancy Wells, Cornell University assistant professor of design and environmental analysis. Her studies find that a view of nature through the window or access to the environment in any way improves a child's cognitive functioning and reduces the negative effects of stress on the child's psychological well-being. Wells also notes that when children spent time with nature early in life it carries over to their adult attitudes and behavior toward the environment.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels, from scout troops and retirees to classrooms and nature center visitors. To learn more and to sign up, visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the *FeederWatcher's Handbook*, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, *Winter Bird Highlights*.

**Note:** Photos are available at [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org). To find local participants for stories, contact David Bonter at (607) 254-2457 or email [dnb23@cornell.edu](mailto:dnb23@cornell.edu). Visit the "Explore Data" section of the web site to find the top 25 birds reported in your region, rare bird sightings, and bird summaries by state or province.

Media contact in Canada: Kerrie Wilcox, Bird Studies Canada, (519) 586-3531, [kwilcox@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:kwilcox@bsc-eoc.org)

*The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.*

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## Honey Bees 2009 4-H Essay Contest

1st place: \$750, 2nd place: \$500, 3rd place: \$250. The essay contest topic is: "The Dance Language of Bees". For more information email: [beefoundation@bellsouth.net](mailto:beefoundation@bellsouth.net) or call: 912-427-4233



## 4-H at Coventry Farmer's Market

On October 4th, several Tolland County 4-H clubs participated in the Coventry Farmer's Market. Goats Etc of Ellington brought bunnies, a goat pulling a cart, demonstrated goat milking & hoof trimming and offered games. Farm Friends and Coventry Fiber Arts, Fleece Fur and Feather 4-H members were there. Crafty Critters of Ellington taught a project and sold jewelry. Tranquil Menagerie of Bolton/S Windsor brought farm animals and displayed their crafts. Hartford County Happy Hee Haws of Granby/Franklin brought spunky donkeys.

Bonnie Jean Gordon and her 4-H club members joined with a petting zoo representing Tara Farm Rescue, a nonprofit animal sanctuary funded by private donations.

The Farmer's Market enjoyed having 4-H'ers attend so much that they ask them to return again next year.

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### 2008 4-H Program Calendar

#### October

- 5 4-H/FFA Day at Coventry Farmers' Market
- 5 Breast Cancer—Ride for the Cure- Pomfret, CT
- 5 Cornucopia Fest, UConn
- 5-11 National 4-H Week
- 18 4-H Fair & Awards Banquet
- 25 Photo Workshop

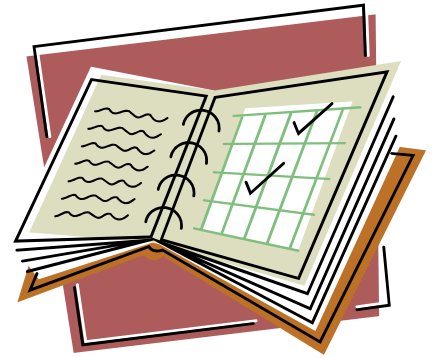
#### November

- 1 UConn Beef Sale & Judging Contest



# Calendar

Tolland County 4-H





# Tolland County 4-H Award Recommendation Form



4-H members may be nominated for awards by their 4-H leaders or parents. 4-Hers may be nominated in any of their project areas by attaching this form to the 4-H members Record Book and submitting it by Oct. 3rd to the 4-H office at 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066. No submissions will be considered after this date. Awards will be presented to recipients at the Annual 4-H Fair Meeting and County Awards night held in October. 4-H members may be nominated for the following awards:

**County Recognition Certificates** may be awarded to 4-H members of any age who have done an outstanding job in a project area for at least two (2) years. Certificates may be received more than once if the 4-H members continues to show growth and outstanding progress in the project area. Certificates are not a prerequisite for receiving a county medal but continue to show growth and citizenship in the project area. Leader recommendation required—on back of this sheet.

**County Medals** may be awarded to 4-H members that are twelve (12) years or older as of January 1st of the project year. A county medal is usually awarded in a project area only once. The possibility of receiving a second county medal award in the same project area occurs only when continued outstanding growth is shown in the project area. 4-H Record Book and Leader Recommendation are required.

The nominee must:

- Be involved in the project area for which he/she is recommended for at least three (3) years
- Exhibit continued growth and outstanding work in the project area
- Exhibit leadership and citizenship in sharing/teaching project skills to other 4-hers

### 4-H Member Awards

County Medal Awards are available in the following areas. Please indicate on the front side of this form which area the 4-H member is being nominated for. **Recognition Certificates** may be awarded in any area in which a 4-H member has met the criteria, not only those areas listed below.

Achievement	Agriculture	Beef	Child Care
Citizenship	Clothing	Dairy	Dairy Foods
Dog	Entomology	Forestry	Gardening
Dairy Goat	Health	Horse	Leadership
Poultry	Public Speaking	Photography	Rabbit
Safety	Sheep	Wood Science	Swine
Fashion Revue	Veterinary Science	Energy Management	
Fitness Leadership	Leisure/Pleasure	Food & Nutrition	
Food Conservation, Preservation & Safety		Conservation & Natural Resources	
Conservation & Natural Resources			



Other Awards

**BEVERLY VREDENBURG**

**OUTSTANDING 4-H HORSE MEMBER AWARD**

This award is given in memory of former 4-H leader, extension office secretary and all around 4-H supporter Bev Vredenburg. Bev was an important part of the horse program in Tolland County for many years. She was a constant source of information and guidance for 4-H members and their leaders. This award in her honor is to be presented annually to a 4-H'er who shows outstanding involvement in a Horse Project. Qualifications include an up-to-date record book detailing Leadership and Citizenship activities and Connecticut 4-H Recognition form.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. 4-H'ers must have carried out a horse project for minimum of two years.
2. Previous year's record book will be judged on completeness through Sept.30<sup>th</sup> current year's book will be judged on completeness through submittal date.
3. Must be standard 4-H project record for horse.
4. Past winner are eligible to complete.
5. Award is to be judged on: 50% Horse Project, 25% Leadership and 25% Citizenship.
6. 4-H members are strongly encouraged to submit an application for themselves. 4-H leaders may also submit recommendations for qualifying members. Forms for this are available through the extension office.
7. The 4-H Advisory Committee will select the recipient, and the award will be presented in October.

**Club Citizenship Award**

CLUB CITIZENSHIP AWARDS—Has your club done something interesting this year? A special project or an interesting community service experience? Submit your story to the Tolland County 4-H office by October 3, to be considered for the club citizenship award, which will be presented at the October 18th awards dinner. This is a \$50 award sponsored by the Tolland County 4-H Advisory Committee, that can be used by your club in any way and/or to support other community service activities. Special interest to the committee this year would be ideas your club did to promote "The Clover Goes Green" theme. In case of a tied score, preference will be given to a club that has not received this award before.

Recommendation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Check One

County Recognition Certificate  
Leader Recommendation

County Medal  
Record Book must be submitted

Leader's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please write and attach a statement of why this member should be considered for the recognition requested. Include things such as quality of work, attendance, motivation, what you have observed he or she has learned, and leadership. Please be specific. State actual events where the applicant exhibited behavior that qualifies him/her for this award.

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