The Jackson County Fair will be held October 6th–10th. Some important dates and times to remember:

**October 4th** – Non animal exhibit check-in (2:00-4:00 PM)

**October 5th**
- Swine, check-in 7:00-9:00 AM
- Beef and Poultry 3:00-6:00 PM
- Exhibitor Meeting 6:30

**October 6th**
- Swine Showmanship (1:00 PM)
- Swine Auction (6:30 PM)

**October 7th**
- Ag Judging (9:30 AM)
- Beef Showmanship (6:00 PM)

**October 8th**
- Heifer Show (1:00 PM)
- Steer Show 6:00 PM

**Fall is in the air “It’s Show Time”**

The North Florida Fair will be held November 5th – November 15th. Registration forms and entry information is available online at [http://northfloridafair.com](http://northfloridafair.com). If you do not have a computer, and would like paper-copies, contact the 4-H Office.

**4-H Day at the NFF is November 14th.** Admission to the fair is free for 4-H Families this day, and you can purchase discounted tickets (a sheet of 18 tickets for $10.00) to use from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you would like tickets, please contact the 4-H office. Tickets need to be ordered by October 15th.
Counselor Volunteer Hours

If you are in need of your volunteer hours, letters and school forms documenting your previous volunteer hours remain in your file. We will not mail you a copy unless you request it. When you are ready for the documentation, just let us know. This will save us a lot of unnecessary postage and paper.

West Florida Livestock Show

Steer entry deadline is November 1, 2009. Steers must weigh a minimum of 900 pounds at show time to enter. To enter Gain-In-Weight, steers must be weighed on October 24, 2009. A signed weight ticket from the Extension Agent or Vocational Ag Teacher must accompany the entry form. Any youth age 8-18 years old is eligible to participate. Participants must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2009 and not have graduated from high school.

Swine entry deadline is February 1, 2010. Hogs must weigh 220-270 lbs at show time and must be owned by exhibitor for at least 30 days prior to show date. Any youth age 8-18 years old is eligible to participate. Participants must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2009 and not have graduated from high school. For more information concerning the West Florida Livestock Show please contact Patti Peacock at the 4-H Office.

Prudential Scholarship

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program recognizes middle level and high school youth solely on the basis of volunteer work in their communities. One high school student and one middle level student in each of the 50 states and District of Columbia will be named State Honoree’s next February and receive $1,000, a beautiful silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., with a parent or guardian. If interested you can obtain an application at http://www.prudential.com/spirit or http://www.principals.org/prudential

My HEAD to Clearer Thinking......RESOURCEFULNESS

Resourcefulness: Making wise use of what others might overlook or discard. Resourcefulness reduces waste. Whether through recycling, reselling, redesigning, refurbishing, or refining, resourcefulness reuses objects and ideas in creative ways. Sometimes only one part of an object is used. Other times parts can be rearranged or combined with other discarded items to create new and useful products.
Pumpkin Carving Tips

- Draw your design on the pumpkin with a water-based marker beforehand. Mistakes are erased easily with a damp sponge.
- Cut the top and any large areas with a sharp, straight-edged knife. A dull blade is not a safer alternative.
- Serrated metal saws, now widely available in carving kits, are a safer alternative to knives and allow younger children to get in on the action.
- Carve away from yourself; kids should carve only under adult supervision.
- Never hold the knife in a stabbing position.
- When carving, keep a portion of the knife blade in the pumpkin and use slow, steady saw strokes.
- Cut the lid at an angle so the outside diameter is larger than the inside. This prevents the top from falling into the pumpkin when it shrinks.
- Scoop out seeds and stringy flesh with a large spoon or ice cream scooper.
- Carve the facial features closest to the center first and work outward. Cut out the larger features in sections.
- Use an X-Acto knife for details and the tip of a potato peeler to make small circles and curves.
- Remove carved portions by gently pushing them into or out of the pumpkin.
- Reattach a section that is accidentally removed by using a toothpick to pin it back in place.
- Make design holes large enough to provide adequate ventilation for the candle.
- Flatten a spot in the base of the pumpkin for the candle but avoid digging too deep because the pumpkin becomes prone to rot.
- Make sure the flame is not too close to the top of the pumpkin.
- To prolong the life of the jack-o'-lantern, seal in moisture by coating all cut surfaces with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil, or cover it with a damp towel when not on display.

October Club Reports

Character Keepers – All members will meet at the Melvin’s home on Oct. 20th @ 1:30 p.m. On Oct. 23rd the first assembly is set for 3:30 p.m. at Golson and the Garden Apartments. For more information call Patti Melvin at 482-6674.

Dayspring Eagles 4-H – This club will meet Oct. 12th at 3:30 p.m. at Dayspring. If you need further info concerning this 4-H club, please contact Mrs. Beebe at 209-1822 or e-mail her at 4h@dayspringchristianacademy.net.

Graceville Kountry Kids – Laurel Merritt is currently the leader of this club. If you need any info concerning this club, please contact Mrs. Merritt at 334-671-2027.

Grand Ridge/Sneads 4-H – A brand new club will be forming in this area in the near future so keep watching your newsletters, or contact Ms. Peacock at the 4-H Office 850-482-9620.

Panhandle Pioneers - We are in the process of training our new leader; contact the 4-H Office at 850-482-9620.

Sharp Shooters – This club is in serious need of participation if you would like to see it continue!!! If you need any information or would like to join, contact Anita Githens at 850-482-4351. The leaders of this club will be contacting its members one more time to schedule a meeting before they disband the club.

Eureka 4-H Club - Eureka will meet October 1st at 12:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. If you need further info, please contact Kate Bagy at 850-482-3022.
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**October 2009**

For more info about the Jackson County 4-H Program, contact our office at 850-482-9620 or visit our website @ http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4h/

Patti Peacock
Patti L. Peacock
4-H Program Assistant