Congrats to many of our 4-H members for activities this past weekend! The Charlotte County 4-H Forest Ecology Club competed in the state contest at the Austin Cary Forest in Gainesville. The junior team of Cameron Dixon, Nicole Dixon and Kristen Robinson placed 2nd overall, with Nicole placing 3rd highest junior individual in the state. The intermediate team of Dustin Crane, Steven Pink and Melissa Robinson placed 3rd overall. Their club leader, Lucia Pink, and the team members' parents made sure the youth had many, many study hours, field trips and guest speakers helping throughout the year.

Competing in the District 12 Communications Events were Miranda Hogue, Rocky Shelton, Mandy Shelton, and Sam Shelton. All won blue ribbons - very cool - and Rocky and Miranda are now invited to compete at State 4-H Congress with their demonstrations. Miranda also took leadership of the day, serving as co-Master of Ceremonies. Serving as judges from our county were Sally Kalama, Jamie Hogue and Brittany Hogue.

Register NOW for 2010 4-H Legislature, June 21 - 25 - The on-line registration is now open for senior members, but the deadline is April 26 - so don't procrastinate! You can call me and I will input your information, or you can come into the office and we'll do it here. Senior 4-H’ers (ages 14 – 18) go to Legislature to develop debating skills, analyze legislation and speak publicly while making new friends and having a whole lot of fun. You can apply for a position as State Representative, Lobbyist, or Reporter. Cost for the event is $225.00 plus transportation (if needed). There is some funding assistance available from the 4-H Foundation if you qualify. I will not register anyone after the April 26 deadline without an additional $30.00 late fee. Our adult chaperones will be Jamie and Andy Hogue.

Summer Horse Camp - Monday, June 7th & Tuesday, June 8th, 9am – 4pm, at the Inside Loop Farm (Weber's Barn) 2301 Mangrove Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33982. This an open day camp for boys and girls ages 7-12. Campers will learn: Safety ~ Grooming ~ Feeding ~ Tacking ~ Breeds ~ Colors & Markings ~ Basic riding skills ~ General Care ~ Fun Facts ~ Arts & Crafts & much more! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Campers will need to bring their own lunch and a helmet. Campers must wear jeans/long pants and boots (or closed toed, hard soled shoes). Cost is $100 or $90 for current enrolled 4-H members. For more information contact Sara Sariego (941) 979-0596 or wsara7@hotmail.com.

Camp Cloverleaf - June 14 - 18 - We are now taking applications for campers - 8 to 13 years old. All forms and payment should be returned by May 24. You may request a registration packet from the office or you may go online to the florida 4-H website - http://florida4h.org - to download the information. There will be a Camper & Parent Orientation on June 7, at the Extension Office, for all campers - especially the first-timers. First-time campers are encouraged to bring a buddy to camp to share the experience. Cost for camp is $185.00 and includes transportation. There is some funding assistance available from the 4-H Foundation if you qualify. We only have 55 spaces so don't wait!

Camp Counselors - I have all I need!!! There will be a Camp Counselor Training on May 27th. This will be an all-day training with the teens from Collier County. The location will be the Lee County Extension Office, or Camp Cloverleaf. Please put this date on your calendar and don't miss it!
Other Summer Camps:
- 4-H Marine Camp ~ July 26 - 30 at 4-H Camp Timpoochee (Niceville, FL)
- Shooting Sports/Sport Fishing Camp ~ July 26 - 30 at Camp Cloverleaf (Lake Placid)
- Gator Adventures Camp ~ August 9 - 13 at Camp Cloverleaf
- Senior 4-H Camp ~ August 2 - 6 at Camp Cherry Lake

**Operation: Military Kids Summer Camps** are open to youth of Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve parents. There are four OMK Camps:

- June 21 - 25  Camp Ocala for campers 8-12 years old
- July 6 - 10  Camp Cloverleaf for campers 8-12 years old
- July 19 - 23  Camp Timpoochee for campers 8-12 years old
- August 2 - 6  Camp Cherry Lake for teens 13-18 years old

Information on these camps is available on the http://florida4h.org website under Camps

**The 4-H Exchange Club** is raising money! The teens and their parents appreciate all of the ‘cupcake’ buyers at the Block Party. While they were very happy with the money they raised selling the delicious treats, they are still a long way from their goal. If you know of a community event at which they could set up a booth, please let Lori Rainer know. Her cell number is 941-456-2175. This summer our teens will host teens from Illinois, and next summer go there to stay with the Illinois 4-H families. The teens and families will be raising money for both summers. Help them out whenever you can.

Two Upcoming Shows that you can attend to show support for your fellow Charlotte County 4-H Members:

- **County 4-H Dog Show** - April 21, 6:30 p.m., South County Park on Cooper Street - Come support the 4 Paws and a Tail 4-H Dog Club at their annual Dog Show. You will enjoy seeing a great group of well-trained dogs jumping over fences, running through tunnels and minding their great young handlers. There is no charge for the event.

- **Area F 4-H Horse Show** - May 1 & 2 - Lee Civic Center, Lee County - Charlotte County has more youth participating this year than ever before - YEAH! - and they need supporters there to cheer them on. Saturday, May 1 will be English Classes & Dressage during the day, with Barrels & Games in the evening. On Sunday, May 2 there will be Western, Trail, and Walk-Trot (Jog) classes. These classes start in the morning and pretty much last all day - so come when you can!