



# *Ag Explorations*

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4-H Agent  
UF/IFAS DeSoto County



# Purpose



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- To engage youth in exploration of agricultural commodities (including STEM) within the county through a multi-day AgTour.
- Allow youth the opportunity to gain the knowledge/ability to work in cooperative groups to adopt a local classroom and teach them about agriculture.
- To increase self confidence and responsibility among other life skills of youth participating.

# *Ag Explorations*



# Description



Utilizing the Mini-Grant funding, DeSoto County 4-H hosted a multi day AgExplorations camp for DeSoto County teens interested in learning and teaching others about Agriculture. Through this program, DeSoto County youth were able to gain a better understanding of various aspects of the agricultural industry. They did this through visits to several locations including the Arcadia Livestock Market, a national sod producer – Bethel Farms, Sun Bulb – a national Orchid Producer, Sandhill Native Growers, Island Grove Blueberries and a local Fish Farm. In addition, youth attended ONA youth field day presented by UF/IFAS Extension. Throughout this program, youth not only gained knowledge, but they gained the ability to prepare and present elevator speeches on specific topics as they become youth Ag-Ambassadors for Agriculture in our county. Following the 3 day camp, the youth participated in job-shadowing of various ag-careers on an individual basis. Currently, youth are creating and presenting cooperative lesson plans to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade youth at the local elementary schools.



## Partnerships



- Various UF/IFAS Departments
  - High School FFA Program
    - Local Ag Businesses
    - Local Ag Stakeholders
- County Board of County Commissioners
  - School Board







# Funding & Cost



- UF/IFAS 4-H Mini Grant Submitted & Secured \$500.00. Costs covered included:
  - ONA Youth Field Day - \$15.00 per person
  - Lunch
  - Notepads and Pencils for Participants
  - Transportation
  - Elementary School Activities
- Each participant was charged \$10.00
  - This fee served as a “buy in” for participants and was used to purchase shirts from the Youth Field Day



# Recruitment / Promotion



## **DeSoto County 4-H** **Summer Ag-Exploration Program**

DeSoto County 4-H will be hosting a Summer Program focusing on Agriculture. This program is limited to 10 participants and will be held on multiple days throughout the summer. During this program, participants age 13-18 will participate in a multi-day Agricultural tour of facilities and properties in several counties that are somehow related to agriculture as well as participating in job shadowing and STEM & agriculture related experiments and activities. Following these workshops, students will work with elementary aged youth to teach them about agriculture in a classroom setting.

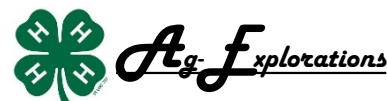
Community Service hours will be awarded to participants who complete the program.

Due to the fact that entry into this program will be very competitive, all prospective participants will be required to submit an application to DeSoto County 4-H. All applications must be turned in on or before April 10, 2015 to the school guidance counselor or the DeSoto County Extension Office.



For Additional Information,  
contact:

**Kristie Popa, 4-H Agent**  
(863)993-4846  
kpopa@ufl.edu



This information was sent to all high school students enrolled in Ag Classes as well as all age appropriate 4-H Youth in the county.



# Application



# Application

## DeSoto County 4-H Summer Ag Program Application



### Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
E-Mail Address	
Current School Grade	
Current Age	

### Interests

Check the areas which interest you.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Crafts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educating Others     | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Nutrition | <input type="checkbox"/> Job Exploration   |

### Qualifications

Summarize why you think that you would be a good candidate for this program.

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### Future Plans

Summarize your future plans and how this summer opportunity would help you achieve your goals.

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### Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

Name	
Street Address	

City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

### Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a participant, I must follow the 4-H Code of Conduct outlined below. If I do not follow this Code of Conduct, I will be immediately dismissed from the program.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

### Our Policy

As a participant in 4-H at the local, state, or national level, I have the responsibility of representing the UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program to the public. Therefore, I am expected to conduct myself in a manner that will bring honor to me, my family, my community, and 4-H. To do that, I must abide by the following rules:

- Obey local, state, and federal laws. Follow county, district, state and/or national 4-H policies. Abide by any special rules for a 4-H event or activity.
- Speak and act in a responsible, courteous, and respectful way. Harassment, threats or bullying of any type is prohibited.
- Act responsibly to maintain a safe environment for all participants. Acting in a manner that could endanger the health, safety or welfare of yourself or others is prohibited. Report threats to the well-being of any participant immediately to the adult in charge.
- Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited. Possession or use of approved medications by youth during a 4-H function must be reported to the adult in charge and must not be accessible to other participants.
- Possession or use of weapons or other dangerous objects is prohibited, except when required as part of an approved educational program. Weapons are defined to include, but are not limited to, guns, knives and incendiary or explosive devices of any kind.
- Respect all property, facilities, equipment, and vehicles. I will be responsible for any damage or other consequences resulting from my behavior.
- Participate fully in 4-H functions. Be in the assigned program areas (example—dorms, cabins, programs, etc.) on time. If I am unable to attend or participate, I will tell the adult in charge. Help others have a pleasant experience by making every attempt to include all participants in activities.
- Dress appropriately for each 4-H function.
- Use of any mobile electronic device during a scheduled 4-H activity is prohibited unless activity-specific rules otherwise allow. When permitted, they should be used only in a manner that is consistent with the approved activity and not disruptive or disruptive.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in participating in this program.

**Application Due: April 10<sup>th</sup> to the School Guidance Counselor or the  
DeSoto County Extension Office**

**For More Information, Contact:**

**Kristie Ropa**  
4-H Agent  
(863) 993-4846  
kropa@ufl.edu



# Code of Conduct



# Code of Conduct

## AG-EXPLORATIONS PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT

As a participant in the AgExplorations program, I have the responsibility of representing the county 4-H and FFA Programs to the public. Therefore, I am expected to conduct myself in a manner that will bring honor to me, my family, my community, and 4-H & FFA. To do that, I must abide by the following rules:

1. Obey local, state, and federal laws. Follow county, district, state and/or national 4-H & FFA policies. Abide by any special rules for a 4-H/FFA event or activity.

2. Speak and act in a responsible, courteous, and respectful way. Harassment, threats or bullying of any type is prohibited.

3. Act responsibly to maintain a safe environment for all participants. Acting in a manner that could endanger the health, safety or welfare of yourself or others is prohibited. Report threats to the well-being of any participant immediately to the adult in charge.

4. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited. Possession or use of approved medications by youth during a 4-H or FFA function must be reported to the adult in charge and must not be accessible to other participants.

5. Possession or use of weapons or other dangerous objects is prohibited, except when required as part of an approved educational program. Weapons are defined to include, but are not limited to, guns, knives and incendiary or explosive devices of any kind.

6. Respect all property, facilities, equipment, and vehicles. I will be responsible for any damage or other consequences resulting from my behavior.

7. Participate fully in 4-H/FFA functions. Be in the assigned program areas (example—dorms, cabins, programs, etc.) on time. If I am unable to attend or participate, I will tell the adult in charge. Help others have a pleasant experience by making every attempt to include all participants in activities.

8. Dress appropriately for each 4-H/FFA function. Dress for the AgExplorations program should include professional casual attire. A club t-shirt or polo shirt would be preferred in addition to jeans without rips or holes and close toed shoes.

9. Use of any mobile electronic device during a scheduled 4-H/FFA activity is prohibited unless activity-specific rules otherwise allow. When permitted, they should be used only in a manner that is consistent with the approved activity and not discourteous or disruptive.

\*\*Cell phones should only be utilized while traveling, and MUST be left in the van during business visits.\*\*

10. The belongings of youth participants, including but not limited to bags, purses, computers, other electronic devices, lockers and vehicles, are subject to search and

seizure by 4-H/FFA faculty/staff, and in some instances a volunteer designee, upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited and/or illegally possessed substance or object is contained within that area. (If an adult is suspected, this will be handled by law enforcement.)

11. Attendance at all AgExplorations functions is mandatory. These functions will include activities taking place June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup>, a follow-up meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup>, a visit to the Board of County Commissioners as well as the School Board, and teaching responsibilities at a local elementary during the 2015-2016 school year.

Failure to abide by this Code of Conduct in its entirety could result in a loss of privileges during a 4-H or FFA event and in the future; including but not limited to suspension or termination of 4-H and/or FFA membership or volunteer service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Youth Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Adult

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

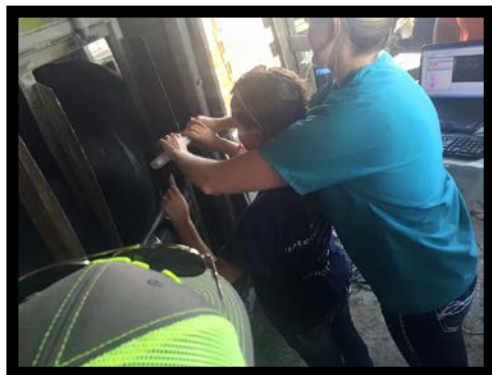




# Program Components



- Introductory Meeting
  - Multi- Day Ag-Tour
  - Classroom Learning
  - Job Shadowing
- Planning Meetings for Elementary Lessons
  - Visits to Elementary Classrooms





# Schedule



# Schedule

## Monday

	NAME
9:30	Conference call with UF Horse Unit
10:10	Equine – 3 Oaks Equine
12:00	Lunch
12:30	Discussion and planning for
	1. Dress for success
	2. Working with Elementary Youth and lessons
	3. Elevator Speeches
	4. Internships

## Tuesday

	NAME
9:30	Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association
11:00	Bethel Farms (Sod)
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Sun Bulb (Ornamental Horticulture – Orchids)
1:45	Sandhill Native Growers (Florida Native Plants)
2:30	Down South Blues (Blueberries)

## Wednesday

	NAME
9:30	<del>Eustell</del>
10:45	Fish Farm
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Livestock Market
2:00	Write elevator speech

## Thursday

	NAME
9:00	ONA Youth Field Day
	(Morning rotations covering topics such as
	Reproduction, ultrasound, beef quality, wildlife etc.
	Afternoon learning expo where youth can talk to ag
	Schools, learn about ag careers etc.)

## Friday

	NAME
8:00	Dressing for Success
9:00	Youth secure an individual to Job Shadow
10:00	Overview of School Projects
11:00	School Project Planning
12:00	
1:00	

## Saturday/Sunday

	NAME
8:00	
9:00	
10:00	
11:00	
12:00	
1:00	



# Pre-Post Test



## AG-EXPLORATIONS PRE TEST

1. What are examples of Ag Operations? List 2

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the most predominant equine disposition in Florida? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the biggest worry for citrus producers? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the most common type of sod used in Florida? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name three native Florida plants.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What time of year are blueberries harvested? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the most prominent quality grade of meat sold in Florida? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Where do cattle go after leaving the market? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How old is an orchid plant before it is released to sell? \_\_\_\_\_

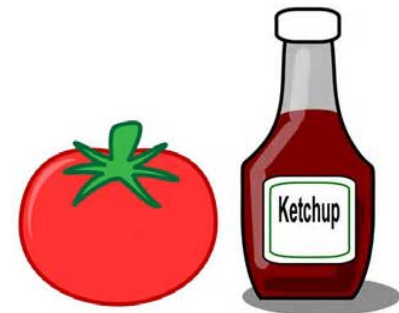
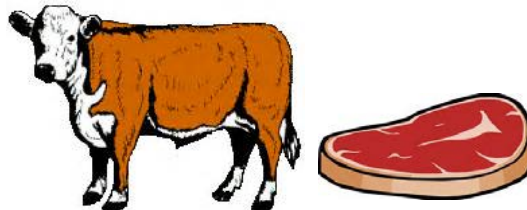
10. What are the four compartments of a ruminant's stomach called? \_\_\_\_\_



# Elementary Lesson Plans



- What Does a Farm Do For You? – The Farm Charm Lesson
- Tomatoes to Ketchup, Chickens to Omelets Lesson
- All About or Clothes
  - This lesson will cover clothes that are made from items we grow
  - AgExplorations Youth written and presented
- The Plants We Eat
  - This lesson will cover the plants that we grow for food
  - Collaboration between the Agent and AgExplorations Youth
- The Meat We Eat
  - This lesson will cover the food we get from animals
  - Agent written – AgExplorations Youth will present







# Student Quotes



“With the help of the AgExplorations Program, I have experiences and learned many things that are compatible with my communities everyday life! This program has opened my eyes up to the better of my community and my culture. I now think about how other countries and states that don’t have our resources would benefit if they were exposed to our abilities.”

“Through this program, I have been able to observe the agricultural businesses and industries in our home town. By doing so, I have expanded my knowledge and have a newfound respect for those who farm, produce, breed etc. I have seen the labor that goes into their jobs but also how much they care about DeSoto County agriculture. Being exposed to agriculture through this program has sparked an immense amount of interest within me.”





# Results



# Results

10 DeSoto County Youth (High School Aged) participated in this program gaining life skills which they are utilizing in day to day life. Through this program, all 10 youth established and utilized elevator speeches and lesson plans to educate the community about the 4-H AgExplorations program and Agriculture.

All students increased their knowledge of Ag Operations in DeSoto County and Florida.

All youth who participated felt that they gained workforce preparation skills and this was also evidenced through activities which they took part in.



- ★ AgTour
- ★ Classroom Learning
- ★ Job Shadowing
- ★ Classroom Teaching



# Life Skills



Life Skills





# Future Adaptations



- Conduct interviews for potential participants.
- Have students present their elevator speeches to the Board of County Commissioners and/or School Board.
- Incorporate ag-operations in surrounding counties to broaden the areas covered.
- Conduct a hands-on Ag in the Classroom Activity for each stop on the ag-tour either before as a knowledge builder or after as a recap of materials learned.





# Additional Information



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Additional Information