Dear 4-H Families & Friends,

As another calendar year ends, we should be grateful for good friends and supportive family. No matter what holiday you celebrate during this happy and festive time of year, we in the 4-H office wish you the very best! Happy Holidays!

The following newsletter will give you loads of information to help you make the most of the upcoming 2018 4-H year.

The 4-H program offers a vast amount of opportunities and experiences. I hope you take advantage of many of them.

**KEEP 4-H STRONG in Pinal County!**

Richard D. Gibson  
County Extension Director
LEARN MORE THROUGH 4-H
ABOUT GARDENING & FEEDING YOUR FAMILY

Through efforts supported by 4-H donations, Pinal County 4-H has the opportunity to give youth and families a chance to explore the broad scope of plant sciences. The county gave us permission a few years ago to create a unique garden space outside our county building to demonstrate how to garden with raised beds, pallets, straw bales, containers and even a keyhole planter!

Concepts acquired involve basic seed to plate ideas for youth to learn about planning a garden space, planting, seasonal fruit and vegetable production, how to maintain a garden and how to cultivate plant life for beauty, health and cuisine. Plants play a vital role for animals and humans providing shelter, food, fiber, medicine, oxygen and beauty. Inside the 4-H office we have numerous curriculum pieces you can look at to share this program with your club members. Arizona 4-H offers the following curriculum: See Them Sprout, Let’s Get Growing, Take Your Pick, Growing Profits, and a Gardening Exhibits Guide.

Come and check out our garden at the 4-H office today! Perhaps you, too, will benefit by appreciating the beauty and nature of plants. It’s a wonderful 4-H project! We hope to see more gardening exhibits at the Pinal County Fair in March!

4-H CURRICULUM LIBRARY

One of the things that sets 4-H apart from other youth organizations is our dedication to education. 4-H faculty and staff across the country work diligently to write new curriculum guides and units for our 4-H youth that teach and prepare them for their project work in 4-H.

Pinal County 4-H is dedicated to making sure that all curriculum is purchased and housed in the 4-H office for leaders, youth and family members to access. Please stop by the office in Casa Grande and ask to see the 4-H Curriculum. You can make copies of the materials or find out how you can purchase new materials for your club members.

Many thanks to our Pinal County 4-H Advisory Council for their dedication to this effort. Purchasing curriculum and educational tools and supplies is a huge line item in our county budget every year.

Education is our key to assisting our youth to grow and learn through 4-H to better prepare them for the future.
High School Seniors & College Students...  
Take a look at these Scholarships!

Annually the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation provides thousands of dollars in college scholarships to 4-H members and alumni college students. These scholarships provide relief from the ever-growing cost of a higher education. The Foundation’s Scholarship Committee is comprised of a well-rounded group of individuals with 4-H history, education, business experience and a “give back to the community” spirit.

Applicants are rated by the Scholarship Committee on financial need, ability, aptitude, grades, references, 4-H history & involvement along with completeness of applications meeting the criteria for the specific scholarships.

The Scholarship Application form is now online for your use. Please let all involved in 4-H know so they can start working on applying. Here is the link to the website: https://extension.arizona.edu/4hfoundation/content/scholarships-grants

Using the same scholarship application, your packet will also be evaluated by a Pinal County 4-H Scholarship Committee for a SECOND opportunity to receive scholarship assistance. Pinal County 4-H evaluates the scholarships on similar criteria, but does not value need as highly as 4-H experience, leadership, community service and work history.

Applications are available on the website NOW and are due to the Pinal County 4-H office (820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, AZ 85122), attention Pinal County 4-H by February 8, 2018. Start working on your application now! We hope to see your application in February. You need to turn in the original copy plus 8 copies for consideration in both the state and county committees.

Journey: Opportunities for Leaders of Tomorrow (J.O.L.T.)

J.O.L.T. is an Arizona Teen Leadership Camp, designed by teens for teens. At J.O.L.T., there is a positive environment that promotes personal development, team building and self-confidence. J.O.L.T. participants enjoy activities that build trust, leadership and communication skills.

The dynamic staff and inspirational workshop speakers that J.O.L.T.’ers experience make the week memorable. Conflict resolution skills and relationship building skills create the existence of the "J.O.L.T. Team," which help to create life-long friendships that are uncommon at other camps.

More information: https://extension.arizona.edu/4h/jolt-teen-leadership-camp-event
PINAL COUNTY FAIR UPDATES!

We hope to provide you with some important information regarding this year’s Pinal County Fair so you can continue planning for your exhibits. Please read carefully the following, more information will be forthcoming in the next month.

The Fairbook is nearly complete, many thanks to those of you who helped to finalize your sections. It will be released at the end of January.

Be looking at the end of January for the release of our Pinal County 4-H ShoWorks Fair Entry program. We will notify families when we “Go Live” so you can see the fairbook and make your entry choices prior to the March 8th deadline.

Exhibits in Building #2 (the 4-H Building) will be received on March 19th. Perishable items will be received in the early morning hours only on March 20th. There is no fee for entering “still” exhibits.

This year, on March 22nd in the evening at the 4-H Building, the 4-H Chopped Contest will include the regular program for youth, but also include a the new competition for adults! We hope that all youth will encourage their parents/leaders to compete for fun in 4-H Chopped!

Please look at all of the opportunities for fun, competitive events during the week of fair and get involved! Horse members will have the opportunity to compete in a couple of events on March 23rd during the week of fair! It has been several years since we last had horses at the fair. Plans are shaping up nicely for the horse program in Pinal County 4-H!

PINE COMBS 4-H CAMP IS GEARING UP FOR FUN IN 2018!

Our camp has been cleaned up immensely over the past two summers and NEW mattresses have been purchased and delivered to the camp for our youth and adults to get a great night’s sleep during camp sessions.

The date for camp have not been determined...exact dates will be set by February, 2018. The theme for camp this year is “Beach Camp in the Pines!” Our camp committee offers ideas that blend our activities to match our theme and the selected counselors to serve for the summer session, make the final decisions on what they think will be the most fun for the campers.

We hope this will help with the summer plan options you are wanting your child to participate in. Contact the 4-H office to answer your questions or concerns at mmelende@cals.arizona.edu.
**4-H Pinal County T-Shirts!**

Just in time for fair!

We will continue to purchase a new 4-H t-shirt for all enrolled/paid youth (members in good standing) and certified enrolled leaders in the Pinal County 4-H program. There will be NO CHARGE for these t-shirts!

A form has been emailed to the Community Club Leaders and they will be contacting you soon to get shirt sizes.

The leader will then submit the form to our 4-H Office by February 16, 2018 at 5pm.

Shirts will be given to the Community Club Leader at the beginning of fair week and will be distributed to their club members and leaders.

We don’t want any youth in our program to go without a shirt!

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**Pinal County 4-H Website & Facebook Page**

4-H gives youth that extra edge for life success by offering numerous opportunities to develop leadership, responsibility, citizenship and other life skills. 4-H helps develop competent, caring and actively engaged citizens who strengthen Arizona communities.

Through our research-based curriculum and university ties, 4-H opens a world of possibilities to youth and their parents who want to explore their interests — making the best better!

Go to [http://extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal](http://extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal) to learn more or [www.facebook.com/pinalcounty4h](http://www.facebook.com/pinalcounty4h)!
Introducing the New Online Quality Assurance Curriculum

Arizona is transitioning from

From: Youth Livestock Quality Assurance (YLQA)
https://cals.arizona.edu/ylqa/

To: Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). http://yqca.org/

The animal industry recognizes the public concern for the safety and well-being of animals, and is focused on providing a safe food supply to consumers. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national quality assurance program for youth livestock producers aged 8 to 21. The YQCA program covers the seven, major species of food producing animals: beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, and rabbits. To assist various education levels with meeting the learning objectives, the curriculum content is targeted to four age groups: Junior (8-11), Intermediate (12-14), Senior (15-18), and Young Adult (19-21).

The online modules have three sections that make up approximately one-hour of training time including a content builder, skills lab, and a quiz. For each year’s certification, youth will have topics focused on food safety, animal well-being, and life skills. The YQCA certification is good for one year and youth only complete it once annually regardless of the number of species shown.

YLQA workshops may continue to be offered through December 31, 2017. Certificates are valid until their expiration date.

Starting January 1, 2018, only YQCA certifications (online or instructor-led) will be offered.

Most fairs will continue to accept Arizona Youth Livestock Quality Assurance certifications until all currently valid certificates expire. Please make sure to check your county/state fair requirements to see if the show you want to enter has any additional requirements. Currently the YQCA is good for one year, however, a test out option where a member can test out until they age into the next age bracket should be available in late 2018.

YQCA is available as an online program for youth across the United States. YQCA in-person (instructor led) workshops are available from certified trainers. Only Extension personnel, FFA Advisors or Veterinarians are eligible to be certified to conduct an instructor led training. Volunteers can work with extension personnel or ag advisors to conduct an instructor led training. Members may go online and
SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SAILA POINTED SHOW:** SAILA rules and eligibility apply.  [www.sailashows.com](http://www.sailashows.com)

Show Order: Showmanship, Breeding, Feeder, and Market

**AWESOME PRIZES:** High Point Specie Awards; Top 10 Showmanship Awards; Prizes for all Participants

**BREEDING ANIMALS:** Breeding animals are REQUIRED to be checked-in with the office by 8:30 am on show day.  Proof of BREED REGISTRATION papers are required at check-in or the breeding entry will be shown in the commercial division.  If breeding animals are not checked in they will not be allowed to show.

Pens are available.  Bedding & clean up are the exhibitor’s responsibility.

**Concession Stand:** Food will be available on the fairgrounds for breakfast and lunch both Saturday and Sunday.  Please support as all proceeds supports the show.

Entries Deadline: January 26, 2018
Learn about career opportunities and possibilities in animal and plant health, including agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences, animal and plant disease eradication, plant pathology, entomology, and the benefits of using drones in agriculture. Students will experience many aspects of agribusiness and college campus life through various field and lab activities. The program takes place at the University of Arizona satellite campus in Yuma, AZ, and the main campus in Tucson. Students selected to participate must be able to tolerate extreme summer temperatures.

Contacts: Tanya Hodges, (928) 271-9560, thodges@cals.arizona.edu; Dustin C. Sandberg, (520) 285-5408, dustin.c.sandberg@aphis.usda.gov; Gloria Magana, (760) 768-2557, gloria.magana@aphis.usda.gov

http://ag.arizona.edu

The University of Arizona (UA) is a premier, public research university. Established in 1885 as the first university in Arizona and the State’s land-grant university, UA is building a better Arizona through access, quality, and discovery. As the primary land-grant component of the university, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences administers a variety of programs at its regional Agricultural Centers and engages in cooperative extension efforts with Federal, State, and county governments and agencies. These efforts enhance agriculture, the environment, natural resources, family and youth well-being, and the development of local communities.

AgDiscovery 2018:
Investing in the Future of American Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Aid No. 2224
ARIZONA STATE COWBELLES, INC.
MATTIE COWAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Purpose: The Arizona State Cowbelles Mattie Cowan Scholarship provides financial assistance to recent high school graduates (Seniors) who have demonstrated an interest in agriculture.

The amount of the scholarship is $1,500.

Please send all paperwork to:
Arizona State Cowbelles, Inc.
L. Vensel, Scholarship Chair.
PO Box 55 Patagonia, AZ 85624
vensel10@hotmail.com
520-3

Application Deadline: April 1

Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________
Social Security Number: ___________________________ Student ID: ___________________________
Address During School: __________________________________________________________
Home Address: _________________________________________________________________
Street or P.O. Box, City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________
Telephone Number: ___________________________ Email Address: ___________________________

APPLY FOR PAPERWORK

Eligibility:
1. High School Seniors only. Send a copy of high school transcript
2. High School Students currently taking college or university courses must send both transcripts
3. Complete the Application and send a Letter of Intent
4. Maintain a minimum 3.5 G.P.A. (A = 4)
5. Submit three current letters of reference
6. Current Photo for Publication. Signature on this application approves publication of photo and information about the student, parents and schools.
7. Must send all requested information with application packet
8. Preference will be given to students with ranching or agricultural background, have taken agriculture related classes, or will/is working towards an agriculture major

Ambassador Program: I am interested in competing for next year’s Arizona Beef Ambassador. Refer to arizonacowbelles.org for details. Arizona gives a $1,500 scholarship to the selected Ambassador.

Please check your interest.

Ambassador. □ YES □ NO

Date: 10/24/2016
Arizona State Cowbelles Beef Ambassador Program Application

Name__________________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________ City________________________ State____

Zip_________________ Phone_________________ Cell____________________

Email__________________________________________________________

Date of Birth_________________ Contest Category_________________
Junior (14-16) Senior (17-20)

I have read the contest guidelines and agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the contest.

Contestant Signature__________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature_________________________ Date__________

Contestant Information

Please provide additional information including where you go to school, what degree you are seeking, activities you are involved in, hobbies and anything else you feel is important to know about you. (Attach other pages if you need to)

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

If you become the Arizona Beef Ambassador what do you hope to accomplish? (Attach other pages if you need to)

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

For questions contact Arizona State Cowbelle Beef Ambassador Chair, Katy Wright, at katygrosota@gmail.com or 520-444-4176
Apply for an Agricultural Scholarship Today!

Scholarship Application Due By March 15, 2018

The Pinal 40 Foundation will be awarding scholarships to individuals who have a desire to further their education and/or seek a career in the field of Agriculture. If you meet the following criteria and are seeking to further your education in the field of Agriculture, The Pinal 40 Foundation invites you to apply for a scholarship.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**
- All applicants must be planning to further their education in Agriculture at a U.S. College or University in one of the following degrees: Ag Engineering and Mechanics, Ag-Business, Animal Science, Crop Production, Horticulture or Natural Resources. Additionally, eligible applicants must meet one of the following criteria:
- Must be a graduating senior from a Pinal County High School.
- Must be a student from Pinal County who passed the General Educational Development (GED) test.
- Must be a home school student from Pinal County who can provide a certificate of completion from their home schooling program.
- Must be a full-time college student from Pinal County or attending college in Pinal County.

**CRITERIA FOR ALL APPLICANTS/APPLICATIONS**
- Have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA.
- All applicants must submit their Official High School (for High school seniors) or College for college students) Transcripts.
- Three Letters of Recommendation (at least one of these must be from a teacher, counselor or equivalent source).
- Applications must be typed.

Apply Online at Pinal40.org
SCHOLARSHIP and GRANT APPLICATION
(Available to Arizona Residents Only)

One of the major purposes of the Foundation is to provide funds for education programs and scholarships to deserving high school seniors and college undergraduates (highly preferred). The amount of scholarships awarded varies, depending on available funds and number of applicants.

- Student must carry **12 credit hours per semester** and maintain a 2.5 GPA to be eligible.
- Student **must be pursuing studies in courses and careers directly or indirectly related to the cattle industry**.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15 (postmarked)

Applicant’s Name: ______________________________ Street or P.O. Box: ____________________________
Arizona Home Address: State: ______________ Zip: __________

Address During School: ______________________________________________________________________

Email Address: _____________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________

Home Phone: _____________________________ Mother’s Name: _____________________________

Father’s Name: _____________________________ Mother’s Name: _____________________________

Occupation: ___________________________________ Occupation: _____________________________

Employer: ___________________________________ Employer: _____________________________

How many family members are dependent on your income (excluding parents) ____________

List members of your family who will still be here next year: ______________________________________________________________________

APPLICATION PAPERWORK

**NO STAPLES OR BINDERS – ONLY ENCLOSE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF PAGES**

2. Submit a copy of your most recent high school or college **Official Transcripts**; include your current registered courses.
3. Submit three current letters of reference – request them to be dated, on letterhead, signed, and only 1 page each. Letters from family members or personal friends will carry less weight than teachers, employers, professionals, etc.
4. The committee will give greater consideration to those students with 1) **high scholastic achievements**, 2) **financial need** and 3) **ranching or farming experience**.
5. Current Photo suitable for publication - photo will not be returned.
6. All scholarships and tuition waivers received for the next school year, **amounts and purpose** (i.e. scholar, rodeo, judging, etc.) **MUST BE LISTED** as well as the cost of your school tuition and books (only).
7. Complete the attached questionnaire using only the space provided – 1 page.
8. All requested information must be included in the application packet; post marked by March 15th and received no later than March 22nd.

http://azcattlemensassoc.org/acif.aspx

Rev 4/21/17
ARIZONA NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This is a fill in form. You can type all information in the blanks prior to printing.

Please send all paperwork to:
Arizona National Livestock Show, Inc.
1826 W. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85007-1696
(602) 258-8568
www.anls.org

Purpose: Arizona National Scholarships provide financial assistance to college and university students pursuing an undergraduate degree who have demonstrated an interest in agriculture. The number of the scholarships and amounts awarded vary depending on available funds and number of applicants.

Application Deadline: March 15

Application Paperwork:
1) Application and attachments to be typed or done by word processor.*
2) Three Letters of Recommendation dated in current semester
3) Current Official Transcripts for last completed semester are required from ALL colleges or universities attended. Transcripts should be requested early as they must be received by the deadline.
4) Verification of attendance for current semester.
5) A digital photo emailed to information@anls.org.

Eligibility:
1) High School graduate
2) Currently taking at least 12 hours per semester.
3) Twelve semester hours completed prior to high school graduation and prior to application.
4) Maintaining a current G.P.A. (A = 4)
5) Participant must have been in the Arizona National Livestock Show as an exhibitor or judge or contestant.

COMPLETE application and all required components submitted to the ANLS Office prior to March 15 or postmarked by March 15 will be accepted in the ANLS Office within five (5) business days.

*A "fill-in" form is available online at www.anls.org/p/about-anls/196

COMPOSITION AND WRITING ARE IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Name: ________________________________

Student #: ____________________________

Address during School Year:

Box _____________________________
City _____________________________
State ______ Zip __________

Home Address:

Street or P.O. Box _______________________
City _____________________________
State ______ Zip __________

Telephone Number: ______________________ Email Address: __________________________

Date of Birth: __________________________

Ambassador Program:
☐ Yes! I am interested in being considered for next year’s Arizona National Ambassador.

Rev. 8/06/15
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
Communication is important when it comes to 4-H. Please like Pinal County 4-H on Facebook to keep up-to-date on what is going on in our program. We do updates (including weather cancellations), photo sharing and much more.

Please become a fan and share the site with your family and friends.

https://www.facebook.com/pinalcounty4h/

OTHER 4-H LINKS
4-H Mall 4hstuff.org
4-H in the USA 4h-usa.org
AZ 4-H extension.arizona.edu/4h
AZ 4-H Youth Foundation cal.s.arizona.edu/4-h_foundation
Livestock Inspection 602-542-0872
National 4-H Council fourh.org
National 4-H Curriculum System 4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum
National 4-H Web 4-h.org
Use of Name & Emblem national4-hheadquarters.gov
Youth Livestock Quality Assurance extension.arizona.edu/quality
2018 at a Glance

JANUARY
15: Civil Rights Holiday-Office Closed
16: Community Club Leaders Meeting, 6pm, 4-H Office-Casa Grande
16: JLC Meeting, 6:30pm, Fairgrounds
20: Record Book Judging, 9am, 4-H Office-Casa Grande
25: Animal Science Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, 4-H Office-Casa Grande
27: New Leader Training, 9am & 1pm, 4-H Office-Casa Grande (2 Sessions)

FEBRUARY
3-4: SAILA Arizona Classic, Pinal Fairgrounds
08: Scholarship Applications due to the 4-H Office-Casa Grande...Pinal County Deadline!
16: Shirt Order due to the 4-H Office-Casa Grande
19: President’s Holiday-Office Closed

MARCH
08: ShoWorks Deadline for 4-H Fair Entries, midnight!
21-25: Pinal County Fair-Schedule of Events in Fairbook (Coming Out Soon!)

MAY
28: Memorial Holiday-Office Closed

JUNE
11-15: JOLT, Heber, AZ
18-29: Ag Discovery, Tucson, AZ

JULY
02: Record Book Deadline
04: Independence Holiday-Office Closed

SEPTEMBER
3: Labor Day Holiday-Office Closed

NOVEMBER
12: Veteran’s Day Holiday-Office Closed
22: Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed
23: Day After Thanksgiving-Office Closed

DECEMBER
25: Christmas Holiday-Office Closed