



INDEPENDENCE 4 - H

February 2026

February Club Meeting

February 11, 2026 ~ 6:30 pm
Sebastopol Center for the Arts

February 2026

- 13-16: Cloverdale Citrus Fair
- 16: Presidents' Day (UCCE closed)
- 27: Community Service Craft Night, 6-8pm (YAL)

March 2026

- 4: Livestock Feed Clinic @ SoCoFair Grounds
- 7: North Bay Science Discovery Day (10-4pm)
- 22: Forgotten Felines Fundraiser 5-8pm (YAL)

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President's Message

Abbey Casey

Hi everyone! I hope that you all had an amazing January and are looking forward to the month ahead. I, for one, am very excited about the weather warming up and the days getting longer. We have an incredibly fun meeting coming up on February 11th, with a program about spreading kindness, a Valentine's Day activity in teams, and an opportunity to win a jar full of conversation hearts. As we are now more than halfway through the 4-H year, I encourage you all to look towards the end-of-year events that are quickly heading our way. We have multiple fairs, the Apple Blossom Parade, Fashion Revue, and the Chicken-Que happening in the coming months, so make sure to look out for more information about how to participate in those.

The executive board is also hoping to find some more hands-on community service activities to host as the weather warms up!

I am excited to see you all at the general meeting next week, and I hope that this gathering will help us reign in the good weather and spread positivity throughout the club.





Community Club Leader's Letter

Lindsay Maddocks

Hello Independence 4-H Club Families,

The new year is well under way! Thank you to all our club families who helped with the annual Goat Treecycling Fundraiser. It was a wonderful success with all the funds raised returning back to our club, for the benefit of our club program. A very special thank you to Hannah Van De Mark and Kathleen Cochran for organizing the event this year and to all the families that participated in distributing flyers and picking up trees.

Presentation Day was a huge success. Out of all the clubs in Sonoma County, Independence 4-H had the greatest number of presenters, taking home highest awards. I

am so very proud of each of you for having the courage to attend and participate, congratulations! Fun in February comes in the form of the earliest fair in California, the Cloverdale Citrus Fair ~ February 13-16. This year's theme "Celebrating America....250

Years Then & Now". Make time to go out and check out the fair. For those who are participating in still or livestock exhibits, I look forward to seeing your entries!

Remember, 4-H provides each of you an opportunity to not only enjoy your current interests but also to explore new ones. You might just be surprised where your explorations lead you. Have a fabulously fun February!

Apple Blossom

Ash Hobbins

Unfortunately the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow and declared that we will have another six weeks of winter, but, with spring on the rise, that means the Apple Blossom Parade is coming soon! This year the Apple Blossom Parade will be in April on the weekend of the 25th and 26th. The parade starts on the 25th at 10AM on Main Street Sebastopol. The festival runs through both days. The theme this year is "Blossoms of OZ". Our club will be participating in the parade this year with a float, and walking along with other local 4-H clubs. I have personally found in the years I've attended for it to be so fun to walk along with/or ride the float in support of our club. For those who want it, we will also be offering a project this year, the "Apple Blossom Float Project" for people interested in helping build the float. If you are interested in the project or have any questions about it please contact

Lindsay Maddocks at lmaddocks@outlook.com.



Fashion Revue

Nicholas Bard

Save the date Sunday, April 26th, 2026 for Fashion Revue at the YAL Center. This year's theme is Follow the Yellow Brick Runway. I have participated in Fashion Revue for the past 2 years,

and I find that it is a rewarding experience because it is always a challenge for me!

There are several categories you can choose to enter: from Needlework, Upcycle, Costume, to Accessories. There is also a category called Consumer Science. This is where you get to coordinate and show off an entire outfit, from your shoes, to your clothes, to all the accessories for under \$50. I think this is a good challenge, and probably one we all should adopt when we go shopping nowadays! Just keep your receipts if you want to tackle this category. Everyone should try entering the Fashion Revue at least once, it is a ton of fun! Trust me, there is a category for everyone's capability. You can enter Fashion Revue even if you are not in a textile-related 4-H Project. I look forward to seeing you there this year!





Community Service

Aidan Hobbins

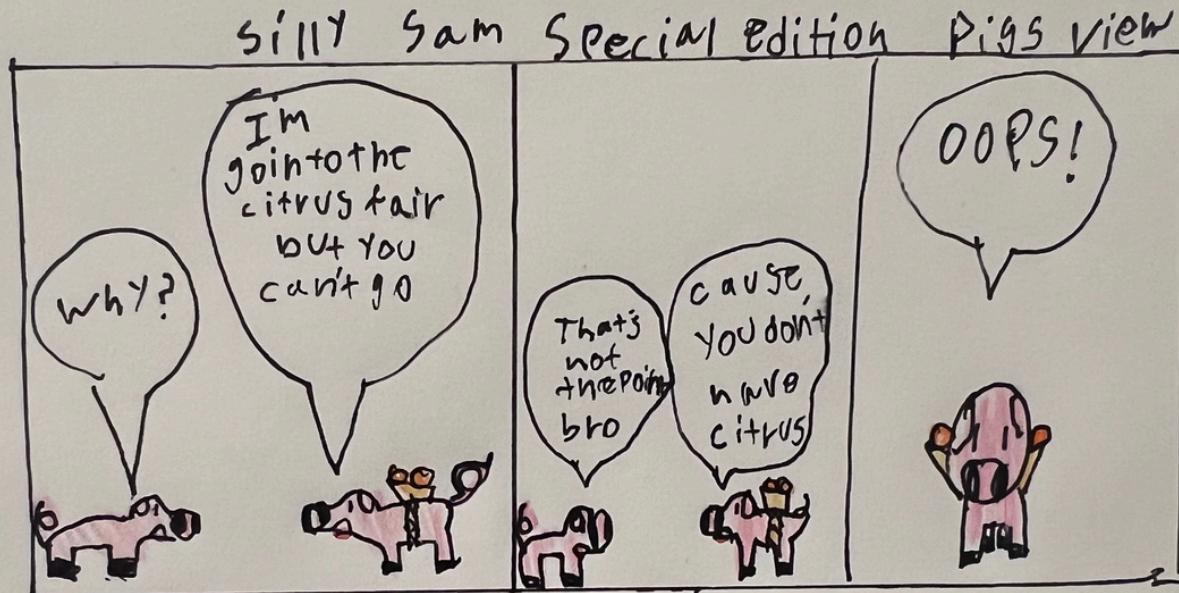
For this month's community service, we will be helping out with the Redwood Empire Food Bank's "Spread the Love" peanut butter drive. They do this drive every February, every year, and we also did this for last year's February community service.

Please try to bring a jar of peanut butter to Wednesday's meeting.

Happy February!

Monthly Comic

Stetson Webb





Bowmaking Workshops

Learn an ancient and beautiful craft - experience the joy of letting an arrow fly from your own handmade bow! I am hosting bowmaking workshops for kids 10+ and adults. In the workshops we use traditional hand tools to work on bow staves harvested from local trees.

Location: Sebastopol, CA Dates: Workshops will be scheduled depending on availability of participants

Teacher: Torgeir Leirmo

For more information and to sign up, contact Tor at: torgeirleirmo@gmail.com





Chicken Que T-Shirt Drawing Contest

Theme: "Red, White and Que"

All youth entries / drawings will be accepted!

4-H MEMBERS WILL VOTE TO CHOOSE THE WINNING DESIGN!!

Drawings must be EMAILED to the Chicken Que email chickenque@yahoo.com by Sunday March 8th, no exceptions

Final voting from March 10th - March 15th done online.

Look for an email with the link to vote for your favorite design from 4-H office.

The winning drawing will be announced to everyone and updated on ticket site.

T-Shirt sales will be available online in mid-March for anyone to purchase shirts.

All online pre-orders will be due by April 5th

Orders must be placed on the 4-H Chicken Que website
Link will be emailed once website is open for purchases

Problems or questions please email - chickenque@yahoo.com

No late orders can be accepted, there will be a limited available day of event.

T-Shirts will be distributed at the April 23rd Chicken Que Rep meeting. Any shirts not picked up on 04/23, will need to make arrangements to pick them up at the 4-H office.

T-Shirt drawing requirements:

The shirt will be solid color with the drawing in white on the back.

Youth entries only, No adults.

Please use an 8 1/2 x 11 size paper.

Your drawing must be in black, no color.

Design must include the following:

65 Annual 4-H Chicken Que

"Red, White and Que"
_{rd}

May 3, 2026
"To Make the Best Better"

4 free T-shirts will be awarded to the winner and their family.

Any questions, please email the Chicken Que Committee at chickenque@yahoo.com

We are looking forward to your creative drawings!



2026 4-H CHICKEN QUE OPEN HOUSE & CHICKEN BBQ POSTER CONTEST Theme: "Red, White & Que"

TIMELINE

January/FebruaryBegin work on posters! Include all the information listed below!!!

February.....Posters are judged at the club level. **ONE** winner in each age category goes on to county for judging. All Primary member posters go to county for recognition. Other entries may be placed in the community as a Chicken Que promotion by youth for credit in their record book*.

MarchPosters are judged at the March VMO meeting on March 3rd, 2026. Only one poster per age division per club will be judged! One winner and two runners up in each age division (except for Primary Members) will be awarded and receive pins. All Primary Members will receive a participation pin. All posters will be returned to the club at the end of March VMO meeting to be displayed in the community. The winning posters of each age division may be returned by Saturday May 2nd to be displayed at the Chicken Que event.

AGE DIVISIONS

Primary MembersAged 8 and under – Receive a participation pin

Junior9 and 10 years old - Receive a pin

Intermediate11 – 13 years old - Receive a pin

Senior14 – 19 years old- Receive a pin

Adult19 and over – Receive a special award, not a pin

SPECIFICATIONS

Poster Size 14 x 22 minimum, no larger than 28 x 44 (remember it needs to fit in a window or be displayed at a local merchant)

Material Poster board for backing, only. Be creative with any art materials. No real food.

ALL Information to be placed on the FRONT of the poster 65th Annual 4-H Chicken Que - "Red, White and Que"

4-H Open House and Chicken BBQ

Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

\$15.00 per ticket/meal

Purchase meal tickets from a local 4-H member or online

at www.sonomacountychickenque.com

Come and learn more about 4-H and all it offers!

Sonoma County Fairgrounds

11:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Free Admission

Rain or Shine

Public Welcome!

ALL Information to be placed on the BACK of the poster

Name

Age, as of January 1 of the current year

Club

Posters are judged on accuracy of the poster, SIZE, SPELLING, and INFORMATION.

Missing information will result in disqualification at the county level.

Originality, neatness, and use of theme. Remember legibility counts!

***NOTE:** Only members who place their posters for display to promote Chicken Que in the community and/or are winners at the county level may take credit in their record book! Be sure to display your poster to take credit in your record book!!!



Independence 4-H 2025-2026 Officers

Prize Bin:
Alice Pederson

Enrollment Questions & Information
Contact
independence4hclub@gmail.com



Open Positions for this year!

Sergeant-at-Arms

Host/Hostess

Reporter

Store Manager

Teen and Junior Leaders



What is the 4-H Pledge?

As a good 4-H member
I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking
My HEART to greater loyalty
My HANDS to larger service
and my HEALTH to better living,
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

Executive Board

President ----- **Abbey Casey**
Vice President of Programming **Georgia Holland**
Treasurer ----- **Sierra Hobbins**
Secretary ----- **Ash Hobbins**
Attendance Secretary ----- **Camille Maddocks**
Corresponding Secretary **Nicholas Bard**
Community Service Officer ----- **Aidan Hobbins**
Healthy Living Officer **Taylor Magee**

Message from the Editor

Esther Hicks

Just a reminder that if you have newsletter suggestions, questions, or submissions feel free to email me at esthermhicks@gmail.com, or talk to me in person at one of the monthly general meetings. Have fun at our October general meeting and don't forget to read the newsletters!!

