

IFAS Extension
Florida 4-H Youth Development Program

3103 McCarty Hall B
 PO Box 110225
 Gainesville, FL 32611-0225
 352-846-0996
 352-846-0999 Fax

For Immediate Release

November 3, 2008

Media Contact: Lynnelle Mays
 Public Relations Coordinator
 (352) 846-0996 ext. 237
lmays@ufl.edu

Event Contact: Julie Wilson
 Centennial Chairperson
 (352) 846-0996 ext. 244
jwilson@ufl.edu

FLORIDA 4-H LAUNCHES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AT STATE FAIR
Florida 4-H celebrates a century of youth success with state kick-off event

(GAINESVILLE, FL.)— In 2009, Florida 4-H Youth Development will celebrate 100 years of teaching youth to become community leaders with their head, heart, hands and health at the Florida State Fair.

The year-long celebration themed “*Florida 4-H: A Century of Youth Success*,” begins with a kick-off event at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. Highway 302 N., in Tampa on February 5 – 16, 2009 daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Florida 4-H Centennial exhibit will be in the Agricultural Hall of Fame building on the fairgrounds. The general public is invited to attend.

“For 100 years, Florida 4-H has given youth and adults the opportunities to impact their communities, giving hands-on experiences through a wide variety of projects,” said Marilyn Norman, Florida 4-H state leader. “Florida 4-H has shifted to meet the changing interests of today’s generation.”

Event Highlights	
Event	Description
Putt-putt golf	A five-hole indoor putt-putt golf course will challenge participants to explore various club projects within Florida 4-H. Golf winners will receive prizes.
Timeline exhibit	Travel through Florida 4-H history with a six-foot wide historical timeline uncovering milestones in the development of 4-H in the Sunshine State.
Florida 4-H history book	Purchase a signed copy of the 208-page, Florida 4-H history book chronicling each county and 4-H camp history in written stories and over 900 photos.

- more -



Florida 4-H 100th event press release

Page 2

The Florida 4-H program started in 1909 with corn clubs for boys in Alachua, Marion and Bradford counties by J.J. Vernon, dean of agriculture at the University of Florida. A few years later girls' tomato clubs were organized. Extension work with African Americans in Florida began in 1915 and was headquartered at Florida A & M University.

Today, Florida 4-H is about much more than corn and tomatoes. It covers just about every area of interest, from animals to workforce preparation, and from computers to performing arts. While agriculture, horticulture, family and consumer science and livestock remain projects in Florida 4-H, new interests, such as environmental science and rocketry, are now included.

For more information about the state kick-off event, contact Julie Wilson at (352) 846-0996, visit the centennial calendar online at www.florida4h.org/events/calendar_centennial.shtml or call your local county Extension office. Portable Golf Solutions is an event partner.

Founded in 1902 nationally, 4-H is now the largest youth organization in the world. Nationwide, 4-H has over 9 million members, including 234,000 in Florida. Florida 4-H offers youth, ages 5 – 18, diverse project topics available in all 67 counties, and with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Florida 4-H is the youth development program of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (CES), headquartered in Gainesville within UF's IFAS. The CES is funded by a partnership between federal, state and county government agencies.

For more information about Florida 4-H, visit www.florida4h.org or contact your county Extension office. All programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap or national origin.

###

