**Madera County 4-H History**

Madera County’s 4-H spirit continues to flourish since the year 1915 to the present. With the exception of a few years suspension due to the World War I and World War II all out war efforts, club efforts continued to inspire formation of new clubs. In the 1920's livestock project clubs were creating quite an interest among Madera County youth. Calf clubs, pig clubs, heifer clubs began springing up and some of the animals were exhibited at the County Fair. 4-H clubs also took part in Farm Bureau meetings by giving talks and demonstrations to its members. In the early days, clubs had project tours and walked from one to another following the Saturday meetings. As time went on cars became more prevalent and parents helped transport members and the tours increased in size and mileage.

At the end of 1927 all ag club members who completed their project and turned in a record book were presented a California Achievement Pin. Since this time, awards and incentives have played an important role in recognizing Madera’s youth for a job well done. 1928 was the beginning of the community club concept, combining agriculture and clothing groups with one set of club officers. In 1927 the first summer camp was held at Whitaker Forest in Tulare County, where club members from Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Kings and Madera held their combined camp. In 1929 a Model 4-H Club Meeting was presented by Dixieland 4-H Club and the new 4-H Community Club concept was born and spread throughout Madera County. By 1937-40's club members were transported to the Madera Theater by grammar school bus for the Countywide Achievement Day where achievement pins and awards were presented along with a free show by the management.

In the 40's the Madera County All Star Award was initiated for outstanding boys or girls in the 4-H work within the county. By the early 40's thirteen 4-H clubs were in place: Alamo, Ripperdan, Alpha, Dairyland, Eastin, Ashview, Arcola, Dixieland, LaVina, Record Breakers, Berenda, Fairmead, and Sharon.

Since the 1940's 4-H clubs have increased in size, projects and activities for Madera County youth to participate. The 4-H projects of 2000 are diverse and challenging to youth and their adult volunteers in order to meet demands of today’s society. The 4-H program continues to be family based with emphasis on adult leaders to help make the 4-H program a reality for some youth looking for a second home and family. Madera County’s 4-H Program is a team effort between youth and adults working together to make better citizens and community.

**MADERA COUNTY 4-H CLUBS**

**Year Chartered/Organized**

\*Currently operating

Ahwahnee 1950

Alamo 1930

Alpha 1932

Alpine 1971

\*Alview-Dairyland (Alview) 1957

Amistad 1945

Arcola 1935

Ashview 1930

Bass Lake 1961

Berenda 1938

Bethel 1932

Central Community 1948

\*Chowchilla 1932

Cimmarron 1971

Cloverleaf 1953

\*Coarsegold 1948

Columbia 1963

Dairyland 1930

\*Dixieland 1932

Eastin 1932

Eastin Arcola 1950

Equestrian 1969

Escarmoza 1976

Fairmead 1939

\*Golden Oak 2003

Golden Chain 1984

Golden West 1984

\*Howard (Jetland) 1947

James Monroe 1976

John Adams 1976

LaVina 1936

Little Acres 1976

Longhorn 1969

Madera 1952

Maverick 1969

Mission Bell 1968

North Fork 1947

Oakhurst 1947

Palm Vista 1969

\*Raymond 1947

Record Breakers 1937

Ripperdan 1932

Shamrock 1969

Sharon 1940

\*Sherman Thomas 2009

\*Sierra Shadows 1984

\*Spring Valley (O’Neals) 1953

St. Joachims 1959

Wasuma 1965

Webster 1981