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# Tassajara Tattler

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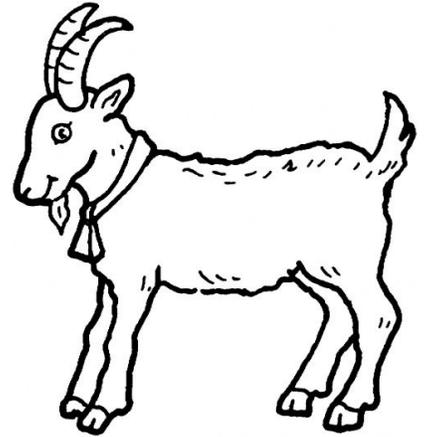


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# Showmanship Clinic

Showmanship Clinic is fast approaching. This year it is being held at Borges Ranch on March 24th, 2018. This is a fun event where members can learn how to show animals including pigs and horses. With some animals, you may even have a chance to show them yourself and learn hands on! If you are in a livestock project, or want to join, this can be very beneficial. Or if you have a general interest in how these animals are shown, this is the event for you. More information can be found on the Contra Costa County Website.

-Samantha Gianelli



# Veterinary Science

By: Mia Terry

4H vet science is a great opportunity to provide a learning experience for beginners and advanced members. In this project, members receive hands on experiences that are hard to find anywhere else. Members in the beginning vet science group have just learned about bacteria using culture plates, biosecurity of livestock and how to draw blood and give injections using oranges. Beginning members are required to have no prior experience, they just have to be older than nine years of age. It is pretty amazing to see all these members learn so quickly! In the advanced vet science group we reviewed expectations for advanced group, how to carry a cat and how to restrain a cat for femoral venipuncture. Through this program we are all able to grow and learn more about our furry friends at home. Thank you Dr. Dowd for all your hard work.



## Fair

By: Samantha Gianelli

Fair is coming soon  
Let's break out the balloons,  
And make some noise,  
For all the girls and boys  
Who worked so hard all year,  
To bring everyone cheer.  
Whether through goats and pigs,  
Or a side table made of twigs.  
This event lets them show,  
How much they really know,

The date,  
May 17 through the 20th.  
Come then to see  
Cattle and sheep  
As well as pigs (who make great meat)  
But what there won't be are horses.  
These creatures can be seen  
On May fifth  
In the show ring  
At Rafter D Ranch.  
So come on out  
Give us a cheer,  
For all the hard work,  
We put in this year.



**2018 Contra Costa County  
Fair!**

**May 17 - May 20**

# Episode 1: My Horrible Life

By: Nikhita Dhamrait

Yaaaaaawwwwnnnn! Argh, I can't believe it's the morning already. Oh! I guess I should introduce myself, my name is Peppermint Pancakes, and I have a HORRIBLE LIFE! Now, you may be thinking that I'm just being a dramatic goat, but you'll understand by the end of this.

As soon as I wake up, I'm already being harrassed by those annoying bald creatures. They invade our home and act like they own it! Then they steal our water and do their voodoo magic on it, when they bring it back, all of the straw and dirt that we've meticulously placed in it, have disappeared! But their morning tyranny doesn't end there. They stampede into our bedroom and stomp over our beds, crushing the perfectly balanced positioning of our hay.

Next, they bribe us by putting this delicious, mouth watering substance at our dinner table and no matter how hard we try, we cannot resist! This substance call to us, it's addicting! Soon enough, all we can think about is eating more and more, and while we are distracted, the bald creatures try to sneak in salad. As if we wouldn't notice them storming in yet again. On most mornings they leave after this attack, but you must always watch, for there is no telling when they'll be back.

You would think that after bothering us in the morning they would leave us alone, but no. We have maybe eight hours of recovering and then more of them are back. Each of us has one of these bald monsters assigned to us. Mine is like a pesky mite, she always chases me and no matter how hard I try, she manages to grab me every time. After ruining my perfect hairdo, she shoves my beautiful face into this strange face holder, and then walks away! With my face getting dragged along with her, I have no choice but to follow. Occasionally, Apollo, my boyfriend, comes too, but he's really annoying and just yells the entire time, so I can't even talk to him. All of our conversations end up like this:

“hey apollo let's plan an uprising, if we work together they can't stop us!”

“ARGHHHHH THIS IS A MONSTROSITY! HOW DARE THEY MISTREAT US LIKE THIS”

“Yeah its sorta annoying, but look we have an opp-”



“I’M GONNA KICK THIS STUPID BALD CREATURE!! IT THINKS IT CAN CONTAIN MY MAJESTY BUT IT DOESN’T EVEN KNOW HOW TO BAA!!”

\*sigh\*

Anyways, the bald thing usually tries to get me to walk in circles, which is über boring, but I can manage that. Sometimes, she puts this horrible dog collar device on me and tries to instruct me with that. But little does she know, a small chain could never contain my true strength if I didn't let it. Whenever the dog collar is on, she always lifts up my feet and moves them around like its not weird or anything to stand like that \*cue eye roll\*. Then, she does something that provides me with the perfect opportunity to escape. As soon as she tries to “brace” me, I swing around and jump as high as I can!

I am uncontainable, uncontrollable, I AM PEPPERMINT PANCAKES THE FIRST AND I WILL NOT ALLOW THIS CRIME AGAINST MY DIGNITY.

Wait a minute... why haven't I landed? Uh oh.. Ahhhhhhhhhhh! The human has captured me! I have been vanquished!!!

“Wow Sam, the goats were pretty good today”

“Yeah I wonder what peppermint was screaming about though....”

Hi Everyone! I hope you enjoyed my little sample of the life of my very dramatic goat, Peppermint. Most of the stuff that Peppermint complained about was actually us helping the goats exercise and get ready for fair, and it is actually perfectly okay for them, despite what Peppermint thinks. For those of you looking into raising livestock next year, don't be scared off by Peppermint's stubbornness, sometimes animals don't work with you at first and it's definitely a learning experience, but with practice, peppermint will lose her feistiness and make a great show goat. If you have any questions about the livestock projects, feel free to ask me (Nikhita) or any of the livestock members and we will be glad to help!

# Old Fashion Candy Making Project

Sara Gilbert - 1st Year Tassajara 4H Member

The Old Fashion Candy Making project has been meeting once a month and making some delicious candy. Here is a recipe you may want to try for the Holidays:



## English Toffee

Prep Time: 5 Min Total Time: 25 Minutes

### *Ingredients*

- 1 cup butter (only real butter can be used for this recipe)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 semi sweet chocolate baking squares OR 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup coarsely broken pecans

### ***Directions***

In a heavy saucepan, combine butter, sugar, water, and salt.

Cook to hard crack stage (300 degrees F) stirring with a WOODEN SPOON constantly and watching carefully. Do not try a plastic spoon, it will melt into your delicious candy!

Immediately pour into ungreased 13x9" pan.

Cool until hard.

Melt chocolate over hot, but not boiling water.

Spread over toffee; sprinkle with nuts, pressing them into chocolate

Let stand 2-3 hours or chill for 30 minutes.

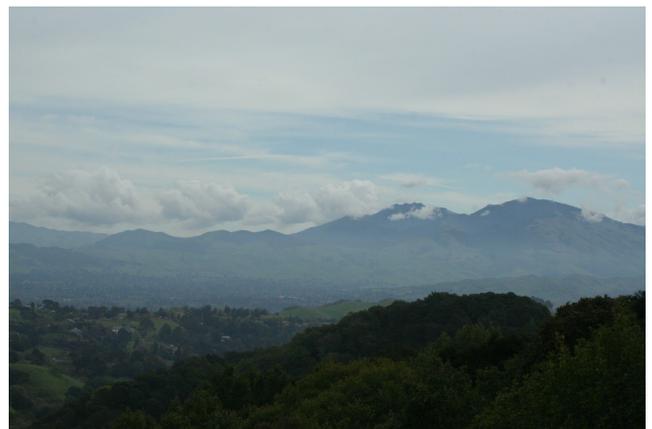
Break into bite-size pieces.

ENJOY!

# The Hiking Project

By:Samantha Gianelli

On Sunday March 18th, the hiking project went on a 4.5 mile hike. This was located in Briones, and was beautiful. Beginning at the trailhead toward the end of Springhill road, we gained most elevation in the beginning due to a huge hill, that most of us took a couple of breaks on. Then, we continued through a beautiful enchanted forest. The only struggle was the ground. Due to the recent rain, the dirt path had turned into mud, but this stopped no person nor animal. We all trucked through it, and were rewarded. At the top of an enormous mountain, we were able to stop and enjoy the beautiful view of the rolling hills, to the valley, and up to the very tops of the mountains. From here, we went down what most called the “dragon back.” This is a series of small to medium sized hills in a row, that resemble a dragons back. Luckily, this was only for around a half mile. This passage may seem a little boring, but the views and fun I experienced with both my mom and friends are indescribable and unforgettable. We go on a hike each month rain or shine at many locations around the bay. The length of the hikes range from two miles to eight or nine, and anywhere in between. There is always elevation gain, and it does become tiring, but the satisfaction of completing a hike and the fun along the way, plus a couple of water breaks keeps everyone going, and coming back for more each month. If you enjoy pushing yourself and spending time in nature, this is the project for you.



# Poems

## Submarine

So much depends upon  
A submarine, large with scratches  
From hitting rocks, sails across the ocean floor  
Finding treasure among the rocks  
By Ava Cooyar



## Wipeout

“Crack!” went the bat  
As the rain went **rat-a-tat-tat.**  
The bat *flew* through the air,  
And passed over the sun with a glare.  
As it came down,  
It hit the ground,

**Splat!**

And the girls ran on.

It rolled onto the grass,  
And right past  
The leftfield man,  
So she *ran*.

When she got the ball,  
She stood up **tall,**



And in a split second, threw the *ball*.

Me at home plate was all it took,  
I didn't even have to take a look.

I caught the ball,  
And tagged the girl in a sprawl.



As I tagged her, she took out my legs,  
Like I was on pegs.  
I then flew *forward*  
Going starboard.  
My glove got caught,  
Like it was in a knot,  
And I flipped over.

I landed on my back  
In a **crack**,

But managed to hold onto the ball  
During my fall.  
That was the third out in the game,  
And brought me to my fame.

My team rallied around me,  
Just like a bee,  
And later I got the game ball,  
Which was as big as a wall,  
And was really a treat.

-Samantha Gianelli

## Lulu in France Part 2

After the two finished the biking part of the trip, they found themselves a boat. Kiko had wanted to go sailing.

“I want to go sailing Lulu, it will be cheaper. Remember how every hooman stopped and stared at us when we were biking? We can avoid so many people trying to doggy-nap us!” said Kiko. After they bought a small cabin boat they decided to make the inside nice and comfy. Kiko went and put a blanket on a patchwork couch she had bought from a nice couch store Kiko had also bought some matching pillows. Lulu had went and found some food, strawberries, blueberries, and some ingredients to make a cake. She also got a couple gallons of fresh waters. A couple minutes into the trip they heard a sound coming from the cabin.

“I’ll go check it out Kiko.” said Lulu as she went into the cabin to find a lightly toasted marshmallow ball. “Huh that’s strange, I guess I forgot to put a marshmallow away.” As Lulu picked the marshmallow ball up it started moving.

“ Ahh! I’m too young to die!” murmured the marshmallow before yawning slowly and fell asleep.

“ The marshmallow talked! It talked!” screeched Lulu. The marshmallow moved and it slowly turned its head, and it turned out the marshmallow was a tiny dog that was the color of a toasted marshmallow.

“You do know that I’m trying to sleep here! How would you like to wake up to the sound of some dog screeching?! Huh?! Would you?!”the tempermental dog yelled.

“I didn’t know you were a dog, and why are you on this boat? My friend and I own it, and I never remember letting you onto it. But since you’re here you might as well stay. What’s your name anyway?”Lulu said.

“My name is Sir Tito. Wait. I’m on a boat? How?” said Sir Tito, suddenly remembering curling up into a ball in between some couch cushions. “Oh. Never mind I remember. What’s your name, and your friends name?” Sir Tito asked

“My name is Lulu, and my friend’s name is Kiko. I’ll introduce you.” Lulu said. As she led Sir Tito to her friend. The two were introduced, and all of the dogs decided to have a party since they were on a trip, and made yet another friend.

More next meeting!-Elena+Lulu+Kiko

## **Read the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf!**

By: Samantha Gianelli

This year, a group of 4-H members decided to make a Countywide newspaper as their Emerald Star Project. This newspaper will have information from all the county events and articles from 4-H members who are in the many Contra Costa County Clubs. The Tassajara 4-H reporters are chairpersons for this newspaper, and would greatly appreciate it if the members of Tassajara 4-H wrote articles not only for the Tattler, but for the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf as well. First, the 4-H member creates an article or drawing that they want published to the county. It is preferred that these are in Google programs such as docs, slides, or drawings. Then, they share the article to the club reporters at gianellisam@gmail.com. Next, the reporters will share all the articles to the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf. And finally, the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf will pick out the best articles to include in the monthly issue. Overall, the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf is a great way to hear about what is going on in the county.

### **Why Should You Contribute to the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf?**

Each year there will be a journalist award. This award will be given to the journalist who writes the most and best articles. This includes a plaque and a certificate. There will also be certificates awarded to those who are the best poet, illustrator, etc. You can also include this in your record book.

### **What to Write About**

The Contra Costa County Cloverleaf is interested in anything artistic or countywide. This can be, but is not limited to, poems, comic strips, or illustrations. You can also write about county events you went to, or a countywide project you are in, or tips for something you are passionate about.

### **Advertise Here!**

In the Contra Costa County Cloverleaf, businesses are being given the opportunity to advertise their businesses to the county. The choices to advertise are:

- 1/8 Page – \$10
- 1/4 Page – \$15
- 1/2 Page – \$25
- 1 Page – \$50

This is a great way to get the word out about your business!