



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
Agriculture & Natural Resources



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • YOLO COUNTY

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Date: April 26, 2007
To: Yolo County 4-H Community Leaders and Executive Leaders Council
From: Diane L. Metz, County Director
Re: Booster Clubs

Since my appointment two years ago, questions about the proper management of Booster Clubs has come up annually around the time of Spring Show. I am writing to clarify the University's policy regarding such groups. The University policy on fundraising is quite specific in that funds generated in the name of 4-H and ultimately the University are to be considered as public funds and must be used within guidelines of a public trust. 4-H clubs are permitted to have only one checking and one savings account per chartered club and the same is true for the Yolo County 4-H Leaders' Council. Financial support given to a 4-H unit can only be used for research and/or education goals of the 4-H Youth Development Program. For example, the **California 4-H Policy Handbook**, Section 703.2 A of the states:

- “.... Volunteer organization (in this case Leaders Council or Club Units) must raise private funds in order to support a wide variety of programs. Both corporate and individual donors are often more receptive to people they know who volunteer in their own community. Rarely is money given to groups that do not take, at a minimum, the following steps:
 1. They have a viable plan for use of the funds.
 2. They have a reputation within the community for organizational and fiscal responsibility.
 3. They ask for the money.

Regional and County Directors are responsible for reviewing fund-raising activities and assuring their compliance with applicable policies.”

- In Section 703.2 B it further states “....All methods of fund-raising by VMO's (4-H Leaders Councils) and units must comply with the general fund development guidelines of the University of California which are:
 1. Any raising of funds or use of funds by a VMO or unit must be to further the research and educational goals of the 4-H Youth Development Program.
 2. Insurance costs, and other charges incidental to program participation may be required to defer the cost for specific programs or activities.



Additionally all use of these funds must comply with federal and state laws and local ordinances, some of which relate to the use of the 4-H name and emblem in fund-raising and the probation of the generation of funds through lotteries, drawings, raffles and bingo games.

- In section 703.2 it states "...Both gifts and endowment funds may be earmarked for specific purposes, such as an electric project, a guide dog project, or 4-H scholarship. However, regardless of the intended purpose, all funds will be administered by Cooperative Extension in accordance with University policies and procedures."

Booster Clubs, on the other hand, work outside of the 4-H organization to raise funds for support of the 4-H Youth Development program. In many situations, from what I know, Booster Clubs work to support *individual* youth who are selling animals at the Spring Show 4-H Auction. As organizations outside of the 4-H organization, Booster Clubs can, therefore, NOT use the 4-H name or emblem in any of their activities.

There is nothing wrong with having a Booster Club to support the program activities of a particular 4-H club or the Yolo County 4-H Leaders Council, but they *must* function as a separate organization outside of the University of CA Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development program. Because Booster Clubs are not UC organizations, they cannot use an existing club's EIN number for tax purposes. They are not supported by the University due to the violation of IRS rules governing the designation as a 501 C (3) *non-profit* charitable organizations.

Booster Clubs are generally adults who organize to help to support the prices generated at the Spring Show 4-H Auction (as well as other youth auctions and possibly provide other types of monetary support). Therefore, they cannot have 4-H members working or assisting in any way to secure funds. The public perceives that the 4-H member is soliciting for a non-profit organization rather than to benefit a particular individual's personal gain (in the case of supporting bids for livestock sold at the Spring Show 4-H Auction). Such actions violate the tenants, goals and purpose of University of California's Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development program and are therefore not permitted. Should any of you desire to discuss specific situations, I am available to make an appointment with you.

As always, I look forward to seeing the 4-H youth and volunteers show off their projects at the Yolo County 4-H Spring Show in the coming week. The goal of the program continues to be aimed at providing wholesome learning experiences for Yolo County youth that will serve as stepping stones to successful adulthood and citizenship. May we, as adult role models, always be showing them the way to continue to *Make the Best Better!*

Sincerely,

Diane L. Metz, County Director

Copies:

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