



Pennsylvania 4-H Alumni Newsletter



Summer 2003

Dear 4-H Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to another issue of Pennsylvania's 4-H alumni newsletter. In this issue we'd like to update you on some of the new programs we've been running as well as keep you informed about some of the events and activities that you may have participated in as a 4-H member.

This past winter, the program held its first Keystone Teen Conference. The conference, designed for 4-H members ages 13 and up, enhances leadership skills by providing youth with the tools needed to be successful 4-H club officers and to take on other leadership roles in their communities. Like many state-level programs, this conference was planned by a group of teens and adults working together to Make the Best Better!

Several opportunities have been available for us to recognize both youth and adults for the tremendous efforts they put forth on behalf of 4-H. The College of Agricultural Sciences 4-H Member Recognition Awards will be presented for the third time this year. Youth recognized through this award are also able to apply for scholarships from the College of Agricultural Sciences. Leaders may be recognized nationally through the Salute to Excellence Awards sponsored by National 4-H Council and a private donor and the Hall of Fame Awards sponsored by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

Nine curriculum committees work throughout the year to ensure that the project materials, activities, and events supporting each curriculum area are up-to-date and pertinent to our current 4-H members. Committee members include extension faculty and staff, volunteers, and youth. They review materials in the following areas: Animal Sciences, Consumer and Family Sciences, Science and Technology, Environmental Education and Earth Sciences, International and Diversity, Communications and Expressive Arts, Healthy Lifestyles Education, Leadership and Personal Development, and Citizenship and Civic Education.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of your alumni newsletter. To contact us, please write to 4-H Alumni Newsletter, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802 or e-mail the editor at cek4@psu.edu.

Christy E. Bartley

In this Issue....

- **Pennsylvania 4-H Alumni Are Invited...**
- **4-H Field Days Offering Expanded Opportunities**
- **PA 4-H Annual Fund Mailing a Success**
- **2003 State 4-H Achievement Days**
- **College of Ag Sciences 4-H Member Recognition Award**
- **A Voice From the Past**
- **Pennsylvania Salute to Excellence...**

**Pennsylvania 4-H
History Book**

As a part of the 4-H Centennial celebrations last year, a Pennsylvania 4-H history book was begun. The book will have a brief description of each county's 4-H program and four or five pictures to help tell the 4-H story. Some counties are having a hard time gathering the information needed. Do you have some time to help? Contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office to find out how you can help record some of the rich history that the 4-H program has experienced in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania 4-H Alumni Are Invited...

to join other former 4-H'ers and participate in the 2004 N.E. States 4-H Leader Forum. Mark your calendar now for the October 14-17, 2004, program to be held at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center in Lancaster, Pa.

There will be several hundred people from the Keystone State participating in a program that will include fun activities for alumni and opportunities to renew friendships.

What is great about this 4-H event is that you will not have to be on a judging, bowl, or demonstration team to qualify for the trip! Just be a former 4-H'er and you can treat yourself to a nice break and relive some of those great memories.

For more information about participating full or part time in this special 4-H program, call or write **Bob Lewis**, 323 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA. 16802; 814-865-6551; RBL13@psu.edu.



PA 4-H Annual Fund Mailing a Success

In early January, over 5,500 households received a letter requesting support for the statewide 4-H program. The letter focused on the challenges and opportunities facing 4-H in Pennsylvania at the time of the centennial celebrations. The response has been better than expected: through the beginning of May, 160 gifts totaling \$9,098 have been contributed in response to the letter. This represents a response rate to the letter of almost 2.9 percent, which is very good for a solicitation mailing.

The letter, which was signed by Charles Brosius, has resulted in 52 gifts of \$100 or more—the largest for \$500. And while most of the gifts are from Pennsylvania, 14 other states are represented among the donors to what has been dubbed the "Pennsylvania 4-H Annual Fund." A few more highlights: one donor has made a gift in memory of a friend; one contribution was matched by the donor's employer; and one donor has made an open-ended pledge (a monthly electronic transfer of funds) which provides valuable ongoing support for Pennsylvania 4-H.

The hope is to build upon this small success, and the momentum it has created, to increase funding for the statewide 4-H program. To support 4-H, contact **Rob Butler**, Office of University Development, Outreach and Cooperative Extension, 814-865-8283 or rmbutler@psu.edu.

4-H Field Days Offering Expanded Opportunities

For the past five years, Pennsylvania 4-H has been staging two exciting educational field days for 4-H'ers from across the state. The 4-H Wildlife Field Day is held each year in April at the Ag Progress Days site in Rock Springs, Pa. and The 4-H Forestry Field Day is staged at the Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center in Julian, Pa.

These events serve two functions. The first is to provide a non-competitive experience for younger 4-H'ers, ages 8-11. At both events, the younger members are lead through a series of fun but educational activities that teach them basic concepts about forests and wildlife. In addition, both events host competitions for older 4-H'ers, ages 12-18, to test their knowledge and skills. Top competitors from each event go on to compete at annual national competitions.

If you are interested in finding out more about these events, contact **Dr. Sanford Smith**, extension specialist in the School of Forest Resources, at sss5@psu.edu, or your county 4-H agent.

2003 State 4-H Achievement Days

The 2003 State 4-H Achievement Days are scheduled for July 29-31, 2003, at Penn State's University Park campus.

This year our entertainment will feature Clover and Company. Clover and Company is a 4-H performing arts group from Georgia. They were founded in 1981 to provide an opportunity for youth to share with other groups, associations, and the public, the life and vitality evident in 4-H. Interested 4-H'ers throughout Georgia audition yearly for a limited number of spots in the show. The group is composed of talented singers, dancers, musicians, and stagehands. We are excited to have Clover and Company perform for us on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, in Eisenhower Auditorium. The performance is open to 4-H members, leaders, and alumni, and will start at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending the performance, please contact **Lydia Everhart** at 814-863-7873 or lak146@psu.edu.

Also this year we are offering a noncompetitive Theater Arts event. 4-H members will attend workshops presented by the Penn State Theatre Arts Department. Within these workshops, participants will get a behind-the-scenes look at Penn State's Theater Arts Department. This workshop includes tours of the Playhouse and Pavilion Theaters, along with the theater shops—costume, scene, and lights lab. Participants will also receive information about set designs, stage/production management, and other career possibilities within theater arts.

We are looking forward to the 4-H members attending the 2003 State 4-H Achievement Days. They will compete in over 24 contests and some will advance to the national 4-H contest in their project areas. Last year more than 40 members represented Pennsylvania in national 4-H events.

College of Agricultural Sciences 4-H Member Recognition Award

Annually for the past two years, the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State has recognized outstanding 4-H members throughout Pennsylvania. Those members also have the opportunity to apply for scholarships from the college. The third year's awardees will be recognized at 4-H State Achievement Days in July. Read on to see what amazing things they have done to deserve these awards.

Dustin Fortin from Erie County represents the Northwest Region. Dustin has worked on livestock, shooting sports, and wildlife projects. He has also participated in his local 4-H teen council, serving as president this past year, served on Keystone 4-H Teen Council, been the youth representative to his local livestock committee, and been a counselor at camp. Dustin has worked with his 4-H clubs on many community service projects, including sending cookies to military personnel stationed overseas and providing a local family holiday gifts. Dustin states in his application, "The most important lesson that 4-H has taught me is that life is full of choices." Dustin has learned how to handle those decisions that come along.

Jennifer Adamitis from Wayne County represents the Northeast Region. Projects Jennifer has worked on include horse, livestock, crafts, photography, entomology, Learn and Earn, and pumpkins. She has honed her leadership skills by participating in events like 4-H Ambassador Conference, Keystone Teen Council, and regional leadership retreats. She has used these skills to then be a camp counselor, hold club offices, participate in a "Good Morning America" TV segment, promote 4-H at local fairs, and participate in the National Conversation on 4-H Youth Development. As Jennifer states, "The 4-H program has taught me many life skills that will not only affect me now, but in the future as well."

Ryan Ayers from McKean County represents the North Central Region. Ryan has worked on horse projects and leadership skills. He has not only been a 4-H club officer, including president of his 4-H club, but also has been parliamentarian of the peer helper program in school, president of the Spanish Club, and committee chair of the peer helper fund-raising committee. He has spearheaded several community service projects, including a community-wide clean up day and a fund-raiser for the victims of September 11 and their families. As Ryan states, "I will always remember 4-H because it has helped me learn things that I would have never learned in school, as well as skills and qualities that will make me a well-rounded young man."

Emilie Miller from Berks County represents the Southeast Region. Emilie has worked on livestock projects, particularly beef and sheep. She has served in several club officer roles, including president, attended National 4-H Congress, served as a youth representative on the county extension board, and talked about 4-H on a local TV station. Emilie has also taken on leadership roles in student council, National Honor Society, and FFA. According to Emilie, "When I first began 4-H at the age of 8, I saw it as a fun way to learn about something I love...agriculture. Now that I am looking ahead to the next chapter of my life, I see 4-H as something that has taught me about the person I want to become and has helped me set and achieve my goals."

Jennifer Pavlik from Beaver County represents the Southwest Region. Jennifer works on livestock projects, particularly sheep. She has been president of her 4-H club, teaches through her church, is treasurer of her high school band, and volunteers at a geriatric center. Jennifer has also traveled on a mission trip with her church. Jennifer states, "I have learned to never give up or never to get excited. Also that everything is not going to be easy and not going to happen the way I want it to. I have learned patience, kindness, and how to deal with different people and situations. By learning all this as a 4-H member, I should be better prepared to handle situations later in life."

Jessica Landis from Somerset County represents the South Central region. Jessica has taken dairy, bicycle, rocketry, sewing, photography, and food and nutrition projects. She has also been a member of the 4-H square dancing team from her county. Jessica has served as an officer on her county teen council and served as a camp counselor. She is very busy serving her church and school by participating in music options (including bell choir, concert band, and performing in a musical), playing on the soccer team, and being a student tutor. As Jessica states, "In my 4-H experiences, I have learned that you need to be a team player in order to achieve your goals. I have had to be a responsible, respectable person, be a leader by example, and a motivator for others."

Brandy Bankert from York County represents the Capital Region. Brandy has worked on lamb and craft projects as well as being involved on teen council and in an exchange club. She has served as a club officer and participates in many community service projects. Brandy belongs to FFA, is active in her church youth group, is a volunteer Sunday school teacher, plays field hockey, and maintains a honor roll status in school. She also serves as a Big Sister tutor to an elementary school student. Brandy asserts that she has learned many things through 4-H including time management, responsibility, financial management, communication, organization, and planning.



A Voice From the Past

It is difficult to remember what I was like before I entered 4-H; predominantly because my 4-H experiences are an inseparable part of who I am, and partially because I'm getting old. As the pictures fade and the ribbons find their way to the attic, there is a part of my 4-H experience that I do keep with me. My thoughts, words, and actions are reflections of my experiences as a 4-H'er. A philosopher once said that we are the sum of all of our experiences. If this is true, I am a living, breathing, human four-leaf clover.

My earliest recollection of 4-H revolves around Demonstration Days. Up until that time I had rarely spoken in front of people. Talking about kitchen safety in front of a room of strangers intimidated me. I practiced, and my local club gave me pointers and encouragement. Finally, at county demonstration night, I earned my first blue ribbon. Not only did I learn that public speaking was not fatal, but that the ability to communicate a message to a group of people was a powerful tool. This gave me the self-confidence to use my abilities in other arenas. I had a newfound poise that has not faded.

Another fond memory of 4-H was the many community service projects I participated in. From playing bingo at nursing homes to picking up trash, I learned there are others in the world with needs. I discovered that focusing on the needs of others was a better use of time than wallowing in self-pity. Today, I still participate in community service. I serve as a member of the programs committee and chairperson of the Chorale Group where I live. In one year, we reach over 1,000 elderly people. I also volunteer with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which services homeless families in the greater Cincinnati area. Being able to squeeze community service into my busy life is a priority to me, because 4-H taught me that my head, hands, heart, and health are of little value if they are self-serving.

Though self-confidence, public speaking and community service were central in my 4-H experience, the most important thing 4-H gave me was the desire to share with others the valuable lessons that I had learned. As a former special education teacher I made "demonstration speeches" part of my required curriculum, enabling hundreds of students to speak knowledgeably in front of a group of peers. In my current profession, as a minister, passing on the value of helping others is important. I lead and encourage others to get involved with community issues such as homelessness and racial equality. Globally, our mission projects stretch across the world, from Somalia to Kiev. However, I consider the most important lessons the ones taught in my home. I hope my daughter is learning self-esteem, influence, and generosity through me and through my 4-H experiences. Thank you 4-H, for making me who I am and for changing the world one 4-H'er at a time.

A Northumberland County 4-H Alumna

Pennsylvania Salute to Excellence...

is designed to honor individuals who serve as the best examples of 4-H Volunteers. 4-H Leaders are to be congratulated and will be recognized at the 2003 State Achievement Days program. The 4-H Leaders to be recognized are:

Salute to Excellence – Lifetime Volunteer Award Honorees

Mary Ellen Bard (Cambria County)
Marlin Brubaker (Dauphin County)
Judith and Robert Muller (Wayne County)
James Dunmire (Westmoreland County)
Sally Addington (Venango County)

Salute to Excellence – Volunteer of the Year Award Honorees

Martin Gutekunst (Dauphin County)
Rick Perry (Venango County)
Mary Ann Herd (Westmoreland County)

Mary Ellen Bard's and Rick Perry's nomination forms were forwarded on to Washington, D.C., for national consideration. For more information contact **Bob Lewis** at 814-865-6551 or rbl3@psu.edu.



Korean educators briefly visited with **Christy Bartley** on Friday, April 25, to discuss opportunities for incorporating 4-H into school programming. The 4-H program in Korea is already prominent in high schools, but there is a need to reach elementary-aged youth.



Edited by Christy E. Bartley, Youth Program Coordinator, in consultation with Bob Lewis, Sanford Smith, Rob Butler, and Phil Hoy.

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College of Agricultural Sciences

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YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP US MAKE THE 4-H PROGRAM STRONGER. THANK YOU!

Yes, I would like to support 4-H Programs in Pennsylvania by:

- Providing a contribution to the 4-H/Youth Development fund in the amount of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____
- Becoming a 4-H volunteer leader in _____ County.

If you would like to be contacted regarding a planned giving program, please let us know. We can help you take advantage of various tax-deductible programs. Please detach and mail to: Pennsylvania 4-H, 323 Ag Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.