



Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

December 2004

4-H and Youth Development



STRETCHING OUR MINDS (*Christy Bartley*)

Man's mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original shape or dimension. -- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Since I recently returned from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents meeting in Oklahoma City, the above quote has significant meaning to me. The opportunity to meet new people, learn from peers, and communicate with national, state, and local program leaders always provides new ideas to contemplate and share. Professional development is an important part of the job we do. We continually need to refresh our understanding of youth development by becoming aware of the current research. We need to look at new ways of educating and interacting with volunteers who are our front line leaders for the 4-H Youth Development program. We need to continue to emphasize not only development of individuals but also development of the community in which those individuals live.

I know that it is difficult for extension educators to travel to national meetings and to state meetings, but these opportunities should be experienced when possible. Also take advantage of the learning opportunities in your own or neighboring communities. Many counties have youth councils, organizations of volunteer administrators, and other professional organizations that will help you achieve your professional development goals.

DOES YOUR COUNTY HAVE A 4-H ENDOWMENT?

(*Michael Martin*)

I am proud that ten counties currently have 4-H program support endowments through Penn State--an increase of 67% since the creation of my position. Also, four additional counties are currently in the process of creating 4-H endowments. Several counties have 4-H endowments through local foundations or trusts. I would like to add these counties to the list and demonstrate the total support 4-H has through endowed funds. If your county has a 4-H endowment (or scholarship fund, etc.) please contact me to add your local 4-H endowment to the list?

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PROMOTE 4-H PROJECT (*Claudia Mincemoyer*)

Shelby Harrison, Crawford County 4-H Ambassador, in consultation with Wanda Braymer, Crawford County Extension Educator developed the 4-H project, "Promote 4-H" as part of her 4-H Ambassador experience. This project is for 4-H'ers who are interested in promoting the 4-H program to others in their communities. The project consists of eight different public relations tools that youth may work on: posters, t-shirts, bookmarks, displays, bulletin boards, radio announcements, speeches, fair booths. This project is available as an online project only. The URL for the project is:

<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Curricula/online.html>

Thanks to Shelby for sharing her expertise in public relations!

NEW MARKETING BROCHURES AVAILABLE (*Christy Bartley*)

The *Take A Look At Us Now* brochures have been around for a while, and the youth brochures are out of stock. They will not be reprinted. A new brochure emphasizing Head, Heart, Hands, and Health has been printed (S8020) and is now in the Publications Distribution Center. The brochure is designed for adults to learn more about 4-H and how they and their children can get involved in the program. The new brochures are colorful and provide a place on the back for county offices to stamp their address and phone number.

If you are planning a volunteer recruiting display, the *Take A Look At Us Now* brochure for volunteers (S8015) is still available. A Spanish translation of the youth brochure (S8010S) is also still available. Use these marketing tools as you visit with new audiences about the Pennsylvania 4-H Youth Development program.

4-H CAMP ENDOWMENT GRANTS (*Christy Bartley*)

The 4-H Camp Endowment grants are available for the support of youth who may not otherwise be able to attend camp either as campers or counselors. Due to growth of the endowment, we are able to support additional grant requests. The grants may support one youth or several who attend either a day or residential camping program. To apply, simply submit a one page document describing the situation and how the funds will be used. You may request funding of \$100, \$150, or \$200. As a part of the grant application, describe how you will use the funds if your request is not fully funded. At the bottom of the page, include contact information and the account a check should be made out to if you are awarded a grant. All applications are due by January 24, 2005. It is expected that a short one-page report will be submitted at the end of the camping season to describe how youth were impacted by the availability of these funds and the opportunity to go to camp. Grant applications and reports should be sent to Christy Bartley, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802 or email to cek4@psu.edu.

YOUTH REPRESENT PENNSYLVANIA WELL AT NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY AND EGG CONFERENCE – *Philip Clauer*

On November 18, 2004, six 4-H'ers represented Pennsylvania in three contest areas at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Taylor Ritchie of Armstrong was second in the National 4-H Chicken Barbecue Presentation Contest. Taylor's parents, Zoe and James Ritchie, served as coaches.

Pamela Cox of Butler County placed tenth in the National Turkey Barbecue Presentation Contest. Her mother, Sandra Cox, served as her coach and also helped serve as a chaperone for the trip.

In the National Avian Bowl Contest, Pennsylvania was seated ninth after the quiz and placed eight after the double elimination Bowl portion of the event. The team members were Jenna Dunmire, Courtney Smith, Tera Dorsey and Marisa Wyeth all from Washington County. The team was co-coached and chaperoned by Mary Fidler. Fourteen teams participated in this year's competition.

I would like to strongly encourage all youth to participate in one of these poultry contests in the future. These activities provide exceptional learning experiences, are a lot of fun, and provide excellent awards. Since 2002, Pennsylvania offered new contests in Poultry Judging, Chicken and Turkey Barbecue Presentation, and Avian Bowl. We were unable to field a contestant in Poultry Judging or Egg Cookery Presentation in 2004 due to a lack of participation at the state level. If you are interested in these events in the future, contact Phillip J. Clauer (e-mail: pclauer@psu.edu, phone: 814-863-8960) for more information. The PA State 4-H Poultry website <http://ulisse.cas.psu.edu/pa4h/contest.html> also has information about these events.

I would also like to thank the **PennAg Industries Association Poultry Council** for helping to sponsor the Pennsylvania delegation for this trip and for helping sponsor the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference.

COLLEGE OF AG SCIENCES 4-H MEMBER RECOGNITION (*Christy Bartley*)

It's not too early to begin identifying those 4-H members who are at least juniors in high school that your county would like to nominate for the College of Agricultural Sciences 4-H Member Recognition Award. We have many outstanding youth involved in the Pennsylvania 4-H program who deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments. Consider contacting your teens today about submitting an application. Each county is eligible to nominate one teen. Applications will be judged and one individual from each region recognized on the state level.

The award application is due April 1. The application will be sent on the 2005 4-H Program CD or can be found on the web at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/PDFs/4HColAwrApp.pdf>. Juniors and seniors in high school may also apply for a scholarship. The scholarship may only be used if the student attends Penn State. For more details, check the web or the 2005 4-H program CD when it arrives.

“PICTURE YOURSELF ...” EXHIBIT AVAILABLE (*Sanford Smith*)

An interactive exhibit for youth to learn more about natural resources careers is available for loan to your county. It was used at Ag Progress Day 04 and will be used at the upcoming Farm Show 2005. The exhibit consists of live-size portraits of natural resources professionals taken on their job sites. However, the faces in the portraits have been cut out of the photos for kids to insert their own faces. Kids can then observe what they would look like (in a mirror) in this career. The careers included are: wildlife biologist, forester, fisheries biologist, wood products specialist, wood chemist, urban forester, forest hydrologist, and herpetologist.

This exhibit is flexible and can be used in parts or as a whole. It's a fun way to engage kids in great discussions about what they would like to be someday, and there's a web site to go along with the exhibit for additional career information (<http://pictureyourself.cas.psu.edu/>). The exhibit is especially well suited for set up at a mall or other location where you have crowds of people passing by. To arrange for a loan of the exhibit contact Sanford Smith, Natural Resources and Youth Extension Specialist at sss5@psu.edu or 814-863-0401

TOYS, PLAY AND LEARNING (*Anne Heinsohn*)

The importance of toys, games and play in child development is well beyond entertainment. Many life lessons are learned under the guise of play. Children learn as long as they have experience playing with a variety of toys and games.

Today's toy world is a mind boggling array. Old favorites have been joined by electronic gizmos children find entrancing. Moderation and variety are key factors in selecting toys for individuals or groups.

Social skills are important outcomes for children in group settings from early childhood on through youth clubs, camp and after-school programs. Some tried and true games are natural vehicles for learning to play and generally get along with others. Board and other games such as checkers, dominos and fish provide opportunities to learn to share, take turns and the patience to do so. Learning and following the rules of the game are important too.

Electronic hand-held games have their place, but they tend to be isolating. It's sad to see a group of children in a setting where there are toys and games to be played with and a number of children are sitting alone--each focused on the blinking thing in their hands. Electronic games are entertaining and diverting, but a poor fit in a group setting where social skills are desired outcomes.

REMINDERS:

December 17, 2004 – Hall of Fame Nominations are due

December 30, 2004 – Salute to Excellence Nominations are due

Best wishes for a wonderful, fulfilling holiday season.

The 2004 4-H calendar can be found at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu>



Robert B. Lewis, Professor
Agricultural & Extension Education

In Consultation with
4-H & Youth Development Faculty & Staff

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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