



Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

February 2004

4-H and Youth Development



4-H ALUMNI INTEREST GROUP (*Michael Martin & Phil Hoy*)

Thank you for helping gather sufficient signatures to petition the Penn State Alumni Association to create a 4-H Alumni Interest Group. An Alumni Interest Group provides Penn State Alumni the opportunity to get together with people who share similar interests, provide a way to better communicate with the Alumni Association, and expand our interest in the Penn State Community. The creation of the 4-H Alumni Interest Group will strive to do that and more. The 4-H Alumni Interest Group will give us one more opportunity to engage 4-H alumni and maintain an ongoing relationship we hope will generate additional volunteers and donors to 4-H. We are in the process of developing an interim board and will request approval of the Alumni Association Executive Board at their spring meeting.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES OPEN HOUSE (*Robert Lewis*)

County offices will be receiving a formal invitation to participate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences Open House on Saturday, March 27, 2004. Visitors and former 4-H'ers will have an opportunity to meet with deans, faculty, and current students, and tour our college and the University Park campus. Penn State Housing and Food Services will offer special meal deals for brunch and dinner.

2004 NORTHEAST REGION VOLUNTEER LEADERS FORUM (*Robert Lewis*)

Following is a letter from Mary McPhail Gray, Deputy Administrator of Families, 4-H and Nutrition, USDA/CSREES.

"The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (SCREES) is pleased to provide support for the 2004 Northeast Volunteer Leaders Forum. Volunteers within the Cooperative Extension System are highly valued assets and, as the Federal partner, we hope this support will help ensure the success of the annual meeting.

The support, in the amount of \$1500, will be provided through a transaction between CSREES and The Pennsylvania State University requesting a notice in the forum's program book stating our thanks to the volunteers for their service. We fully support President Bush's goal of Americans serving Americans through voluntary efforts and we wish for you a successful Forum.

Please extend our thanks to all the volunteer leaders for their work and efforts in behalf of the American public and 4-H youth."

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2003 NORTHEAST STATES LEADERS FORUM (*Robert Lewis*)

Evaluation gives high marks to last year's program. The participants really liked the workshops, speakers, tours, and format of the program. Nearly all the leaders that returned an evaluation indicated they learned at least one new program idea that would be utilized back home. When asked "What is the most important reason(s) to you for continuing to sponsor Regional 4-H Volunteer Forums?" the responses varied from friendships, fun, new ideas, and rejuvenating my enthusiasm for 4-H. From the looks of the evaluation, the 2004 NELF program scheduled for October 14-17 is right on course. This evaluation can be useful to staff planning regional and local Leader training programs. A summary of the evaluation will be provided to anyone upon request.

ANOTHER GREAT 4-H WILDLIFE FIELD DAY UPCOMING! (*Sanford Smith*)

A wildlife "field day" for fun and learning is scheduled on Saturday, April 24, 2004, (9:30 am-3:00 pm) at Rock Springs (Ag Progress Days Site) near Penn State. This state event is open to all 4-H'ers (ages 8-18) interested in or currently taking wildlife projects. Four-H adult volunteers and parents are also encouraged to attend. There will be two program options offered concurrently at the event.

The first option is the "Exploration Option," designed for youth ages 8-11. It will include hands-on wildlife educational activities and guest speakers. This year's theme is "Wild about White-Tails" and our stations and outdoor activities will all focus on this magnificent animal. The second option is the "Challenge Option" which offers youth, ages 12-18, an opportunity to participate in the Pennsylvania 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest. This is an educational competitive event that provides a great opportunity for youth to apply knowledge about wildlife to real life. The Challenge Option will also include a guest speaker and a habitat tour. There is a project book that 4-H'ers should study before coming to this event. It is available on request through the county 4-H office, or it can be downloaded from the web site listed below. Four 4-H'ers, between the ages of 14 and 18, will be selected from this option to attend the 2004 National Wildlife Evaluation Event.

There is no fee for the event, but all youth and adults planning to attend should sign up through county offices. Additional information, directions to the event, and a downloadable version of the Challenge Option project book can be found at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/wildlifed.html>. Sign-up deadline is April 14, 2004.

TEENS, DECISIONS AND PARENTAL INFLUENCE (*Anne Heinsohn*)

Children and teens need adults in their lives. Adults, teachers, parents and others guide, teach, protect and support youth throughout their growth and development. However, parents may not see just how important they are to teens.

A recent study by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports parents tend to underestimate their own influence. Both parents and teens were surveyed. The surveyed teens said parents influence their decisions about sexual activity. Apparently they don't realize this is the case because parents are more likely to believe teens' friends have more influence in this and other areas. Furthermore, the surveyed teens wish their parents would advise them concerning should they become sexually active--why and why not. Teens would like their parents to insist on discussing these topics. Parents need to be parents even when the going is tough. Teens will probably reject their parents' initial efforts to discuss sexual matters, but according to the surveyed teens they'd like their parents to follow up the rejection with more attempts. That's what parents do.

Ref. Zernike, Kate. "Teenagers Want More Advice from Parents on Sex Study Says," THE NEW YORK TIMES, December 16, 2003.

4-H CLUB WINNERS—DELANCEY YOUTH AWARD

Backwoodsmen 4-H Club, Northumberland County. This dedicated group has worked hard on numerous projects that have improved life in Northumberland county. Projects in the past year included a rock-a-thon, which raised \$500 for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a gift drive for needy families; a Christmas caroling trip to a local nursing home; a roadside cleanup; and a food drive.

Kellyites 4-H Club, Union County. The Kellyites have organized a recycling station that accepts recyclable materials from White Deer Township residents on the first and third Saturdays of each month. The 4-H Club members help residents unload their recyclables, provide them with information about what can be recycled, and make sure no nonrecyclable articles are left at the site. The 4-Hers also give tours of their recycling station and speak to such groups as Brownie troops about the importance of recycling.



The 2004 4-H calendar can be found at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/cal2004.html>.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Lewis".

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.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Robert Lewis (814-865-6551) in advance of your participation or visit.

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