



# Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

February 2005

4-H and Youth Development



*"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."* Thomas Edison

It's almost spring. Along with the anticipated growing season, 4-H educators begin to anticipate a busy youth development season. There are camp counselor applications, screenings, and trainings to complete. Leaders need to be updated on new policies, provided with educational and programming support, and the school enrichment embryology program requires more time out of the office than anticipated. If these aren't the items filling your calendar, I'm sure there are others. It is a sign of the success we have in programming

that we continually are providing educational opportunities for a variety of audiences. If our schedules weren't full, we would be looking for additional challenges. So...our crowded calendars are inevitable. Some days there are a few additional items added to the "to do" list than initially anticipated, but we are able to make decisions about priorities and make sure those priorities get done. When the day seems to get a little overwhelming, step back, take a few deep breaths, read Edison's words above, and then tell yourself that one of your goals for today is to astound yourself. You are all capable of great things. Our educational program impacts support your efforts. Take some time to recognize and appreciate your daily accomplishments. – *Christy Bartley*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS TO 4-H

Memorial gifts are a special opportunity to honor the memory of a friend, relative or loved one in a very meaningful way. The gift pays tribute to that person's memory, and also contributes to the powerful impact of furthering the mission of 4-H. The processing of memorial gifts to 4-H is very carefully handled. In the past we may have deposited those checks directly into our 4-H development fund or Extension special account in the county. We are now encouraged to request that checks be made payable to Penn State with the county and memorial listed in the memo section. Four-H educators should photocopy the checks and forward those checks to his attention for deposit. Keep the photocopy for your records. Checks will be deposited with the Development Office of Donor Services and the funds credited to your county 4-H program. The development office is designed to receive and receipt all gifts to Penn State (including gifts to 4-H) in order to: (a) Document the gift on behalf of Penn State (including 4-H); (b) Issue an official tax receipt to the donor; (c) Credit the donor's record (We maintain a life time giving history); and (D) Include amount of gift in Penn State gift total (Aggregate the total gift amount to Penn State, including 4-H).

Through this process we are able to document the total statewide giving to 4-H and use that information to leverage larger gifts from other individuals, corporations and foundations. This process is new to many of us and the Office of Development is glad to help with this process. Four-H gratefully accepts these gifts and will steward these gifts appropriately. Please contact me with your questions and concerns. – *Michael Martin*

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## THE 2005 PENNSYLVANIA STATE 4-H COUNCIL

The Pennsylvania State 4-H Council will induct its new members and officers at the annual State 4-H Leadership Conference February 25-27, 2005 at the Days Inn Hotel; State College, PA. The mission of the Pennsylvania State 4-H Council is to engage youth in leadership roles for the future by developing life long skills including personal responsibility, time management, oral and written communication, and effective team leadership. A team of advisors works with council members to build strong working relationships, and together, work to promote the 4-H program, service, and youth leadership. The young people who will be serving as the 2005 Pennsylvania State 4-H Council are:

Vanessa Kolan - Forest County  
Abbie Kuhlman - Bradford County  
Christine Keefer - Lancaster County  
Grace Long - Snyder County  
Frances Karycki - Berks County  
Zach Addington - Venango County  
Faith Houston - Armstrong County  
Amanda Dailey - Venango County  
Elizabeth Kuebler - Berks County

### 2005 State Council Officers:

Jamey Knisley - York County, Representative to  
the Youth Program Coordinating Council  
Trisha Knight - York County, Sentinel  
Jessica Beighley - Mercer County, News Reporter  
Amy Gevin - Crawford County, Secretary  
Jenny Rudy - Dauphin County, Vice President  
Sarah Vrable - York County, President

Questions about the Council or to schedule a state officer for your next event, please contact any of the council advisors: Tammy Menke, Mercer County; Tia Steinfeldt, Bradford County; Sam Nicola, Northumberland County; Dr. Jackie Bruce, University Park Campus; or visit the State 4-H Council website at <http://ps4-hc.cas.psu.edu>! – *Jackie Bruce*

## 2004 REPORT CARD: THE ETHICS OF AMERICAN YOUTH

New Study of 25,000 High School Students Reveals High Levels of Cheating, Theft and Cynicism Despite Stated Convictions and High Self-Esteem Concerning Ethics, Character and Trust

According to a just-released study by the Josephson Institute of Ethics based on a national survey of 24,763 high school students, nearly two-thirds (62%) cheated on exams and more than one in four (27%) stole from a store within the past 12 months. Additionally, 40% admit they "sometimes lie to save money."

Despite these admissions, the majority of students reported high self-appraisals of their character (74% rated their own ethics higher than those of their peers [Q5]) and stated their convictions that honesty, ethics and good character are very important (almost all, 98%, said it is important for them to be a person of good character [Q1]). What's more, most have unrealistically high self-images when it comes to ethics. Asked "if people you know were asked to list the most ethical people they know, how many would put you on their lists?" 83% said at least half the people they know would list them [Q61]. Additionally, 92% said they were satisfied with their ethics and character [Q25].

The inconsistency seems to be explained by high levels of cynicism about the ethics of successful people and the prevalence of cheating in the "real world" creating a justification for dishonest conduct. Cynicism is especially strong in young males. Two-thirds indicated a belief that "in the real world, successful people do what they have to do to win, even if others consider it cheating" - and more than half (52%) of the females agreed with this cynical assessment [Q8]. In addition, half (51%) of the males agreed with: "A person has to lie or cheat sometimes in order to succeed." About one-third (32%) of the female students expressed a similar view [Q9].

When asked to prioritize their values, most high schoolers expressed commitment to positive views. Thus, 91% said it is very important to have trusting personal relationships [Q34], 88% said it is very important to treat others with respect [Q35], and 84% said it is very important to have good moral character [Q28].

Analyzing the survey results, Michael Josephson, prominent radio commentator and president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, said, "Though the Report Card on the Integrity of American Youth continues to contain failing grades, there is reason for hope. For the first time in 12 years the cheating and theft rates have actually dipped downward and the stated devotion to ethics is the strongest we've seen. While this results in a troubling inconsistency between words and actions, character education efforts should be able to build on the fundamental appreciation of ethics, character and trust to achieve continuing improvements in conduct. Still, it can't be comforting to know that the majority of the next generation of police officers, politicians, accountants, lawyers, doctors, nuclear inspectors and journalists are entering the workforce as unrepentant cheaters."

Reprinted with permission from the Josephson Institute of Ethics. To read the remainder of this report, visit <http://josephsoninstitute.org/Survey2004/>. – *Patreese Ingram*

### FLOCK ON DOWN TO 4-H WILDLIFE FIELD DAY – *Sanford Smith*

A wildlife "field day" for fun and learning is scheduled on Saturday, April 23, 2005, (9:30 am - 3:00 pm) at Rock Springs (Ag Progress Days Site) near Penn State. This state event is wide open to all 4-H'ers (ages 8 - 18) interested in or currently taking wildlife projects. 4-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 "Forest Habitat." Youth will learn about Pennsylvania's forests and that wildlife that depend on them. The outdoor activities will be fun, educational, and exciting!

The second is the "Challenge Option." It will offer 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 their knowledge about wildlife to real life situations. 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 years old, will be selected from this option to attend the 2005 National Wildlife Evaluation Event.

Volunteer Leaders, Agents, and parents are welcome to attend the field day to observe either option.. Attendees are encouraged to dress for the field, and bring along snacks and water bottles. There is no fee for the event, but all youth and adults planning to attend should sign up through their County Cooperative Extension Office. Extension offices must sign up participants through the program web site found at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/wildlifefd.html>

To register someone all you need to do is go to the program's web site and click on the "REGISTER here" button. This will link to the registration page. Use "4H" for your username and "2005fieldday" for the password. You will then be able to register your 4-Hers and adults planning to attend the event. Additional information, directions to the event and a downloadable version of the Challenge Option project book can be found at this site as well. Sign-up deadline at the state office is April 15, 2005. This year, why not load up a bus and bring the whole flock! – *Sanford Smith*

### VOLUNTEERISM

Through our voluntary organizations and the giving that supports them, ever more Americans worship freely, study quietly, are cared for compassionately, experiment creatively, advocate aggressively and contribute generously. These national traits are constantly beautiful and must remain beautifully constant. - *Brian O'Connell*

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The 2005 4-H calendar can be found at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu>

*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.

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