



Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

May 2005

4-H and Youth Development



WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?—*Christy Bartley*

What lies behind us and lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Although the weather is still cool, we all know that summer is fast approaching. For the 4-H educator, summer means days and weeks packed full of programming without much time to think about the foundations of 4-H and Youth Development. The children you will be working with may be stressed by the change from school routine or the expectations that they will do well in presentations or shows. The parents you are working with may sometimes forget

that the 4-H program is about developing youth--not collecting the most blue ribbons. In between all this, you are trying to fit in some quality time with family and friends. Events that occur from day to day may sometimes cause us to forget why we work in youth programming.

Remember that we expect knowledge and life skill gains to outweigh ribbons. We expect that youth will strive for excellence, each year moving closer to their goals (mastery). We expect youth to have a safe environment in which to participate, where they are supported in the decision-making and problem-solving processes even though they may make some mistakes (belonging). We expect youth to fill the leadership roles for the 4-H Youth Development program and for adults to be their mentors (independence). We expect 4-H club members to work together in their communities (generosity). We expect that all participants in the 4-H Youth Development program and the adults who support them will behave in an ethical manner following best practices for their project areas.

There are days that we wish we could replay, change our responses to certain situations. There are days that we express concerns about the events or activities that lie ahead. Through it all, it is important to remember who we are and the role model that we provide for thousands of Pennsylvania youth.

Enjoy your summer. Thank you for all the time and efforts you will expend on behalf of Pennsylvania's 4-H Youth Development Program.

SHOW 4-H SPIRIT—*Christy Bartley*

Often times while 4-H members, volunteers and educators are here during State Days, I'll count how many 4-H shirts I see while walking across campus to a contest or while sitting in Eisenhower Auditorium waiting for the program to begin. Most times I am disappointed with the visual impact that we make with almost 1000 individuals attending the program. If your 4-H members have 4-H shirts, encourage them to wear them during 4-H State Achievement Days as appropriate. This is not an endorsement to disregard the dress code. Rather it is a request to encourage youth to show their 4-H Spirit. By the way, do you have your 4-H shirt pressed and ready to pack?

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4-H STATE ACHIEVEMENT DAYS—*Lydia Everhart*

Youth Operations Committee. Do you have members in your county who have attended 4-H State Achievement Days in the past and are looking to take on some leadership activities? The youth operations committee is looking for 4-H members to help out with many of the events at Achievement Days. Youth Operation Committee Members Applications are due July 1, 2005. For more information see the following site <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Activities/AchieveDays.html> or contact Cindie Searight at css11@psu.edu or Lydia Everhart at lak146@psu.edu. Members who participate in this activity will not be able to participate in the service activities.

4-H Service with a Purpose Day--Site Descriptions. Our second “Service with a Purpose Day” will take place on July 26, 2005 at State Achievement Days. The State Days Advisory Board is very excited about the day and has worked hard to plan an exciting schedule of events. Last year many of you asked about site descriptions, these descriptions will be posted on the State Days Web Site. **If you are a county who may not arrive till after 2:00 p.m. to register please choose the PSU Community Service Site. All counties are expected to participate in one of the many afternoon activities.** Please see the following site for the descriptions <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Activities/AchieveDays.html>.

What Does Penn State Have to Offer? Do you have members who are sophomores through seniors in High School who may have an interest in attending Penn State University? This seminar and campus tour will get them acquainted with the various colleges at Penn State, and the University Park Campus. If you have members that are interested sign them up for this activity which takes place Tuesday Afternoon from 2:30-5:00 P.M. For more information please see the State Days Web-site at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Activities/AchieveDays.html> Members who attend this activity will be unable to participate in the service activities.

2005 4-H State Chorus. Four-H State Achievement Days will again host the 4-H State Chorus. Any youth ages 13-18 with an interest in singing, and not participating in any other contest, is welcome to sign up and participate in this event at State Achievement Days. The chorus will have three performances, one which will be open to the public Wednesday evening at the Talent and Choral Show. Information can be found at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Activities/AchieveDays.html> or by contacting Sam Nicola (sdn110@psu.edu), Kathy Weller (kyw1@psu.edu) or Lydia Everhart (lak146@psu.edu). Members who participate in this activity will be unable to participate in the service activities.

2005 Talent Show. The 4-H Talent Event will be held for the second time this year at 4-H State Achievement Days. This will be a non-competitive event on Tuesday afternoon of State Days. The talent entries will have a practice and be previewed by local individuals who will offer suggestions and help put them in an order for performance for the week. All the talent will be performing at the 4-H Talent and Choral Show in the Pavilion Theatre on Wednesday evening for the public. Individuals will be hand selected to perform at opening and closing ceremonies. All talent entries must be postmarked July 1, 2005. Please see details for this event at the following site <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Activities/AchieveDays.html> or contact Carol Schurman (cjs4@psu.edu), or Lydia Everhart (lak146@psu.edu). Members who participate in this activity will be unable to participate in the service activities.

LET'S SEW BOOKS—*Jan Scholl*

If you requested Let's Sew sewing books for your 4-H members and leaders and have not received them yet, please let me know. These books are for new members or new leaders who have not already received these materials.

4-H COST RECOVERY—*Christy Bartley*

First, I want to thank everyone for working hard to have the first year of 4-H cost recovery move smoothly to completion. From the state perspective, the process designed works well. Counties were challenged to develop their own procedures for recovering costs and most did well. Sharing between counties should be happening in your regional meetings to assist those counties that may still not have an acceptable process.

While visiting with educators, it has come to my attention that there is inconsistency in the charges for classroom fees. In the Frequently Asked Questions on 4-H cost recovery it states that the \$20 classroom fee will be charged for each project on which a classroom works. So if one classroom works on more than one project, they need to be charged for each project. You may refer to information on the Cooperative Extension and 4-H cost recovery programs at the following web site:

<http://www.extension.psu.edu/CEDhandbook/pdfs/4-HCostRecoveryFAQ.pdf>.

AFTERSCHOOL—*Claudia Mincemoyer*

New School Boards Association Report on Afterschool. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) has released a report that profiles ways school boards are supporting after-school and summer programs. *Building and Sustaining After-School Programs: Successful Practices in School Board Leadership* features eight school districts whose boards are providing strategic and innovative leadership for after-school programs through policy and partnerships.... [The report] was produced through NSBA's Extended-Day Learning Opportunities (EDLO) program, funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. URL: <http://www.nsba.org/edlo> <http://www.nsba.org/edlo>

Afterschool Posters from Afterschool Alliance. The Afterschool Alliance has made free color after-school posters out of the print ads created for the Ad Council afterschool PSA campaign. The posters come in three different images and have space at the bottom to stamp, print or write in local information. View the print ad images used for the posters at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/PSA_p1.cfm#links. To order posters, email adcouncil@hartforddirect.com <<mailto:adcouncil@hartforddirect.com>> or call 1-800-933-7727

Afterschool Youth Essay Contest. A new youth essay contest has prizes of \$1500 for students who tell inspiring stories of their afterschool experiences. Two age groups are eligible: grades 5-8 and grades 9-12. Enter or download more info at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/news_events.cfm#4000244

2005 WILDLIFE WINNERS ANNOUNCED—*Sanford Smith*

Teens from across Pennsylvania competed in the state 4-H wildlife habitat evaluation contest held at this year's 4-H Wildlife Field Day, on April 23, 2005 at Rock Springs, PA. The four highest contest scorers were selected to form a state-level team to compete at the National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Invitational in Little Rock, Arkansas this August. The state team will include Chad Barkley and Robin Beisel of Indiana County, Braden Stone of Clinton County, and Sarah Tinney of Tioga County. First and second alternates are: Sean Undercofler and Lenny Lewis, both of Indiana County. Over 150 youth and adults participated in the field day activities this year. There are both competitive and non-competitive options at the event. All counties are encouraged to participate in 2006. Next year's Wildlife Field Day is tentatively planned for April 22, 2006 at Rock Springs.

STATUS OF 4-H CROCHETING PROJECT—*Jan Scholl*

Several people sent comments and other instructional items to me to improve the crocheting project. Unfortunately, I realized we were completely out of projects so I reprinted the old ones for now.

I would like to get together a small committee of those interested in revising the project to come up with fresh ideas as many of the informational guides have a copyright and some of the comments I did not understand. Would there be some who would come to a meeting to rewrite this project? If these people are centered in a certain area of the state, I would be willing to travel to make it happen.

REQUEST FOR NEW AND UNUSUAL PROJECTS—*Jan Scholl*

The new youth development web site (AGNIC) with a focus on youth programs (especially 4-H), is soon to be unveiled. Many of us are involved in looking for project materials of one sort or another when unusual requests come in. This is an attempt to find those 4-H projects that are unique to your state or county and to share them with others. Currently we are looking for one of a kind 4-H projects that we can link to on the Internet or to provide full-text on this web site. Of course, the copyright remains with the county, state and/or author. If you are not able to share it or give permission for us to put on the site, please let us know of the topic and give a name and e-mail as a contact person. Going through the Internet we found the following (some are older than others) and we are hoping to find more!

Arc welding (North Dakota); Bean project (Wyoming); Be a handyman, Tear and wear (Washington); Geneology (Ohio); Growing rice in pots, Happiness (Arkansas); Jogging, Llama, Urban forestry (Virginia); Losing weight with a little help from my friends (California); Making draperies the 4-H way (Louisiana); Personal development (Oklahoma); Pigeon project (Utah); Trap muskrats (Louisiana); Weather project (Michigan);

Ev Simmons has made a request for new and unusual self-determined projects. If you have samples of any you can send me, too, please forward to jscholl@psu.edu

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION TO FUND PA AFTER SCHOOL SUMMIT—*Claudia Mincemoyer*

The National Governor's Association awarded Pennsylvania an Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Governor Summit grant to help develop a strong agenda for after school and other youth development programming. Pennsylvania was one of ten states to receive a grant. ELOs provide young people ages five to 18 with a variety of activities, which promote learning and positive development beyond the traditional school day. Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Main, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin will each receive \$10,000 from the NGA Center with support from the Charles Stewart Mott foundation to host these ELO summits. Summits will be held during 2005 and the winter of 2006. Dorothy Hershey, Bureau of Community and Student Services at PDE, is coordinating the effort for Pennsylvania. More information about the Summit and how 4-H can become involved will be forwarded as it becomes available.

MOTHER'S DAY: MAY 8, 2005—*Patreese Ingram*

The first Mother's Day observance was a church service in 1908 requested by Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, to honor her deceased mother. Jarvis, at an early age, had heard her mother express hope that a day to commemorate all mothers would be established. Her mother had also expressed the sentiment that there were many days dedicated to men but none to mothers. Two years after her mother's death, Jarvis and friends began a letter-writing campaign to declare a national Mother's Day observance to honor mothers. In 1914, Congress passed legislation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The following are some facts about mothers in the United States:

82.5 million - Estimated number of mothers of all ages in the United States.

56% - The national average for the percentage of women in a state, ages 15 to 44, who are mothers.

82% - The percentage of women 40–44 years old who are mothers. In 1976, 90% of women in that age group were mothers.



4.0 million - [Number of women who have babies each year](#); approximately 425,000 are teens ages 15 to 19, and more than 100,000 are age 40 or over.

25.1 - [Average age of women when they give birth for the first time](#)--a record high. The average age has risen nearly four years since 1970.

40% - [Percentage of births that are the mother's first](#). Another 32% are the second-born; 17%, third; and 11%, fourth or more.

35,000 - [Number of births in 2002](#) attended by physicians, midwives or others not occurring in hospitals.

1-in-32 - [The odds of a woman delivering twins](#) . Her odds of having triplets or other multiple births was approximately 1-in-540.

2 - [Average number of children](#) that women today have in their lifetime. Only about 10% of women today end their childbearing years with [four or more children](#). That compares with 36% in 1976.

10 million - [The number of single mothers](#) living with children under age 18, up from 3 million in 1970.

55% - Among mothers with infant children in 2002, [the percentage in the labor force](#), down from a record 59% in 1998.

63% - [Among college-educated women](#) with infant children, the percentage in the labor force.

72% - Mothers between ages 15 and 44 who do not have infants and are in the labor force.

More than 687,000 - [Number of child day-care centers across the country in 2002](#).

2 million - ([Among more than 10 million preschoolers](#)) are cared for in a day-care center during the bulk of their mother's working hours.

August - [The most popular month in which to have a baby](#), with 359,000 births taking place that month in 2002. July, with 358,000, was just a shade behind.

Tuesday - [The most popular day of the week in which to have a baby](#), with an average of almost 13,000 births taking place on Tuesdays during 2002.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

SUMMER AND THE JOY OF READING—*Anne Heinsohn*

School will soon be over and parents will be making summer plans for their children. These may include a week or two away at camp, family vacations, day camp, school-age care programs among others. In any case, there is usually time for experiences that are different from the school year, but interesting and educational.

While children need a break from the classroom, reading can help keep literacy skills sharp. Summer reading can be fun and introduce children to the pure joy of reading. School-age care programs and some day camps can include pleasure reading in their activities. Story time for very young children is a favorite, but older children need some time to read books, short stories, and poetry of their own choosing on a regular basis. Often libraries are happy to cooperate with care programs and day camps. If the library is close by, a walk to the library once a week to select reading materials and learn what the library offers could be worked into the program schedule. Library book mobiles may make regular visits to program sites or nearby.

Children learn from each other. Talking about what they are reading can be a part of the experience. Unlike book reports these sessions must be non-formal and fun. They'll require some guidance and a loose structure, but essentially this is time for children to tell each other what they are reading. Pleasure is catching. Perhaps this summer will make memories of happy hours spent reading for the fun of it.

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

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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