



Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

November 2005

4-H and Youth Development



PENNSYLVANIA WELL REPRESENTED AT NAE4-HA (*Christy Bartley*)

For those of you able to attend NAE4-HA in Seattle I know you felt the pride that I felt as co-workers from Pennsylvania were recognized for their outstanding work. If you were unable to attend, know that you are represented well in the professional organization supporting youth development work. I was very proud to sit in the regional breakfast on Wednesday and hear Pennsylvania called for recognition so many times. It was a testament to the great 4-H Youth Development work that is happening in our state and the efforts by individuals to be recognized for that work. Wednesday evening was also a special time for those recognized for quality and length of service.

Poster sessions and seminars were also hosted by Pennsylvania professionals who shared quality programs with peers across the nation. I encourage everyone to share that same information across the state and to consider applying for posters and presentations for next year's conference. The 2006 NAE4-HA Conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI on October 22-26.

Thank you to all those who participated in 2005 and congratulations to those who received recognition on the regional and national levels.

SUCCESS IN SEATTLE (*Katina Musser & Robert Lewis*)

Wow, what a great experience at the NAE4-HA Conference in Seattle for fifty plus Pennsylvania professional educators (and in some cases family members). Those attending were given first class treatment which included limousine travel, food that would appear on the tables of the "Rich and Famous" and site seeing of one of the most beautiful areas in the United States. The professional development conference included outstanding motivational speakers, numerous educational seminars, money raising ideas, and fun times with new and old friends from all over the country.

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Various recognition activities created feelings of "real pride" in your co-workers achievements, your profession, and your own work. As one colleague proudly said, "If only the decision makers in this country could be with us this week, I am sure there would be many more resources committed to 4-H youth development programs" to work on the social ills of this nation.

Plan now to renew yourself professionally and reward yourself for the good work that you are doing by attending this professional development opportunity next year.

The following Pennsylvanians were Northeast Region (NE) and/or National (N) winners.

SERVICE AWARDS:

Achievement in Service (PA Blue Ribbon Award) - Cathy Brady, Fayette County & Sam Nicola, Northumberland County
Distinguished Service - Bob Lewis, University Park
Meritorious Service - Ed Horning, Centre County
25 Years of Service - Rick Kauffman, Berks County; Linda Hendricks, Columbia County; Fred Rudy, Dauphin County (retired)

SPECIALTY AWARDS:

Excellence in 4-H Club Support - Individual - Joanne Stoltzfus, Somerset County (NE)
JC Penney 4-H Afterschool Award - Karen Hack, Franklin County; Stacy Goetz, Franklin County; Roxanne Price, York County; & Mary Ann Oyler, Franklin County (N)
World Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development - Wanda Braymer, Crawford County (NE/N)

COMMUNICATOR AWARDS:

Educational Piece - Individual - Jan Scholl, University Park (NE/N)
Educational Piece - Team - Jan Scholl, University Park; Patreese Ingram, University Park & Gretl Collins & Howard Nuernberger, University Park) (NE)
Feature Story - Wanda Braymer, Crawford County (NE)
Media Presentation - Karen Hack, Franklin County (NE)
News Story - Cathy Brady, Fayette County (NE)
Personal Column - Joanne Stoltzfus, Somerset County (NE/N)
Promotional Package - Individual - Karen Hack, Franklin County (NE)
Radio Program - Carol Schurman, Indiana County (NE)

Awards & Recognition Committee for PA:

Cathy Brady, Chair
Wanda Braymer, Co-chair
Michael Martin
Katina Musser, Northeast Region Contact for Member Recognition
Pamela Paletta
Darlene Resh
Jan Scholl
Laurie Welch

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION (*Christy Bartley*)

Something new has been added under the Volunteer button on the Pennsylvania 4-H home page, <http://pa4h.psu.edu>. Orientation materials for new volunteers has been placed on the site. You may direct volunteers to the site or you may use the materials yourself in face-to-face meetings. The materials are designed to be used in a variety of contexts, so I encourage you to take a look. If you have developed volunteer orientation materials that you would like to share with the rest of the state, please feel free to send them to Christy Bartley, cek4@psu.edu. They will be placed on the web site. This repository of materials can then be used without 67 counties having to develop 67 orientation modules. We hope to begin work on training modules in the near future. If you have materials that you would like to add to that site, please forward them to Christy. Thank you for sharing the great work you do!

2006 SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE (Robert Lewis)

Get ready to nominate leaders from your county. In 2006, eight national honorees will be selected by two independent judging panels. Each region will have its own Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer and Volunteer of the Year. The eight regional winners will be further evaluated, and one person in each category will be named the national winner.

1. The Volunteer of the Year Award is for individuals who have served as 4-H volunteers for less than ten years at the county or state level. The Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award is for individuals that have served ten or more years.
2. Nomination materials must be submitted by a nominator to the nominee's State 4-H Office. A volunteer may self-nominate for these awards. Each State 4-H Office will select one state nominee from the pool of nominations. From among all the state nominees, one volunteer will be selected as the national award recipient.
3. Each completed nomination must be accompanied by three letters of recommendation and a nominee essay. Letters of recommendation must be written by a 4-H staff member, 4-H youth participant, another volunteer, or a parent/guardian. The essay must be written by the nominee.
4. Awardees should be prepared to provide information in subsequent years regarding the impact of their awards on their community.

Deadline for nominations as not yet been established. That information will be forwarded to you as soon as we know it.

PROJECT AREAS FOR 4-H LEADERS (Robert Lewis)

One great way to incorporate more service learning into a county 4-H program is to connect service learning activities to the 4-H project areas. Whether they're interested in conservation or recreation, 4-H members can utilize their 4-H project knowledge to meet needs of the community. These project-related service areas are from actual Tennessee 4-H Seeds of Service projects.

Arts and Crafts – Sponsor a kids' craft area at a town festival.
Bicycle – Host St. Jude's bike-a-thon at a local school.
Child Care – Make "kid care kits" for children in the hospital.
Citizenship – Plant a "liberty garden" at a public building or park.
Clothing – Construct polar fleece jackets for homeless children.
Conservation – Lead a recycling campaign in the county.
Field Crops – Teach kids about agriculture during a farm tour.
Food & Nutrition – Sponsor a county-wide food drive.
Garden – Plant a garden and donate the produce to the local food bank.
Health – Make posters encouraging people to get a flu shot.
Home Horticulture – Landscape around a home for foster children.
Horse – Volunteer at a riding stable for the physically challenged.
Leadership – Conduct officer training for younger 4-H members.
Livestock – Take farm animals to a camp for inner-city kids.
Rabbits – Take rabbits to visit with the residents in a nursing home.
Recreation – Play education games with children at Head Start.
Safety – Perform fire safety skits for elementary students.
Wildlife – build bird boxes for a nature trail, school, or nursing home.
Wood Science – Build picnic tables for an outdoor classroom.

COLLEGIATE 4-H SERVICE PROJECT AT JANET WEIS HOSPITAL (*Nicole Webster & Jacklyn Bruce*)

Building on the spirit of service, seven members of the Pennsylvania State University Collegiate 4-H chapter participated in a community service project at the Janet Weis Children's Hospital. The service activity involved working with children patients in the pediatric intensive care unit. Club members spent valuable time with the children while working on an arts and crafts activity. The club members also distributed "cheer" bags and 4-H bears to the children on the floor. The bags consisted of donated toys, cards, and kid friendly items from Collegiate 4-H club members. Participants will follow up with the project by sending digital thank you cards to the children and staff who participated.

FISHING = LEARNING = FUN (*Sanford Smith*)

Fishing is a VERY popular recreational/educational activity for youth and adults alike. For most kids, fishing is an easy "sell" for having fun. Because of this, Pennsylvania 4-H is ordering 4H fishing books from 4HCCS. We had hoped a state-specific book would be ready by now, but it is not, so the Natural Resources Curriculum Committee requested the state to purchase these books. Because we will have very limited quantities this year, these books will only be distributed to counties that have an existing club or new group starting up with fishing. We will not supply "sample copies" to counties or fill orders for counties to "stock" these books for a rainy day. We have Leader Guides, Level I and Level II books on order. Because of the limited quantities, and the need to retain some control over their distribution, these books will not be stocked by the Publication Distribution Center (a.k.a. The Ag Mailing Room). If you have a specific need for these fishing project books, please request the exact amount(s) you need from Sanford "Sandy" Smith directly at sss5@psu.edu. We are expecting the books to arrive here sometime within the next month, and your requests will be filled promptly.

CLOVER COUNTER NAME CHANGED (*Christy Bartley*)

Obtaining data on youth participating in Extension programming has often been a challenge. For years, we have used the Clover Counter system to enter and retrieve data to complete A-100s. The name of the system has sometimes been a barrier to accurate reporting so the name is being changed to Youth Development Program Enrollment. This program is used to track youth involved in Extension programming that are reached through seven delivery modes. Those delivery modes are: organized 4-H clubs, special interest or short term programs, camping, school enrichment, individual study, school-aged child care, and TV/video programs. In addition, youth reached who cannot be reported under these categories are to be reported under the eighth category—Other Youth Reached. The data reporting system does not count contacts. Contacts are reported through Plan of Work reporting. The system does not track project completion. That information may also be reported in CASPAR. The Enrollment system reports numbers of youth involved in Extension programming regardless of completion or contact by the Extension Educator. It reports enrollment of youth reached by all Extension Educators, program assistants, or others working with youth through Cooperative Extension. If you have questions about the technical operations of the enrollment system, please contact Vince Verbeke at vcv1@psu.edu. Questions about who to include in the enrollment system or in which delivery mode they should be placed should be directed to Lydia Everhart at lak146@psu.edu.

4-H HELPS YOUTH MAKE FRIENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE (*Patreese Ingram*)

Each year Pennsylvania 4-H participates in the 4-H Japanese Exchange Program. This year (2005) Pennsylvania 4-H families hosted 40 youth (ages 12-18) and three adult chaperones from Japan during a four-week exchange mid-July to mid-August. Six Pennsylvania 4-Hers spent the summer with host families in Japan. On both sides of the continent, the Japanese and American youth gain first-hand experience in another culture. Equally important, they have the opportunity to share their culture with others who are eager to learn about them. The traveling youth arrive as strangers, but leave as friends.



BULLYING VIA THE INTERNET (*Anne Heinsohn*)

Bullying flourishes in situations and settings having little or no adult presence. As schools develop programs and procedures to reduce bullying, youth have found ways to engage in nasty behavior that go undetected. Even school-age youth access the internet using their own computers or those in schools and libraries. They are adept at using email, instant messages, blogs and text messages on cell phones.

Bullying common to face to face encounters such as verbal threats and intimidation are even more so in cyberspace and are easy to conceal from parents and teachers. Such activities are sometimes anonymous. Email is used to send out rumors and sexually explicit material. Web sites and blogs are used to distribute ugly comments and unflattering photos.

Apparently the physical distance between cyber bullies and their victims emboldens the bullies. The result can be far nastier than the old fashioned school yard variety. Furthermore, bullies can reach their victims anytime and anywhere.

Since cyber bullies are likely to reach to reach victims on their home computers or cell phones while at home, parents have to be vigilant. Schools have anti-bullying programs, but parents have to deal with cyber bullying. Many parents want their children to have cell phones for emergencies. A simple phone plan with limited minutes and without text messaging or photos will do this. Home computers need to be used in family areas rather than bedrooms. In this way parents can be aware of unusual activity such as nasty email and photos.

Children can protect themselves by never replying to threatening email and being careful about sharing their personal information. Email addresses and cell phone numbers can be distributed well beyond the young person's friends. The article cited below provides information to help parents and youth deal with cyber bullying. The SCHOOL-AGE NOTES issue also gives lists of other resources.

Reference: "A New Frontier for Bullies-Cyberspace", SCHOOL-Age NOTES, November 2005 Volume XXVI #3. www.SchoolAgeNotes.com

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

CALENDAR

PA State 4-H Leaders Forum – March 31-April 1, 2006

4-H Capital Days

April 23-25, 2006 -- Registration opens January 15 and closes March 1

April 15-17, 2007 -- Registration opens January 15 and closes February 25

4-H State Achievement Days

August 1-3, 2006 -- Registration opens June 1 and closes July 5

July 24-26, 2007 -- Registration opens June 1 and closes July 5



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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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