



Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

September 2005

4-H and Youth Development



HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF FOR 4-H COLLEAGUES (*Michael Martin*)

Although we are nearly a thousand miles away from the heart of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, 4-H and extension colleagues in the Gulf Coast have been directly and severely impacted.

LOUISIANA: The Louisiana 4-H Foundation has established an AgCenter Relief Fund with all proceeds going to help LSU AgCenter employees affected by Hurricane Katrina. Several 4-H agents and employees have lost their homes, all of their possessions and are now homeless. To donate, send your check, made out to the Louisiana 4-H Foundation, to PO Box 25100, Baton Rouge, LA 70894. In the memo field of the check, put "Relief Fund." To donate via credit card, you may do so via our website at <http://www.la4hfoundation.org/> or by calling our office and giving us the needed information. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of everything raised is going to help LSU AgCenter employees affected by Hurricane Katrina. If you have any questions, please contact Trey Williams, Executive Director, Louisiana 4-H Foundation, PO Box 25100, Baton Rouge, LA 70894; 225-578-2972; 225-578-7847 (fax); Email: wwilliams@agcenter.lsu.edu

MISSISSIPPI: Some 80% of Mississippi was affected directly by the damage caused by Katrina, most of it substantial. The coastal area has been shown on TV. Farther inland to include about half the southern portion of the state, hurricane force winds and flooding caused extensive damage. Jones County, more than 1/3 way up the state from the coast, lost over 1000 homes. Jackson, fairly central of the state, lost basically all power and is only now seeing sections regaining that power. The damage lessened slightly as the storm moved through the central portion of Mississippi and edged its way northeast.

Our 4-H effort consisted first of locating our Extension and 4-H family. I believe all have now been accounted for and it appears without loss of life, but certainly for many their quality of life was lost for some time. It will be weeks before power is restored statewide. Return to a semblance of former life for some Mississippians (as with our sister states of AL and LA) will be months in coming if at all. We have been contacted by many asking how to help. We are attempting to remain consistent with our response so here is what we as a state staff have developed and what Dr. Susan Holder has provided to other state leaders.

In this issue:

- Hurricane Katrina Relief
- 2006 State Leader Forum
- Wildlife Habitat Contest
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- 2006 State 4-H Council Delegates
- The New Recess

1- Letters of Caring and Hope. For those 4-H members from around the country that are searching for ways in which they can support our Mississippi youth, we are asking 4-H members and volunteers to write letters that are encouraging. Send letters to: *Mississippi 4-H -- Letters of Caring, Box 9601, MS State, MS 39762 or c/o Dr. Susan Holder, 204 Bost Extension Center, MS State, MS 39762* The letters will be distributed through our 4-H agents and 4-H youth and adult volunteers to young people affected by the hurricane.

2 - Mississippi Operation 4-H Relief. For the families and young people in shelters or in isolated areas without power and services, we have designed activity boxes. These rubber tubs have lesson plans and activities for kids and parents. They also include 4-H coloring books and other curricula.

The MS 4-H Foundation has set up a separate account for hurricane relief. Funds will go to 4-H families and to purchase supplies for the activity boxes. We are still working "the plan"... but thought I'd share where we are beginning. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated."

I will add this. Items for the children like surplus 4-H t-shirts, small toys (like left over 4-H Bears), even personal care items like toothbrushes, tooth paste, small packs of baby-wipes, gum, etc. are needed and will continue to be needed for some time. These will be shared primarily at shelters. Please let me know if you have questions. If you wish to make a gift or contribution through the address above, please let me know by email so we can watch for them. Thanks to all. Morris Houston, 151 Pine Ridge Circle, Brandon, MS 39047; 601-829-3611 or 601-906-1694.

2006 STATE 4-H LEADER FORUM (*Robert Lewis*)

The Pennsylvania State 4-H Leader Forum Planning Committee is being formed to plan and carry out the 2006 Forum. The Days Inn in State College has been reserved for the March 31-April 1, 2006 event. The planning committee will have professional and volunteer staff from all six regions of the state represented.

The committee welcomes all suggestions for making the Forum an effective educational program for leaders from all Pennsylvania counties. Some of the ideas contributed may have implications for your regional and county leader education program. If you have any suggestions to improve this leader development program, please pass them on to your regional representatives on the committee.

PENNSYLVANIA SHINES AT 2005 4-H NATIONAL WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION CONTEST (*Sanford Smith*)

Pennsylvania's 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) team scored high marks in the team competition at the 2005 4-H WHEP National Contest at the Arkansas 4-H Center near Little Rock, Arkansas on August 4. Pennsylvania's team placed eighth overall out of 19 teams from across the nation. The contest, which is held annually in different regions of the country, attracted 72 participants and more than 40 coaches and guests from 19 states. Participants judged wildlife habitat in the Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plan Forest region using habitat evaluation skills they learned through their local 4-H WHEP training. Contestants individually judged the suitability of habitat for wildlife species through on-site evaluation and aerial photographs. As teams, they also wrote urban and rural wildlife management plans for eight different wildlife species.

Pennsylvania team members included Chad Barkley of Home; Sarah Tinney of Covington, Robin Beisel of Clymer, and Braden Stone of Loganton. All won the right to attend the national contest by placing tops in the state WHEP contest held in April 2005 near State College. The state team's coaches were Deborah Beisel and Nancy Barclay, both adult volunteers with Indiana County 4-H.

The national 4-H WHEP contest is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and International Paper. Eighteen other state and local sponsors provided financial and/or logistical support for the 2005 program. WHEP is a 4-H youth natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to junior and senior level (ages 8-19) youth in the United States. WHEP won the 1996 Wildlife Society's Conservation Education Award. The Wildlife Society is the professional organization that certifies wildlife biologists worldwide.

SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 15 IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (*Patreece Ingram*)

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

The following are selected facts from the US Census:

- The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2004, is **41.3 million**, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest race or ethnic minority. Hispanics constitute 14% of the nation's total population. (This estimate does not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.)
- **1** of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004, were Hispanic.
- The projected Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2050 is **102.6 million**. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 24% of the nation's total population on that date.
- The nation's Hispanic population during the 1990 census was **22.4 million** — just slightly over half the current total.
- **65%** of Hispanic-origin people are of Mexican background. Another approximately 9% are of Puerto Rican background, with about 3% each of Cuban, Salvadoran and Dominican origins. The remainder are of either some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic or Latino origins.
- Roughly **half** of the nation's Dominicans live in New York City, with about half of the nation's Cubans residing in Miami-Dade County, Fla.
- **49%** of the Hispanic-origin population that lives in California and Texas. California is home to 12.2 million Hispanics, and Texas is home to 7.6 million.
- **There are 11** states with at least half a million Hispanic residents: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Texas and Washington. Three more states—Massachusetts, Nevada and North Carolina—fall just short of this threshold.
- **43%** of New Mexico's population is Hispanic, highest of any state. Hispanics also made up more than one-third of the population in California and Texas, at 34% each.
- The Hispanic population of Los Angeles County, California is **4.6 million**—the largest of any county in the nation.
- There were **1.6 million** Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, up 31% from 1997. Their receipts were \$226.5 billion, up 22% from 1997.
- **11%** of the Hispanic population was under age 5, as of July 1, 2004. Hispanics have a higher concentration of preschoolers among their population than any other race or ethnic group.

- **30 million** U.S. residents age 5 and older speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute a ratio of more than 1-in-10 U.S. household residents. Among all those who speak Spanish at home, more than one-half say they speak English “very well.”
- **18%** of the nation’s elementary and high school students are Hispanic, triple the proportion in 1970, when the crest of the baby-boom was enrolled at this level of school.
- **7.6 million** Hispanic citizens reported voting in the 2004 presidential election, up from 5.9 million four years earlier. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting—about 47%—did not change.
- **1.1 million** Latinos are veterans of the U.S. armed forces. About 53,000 Hispanic-origin people were on active duty in 2003 in the United States.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2006 PENNSYLVANIA STATE 4-H COUNCIL DELEGATE SELECTION (*Jackie Bruce*)

As summer is quickly fading into fall, it is time again to begin thinking about and selecting your regional delegates to the 2006 Pennsylvania State 4-H Council. To assist you in this process, the PS4-HC advisory committee has developed a set of informational materials about the council as well as new application/selection materials. On Wednesday, September 7, the new 2006 materials were put in each county box addressed to "County 4-H Contact." These materials were also placed on the PS4-HC website at <http://ps4-hc.cas.psu.edu>. Once you receive these materials, please look over them, taking special note of new delegate allotments, term limits and age requirements. On Friday, September 16, there will be a meet me call to answer any questions, as well as help facilitate ideas on the selection process and all are encouraged to attend. Other questions can be addressed to any PS4-HC advisor (Jackie Bruce--UP, Sam Nicola--Northumberland, Tammy Menke--Mercer, and Tia Steinfelt--Bradford).

THE NEW RECESS (*Anne Heinsohn*)

Recess, beloved by generations of school children, has been controversial for some time. Until recently recess was in danger of disappearing altogether. Responding to the need to improve test scores and increase time for academics, schools reduced recess time or dropped it from the school day even for the primary grades.

However, recess is being viewed as one way to address obesity in children. Schools are being urged to reinstate recess as both a break from the classroom and a time for active play. However, recess today isn't always what parents and children have in mind. In an effort to reduce playground bumps, scrapes, cliques and bullying some schools have cut out competitive, active games such as softball, tag and dodge ball. The new recess tends to be organized by teachers who choose the games and teams. In some cases playground equipment has been removed.

Schools are pressed in ways unheard of not so long ago. They cope as best they can and indeed changes in recess are well intentioned. Children are best served when they have recess on a regular basis. The form it takes is perhaps less important than having that welcome break.

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

CALENDAR

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



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.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.