



Around the State in 4-H

April 2007

Office of 4-H Youth Development

GROW

Resilient Children and Youth

PENNSTATE



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Program of
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Agricultural
Sciences

April is for Volunteers

by Christy Bartley

April is the month when we celebrate the efforts of the many volunteers (over 8,000) that support the 4-H program across the state. We will be submitting nominations for the Salute to Excellence Award. Nominations for the 4-H Hall of Fame have been submitted. I encourage you to begin thinking about your nominations for next year and preparing solid documents for submission. We have great volunteers and need to be able to tell their story to the national judges.

In addition, now is a great time to look at what will be offered during the coming year to help volunteers develop their skills. The Northeast Regional Volunteer Leader Forum will be held in Maine, October 11-14, 2007. The theme of the conference is Healthy Lifestyles. We will be sending teams of adults and youth to the event. Who would you like to go? Registration information will be out in June and there will be some travel support funds available for this event. Volunteers and teens accepting travel support will be expected to return from the conference and offer training in their county or region or at the state level. I encourage you to think creatively about how the leaders can share the knowledge they will gain while at the conference.

On February 2, 2008, the State 4-H Leader Forum will be held at the Penn Stater. There will be programming on Friday evening for leaders who have to travel a distance or want to have an extended experience. As in the past, we will be holding a recognition luncheon at this event. We are looking for extension educators and volunteers to be a part of the planning team for this event. Please consider joining Cathy Brady, Pam Paletta, and me. We would also ask that you identify a volunteer to be on the team. We will meet through conference call.

Are you having a regional leader training in 2007? If so, don't forget funds are available from the leaders' endowment to help support your event. If you need the information resent to you, just let me know.

Volunteers are one of the Pennsylvania 4-H program's greatest assets. Don't forget to prepare them well and recognize them for all they do.



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4-H Youth Development

Milkmasters 4-H Club Supporting the Dairy Industry in Kenya, East Africa

by Marlene Kaltenbach

4-H is typically known for their community service projects, working to support projects and organizations in their local area. The Milkmasters 4-H Dairy Club took their community service to another level, and decided to reach out to another country! The Milkmasters 4-H club participated in a project to provide a modern milking system to a small dairy farm in Kenya, Africa.

The project was the idea of Wayne and Carole Rapp, missionaries with African Inland Missions, who have spent the past 27 years in Kenya, and former residents of Utica, PA. Carole was a member of the Venango County 4-H program as a girl, and is the aunt of current Milkmasters 4-H members Josh and Michela Bell. She and Wayne assist in the operations at Bell Valley Farms when they are home.

A well experienced older Surge bucket donated by Snyder PA. The pump and vigorated as a do-Knox, a former



vacuum pump and two milkers were generously Valley Farms of Parker, milker units were reinstallation by Lee Fisher of Surge dealer.

The Milkmasters 4-H club participated by raising the money necessary to ship these machines to Kenya. Wayne disassembled them and packed the parts as luggage, knowing that as a freight shipment it could take a long time, if ever, to get to Africa. Wayne and Carole left Baltimore airport on Dec. 30, 2006 with 12 small trunks, packed with their luggage and the milking machine parts. After a day of explaining what the items were, they cleared customs in Nairobi and were on their way to the village of Eldama Ravine.

“Sunrise Acres” is a 12 acre, intensively cultivated farm in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. It is operated by Roy and Helen Stover as a retreat center for missionaries. Roy was raised on a small farm in Kentucky and taught in the U.S.A. before being called to the mission field in Kenya. Sunrise Acres is a 10 dairy cow operation. The cows are a cross between Ayrshire and a hot weather African breed. They also have a variety of vegetables, chickens for eggs and the nicest strawberries you’ve ever seen, according to Wayne. The milk is used as fresh milk, butter or ice cream, which Helen makes. The extra milk is sold to a

lady in the nearby village, who resells it in small amounts to local folks.

The main forage crop is Napier Grass (we know this as Sudan Grass here) and is hand cut three times a week, then brought in to be chopped for fresh silage. Some hay is used during the 3 month dry season, when the Napier Grass does not grow. A dairy supplement is purchased from a “feed store” some 30 miles away. The farm has a bore hole (a deep water well) to supply the dairy and the folks who live and work there. In Africa they do not take water for granted, it is a very precious commodity. The cows give about 25 pounds of milk per day, which is considered really good for Kenya.

The cows are milked in a board stall about three feet wide with a feed box in the front and a 2 x 4 behind, to keep the cow from backing out. The Africans who do the milking had never seen such things as milkers before.....and the cows had never experienced them either. After some lessons from Wayne the guys were able to put cows and, to cows did not Wayne reports modern milking of the area” and on the farm are this system. In used as a teaching tool for farmers in the region.



the milkers on their surprise, the seem to mind at all. that this “new ultra-machine” is the “talk the Kenyan fellows so pleased to have the future it will be

The Milkmasters 4-H Club is one of 30 4-H clubs in Venango County for youth to participate in. For more information on the Venango County 4-H program contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension Program, Venango County office at 814-437-7607 or log onto our website at: <http://venango.extension.psu.edu>. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.





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Farm Safety and Health Quiz Bowl

by Christy Bartley

Spring is in the air so it is time to begin identifying your team members for the Farm Safety and Health Quiz Bowl at Ag Progress Days. Information on the quiz bowl can be found at the following web site: <http://www.abe.psu.edu/ash/Quizbowl.html>.

The web site provides a list of references to be used for study, the rules and some sample questions. Teams should register with Dennis Murphy at djm13@engr.psu.edu. Please contact him soon so he can begin to plan the event.

The contest at APD will be held on August 15. The top four placing 4-H teams will be expected to participate in the final contest at Farm Show on January 9, 2008. This year's rotation has the 4-H teams competing in the morning sessions at both events. School letters will be provided to winning team members at Ag Progress Days so they may hand them in at the beginning of the school year.

The dress for the APD contest is casual and the 4-H dress code should be followed. If possible, the teams should wear 4-H T-shirts to identify them as a team. At Farm Show, the dress will be business casual. It is requested that the teams again have a 4-H shirt or vest to wear. Winning teams receive monetary awards which can be used for transportation and travel costs, to purchase additional references for future teams, or to purchase team shirts, vests, etc.

FFA teams are also participating in this event. You may consider having team practices together to develop the skills of your team. Contact me at cek4@psu.edu and I will be happy to let you know which FFA teams have participated in the quiz bowl in the past.



Tidbits of Information

◆ Future Dates to Remember and Mark Down

State Days 2008 August 5-7
State Days 2009 July 28-30
State 4-H Leaders Forum February 1-2, 2008
4-H Leadership Conference Feb. 15-17, 2008

◆ May 1 Fashion Revue Ribbon Deadline

◆ Register participants for 4-H State Achievement Days now.

Grasslands Evaluation Contest

by Christy Bartley

The 2007 Grasslands Evaluation Contest will be held June 5-6 in Springfield, MO. Pennsylvania is one of five states that has been very active in this contest. The contest is held annually so if you don't have a team for this year, you might consider preparing a team for next year. The registration fee is \$75.00 and is due May 1. I realize this is a short deadline, but the information was just sent out. I have registration forms for those who need them. FFA and 4-H teams are judged separately so you may want to again hold scheduled practice and training sessions with your local FFA chapter.





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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



The 2006/2007 4-H Calendar can be found at:
<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/>

MAY

- ◆ May 12
4-H Forestry Field Day
- ◆ May 28
Memorial Day—CLOSED

JUNE

- ◆ June 14
Flag Day
- ◆ June 17
Father's Day

Children's Health Insurance Program Changes

by Christy Bartley

I realize children's health insurance is usually not a topic for ATS, but we have been sent the information on changes to Pennsylvania's CHIP program. Since we reach a lot of youth and their parents/guardians, you will have opportunities to share the information. There are three options.

- The free CHIP program will remain the same. Families who do not qualify for Medical Assistance, but whose household income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$41,300 for a family of four) qualify for CHIP with no monthly premiums and no co-payments for services.
- Low-cost CHIP has been expanded. The maximum household income has increased to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$61,950 for a family of four). Families will need to meet certain requirements and will pay low monthly premiums and have small co-payments for services.

At-cost CHIP has been introduced. Now uninsured children and teens whose family income is above the 300% of FPL (\$51,950 for a family of four) and who meet certain requirements can buy CHIP insurance at the state's cost. Families will pay monthly premiums and have co-payments for services.

No child or teen will be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition. For further information, individuals may call 1-866-727-5437 toll free weekdays between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

Regional Fashion Revue Ribbon Orders

By Jan Scholl

The deadline for regional fashion revue ribbon orders is May 1, 2007 to Lydia Everhart. The form is on the 4-H FCS web-site: <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/FCS/4hfl/jsmenu.html> under fashion revue. It looks like we will be in Eisenhower Auditorium this year. The other forms on the web-site will be changing shortly!





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EDITOR'S PAGE

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State 4-H Program Leader

In Consultation with
4-H Youth Development Faculty & Staff

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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