This week, 4-H agents and assistants will be participating in a professional development conference offering a series of in-service training sessions related to county programs. I hope all of you will take the opportunity to share and network with other 4-H colleagues. We are looking forward to a great conference!

Kentucky Volunteer Forum
I have been asked many times about how many programs and the number of 4-H members should a county have in order to be considered a successful county program. My answer has always been related to how agents engage volunteers at the local level. Agents can only do so much within a limited amount of time which means if the agent is doing all of the programming there is a point of not being able to do more. However, since the beginning of 4-H, volunteer engagement has been the heart of 4-H, the size and scope of a county program is unlimited when volunteers are recruited, trained, and engaged in county programs.

In February, the Kentucky 4-H Volunteer Forum will be held at the Hyatt Regency on February, 11-13. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for 4-H volunteers, agents, and program assistants to learn more about programs which offer opportunities for volunteer engagement at the county level. For details check the website: http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/kentucky-volunteer-forum

Support the Kentucky 4-H Foundation
As you are shopping for gifts online this holiday season, please take that opportunity to support Kentucky 4-H. The Foundation reminds you that when you shop at smile.amazon.com, and select the Kentucky 4-H Foundation, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Kentucky 4-H on eligible items. SO SHOP AND SUPPORT KENTUCKY 4-H at https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7437297.
Charlene Jacobs, Assistant Director for 4-H Youth Development

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

State 4-H Livestock Judging Team
The Kentucky State 4-H livestock judging team competed in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held at the North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, KY on Tuesday, November 17. This outstanding event had 130 competitors representing 34 states. Rachael Drumm was sixth in swine judging, 10th in beef judging, and was 13th overall which allowed her to receive her all American award. Taylor Ray placed fourth in sheep judging. Jeremiah Cupps was mentioned for talking a high set of reasons. The Kentucky Team, which consisted of Jeremiah Cupps, Rachael Drumm, Madison Kelly and Taylor Ray, were 12th in beef and swine, 10th in reasons, 7th in sheep and 8th overall. The team and their coach would like to thank everyone who donated their time, effort and financial backing to help them participate on the traveling team and at the events they attended this fall.
Steve Austin, Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs

Busy Fall at Ky. 4-H Foundation
Without question the past couple months have been busy for the Foundation. We announced and paid out the 2015 Ag Tag Funds, awarded the 2016 Agriculture Mini-Grants, and released our annual summary of support to County 4-H Councils. Not to mention the monthly Alumni Spotlights with Jerry D. Westerfield, M.D. and Teresa Goggin. All this and more can be found on the Foundation’s website at: www.kentucky4hfoundation.org, why not make it a regular stop to keep up with Foundation happenings. In addition to this Kentucky 4-H raised $34,519.00 during the Fall 2015 TSC Paper Clover campaign, we hope to release the store by store details in the near future.
Keith L. Rogers, Executive Director, Kentucky 4-H Foundation
4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest.
This is a reminder about the National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest. Each agent should judge and select the best essay from his/her county and forward it to Tom Webster, electronically at thomas.webster@kysu.edu by February 29. He will appoint a committee to judge the essays. Spelling, grammar and writing style are critical to success. The writer must address the given subject. Only 4H members are allowed to enter.

The top three essays will win awards from the Kentucky State Beekeeping Association. This year there are substantial prizes for winners: $100, $75 and $50 for the top three essays by Kentuckians. The top essay will be submitted to the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, for the national competition. Kentuckians have won the national first place award twice in recent years. The top prize nationally is $750. For details please see http://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays or contact Thomas Webster

Thomas C. Webster, KSU, Associate Professor, College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems

Kentucky 4-H Achievement
All district nominations for the achievement program are due at the state office by December 15. District contacts will need to submit a spreadsheet with all Clover Levels, Competitive Medal Levels, and Emerald Retry information and submit a hard copy, Silver, Gold, and Emerald Re-try applications. (Emerald Re-try will also have resume, cover letter, and power point presentations.)

Kim Leger, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Piggy Bank Contest
One of the most important things you can learn in life is how to save money. It's the first step to getting where you want to be. Anyone can do it! Kentucky youth can take the first step towards saving by participating in the Piggy Bank Design Contest. The Piggy Bank Design Contest is the youth component of the Kentucky Saves campaign, which advocates the importance of reducing debt and building wealth. Any Kentucky youth attending public, private, or home school enrolled in Kindergarten through twelfth grade can participate. Participants create a piggy bank that showcases money saved is a future brightened. To learn more about Kentucky Saves and the Piggy Bank Design Contest, please visit the link: http://www.kentuckysaves.org/ Please note piggy banks will be displayed in the capitol rotunda in Frankfort, Kentucky. All district piggy banks are due by February 1.

Kim Leger, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Kentucky 4-H attends National 4-H Congress
I would like to congratulate all 24 youth who attended National 4-H Congress in Atlanta over the Thanksgiving break. All youth met with 4-H youth from across the nation. The main impact felt from the youth was the speech given by Dr. Eugene Shofield, Holocaust survivor, and his inspiring story. Ask your district delegates who attended the event to share their experience with your 4-H Clubs and councils.

Kim Leger, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

High School Kids are Tired, Stressed, and Bored
A recent online survey of 22,000 high school students found that student often describe their emotions at school as “tired”, “stressed” and “bored”. This is consistent with similar surveys of parents that found there is too much emphasis on standardized testing. 4-H programs that focus on service and service-learning help young people feel more engaged in school and happier! How are you promoting service and service learning in your school clubs, community clubs, and project clubs? Find out more at: http://www.ysa.org/high_school_kids_are_tired_stressed_and_bored.

Mark Mains, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Kentucky 4-H Coloring Books
The State 4-H Office has a limited quantity of 4-H coloring books that have been in storage for a while. These are similar to the ones that used to be from Oriental Trading but have been printed in-house. They are available in units
of 25 books up to 100 per county (you can order 25, 50 or 75). There is no charge. If interested, please email Mark Mains. These will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until gone.

Mark Mains, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Kentucky 4-H – International Programs of Excellence!
The recent fall conference for States’ 4-H International Exchange programs took place in New Orleans, LA. Kentucky came out on top by being recognized with two awards. The first was for “Extraordinary Quality Programs”, the highest level of program implementation. Last year Kentucky hosted 23 Japanese youth and 2 Japanese chaperones. The second award was for “Diversity in Programming”. Through the efforts and support of Janet Turley in Warren County, Kentucky was able to find a home for a young Japanese boy with autism. After the homestay, his parents said that we “fulfilled a lifelong dream” for their son...one they were afraid would never be possible with his diagnosis.

Mark Mains Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development,

Kentucky 4-H Member invited to International Conference – Lilli Hanik
Kentucky 4-H was also pleased to send Lilli Hanik, Spencer County 4-H member to Japan this summer on an 8 week exchange and homestay program. She came back with a renewed interest in Japanese culture and language. While in Japan, Lilli was recognized for her leadership skills and assigned as a group leader for the other American youth. After returning to the US, Lilli was invited to the fall conference in New Orleans to speak about her experiences. During her speech she sang a song dedicated to the memory of Japan’s recent tsunami that brought many of the Japanese honorees to tears. Lilli is a member of the Kentucky 4-H Performing Arts Troupe and is one example of the high quality, nationally recognized 4-H members in our state! Congratulations to Lilli and Spencer County 4-H!

Mark Mains Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Kentucky 4-H Participates in the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference
Kentucky had representatives in each of the five national contests held at the the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference.

- Mauri Collins from Crittenden County placed first in the Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest. She prepared an egg dish while giving an oral presentation on the nutritional value and versatility of eggs.
- Dakota White from Nicholas County participated in the Chicken BBQ contest and placed tenth by barbecuing three chicken halves and two judged for appearance and taste.
- Laura Flannery from Montgomery County participated in the Turkey BBQ contest and placed eighth. She had to grill two turkey breast filets and hand in one for judging. She also had to give a presentation on the U.S. turkey industry, and turkey meat in general.
- The Kentucky Avian Bowl team was composed of Eli Stoltman and Corey White from Lincoln County and Kali Tackett and Kayla McGuire from Pike. Avian bowl is a double elimination knowledge bowl. Kentucky placed fourth.
- The Kentucky Poultry Judging team was composed for Caleb Curry, Becky Carter and Racheal Carter from Lawrence County and Emma Spainhoward from Warren County. In this contest there are three divisions, egg production, market eggs and market poultry with team and individual awards. Kentucky placed second in the market poultry division and ninth in the market eggs division. Caleb Curry placed seventh in market poultry and Racheal Carter placed fifth. Racheal also placed third in production hens.

Overall Kentucky did very well in the national contests and all the 4-Hers should be congratulated for their excellent work!

Jacqueline Jacob, Poultry Extension Associate

State Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest-Event changed
The State Egg Preparation Demonstration contest will no longer be held in conjunction with 4-H Communications day. Instead, all the poultry-related cooking contests will be held on a single day – the last Saturday in July. For next year that is July 30, 2016. This will include the Egg Preparation Demonstration in the morning and the chicken and turkey barbecue contests in the afternoon. The location has not yet been determined. There are both junior and
senior contests and counties may send multiple participants in any of the events. More information will be available soon. It should be noted that programs that include these events are eligible for SNAP-ED hours and funding.

*Jacqueline Jacob, Poultry Extension Associate*

**Livestock and Horse Re-Certification of Volunteers**

All livestock and horse certified volunteers must have completed two hours of training by Dec. 31 to remain a certified volunteer for your county. Check the guidelines for specifics. Go to: [http://afs4hyouth.ca.uky.edu/klvcprogram](http://afs4hyouth.ca.uky.edu/klvcprogram)

*Martha Welch, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development*

**Family Situation and Cross County Participation**

Clarification has been added to the Cross County Participation page in the Resource Guide. The clarification relates to “family situation” in the guidelines for decision-making under “Crossing for a Family Situation.” Look in the Resource Guide under “C” for “Cross County Lines Participation.”

*Martha Welch, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development*

**Monthly Lync Sessions for Interested Agents:**

Each month, a one hour Lync/Skype session is hosted by state staff or experienced agents on up-coming events, projects or general 4-H topics. A few days before the session, every agent will receive a message which includes the link to join the session. For the first year of employment, newer agents are required to participate. Recordings of past sessions are available in the Resource Guide under “N”—“New Agent”, then “Additional Resources for Newer Agents.” *Red lettering indicates a change in date or time.*

- December 7, 2015 (Monday) 3:00pm ET/2:00pm CT; Topic: What EVERY 4-H Agent needs to know about the 4-H Animal Science Program with Steve Austin; If you have a livestock program in your county, there is some information that you just need to know...even if you have highly engaged and on-top-of everything livestock volunteers. (This was announced earlier as a morning session; be sure to update your schedule.)

Beginning in February, Lync sessions will typically be held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 9:30am ET/8:30am CT.

*Martha Welch, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development*

**Upcoming In-Services for 2015-16**

Numerous in-services are slated during 2015-16. Be sure to pre-register for in-services that are of interest to you or to youth in your county. (Many sessions welcome volunteers. Agents need to pre-register volunteers directly through the session’s contact.)

Here’s a quick list of sessions specifically planned for 4-H agents but refer to the catalog in KERS for additional sessions targeted to all Extension agents. (4-H agents are not limited to the sessions below.) If the deadline to sign-up has passed, call the contact. Please refrain from simply showing up at a session for which you have not registered.

- **Annual 4-H Camp Update**: Jan. 19 via Lync; Jan. 27 via Lync
- **Camp Basics for New Agents with 4-H Camp Responsibilities**: Feb. 4, Central KY, location TBA
- **If this, Then that: Social Media and Cross-referencing Facebook and Twitter**: Feb. 18 via Lync
- **4-H Electric Excitement—Skills for the Future**: Feb. 23, Clark CES office; Feb. 24, Hopkins CES office
- **Put It Up!:: Food Preservation for Youth**: March 2, Webster CES office
- **Basic Training for New Agents with 4-H Responsibilities**: March 1-2, Culton Suite, Good Barn, campus
- **The Dirt on Soil: Soils Education In-Service**: March 16, UK Research & Education Center, Princeton; March 22, Franklin CES office; March 23, Robinson Center (RCARS), Jackson, KY
- **4-H Needlework: Embroidery**: March 29, Perry CES, Hazard, KY
- **Teen Cuisine**: March 29, Greenup CES office; March 31, Laurel CES office; April 6, Webster CES office
- **4-H Aerospace Adventures—the Next Frontier**: May 3, Gorham Hall, Good Barn, campus; May 4, UK Research & Education Center, Princeton
- **Setting the Standard in 4-H Science Education**: May 12 Clark CES office
- **2016 Series of In-Services**: Dec. 6-8, 2016 (tentative until hotel is booked)

*Martha Welch, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development*

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