



**Mark Mains, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Director of 4-H Youth Development**  
**University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment.**

**Biography**

Dr. Mark Mains is Assistant Director of 4-H Youth Development in the University of Kentucky's, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. Kentucky 4-H provides high quality educational programming focused on providing youth with opportunities to develop **belonging, independence, mastery, and generosity**. 4-H programs are conducted in every one of Kentucky's 120 counties by a staff of over 144 dedicated 4-H professionals.

Mains comes to the board as a life-long 4-H member, extension employee, and University of Kentucky supporter. Mains was a member of the "Captain Clovers" 4-H club growing up in Kenton County where he did a variety of projects and activities but focused on rabbits, horticulture, and photography. He credits his parents, Milton and Cathy, for being instrumental in introducing him to the opportunities that 4-H offers. After completing his Bachelor's at the University of Kentucky, Mains worked as a 4-H agent in Kenton County for five years before moving to the state role of Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development.

As an Extension Specialist, Mains worked with leadership and teen programs. Through his efforts and the support of 4-H agents, Mains created a middle school conference involving 600 youth annually, doubled the numbers of 4-H Teen Conference participants, and made significant efforts to revise the 4-H State Officer election process. Mains is most proud of the many excellent 4-H officers with whom he worked who have gone on to be dedicated 4-H supporters.

As the Assistant Director of 4-H in Kentucky, Mains is dedicated to continuing to develop and improve the opportunities for 4-H members. Focusing on communications, citizenship, and college/career preparedness, he wants to help 4-H members become confident and contributing members of their community, not in the future, but **today!**

**Introduction**

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Mark Mains. Dr. Mains is the Assistant Director of 4-H Youth Development for the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. In this role, he has programming oversight regarding the 4-H programs in 120 counties and 144 dedicated 4-H professionals who help youth in their communities. Dr. Mains believes that 4-H Youth development provides opportunities for youth to find belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery through projects and activities.

