February 2016

In Kentucky 4-H we are constantly making changes in response to shifts in our society and to real world situations. During our 4-H in-Service Series, I mentioned that we are challenged to address specific situations concerning a child and specific programs related to safety of the youth and others while maintaining our mission of having all of our programs open to all youth. In response to some county situations, we have worked with the college and UK legal and have added the following statement to our 4-H Participant/Enrollment Form, “A 4-H member may be prohibited from participating in a specific event/program if the participation by the individual poses a danger to the 4-H member and/or others.”

What this means to you at the county level:

- If the 4-H agent, parent/s, or volunteer/s expresses concern for the safety of a child and/or to others, the agent should contact their District Director, the specialist in charge of the program, the Assistant Director for 4-H and Tim West to determine the strategy to address the situation.
- Each situation is unique and should be addressed based on the specific situation.
- 4-H will continue to value inclusiveness in our programs and at the same time a safe environment for all participants in the program.

The revised form is located in the Agent Resource Guide under F for Forms and P for Participant/Enrollment Form.

Kentucky 4-H Volunteer Forum-Great Program Planned

Next week is the Kentucky 4-H Volunteer Forum with 750 individuals planning to attend. The workshop sessions, tours, recognitions programs, exhibits, and all other events will offer opportunities for volunteers, guests, and agents to learn about the “possibilities” that can touch the lives of 4-H youth across the state in a positive way. By empowering volunteers, 4-H programs can expand at the county level allowing youth to see the “possibilities” that exist for their lives in the future. We are looking forward to a great forum!!!! Thanks to all who have worked on this major 4-H event!!!!

Kentucky 4-H 2016 Report-Making a Difference

The Kentucky 4-H 2016 Making a Difference fact sheet can be found at [http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/sites/4-h.ca.uky.edu/files/kentucky_handout_2016_final2.pdf](http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/sites/4-h.ca.uky.edu/files/kentucky_handout_2016_final2.pdf) and summarizes the impacts and successes in the Kentucky 4-H Youth Development program. Please share with your leaders and other stakeholders.

You may wonder about how this report is generated. Data are collected from several sources including testimonials, program evaluations, the ES 237, Featured Program evaluations and Priority Indicators. Reports do make a difference in telling our “Kentucky 4-H Story” which is why reporting and accountability is important to our organization.

Use County ES 237 Numbers to Tell Your 4-H Story

We often discuss why we do reports and specifically the 4-H Online generated ES 237 Report. This report is used to tell about the scope of 4-H participation at the state and national level. However, did you know you can use your county report to tell the “County 4-H Story”? During the 4-H Online session in December, we shared two templates that can be used as a narrative in your county using the numbers from the ES 237. These can be used in the County Report to the People, newsletters, websites, news articles and promotional brochures. Two templates are available in the Agent Resource Guide under
“O” 4-H Online in the “Tools You Can Use” section. The templates are titled “Telling the Story Using 4-H Online” with two format options, narrative and bullets. The only thing you have to do is add your numbers to the template. Take a look!

**Enrollment Trends and Information with only numbers**

For a summary of enrollment numbers both short-term and long-term by county and district check out the Enrollment Statistics in the Agent Resource Guide under “E”. Short-term reflects the last two years and the long-term report shows you county numbers and trends for the last six years. I want to emphasize that numbers tell only a part of what is happening in county 4-H programs. The quality of program and the impact in the lives of youth are essential in telling the “4-H Story”.

*Charlene Jacobs, Assistant Director for 4-H Youth Development*

**PERSONNEL: 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT POSITIONS**

One new agent joined our ranks in January. We welcome Adair Baysinger!

Adair Baysinger became the third 4-H agent in McCracken County. (This vacancy was created when David Littlejohn transferred to Bullitt County.) Growing up in Caldwell County, 4-H was a huge part of her life. She was actively involved in several 4-H clubs and projects--livestock judging, leadership, APES, environment, Teen Club and camp. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Health and Physical Education at Murray State. After college, she and her husband moved to northwest Indiana where Adair taught school for a couple of years. She is excited to be back in Kentucky and in 4-H.

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

**4-H IN KENTUCKY**

**Kentucky 4-Hers attend 2016 National Youth Summit on Agri-Science**

Five Kentucky 4-H Leadership Board members attended the 2016 National Youth Summit on Agri-Science held 15 – 18 January 2016 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. These 4-H members had the chance to develop the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security and sustainability. This Summit emphasizes hands-on educational experiences led by experts in the agricultural community.

Youth participating in the Summit took part in town hall style discussions and learned about issues related to land use, GMO’s, agricultural policy, soil science, water usage, data collection and horticulture as well as beef and dairy science. The Kentucky team plans on presenting a Super-Track at the Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference based on the information they learned and how it relates to Agricultural Science in Kentucky.

*Torey K. Earle, 4-H Agent at Large for Science, Engineering and Technology*

**Kentucky 4-H SET Leadership Board members considered for 4-H STEM Youth Ambassadors**

Three Kentucky 4-H Members have applied for six National 4-H Council 4-H STEM Youth Ambassador positions. Emily Sandford and Katie Sandford (Fayette County) and Jared Feitl (Boone County) have submitted their applications and are currently awaiting word on the interview and selection process. Those selected as Ambassadors will participate in and help facilitate the Lockheed Martin/4-H partnership training at the National 4-H Center. They will have a chance to liaise between the State and National 4-H STEM teams; provide a youth voice to share in donor outreach; provide a youth voice in state, regional and national promotions of STEM initiatives and connect with donors on a local level to develop and implement STEM strategies.
Good luck to Emily, Katie and Jared as they move forward in the process. The selection and announcement of Ambassadors should take place in early February.

*Torey K. Earle, 4-H Agent at Large for Science, Engineering and Technology*

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**AG TAG $10 DONATIONS BENEFIT 4-H—**

In the month of March Kentucky farmers will renew their farm license plates at the County Clerk’s office and make their $10 Ag Tag Donation. The Kentucky Ag Tag Donation program has become the BEST fundraising opportunity Kentucky 4-H has ever experienced. For the first time we will have the opportunity to work with newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles, and again our friends at the FFA Foundation to increase awareness and support in every Kentucky County. Last year, Kentucky 4-H received $180,119.05 from the Ag Tag Donations; and in four years has received a total of $632,002.96. You should have already received a “2016 Ag Tag Donation” packet via your e-mail with promotional items you can cater to your needs to promote this program in your county. Around February 16th, you and your county clerk will receive large (24”X32”) and small (8 1/2”X11”) posters to display. For additional information or questions please contact me at MelissaG.Miller@uky.edu or by cell phone at (270)401-8110. Promote Ag Tag and build support for Kentucky 4-H!

*Melissa G. Miller, Interim Executive Director, Kentucky 4-H Foundation*

**Written Communication Contests-New this year**

Kentucky 4-H Written Communications Contest entries are due March 2nd by 5:30 p.m. EST. Categories include: Junior and Senior Classes for each category

- Songwriting
- Poetry (3 line minimum and 25 line maximum)
- “What 4-H Means to Me” Essay (minimum 500 words)
- Original Monologue
- Press Release (maximum of 1,000 words)
- Public Service Announcement

Full rules and information can be found here: [https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/sites/4-h.ca.uky.edu/files/kentucky_4-h_written_communications_contest_rules_0.pdf](https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/sites/4-h.ca.uky.edu/files/kentucky_4-h_written_communications_contest_rules_0.pdf)

Please note: If you have a child who is writing Poetry he/she might be interested in Kentucky’s “Where I’m From”: A Poetry of Place project that encourages Kentuckians to celebrate place and identity using Kentucky Poet Laureate George Ella Lyon’s poem “Where I’m From” for inspiration. The content includes a brainstorming list of people, places, foods, sports, music, family sayings, etc., that have made you You. For details see [http://artscouncil.ky.gov/KentuckyArt/WhereFromAbout.htm](http://artscouncil.ky.gov/KentuckyArt/WhereFromAbout.htm)

*Jennifer Tackett, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development*

**February is Black History Month**

There is a great lesson from the KET Drama Arts Toolkit that can be used during the month of February for Black History Month with high school aged youth. You can have them write a poem that can be entered in the Kentucky 4-H Written Communications Contest! The lesson can be found at [http://www.ket.org/artstoolkit/drama/lessonplan/222.htm](http://www.ket.org/artstoolkit/drama/lessonplan/222.htm)

*Jennifer Tackett, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development*
**Camp**
Deadline to submit an application for 2016 summer camp positions is February 29th. Interviews will begin starting March 12th.
*Donna M. Fox, Extension Specialist 4-H Youth Development*

**Shooting Sports**
The deadline to register for the Spring Coach Certification workshop is February 19th. All participants must be registered online at [https://apps.ca.uky.edu/agentforms/web/shootingsportworkshop/](https://apps.ca.uky.edu/agentforms/web/shootingsportworkshop/). This requires a Link Blue login to register. Once registered online, the agent must confirm the volunteer has successfully completed the Client Protection Process; mail a completed paper copy of the registration form and Participant Information form along with the workshop fees to the attention of Donna Fox, at the state office. These forms are found on the shooting sports Leader Training webpage at [http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/shooting-sports-leader-training](http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/shooting-sports-leader-training). Checks should be made payable to the Kentucky 4-H Foundation with shooting sports on the memo line.
*Donna M. Fox, Extension Specialist 4-H Youth Development*

**2016 Kentucky State Livestock Skillathon Scheduled**
The 2016 Kentucky State Livestock Skillathon will be held on Saturday, February 20th during the Kentucky Beef Expo in Louisville, Kentucky. Contestants from throughout the State will compete for awards but more importantly test their knowledge of the livestock industry. This activity challenges participants to study about cattle, goats, sheep and swine. Stations include breed, meat cut, equipment and feed identification, hay and meat cut judging, quality assurance, team activities and a general test over livestock knowledge. More information can be found at: [http://afs4hyouth.ca.uky.edu/skillathon](http://afs4hyouth.ca.uky.edu/skillathon) or by contacting Steve Austin Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs.
*Steve Austin Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs.*

**Plan now for 4-H Bicycle Program**
It’s not too early to think about spring/summer bicycle programming! The warmer weather welcomes us all to the outdoors and a great way to spend time outdoors with youth during after school clubs/programs, evening clubs or summer camps is through the 4-H bicycle project. Kentucky 4-H utilizes the National 4-H bicycle curriculum found here [http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-bicycle.aspx](http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-bicycle.aspx). There are two levels of books and a helper’s guide book. A DVD is also available for purchase from the 4-H Mall titled “Bicycle Adventures - Don’t Get Stuck: Fix it!” A great culminating event to your 4-H bicycle programming is to hold a county 4-H Bicycle Rodeo! If you have not been exposed to or do not know how to host a 4-H Bicycle Rodeo, stay tuned as we will host a webinar on how to implement one this spring. Each August at the KY State Fair 4-H hosts a Bicycle Rodeo. We highly encourage you to host a county 4-H Bicycle Rodeo and send your youth on to the KY State Fair 4-H Bicycle Rodeo in August 2016! If you have any questions, please contact Tanya Dvorak, Senior Extension Specialist, at 859-257-4625 or [tcdv222@uky.edu](mailto:tcdv222@uky.edu).
*Tanya Dvorak, Extension Specialist*

**North Central 4-H Camp Fall Registration-February 1**
The registration window for North Central 4-H Camp’s fall 2016 environmental camps will begin February 1st. The fall environmental education camping season will operate September 1 – November 4. Agents are encouraged to register early as dates will fill up quickly.
*Darrell Stillwell, Camp Director, North Central 4-H Camp*
Kentucky 4-H Core Curriculum Catalog (revised 11-16-15)
A few minor changes were made to the Kentucky Core Curriculum Catalog (dated 11-16-2015). It is located in the Resource Guide under “Curriculum,” or “Core Curriculum,” then “Core Curriculum Catalog.”

Martha Welch, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Risk Management Best Practices
The Risk Management Best Practices information that was discussed at the 2016 Series of In-Services is linked to “R”—“Risk Management” in the Agent Resource Guide. It’s a site that you may want to refer back to often.

Martha Welch, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

3rd Monday Monthly Lync Sessions for Interested Agents
Join us for a one hour Lync/Skype session on up-coming events, projects or general 4-H topics hosted by state staff and experienced agents. A few days before the session, watch for an email announcement giving the link for the next session. Participation is open to all agents but required for all first year agents. 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.

- February 15, 2016, 9:30am ET/8:30am CT—Programming Ideas for SNAP-ed (ideas that 4-H agents are currently using)
- March 21, 2016, 9:30am ET/8:30am CT—Volunteer Administration Academy—how you benefit from this 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring course; LABO (international exchange with Japan); the Latest on Summit and Teen Conference
- April 18, 2016, 9:30am ET/8:30am CT—4-H Rabbit Project; Best Practices of a 4-H Shooting Sports Club
- May 16, 2016, 9:30am ET/8:30am CT—Preparation for the State Fair; Bicycle Project & Rodeo
- June 20, 2016, 9:30am ET/8:30am CT—The ES-237 Report (how to tell if the data in 4-H Online is accurate, what are you doing when you “sign” the report; how you can use the data in marketing your program); additional topic TBA.

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 pre-registered.

- 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

• **High Ropes Training for Facilitators**: May 5-6, West KY 4-H Camp, Dawson Springs; May 12-13, North Central 4-H Camp, Carlisle

• **Low Ropes Training**: May 5-6, North Central 4-H Camp, Carlisle

• **Setting the Standard in 4-H Science Education**: May 12 Clark CES office

• **2016 Series of In-Services**: Dec. 6-8, 2016, Hyatt Regency Downtown, Lexington

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