Thoughts for the New 4-H Year
Dr. Denise Legvold

4-H Organizational Leaders…If you have been or will be serving as an organizational leader for your 4-H club, let me first say THANK YOU! Because of your good work, others have been successful – both members and adult volunteers. As the new club year begins, I want to impress upon you the importance of attending your county’s new year leader’s meeting. In order to remain current, the Illinois 4-H program will be making adjustments that affect your club’s fiscal responsibilities; as well as changes that increase child protection, and enhance program quality. We are pleased to have your club as part of our statewide organization and look forward to serving you this year.

Start the New Year Off Right – Recruit Members for SFI4-H!

The next Speaking for Illinois 4-H training is set for Saturday, September 29th in Winchester at the Scott County Extension Office. This is your opportunity to recruit older 4-H members to help Extension staff with presentations to civic groups, county board members, donors, and legislators. SFI4-H trains 4-H members, age 14 and older, in public presentation skills, PYD – BIG-M information, and facts to share with stakeholders as they tell their 4-H story. SFI4-H youth are invited to help at the spring Legislative Connection event(s). Registration items are posted at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm. The final deadline for registration is September 19th for the training on the 29th.

New Year Club Resources

Start the 4-H year off right by making sure that you have everything you need to plan and implement positive youth development club experiences. Volunteers may access resources on the Illinois 4-H web site at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/volunteers/support_clubresources.cfm. Here are a few of the highlighted items:

- **Club/Group Support Resources**
  - Club meeting planning guides
  - Club goal setting tools
  - Tools to involve members in evaluating their club experience
  - Leader Fact Sheets highlighting all aspects of club management

- **On-Line Volunteer Leader Orientation**
  http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/

- **Positive Youth Development Resources** – Club meeting lesson plans to strengthen each of the eight critical elements and create a more positive club experience for youth.

Salute to Excellence

Salute to Excellence nominations are being sought from counties for the Volunteer of the Year Award (less than 10 years) and the Lifetime Volunteer of the Year Award (10 or more years). One winner in each category will be chosen from the three Illinois Extension regions and then one state winner in each category will be named and sent to the national competition. Deadline for county nominations are due September 28th. Contact your local Extension office if you would like to nominate a 4-H leader for one of these two awards.
4-H National Youth Science Day

This year’s 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) http://www.4-h.org/nysd/ experiment explores how robots play a role in helping the environment. 4-H members in robotics, natural resources, and related program areas are invited to serve as 4-H Youth Science Ambassadors by using this kit to engage younger youth. T-Shirts and a leadership training from the State 4-H Office will be provided. No prior robotics experience is required. For information on NYSD activities in your county, and/or to check out a kit for use in a club activity, contact your local Extension office. 4-H National Youth Science Day is Wednesday, October 10. This is during National 4-H Week October 7-13, 2012.

New Publications for 2012-13

Helper’s Guide for 4-H Cooking 101 – 401 Series is helpful for volunteers who want to plan a series of meetings or workshops to help youth acquire food preparation skills and healthy eating habits. 4-H Cooking Cover and Spine can be inserted into the front and side cover of a three-ring notebook to organize multiple levels of the 4-H Cooking manuals.

Archery Member Record Book, Rifle Member Record Book, and Shotgun Member Record Book are available for members of a 4-H Shooting Sports Club. Please note that Shooting Sports is a GROUP ONLY project and individual members cannot enroll in these projects.

Revised Projects for 2012-13

4-H Cooking 101 – updated nutrition information based on USDA’s MyPlate guide. Nutrition facts and an index were added for all the 101 recipes.

Citizenship 2 My Neighborhood – new graphics and text.

Discontinued Project – Arts and Crafts: A Palette of Fun.

North Central Region Volunteer Forum

The 2012 North Central Region Volunteer Forum will be held October 12 - 14, in Wichita, Kansas. Regular registration deadline ends on August 31st with a fee of $250. Registration materials will be available online at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/. Go to the dates and click on the link to get access to all the information. The theme this year is “There’s No Place Like 4-H!” The forum is open to all 4-H leaders from the twelve North Central states. Workshops, speakers, and networking will be conference highlights.

4-H Clover Challenge Grants

Attention 4-Hers, 15 to 18 years* of age – you’ve put a lot into your 4-H project…now let it pay you back. The 4-H Clover Challenge Grant is a new opportunity open to members who have completed all levels of a project area relating to corn, soybeans, or small grains OR all levels of a foods, nutrition or animal science project that is tied to the use of corn, soybeans, or small grains. Accepted applicants will work with a mentor in taking their project to the next level and share their advanced project with others in at least two ways: through a presentation, video, GPS map, poster or any other approved communication method. 4-H Clover Challenge Grants are sponsored by The Illinois Soybean Association and Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Each sponsor is offering five, $500 Clover Challenge Grants for 2012-13 4-H year. Additional information is available at http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/financial_support. (* age as of 9/1/12)

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