



NEWS

Kentucky 4-H Foundation

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1 | MAY 2015

Kentucky 4-H Summit

The Kentucky 4-H Summit was held in March where 580 middle school aged 4-Her's, representing 80 counties, gathered at the 4-H Leadership Center in Jabez, KY.

The 4-H Summit is an annual event held over three weeks, Thursday-Saturday of each week. The program began in 2005 and continues to grow in numbers and interests. It is designed to develop leadership, citizenship and communication skills in youth grades 6th-8th. "I thought the Summit was really fun because I got to make new friends. I got to learn how to make a scarf and it was really fun too," said Olivia Reed, age 11, Hardin County 4-H member.



4-H Summit Delegates learn about food and nutrition while making their own omelet.

Through these developed skills the program inspires middle school aged 4-H youth to remain active in the 4-H program and acquaint them with the programs and activities available to them as senior 4-H members. "I think the best part of summit was the number of excited youth who attended," said Mark Mains, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development, Teen & International Specialist. "It really shows that our middle school 4-H youth are an audience that is looking for opportunities to become better leaders and learn more about the 4-H program."

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is a proud supporter of the Kentucky 4-H Summit. The Foundation has committed annual fund dollars (undesignated donations) to support this program because it is a premier development program for our Kentucky 4-H middle school students. Summit is an example of how your annual fund dollars are currently at work.

The Kentucky 4-H Summit relies on the efforts of our State 4-H Teen Council leaders

for its success. The teens teach a leadership workshop to all the delegates, act as group leaders and provide an important connection that helps the delegates see how you can transition from elementary aged 4-H to high school 4-H. During the three week period there are about 250 teen and adult volunteers who support the program.

"I think Summit is a great opportunity for middle school youth to come together from across the state to meet and greet," said Deana K. Reed, a 4-H parent and Fayette County Extension Agent. "It is their first exposure to what their teen 4-H Experience can be like and for many, it is their first "teen trip" away from home."

The teen council members provide the middle school aged youth with something and someone to which to aspire. In turn, it provides the teen council members the opportunity to make a difference as a mentor. "I think the most valuable interaction that happens at 4-H Summit

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Message From Executive Director 2
- Foundation News 3
- Board Spotlight 4
- General 4-H News 5
- Guest Column 6
- History Corner 6
- Donor Spotlight 7
- Foundation News Back cover
- Alumni Gathering



A 4-H Summit delegate races a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach while learning important science and natural resource principals.

is the connection that forms between our 4-H State Teen Council members and the delegates at 4-H Summit," said Mark Mains, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development, Teen & International



KENTUCKY 4-H SUMMIT (CONT.)

Specialist. “The middle school aged youth get a chance to be mentored by older, involved 4-H members who are someone they can look up to as positive role models.”

Each year 4-Hers are recognized for their achievements. The Kentucky 4-H program has an achievement based award program that begins with sixth grade through high school. Youth have a chance to earn “Clover Levels” through their participation in 4-H and competitively applying for the prestigious Bronze, Silver, Gold or Emerald awards when they are older high school students. During the 4-H Summit, youth are presented with their Clover Level 1, 2 and 3 awards.



Members of the Kentucky 4-H Performing Arts Troupe present “How to Find Your Rhythm” to the 4-H Summit Delegates.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Not a month goes by – and sometimes not a week – when I’m not asked. “Why is there a 4-H Foundation? What exactly do you do?” As a 4-Her many of us never gave much thought to who helped pay for the county tractor program or made a trip to National 4-H Congress possible. Yes, there was our 4-H Agent and volunteer leaders, and those folks are still the backbone to an outstanding 4-H program.

However there is another side to 4-H that many still don’t think about, that being the financial support. If your reading this newsletter, then more than likely you are already a donor to 4-H. And for that we say thank you. There are thousands of individuals, businesses and organizations across the Commonwealth that helps to make 4-H possible from the county level to the state level and beyond.

As our mission statement reads we are to: Lead fund development for the Kentucky 4-H Youth Development Program and advance support by alumni and other stakeholders to ensure 4-H remains a vital center of excellence in the Commonwealth.

47 states have a 4-H Foundation and they take all sorts of shape and structure, but they all have the same goal as we do. In short, we work every day to secure the financial support to offer the 4-H experience to today’s youth, just as someone did for us as when we were 4-Hers. That’s why it’s so important that 4-H alumni, those who benefitted from their 4-H experience reconnect with 4-H and show their pride in the Clover!

By reconnecting and supporting today’s 4-H. You and other alumni make a statement that you have a passion for 4-H and helping Kentucky’s youth grow through the “learn-by-doing” experiences provided in 4-H. Experiences that foster life skills, positive self-esteem and builds outstanding citizens and leaders with marketable skills to succeed in today’s global society.

If you ask a 4-Her “what’s the best thing about 4-H?” you will likely hear, “going to camp”, “giving a speech”, “learning photography”, “attending Teen Conference”, but most important you will hear “we learned-by-doing and it was fun”. That’s why the 4-H Foundation exists.

I challenge you to think about what 4-H meant to you, the memories and experiences. And then I ask you to help us to provide similar opportunities to today’s 4-H members by continuing your support, sharing this newsletter with friends, encouraging others to check us out on social media and our website. Together, we can ensure 4-H remains a vital center of excellence for the youth of Kentucky for many generations to come.

Keith L. Rogers, *Executive Director*

The Kentucky 4-H Homecoming



We hope that you have made plans to attend this year's 5th Annual 4-H Homecoming that will be held on Saturday, June 6th at the newly renovated Campbell House, Lexington.

Homecoming is a great opportunity to reintroduce yourself to 4-H and reconnect

with people and friends that you made as a 4-Her. Each year, alumni enjoy sharing memories, good food, laughter and supporting an organization that blessed each of us. The memories that are shared and those in attendance are what make 4-H Homecoming so special.

"For a lot of people Facebook has been a nice way to reconnect with old friends, but nothing beats being able to get together face to face at least once a year," said Lois Flaugher Manley, Co-Chair Kentucky 4-H Homecoming. "After attending the first homecoming five years ago, I decided that this was an event that I would put on my calendar each year for that very reason."



Homecoming activities will include a reception beginning at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:45 p.m., program, 4-H memorabilia, historic slide show and lots of photos. This year's meal will be catered by the Kentucky Cattleman's Association and the Campbell House. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person and the deadline to purchase your Homecoming tickets is May 22nd.

"Homecoming is a chance to relive all those special 4-H memories and create new ones," said Ruth Ann Hendrick, Co-Chair Kentucky 4-H Homecoming. "One of my newest, fondest 4-H memories is of Homecoming 2014, setting up the memorabilia with new friends."

An old favorite will be coming back to Homecoming this year, "Who's in the Crowd?". During this time of sharing, we discover new memories and adventures during this special time of reminiscing with friends and fellow colleagues.

We have a block of rooms reserved for Friday and Saturday night for \$119/night, plus tax at the Campbell House. Book your room using the group code "K4H". The deadline for room reservations is May 17th by calling the Campbell House at 859-255-4281.

On Friday Night, June 5th, Pam Rowsey Larson, Chairwoman for Kentucky 4-H Foundation, will be kicking off Homecoming with a Chairman's Gathering at 8 p.m. at the Campbell House, Lexington. Pam would like to invite anyone that is spending the night or in the area to this casual gathering of alumni.

Homecoming is also an opportunity and chance to assure a bright future for Kentucky 4-H youth programs. Your support and attendance of this event is essential to making Homecoming a success along with making the memories we share possible.

Additional information and reservations can be made on the Foundation website at www.kentucky4hfoundation.org or call the Foundation at 859-257-7178. Make your reservations TODAY!

PAST STATE 4-H OFFICERS LET'S RECONNECT

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation would like to challenge all past state 4-H Officers asking you to make a personal gift to the Kentucky 4-H Foundation. If Kentucky state officers, since 1921, made an annual pledge think of the HUGE impact on the future of our youth organization this group could make. If you would like to make a personal gift please contact KeithLRogers@uky.edu or make a gift online at www.kentucky4-Hfoundation.com. We hope that you will make the decision today to support the best kept secret in youth development!

Gil Cowles, Board Secretary



Gil R. Cowles was an active Kentucky 4-H member from 1971 to 1980 and a 4-H volunteer from 1981 to the present. He is currently serving his first year as the Foundation’s Secretary and has been on the Board for three years.

As a board member, Gil would like to see more Kentucky 4-H alumni get involved. “Through the increased involvement of KY 4-H alumni with the Kentucky 4-H Foundation we will build a stronger 4-H enterprise as a whole,” said Gil.

Gil resides in Rockfield, KY where he is currently a District Sales Manager with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP. He has spent the past 27 years in pharmaceuticals through territory sales, sales training, managed market accounts and sales management. He is an ‘86 graduate of Western Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Animal Science.

Gil joined 4-H in the fall of 1971 when he was going into the fourth grade at Potter Gray Elementary School in Bowling Green. Gil was a member of the first school 4-H Club that Warren County ever had that was started by extension agent John Swack. Gil said, “I have been involved in 4-H in some way ever since.” The most valuable thing that 4-H taught Gil was to be confident in yourself.

“4-H has always been a part of my family, my grandparents, parents, my wife and I, and now my children,” said Gil. “I guess with my children that makes us fourth generation 4-Hers.” Gil was active in the Kentucky Teen Council, the Mammoth Cave Teen Council, the Warren County 4-H Club and Livestock Judging Club.

Gil, and his wife, Mary have three children, Corbin (18), Caroline (16) and Catherine (14). Gil and his wife acquired Pleasant Hill

Farms from his grandparents, as well as his great aunt and great uncle. On their farm, the family raises registered Angus, SimAngus and Simmental beef cattle. Their three children are active in the Warren County 4-H program.

In 1976, Gil was a member of the State 4-H Livestock Judging Team. He grew up working and showing his grandfather’s Angus cattle and steers. In 2014, it all came full circle for him as his son, Corbin, was on the State 4-H Livestock Judging Team. “It was neat to see that happen for him 38 years later,” said Gil.

Through Gil’s extensive involvement in 4-H as a past member and volunteer he offers advice to 4-H members today and in the future. “Pursue every opportunity that you possibly can,” said Gil. “If you have the time and means, do it; you will open doors to ideas, concepts, and additional learning that will benefit you down the road.”

Gil is active in several community organizations, including Foundation Christian Academy Board of Directors, South Central Kentucky Christian Camp Board of Directors, Kentucky Angus Association Board of Directors, Warren County Cattleman’s Association, along with other civic organizations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Postmarked by May 15** Foundation Scholarship Deadline
- May 17**..... Deadline for Hotel Reservations for Homecoming
- May 22**..... Deadline to purchase 4-H Homecoming tickets
- June 1** Roy Strange Memorial 4-H Golf Scramble (Jefferson County)
- June 6** Kentucky 4-H Homecoming
- June 8-11** State 4-H Teen Conference
- June 16-17** State 4-H Livestock Judging (Madison County)
- July 11** State 4-H Communications Day
- August 20-30**..... Kentucky State Fair

National 4-H Conference

Three Kentucky 4-Hers traveled to Washington D.C. to the National 4-H Conference on April 11-16 for a pinnacle experience with 4-H. Hosted by the Department of Agriculture, the National 4-H Conference is a premier youth development opportunity for 4-H members across the nation.

Julia Scott, Hart County; Audree Harper, Calloway County; and facilitator, Anna Meador, Simpson County were this year's National 4-H Conference attendees. These three youth were chosen through the 4-H Achievement Program. The program is for members from sixth grade through high school, with the Emerald Award being the highest honor for 4-H members. The top ten ranked, 4-H Gold Achievement winners of the current year become eligible to compete for the highest Kentucky 4-H award, the Emerald Award. Of the ten youth, only four are selected through a rigorous interview and application process. The four youth are announced at the 4-H Teen Conference, and are awarded a college scholarship, as well as the opportunity to attend the National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C.

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is underwriting and securing the sponsorships for the 4-H Achievement Program. For the sixth year, Farm Credit Mid-America was the presenting sponsor for our 4-H youth to attend the National 4-H Conference. "We want to say thank you to Farm Credit for their long-term, tremendous support of Kentucky 4-H," said Keith Rogers, Executive Director, Kentucky 4-H Foundation.

"Farm Credit Mid-America is continuing our support of Kentucky 4-H by committing \$25K per year over the next four years for a total of \$100K," said Mark Barker,



Area Vice President. "We are pleased to continue to strengthen and grow our relationship with Kentucky 4-H." With Farm Credit's commitment of \$25K/year they are a leadership circle investor, supporting national conference, teen conference, state officer and state teen council expenses, scholarships, and smaller agriculture related programs.

The six day conference is focused on civic engagement, civic education, personal development and leadership. The delegates arrive at the National 4-H Conference Center ready to connect, learn, engage, lead and impact their communities, there nation and their world. Each attendee hears from



National 4-H Conference attendees (left to right) Audree Harper, Calloway County; Julia Scott, Hart County; and Anna Meador, Simpson County.

keynote speakers, engage in multiple roundtable sessions, attend skill building workshops, and make capitol hill visits.

During their capitol hill visits, youth and facilitators, collaborated with other youth from across the nation to make presentations on current issues to agencies like the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Peace Corps, National Guard Bureau and others. Our own, Audree Harper was part of the group that presented to the Smithsonian Waterways Committee and Julia Scott was a member of the group that presented to the Peace Corps. The Kentucky delegates also had the opportunity to visit with Congressman Brent Guthrie and



4-H Conference attendees meet with Congressman Andy Barr while on Capitol Hill visits. From left to right, Julia Scott, Congressman Andy Barr and Audree Harper.

Congressman Andy Barr.

The National 4-H Youth Conference is administered by 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the USDA. This premier youth development opportunity has been a tradition since 1927.

Next year's National 4-H Conference will be held April 9-14, 2016.

OUR MISSION

Lead fund development for the Kentucky 4-H Youth Development Program and advance support by alumni and other stakeholders to ensure 4-H remains a vital center of excellence in the Commonwealth.

KENTUCKY 4-H FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATION STAFF

Keith Rogers, Executive Director
Tony Burnett, Administrative Assistant
Melissa G. Miller, Marketing & Public Relations

GUEST COLUMN



It's a very exciting time to be part of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation and it's also a very exciting time of the year. Spring and Summer offer us a number of opportunities to connect with friends through Homecoming, Alumni Gatherings, Teen Conference, Camp and State Fair. These next few months give us a chance to volunteer, attend and see friends old and new.

One of my priorities as the chairperson of the Foundation Board of Directors is to find ways to reconnect alumni to Kentucky 4-H. The most fun and exciting of those opportunities is our 5th annual Homecoming scheduled for June 6th. Each year the attendance spans decades of 4-Hers from around the Commonwealth and many from out of state. This is also an opportunity for us to recognize our Leadership Circle Investors and to hear about the great things happening

through the 4-H program (see related article). I hope to see you there.

In early April we held our first Alumni Gathering in Nashville...yes Kentucky 4-H came to Tennessee. It was great to see people that I had gone to camp and 4-H Week with many years ago.

How can you get involved with the Foundation? The easiest way is to become a donor is through the Friends and Alumni program. For your \$20 donation you will receive a Friends and Alumni decal, newsletter, invitations to alumni events and you can designate \$10 of your donation to the county of your choice. Registration information will soon be available in your county 4-H office or you can register at www.kentucky4hfoundation.org

I'm looking forward to seeing as many 4-H Friends and Alumni as possible in the next few months and together we can continue *To Make the Best Better*.

Blessings,

Pam Rowsey Larson, *Chairperson*



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Become a fan of the KY 4-H Foundation on Facebook and we will keep you informed about upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

www.facebook.com/KY4HFoundation

Have you heard of 4-H Fridays?

Like our Facebook page, follow our Twitter feed, and check the website regularly.

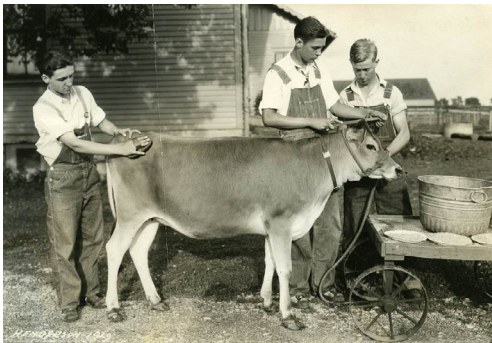


Only, through our website and social media channels will you be able to read the latest blogs and maybe see a 4-H alumnus you know on 4-H Friday's.

These interactive online pages are meant to be a place for you to engage with our Foundation and other alumni, so join the online revolution today!

HISTORY CORNER

In 1909 the beginning of the organization that we call Kentucky 4-H began. Over the next 106 years, Kentucky 4-H has become the best kept secret in youth development. In 1914 enrollment was 1,250; by 1924 Kentucky enrolled 18,548; in 1939 membership topped 42,000; 1979 enrollment reach 254,000; and today Kentucky 4-H is at 256,345. Below is just a piece of our history and the memories that we have had since 1909. Part of being alumni, is supporting the organization that brings us the memories that we share. To see more, and experience more of the history, please join us at Homecoming on June 6th. At this event, you will see and touch our history, hear about our path, and share with the people that have helped bring our organization to where we are today. Come see, experience and share our history!



The term "Junior Agricultural Club Work" was used to refer to the university's youth program. Actually this term was used in Kentucky until 1928.



J.M. Feltner Camp was built in Johnson County, near Paintsville in 1933.



1984 Kentucky 4-H Celebrated its 75th Birthday. At that time 4-H received several grants to start the construction of the leadership center at Lake Cumberland. The Center opened in 1988.

Leadership Circle

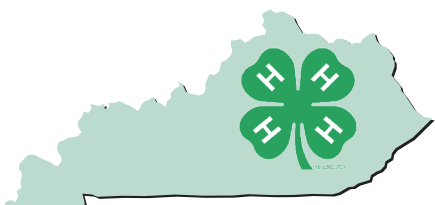


Kentucky 4-H is supported by many individuals, businesses, and organizations; their support is essential to providing an outstanding 4-H program. The Kentucky 4-H Foundation Leadership Circle was established in 2011 to recognize donors for substantial, unrestricted donations.

Members of the Leadership Circle are known as "Investors," and each Investor receives special recognition throughout the year. These Investors help provide the crucial unrestricted resources needed to grow overall support for Kentucky 4-H, expand opportunities for 4-H members, and ensure 4-H remains a vital center of excellence in the Commonwealth.

You can become an Investor in one of two ways. First, you may become an Investor by making an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more to the Foundation's Annual Fund. Second, one can become a Lifetime Investor with a one-time \$10,000 donation to the Leadership Circle Endowment. Individuals, couples, families, businesses, and organizations can be a Leadership Circle Investor. The Leadership Circle program operates on a calendar year basis.

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is proud to recognize and say "Thank You" to our Lifetime and 2015 Leadership Circle Investors.



Kentucky 4-H Foundation

Leadership Circle Investors for 2015

Life-time Investors

Jerry D. Westerfield M.D.
 Melanie W. & Steve Kelley
 George A. & Ruth H. Duncan

2015 Leadership Circle Investors

Jeff & Michelle Brown Brock
 Dennis Cannon
 Central Kentucky AgCredit
 Gil & Mary Cowles
 Marianne Smith Edge
 Gary Ellegood
 Farm Credit Mid-America
 Jake Fink
 H & R AgriPower
 Paul & Jill Hall
 Dr. Jimmy & Faye Henning
 Ralph and Fran Simms Hildabrand
 Dr. Charlene Jacobs
 Kentucky Association of Extension 4-H Agents (KAE4-HA)
 Kentucky Department of Agriculture - James R. Comer, Commissioner
 Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
 Kentucky Retail Federation
 Kentucky State Horticultural Society
 Kentucky Nutrition Service
 Pam Rowsey Larson
 Limestone Farm Lawn Worksite
 Owensboro Grain Company
 Donald & Becky (Cravens) Reid
 Christine N. Riley
 Keith & Holly Rogers
 David Wallace
 Chappell Wilson

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Immediate Past Chair of the Board: David Wallace

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MY PLEDGE



I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,
 My **HEART** to greater loyalty,
 My **HANDS** to larger service,
 And my **HEALTH** to better living,
 For my club, My community,
 My country, and My world.



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FOUNDATION NEWS

Kentucky 4-H Goes to Tennessee for Alumni Gathering



The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is on the move, we want to find alumni and reconnect them to Kentucky 4-H. Kentucky 4-H Foundation held the first alumni gathering in Franklin, TN on April 9th.

The casual gathering welcomed 14 alumni made up of past state officers, teen council members and more. The alumni gathering was an opportunity for alumni to reconnect, see old friends, and support 4-H.

“It was exciting to see the turnout in Nashville, reconnect each of them with Kentucky 4-H, and have the opportunity to make them aware of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation,” said Keith Rogers, Executive Director, Kentucky 4-H Foundation. “The highlight of the evening was gaining three new Leadership Circle Investors.”

The Foundation began these “gatherings” as an opportunity to reach out to alumni who have not yet been touched in the past and reconnect them to Kentucky 4-H. Coming soon are additional alumni gatherings. Stay tuned for more information!

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the financial support of the 4-H program and its members. The Foundation is a partner of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service – 4-H Youth Development, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Educational programs of the UK Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

www.kentucky4hfoundation.org |  