

This 2012 Annual Report *highlights* some of the many programs and projects the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire funds on a yearly basis. Enjoy learning more about them.



*Chris Streeter, Foundation board member, scoops Walpole Creamery Ice Cream at Farm and Forest Expo.*



*Teens from across New Hampshire participated in this year's "The Universe is Yours," science experiments that were part of the 4-H Teen Conference held on the UNH campus in June. Here's one example of the fun they had, while learning more about the world around them.*

## The 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire Enhances the Vibrancy of 4-H

This has been an exciting year in UNH Cooperative Extension. As we re-invented ourselves, the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire has had a strong and productive year. The board maintained its focus on providing private dollar support to enhance the opportunities program staff provide for New Hampshire youth and volunteer adults.

Over 15,000 young people have taken part in different aspects of the 4-H Youth Development program. You have seen them share their knowledge through demonstrations, action exhibits and speeches. Their knowledge has been challenged at Quiz Bowl, Hippology and Judging events. We support their efforts at state events, Eastern States Exposition and national events and conferences.



*Joanne Fairchild draws the winning raffle number at the Tom Fairchild Friend of 4-H Golf Tournament.*

In New Hampshire 4-H Youth Development, we continue to have a balanced program, meeting the needs of youth and adults in the traditional 4-H club, afterschool programs, Barry Conservation 4-H Camp and through Operation: Military Kids.

The recent hiring of seven new county-based 4-H program coordinators will help support the 4-H club program, enhancing program vibrancy. All 4-H programs continue to support the national mission mandates of Healthy Living, 4-H Science and Citizenship Education.

Your support of the special events sponsored by the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire provided fun for families and friends. Whether you were at the Tom Fairchild Friend of 4-H Golf Tournament, at the NH Fisher Cat's or eating ice cream at Farm and Forest, great fun and food was experienced by all. Thank you to our new sponsors of Farm and Forest: Walpole Creamery and Stonyfield Yogurt.

It is exciting to watch the leadership skills of 4-H members move from theory to action. The state 4-H Teen Council hosted "Exploratorium" at the annual teen conference and several board members participated, helping the 200-plus delegates try experiments and analyze why they did or did not work.

I want to thank the board for its efforts to be actively involved in the fundraising activities of the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire. We hope to continue to explore new donors, new grant sources and new project opportunities for the New Hampshire 4-H Youth Development Program.

Sincerely,

*Wendy L. Brock*

Executive Director, 4-H Foundation of NH

[4hfoundationnh.org](http://4hfoundationnh.org)

## Just the figures...

The yearly activities and events are important components of the 4-H Youth Development Program. Listed below are participation figures from this past year for 4-H Foundation-supported events.

### National

4-H Conference - 3 youth  
4-H Congress - 5 youth  
National Dairy Conference- 4 youth  
Dairy Quiz Bowl - 4 youth  
Horse Judging - 4 youth  
Horse Quiz Bowl - 4 youth  
Hippology - 4 youth  
Communications - 4 youth

### Regional

ESE Livestock - 73 youth  
ESE New England Center - 55 youth  
NE Regional Horse Contest - 12 youth

### State

Activities Day - 103 youth  
Dairy Judging - 30 youth  
Dairy Show - 74 youth  
Dairy Quiz Bowl - 35 youth  
Hippology Contest - 20 youth  
Horse Judging Contest - 30 youth  
Horse Show - 84 youth  
Horse Quiz Bowl - 50 youth  
Teen Conference - 213 youth  
Barry Conservation Camp - 220 youth

An additional 425 adult volunteers supported the above events.

### 4-H Foundation Board Members 2011-2012

David Bishop, Chair, Bedford  
Rolf Carlson, Vice Chair, Amherst  
Dick Horner, Secretary, Contoocook  
Christine Abdelnour, Winchester  
Tristin Baker, Exeter  
Laurie Conrad, Candia  
Ed Deshaies, Webster  
John Porter, Boscawen  
Jon Ring, Exeter  
Ted Sartell, Temple  
Chris Streeter, Hancock  
Shirley Sullivan, New Boston  
Wendy Brock, Executive Director

## "The Universe is Yours"

### Created as Theme of 4-H Teen Conference

The NH 4-H Teen Conference is a wonderful example that youth working in partnership with adults can accomplish just about anything, including running a four-day conference for over 200 teenagers. The purpose of the conference is simple: teens want their peers to have an opportunity to experience independent living while they get the chance to explore the university and try some things they wouldn't ordinarily have the chance to experience.



During the planning process for the NH 4-H Teen Conference, the Teen Council always strives to choose a theme they can build on throughout the conference.

The Teen Council's imagination took them far beyond the boundaries of earth in declaring The Universe is Yours! With the Universe as the theme, the logo seemed obvious: a "simple" atom as the basis of all matter and the nucleus is what it all revolves around. And, of course, 4-H is the center of their universe so the 4-H clover would be the center of their logo with the principles of head, heart, hands, and health, revolving around it.

Realizing they had stumbled on a science theme and that one of the mission mandates of the 4-H program is science, the council thought it would be fitting to find a way to incorporate science into the conference, and the concept of the Exploratory Challenge was created.

To accomplish this daunting task, each teen went in search of hands-on science activities that would be fun to do and get participants wondering about the



*Jim Davis, Madbury assistant fire chief, shares his knowledge of fire retardant clothing with Menuke Dhakal from Belknap County, during the 4-H Teen Conference.*

world around them. The Council enlisted the help of the 4-H Youth Development staff, UNH's Thompson School of Applied Science and UNH's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space to help provide some exhibits. The end result was a wide variety of approximately 30 interactive exhibits that included everything from a lunar rover built for a NASA competition, a planetarium, animal forensics, optical illusions, foam, goop, bubbles and much more.

"It was really fun and an experience everyone should have!"

## 4-H Members Attend Citizenship Conference



*4-H members Morgan King and Colleen McCormack of Epping, along with Brittany Wheeler of Merrimack County, attended the National 4-H Citizenship Forum in Washington, D.C.*

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The conference focus was on learning about citizenship and civic engagement and to create a plan to increase community involvement in their own counties. The conference also included a night tour of the monuments and a day of community service with projects benefitting veterans and their families, as well as the Children's Inn at NIH, a cancer treatment facility.

King said, "Although volunteering has been a part of our 4-H activities, going to this citizenship forum has enlightened me on new and different ways to think about citizenship and how I can incorporate it into everything I do." McCormack reflected that she appreciated the conference because she "got the opportunity to practice leadership and developed new ideas about what citizenship means to me."

## All About The Dogs 4-H Weekend – 2012

In June, the Rolling Bones 4-H Dog Club of Merrimack County held its 15th annual All About the Dogs weekend at the 4-H Youth Center in New Boston.

This clinic provides a canine training themed weekend for children enrolled in the 4-H Dog Program, or children interested in joining. The event is an opportunity to learn about dogs, meet new people, visit old friends, get ready for the upcoming 4-H dog show season, and of course have FUN!

Dog grooming, dog agility, dog first aid, showmanship and obedience are just some of the activities and seminars offered. Forty-eight 4-Hers from 14 different clubs came from all over New England to this year's three-day event. A highlight of this year's weekend was a walk down memory lane with 4-H dog club alumni. At a special Saturday evening dinner, current 4-Hers were able to learn about the history of 4-H dog clubs and alumni were able to revisit the program and get reconnected.

This year's All About the Dogs weekend was made possible by a grant awarded by the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire, and, as always, by the many volunteers who donated their time. Rolling Bones is grateful for the support of many canine fanciers, including 4-H alumni, parents, professionals in specific canine-related fields, and 4-H leaders, who all worked hard to make the weekend successful. All About the Dogs weekend provides a fun-filled and educational experience for 4-H youth and their dogs—a good start for a great summer!

Written by Fiona McDonald and Erin Davies  
Club Reporters, Rolling Bones 4-H Club  
Merrimack County, NH





## Equine Experiences



*Sullivan County state horse team and volunteers. Front Row: Allison Barry, Deb Wesoja 2nd Row: Samantha Woodman, Anna Avery, Heather Stockwell, Charles Barry, Kristen Wesoja, Erin St. Laurent, Olivia Henriques, Sara Keniston, Alexis Ledoux, Katelyn Ashburn 3rd Row: Monica Newton, Dolly Rondeau, Kristy Sullivan, Emily Buskey, Amanda White, Danyelle Davis, Pat Stockwell*

Often we think of the 4-H Horse program, and horse shows come to mind. But what happens before the show? Many horse project members study to participate in Quiz Bowl or Hippology and Judging, while remaining active members in their local club.

When they come to the state show, the full scope of the equine knowledge must be demonstrated through a quiz, fitting and showmanship and work within the ring.

This summer Sullivan County had 16 youth from the Horse Huggers and Oak Hill Riders 4-H clubs participate in the State 4-H Horse show as riders and stable managers. With support of three 4-H volunteers, they had one of the best experiences on record. Sullivan County came home from Lancaster with four different trophies recognizing a variety of youth member strengths. The Sullivan County team brought home the "Peace Maker" Trophy for earning the highest average exhibitor score.

Amanda White reflected on her 4-H experience in her county record. "Because we are working with many individuals with special needs and with horses it is important that we have good communication skills and work as a team. "Through my experiences in volunteering at High Horses and working with my 4-H group, I feel that not only have I grown in my horse handling skills and knowledge, but have grown greatly in confidence. I feel I have more courage to step out and succeed in the things I want to do and I have made wonderful friendships."

## The Willie Cowie Fund Supports 4-H Military Youth and Families

The Military 4-H Club Program is the newest addition to the programs offered by UNH Cooperative Extension, in partnership with the Dept. of Defense. Programs such as Operation: Military Kids, White Mountain Winter Adventure Camps (for military teens with and without disabilities), Tour of Discovery Summer Camps, and the Northern and Southern Regional Support Networks, provide outreach to our geographically dispersed service families.

While these initiatives are grant funded, quality programming is enhanced by support from the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire through the Willie Cowie Fund.

We were proud to participate in the Burpee Seed Company's "Welcome Home Garden" initiative, distributing over 1,000 seed pouches to New Hampshire veterans, service members, military families, youth of military members, military family assistance staff, 4-H youth club members, and community garden groups.

Similar information about 4-H opportunities has been and will continue to be distributed through military partners, linking military families, Extension 4-H Youth and Family staff, and family support personnel from various branches of the Armed Forces. The NH Military 4-H Club Program currently integrates service family kids into ongoing 4-H networks oriented to all youth.



*OMK summer camp creates friendships and fun while enjoying the outdoors.*