

Making the Best Better

It doesn't seem possible that I have completed five years as the 4-H Youth Development program leader with UNH Cooperative Extension. During this time, we have seen financial constraints on state and federal funding and in the world of investments. I am happy to say that I feel we have turned the corner.

As of November, 2006, we will have filled all the current positions at the county and state level in 4-H Youth Development. This will put New Hampshire 4-H in a better position to provide exciting and innovative opportunities for the classic 4-H program and new venues yet to be supported.

The Board of the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire, under the leadership of Tom Frangione, set some challenging goals for the 2006 fiscal year:

- raise \$20,000 at the Friends of 4-H Golf Tournament,
- create a new partnership for the Farm and Forest ice cream booth, and
- provide an event for 4-H families and friends to get together and have fun.

Congratulations - all three were achieved.

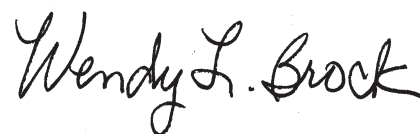
Neither the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire nor the UNH Cooperative Extension budgets can start to meet the opportunity to support and expand the 4-H Youth Development program in New Hampshire. County fundraising activities, county 4-H foundations and grants raised over \$500,000 this year to support the 25,000 youth and 2,500 adult volunteers in the New Hampshire 4-H Youth Development program. These dollars support 4-H after school programs, expansion of science and horticulture-based programs and local 4-H member and leader participation and recognition at the county, state and national level.

We continue to support our military families in New Hampshire through the Operation Military Kids (OMK) grant and other community partners. Over 100 New Hampshire military youth and families enjoyed the setting of UNH 4-H Camp at Bear Hill at OMK camp or family weekend. OMK camp was selected as a site for Citizen's Bank to launch its back to school backpack program. Citizen's Bank NH President and CEO Cathy Schmidt was at camp to greet the campers personally.



Citizen's Bank NH President and CEO Cathy Schmidt is shown handing out backpacks at OMK camp this summer.

I look forward to working with the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire this coming year with its challenges and opportunities. With the combined efforts of an innovative Board, dedicated 4-H youth development staff and the generosity of donors, the youth and volunteers will be the beneficiaries of an outstanding program that "Makes the Best Better."



About this Report...

This 2006 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.

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 events supported by the 4-H Foundation.

National

4-H Conference – 3 youth
4-H Congress – 5 youth
Dairy Conference – 3 youth
Dairy Quiz Bowl – 4 youth
Horse Roundup – 16 youth

Regional

ESE Animal Science – 108 youth
ESE New England Center – 69 youth

State

Activities Day – 170 youth
Dairy Judging – 32 youth
Dairy Show – 70 youth
Dairy Quiz Bowl – 32 youth
Hippology Contest – 41 youth
Horse Judging Contest – 40 youth
Horse Show – 137 youth
Horse Quiz Bowl – 68 youth
Teen Conference – 155 youth
4-H Camps – 746 youth, 1032 camper weeks

An additional 203 adult volunteers supported the above events.

4-H Foundation of New Hampshire Board Members 2005-2006

Tom Frangione, Chair, Barnstead
Dan Bascom, Vice-Chair, Rochester
Sabrina Matteson, Secretary, Epsom
David Bishop, Bedford
Kathy Dole, Canterbury
Ian Gove, Goffstown
Courtney Hodge, Hinsdale
Kent LaPage, Portsmouth
Bob Lefebvre, New Boston
Jean Robertson, Plymouth
Lisa Romero, Northfield
Chris Streeter, Hancock
Steve Tullar, Walpole
Wendy Brock, Executive Director

New at UNH 4-H Camp – Island Adventure Trip

What follows is one staff person's recollection of the Island Adventure trip, where 30 campers and three staff joined with UNH Cooperative Extension Marine Docents to discover more about the marine environment around Great Bay and the Isle of Shoals this past August.

"The island was beautiful, so beautiful, it didn't even matter that the seagulls screeched around the clock! The staff, students, docents and everyone else on the island all talked about the magic of the Shoals and how you'd never want to leave and it was true – we all certainly fell under its spell.

The students on the island made us feel welcome, especially during an impromptu visit to a shark dissection. The lecturers and students answered questions and showed us around the remaining bits of shark, much to our squeamish delight.

Such was the camper's enthusiasm for the island, a group activity of 'sunrise watching' was organized. They all got up at 4 a.m. in the cold Gulf of Maine breeze to watch it. Unfortunately, no one thought to check what time the sun actually rose and we sat freezing for an hour and a half before the sun made an appearance.

The docents were obviously very passionate about the Isles of Shoals, both their history and the marine life. The campers couldn't get enough of their spooky stories and tales of pirates! Their knowledge of marine life also impressed us very much and the children certainly put it to the test, with their questions about all the creatures we caught on our tide pooling expeditions. They were engaging and interesting and while we all learned a lot, it was never boring. I cannot praise them highly enough!



Marine Docent Francoise Morison shows campers a starfish during the Island Adventure trip.

Overall the Island Adventure Trip was a great success. I loved how on Friday, when the kids were being picked up, they were all chatting and laughing over shared experiences, exchanging email addresses, hugging each other goodbye. The short time they spent together was intense, and friendships were formed, and it really made me happy!

I think the trip was a great way to get the kids interested in subjects like science and local history – there was talk among the kids about coming back with their families, studying marine biology...it's great to think that the docents and the place really inspired them."

Supporting New Hampshire Youth After School through National Grant Dollars

Year Three of Rural Youth Development Grants from National 4-H Council helped support the development of 4-H after school programs in the towns of Alton and Gorham. Each site has integrated the youth into ongoing county 4-H activities and set the goal to develop youth leadership to design their after school experience.

Shooting Sports, a program funded through the 4-H Foundation of NH, many local donors and a grant from the NRA Foundation, was a topic that intrigued the 4-H'ers at the Gorham Family Resource Center program. Students finished the shooting sports activities in April with actual practice at the Fish and Game shooting site in Milan. Safety was the main focus, and students learned the value of technique, patience and practice.



Larry Barker, right, Coos County Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, is shown working with participants in the Shooting Sports program.

Last May, the 4-H seventh and eighth grade students researched and planned a trip to the Boston Science Museum for sixth graders at the Gorham Middle High School as their Leadership Project. The 4-H student leaders created a plan for the day and prepared a packet that highlighted particular exhibits and suggested things to look for in each exhibit.

They looked specifically at electricity, "Dolphins" (playing in the Omni Theater) and "A Bug's Life" (playing at the IMAX). The 4-H student leaders each took a small group of sixth graders through the museum, with an adult chaperone, so they were responsible for "leading" the groups and explaining the exhibits. The school provided transportation, and teachers reported they were impressed by the organization and research the 4-H students had done to make the trip so successful.

The 4-H student leaders for the Science Museum trip felt they gained new knowledge of the topics they researched. Several students mentioned what a "cool" experience it was. The electricity exhibit was the most popular, and 4-H leaders felt proud of their ability to lead the trip for the sixth graders. "At first I was a little nervous about such a big place, but by the time we had learned about what was there, I felt better about being able to lead a group."

Touring Boston's Financial District

In August, 49 New Hampshire 4-H members, teen friends and adults traveled to Boston for a tour of the financial district. The trip was sponsored by the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire.

First stop was a tour of Fidelity Investment's Center for Applied Technology. They gave an informative interactive session about investing, the stock market and why saving is important.

The group toured the innovative technology center, the personal identification technology center and the customer service and relations technology center.

As one teen said, "Wow! The overview and the three rotating workshops were amazing. I loved their efforts to integrate technology in ways that are accessible."

The afternoon session split the group into two, each taking a tour in turn of the Federal Reserve Bank's Economic Adventure Game and the Boston Stock Exchange.

For information about the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire, contact Wendy Brock, 4-H Youth Development Program Leader and Executive Director, 4-H Foundation of NH, Moiles House, 180 Main St., Durham, NH 03824 603-862-2187 or email: wendy.brock@unh.edu
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Raising money while having fun!

The 4-H Foundation of NH traditionally serves ice cream at the February Farm and Forest Exposition. This year a new partnership established with Blake's Creamery of Manchester provided ice cream produced by New Hampshire milk. Those attending the Grazing Conference at the Expo also received a refreshing afternoon snack when 4-H'ers brought the ice cream treat to them.



4-H Foundation board members work the refreshment stand at the Fisher Cats game.

May brought the third annual Friends of 4-H Golf Tournament at Canterbury Woods Country Club. Over 100 golfers showed great spirit throughout the day. After a couple of hours of play, the tournament was halted due to rain. Great food provided by George Glines and an active silent auction brought the day to an end while meeting the goal of raising \$20,000 at the event. Special thanks goes to the three gold sponsors: Farm and Family Insurance - Viscusi Financial Services, First Pioneer and Yankee Farm Credit, and Robertson's Agency.

With a goal of offering a fun activity for the whole 4-H family, the 4-H Foundation sponsored "4-H Day at the Fisher Cats" baseball game in Manchester. Over 450 4-Hers, friends and family sat in the July sun while the Fisher Cats won their game. Through the support of the Marshall Opportunity Fund (Sut and Margaret Marshall), buses brought fans from Coos and Carroll counties. 4-H member Samantha Patch from Hillsborough County threw out the first pitch and 4-Hers Morgan and Cacia King sang the National Anthem. The Board hopes you will join us at each of these events in 2007.

Making It More Than A Contest

Each year, many outstanding senior 4-H members represent New Hampshire as part of dairy or horse judging teams, dairy or horse quiz bowl teams, horse communication events and hippology contest. The 4-H Foundation proudly sponsors team members and their coaches at these national contests held in Louisville, KY, or Madison, WI. National competition preparation starts long before a 4-H member is selected. There is basic subject matter knowledge they gain through their 4-H club project meetings, training events and self-study. They visit the industry, whether a farm or a veterinary hospital. They meet with a trainer or work with an experienced judge practicing their ability to communicate their knowledge to others. A 4-H member can only participate in a particular national contest once, so they prepare knowing they only have one shot at placing well.



Trainer Leif Erickson is teaching the 2006 state hippology team the basics of horse packing. Included are Samantha Wheeler, Coos; Jessica Allen, Cheshire; Erin Greenhalgh, Belknap; Ashley Welch, Rockingham. With the group is coach Teresa Berry, Coos.

Team members are asked what they got out of the experience:

- It isn't good enough to know how to place a class, you have to be able to explain fully to a judge your reasons and thoughts. (Communication skills)
- Working as a team has made me realize each person brings a different knowledge and experience to the team. We learned from each other as well as our coach. (Teamwork skills)
- If you miss practices you let the team down. (Responsibility)
- Participating in a national event is scary until you realize you are as well prepared as those teams from big states. We have great coaches who care about us! We are proud to represent New Hampshire. (Self-confidence)
- The experiences gained from participating in dairy program national events helped me be a better candidate for college. Scholarship interviews were a breeze. (Communication skills)