

Marion County Extension Office
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4-H Update

November 2007

Dear 4-H Members and Leaders,

Lots of exciting things are happening in 4-H. Some of them have already happened and some are going to happen. We have results from the first, and calendar dates and deadlines for the second. Look for those articles in the body of this newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Brock Fry

Brock Fry
County Extension Agent
Texas Cooperative Extension

Paulette Cooper

Paulette Cooper
Extension Agent-CEP
Cooperative Extension Program

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

4-H Banquet

The Marion County 4-H Awards

Banquet 2007 rivaled the Oscars in an evening of extravagant elegance. Against a glittering backdrop of gold, green and black, the stars of the evening shone as they trod the green carpet and received recognition for their year's work.

The beautifully decorated room was the result of the efforts of 4-H Mile Branch parents and grandparents under the leadership of Beje Foster. The delicious food, provided by Brookshire's Grocery, Heartsway Hopsice, and the Marion 4-H Program, was prepared by 4-H'er Billie Durden and two of her Culinary Arts classmates from Northeast Texas Community College.

Vanessa Spearmon, chair of the County 4-H Council, and Mistress of Ceremonies, welcomed approximately 84 attendees. She introduced the keynote speaker, Jim Gibson, Jefferson City Manager. Mr. Gibson, a 4-H alumnus, spoke to the group about his 4-H experience and about heroes, and how anyone can become a hero in someone's life.

Tyler Foster thanked Mr. Gibson for speaking to the assembly and for his support of the 4-H Program.

New County Council Officers were installed by Darlene Hopkins, 4-H Leader and Club Manager. Officers installed were: Tyler Foster, chair; Danielle Simms, vice-chair; Vanessa Spearmon, treasurer; Kelsey Jenkins, secretary; Marion Taylor, reporter; and Adam Henderson, parliamentarian.

County Commissioner Charlie Treadwell, also briefly addressed the group and assisted in the presentation of awards.

Awards given were: John Cooper, Gold Clover Award, for 20 years of service

to the youth of Marion County; Mary Spearmon, 10 years of distinguished service to the Marion County 4-H Program; Vanessa Spearmon, in recognition of leadership as County Council Chair; Kyle Fitch, Manager of Brookshire's Grocery Store, and John Bradley of Bradley Contractors, recognition of support of the Marion County 4-H Program as an investment in America's Youth; and Adrian Jones, formerly with Enterprise Car Rentals, in recognition of his continuing support of the Marion County 4-H Program.

Certificates of Achievement were awarded to all 4-H'ers who completed projects or attended certain 4-H events, such as Leadership Lab, special camps, and other county and district events. Special awards were presented from the 4-H members and leaders to Extension staff members, Brock Fry, Paulette Cooper, and Barbara Hampton. Marion Taylor was recognized as the county's Gold Star Winner.

Dasha Williams Attends H.A.Y. Conference

What is HAY? In his 2005 State of the Union address, President Bush announced a broad initiative to engage all Americans in helping young people become healthy adults. He asked the First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, to lead this important effort, which became known as the *Helping America's Youth* (HAY) initiative. This nationwide effort raises awareness of the challenges facing our youth and motivates caring adults to connect with youth in three key areas: family, school, and community.

On Wednesday, November 7, more than 200 community partners will assemble at Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Texas for training and work group sessions. On Thursday, November 8, these coalitions will join local, regional, state, and federal leaders for a speaker series and expert panel presentations on the current status of America's youth and successful methods for helping make a difference in the lives of America's youth.

Dasha Williams will be attending this conference, representing Marion County along with Agent Paulette Cooper. Dasha will be sharing the results of the conference upon her return.

4-H County Council Meeting

The next County Council meeting is November 13 at 5:00 p.m. Club Managers and Leaders will meet at this time also. Food/Nutrition and Clothing projects will be discussed at this meeting.

Also, each club is to send at least 2 members and one leader to the Council meeting. It is mandatory.

Remember from our last Council meeting, each club was asked to bring a \$2.00 laundry basket full of food and a list of needy family members in Marion County communities. Don't forget to collect your food and bring it to the Council meeting.

Some of the club charters have to be renewed this year so come to Council meeting and find out the process.

Foods Workshop

The annual foods workshop is set for Saturday, December 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until we finish. Start selecting your recipes, and remember, NO SWEETS.

Leaders, we will be conducting

training for the foods project at the Council meeting. We will also conduct training on the new enrollment method. We need your input.

County Youth and Leader Honored

Marion Taylor, senior Marion County 4-H'er, daughter of Pamela Taylor and granddaughter of Mary Spearmon, was honored on October 16 in Nacogdoches at the District Gold Star Banquet. She was presented the Gold Star Certificate and a portfolio with the Gold Star logo. Marion has been in 4-H for the past 9 years and has participated in the Poultry, Clothing, Foods/Nutrition, Leadership, and animal projects, as well as Breads Workshops, Leadership Labs, and Round-Up activities. She has taught others the knowledge and skills she has gained from her experiences in 4-H and her expertise in fashion. Marion is a poet and loves to express herself through her writing while inspiring others to succeed. She is a senior at Jefferson High School and plans to continue her education, majoring in Fashion Design and Marketing. Congratulations to Marion.

Darlene Hopkins, 4-H Leader and Club Manager of the Mt. Pilgrim 4-H Club, was also honored at the Gold Star Banquet. Mrs. Hopkins received the coveted "Outstanding Leader Award" for her accomplishments as a devoted 4-H leader and manager for the past 14 years. We are proud of this outstanding leader.

Online Enrollment - Did You Know?

Now you enroll in your local 4-H program through 4-H Connect just as you register for 4-H events. Isn't that cool?!

4-H Connect has been expanded to

assist the county Extension office in managing 4-H enrollment in a more efficient manner, both for the county office, and also for club and project leadership.

For 100 years, the Texas 4-H Program has been a leader in the development of youth in a variety of life skills. As society changes, so does the 4-H process of serving members, parents and volunteers. In 2006, Texas 4-H introduced '4-H Connect' for the purpose of on-line registration for district and state events. After two successful years of on-line registration, 4-H is progressing to the next level, on-line enrollment.

To use the new system you need to do two things. First, fill out the green enrollment form just as you always have and turn it in to your club manager. We need the paper enrollment forms on file. This is also in case there's a computer glitch, and you KNOW how often those happen. This is the back-up plan. Second, go on-line to the 4-H Connect website and follow the instructions that your County Agents will provide. The 4-H Connect website for o n - l i n e e n r o l l m e n t is <http://www.4honline.com/Member/?id=53>.

Once on 4-H Connect and you have completed both a family profile and your individual 4-H member or adult volunteer profile, you are finished and have made the process easier for all.

Other facts about the 4-h on-line enrollment process:

* It does not cost anything to establish an enrollment on 4-H Connect.

* Once you submit your registration, the county office will accept it and you will be assigned a 4-H membership number.

* When you go to register for an event, you will not have to establish another profile,

just use your enrollment profile.

* Do not share your family log-in information with anyone else.

* If you do not have computer access at home or at school, you can visit your local Extension office for computer access. The agents will be glad to assist you in setting up your family and member profile for you.

* Do not let another 4-H family include your individual member profile on their profile. If you do this you will not be able to create another profile.

* Your personal information will not be sold or shared with anyone outside the Texas 4-H Program or the computer programmer.

* All information for 4-H Connect resides on a private, secure server.

Thank you for your willingness to help and your cooperation in making on-line registration a success as you have event registration on 4-H Connect. You are encouraged to provide feedback on your experiences in setting up your profile. Please email any comments to 4hevents@ag.tamu.edu.