



**Marion County Extension Office**  
130 Kelly Park Rd.  
Jefferson, TX 75657  
(903)665-2421



# 4-H News

January-February 2008

*Happy New Year!!!!*

Welcome to 2008. Hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season and that you will have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Even though it's just now a new year on the calendar, the 4-H year is already in full swing. The county food show is behind us. Roshunda Wilson and Tyler Foster will be representing Marion County at the District Food Show as senior and junior contestants, respectively, on February 2, 2008 in Nacogdoches. Congratulations, Roshunda and Tyler.



Read on for information on some exciting 4-H happenings.

Sincerely,

*Brock Fry*

Brock Fry  
CEA-AG/NR

*Paulette Cooper*

Paulette Cooper  
EA-CEP-4H/CD

**ENROLL ONLINE:** If you have not yet re-enrolled, go online to 4-H Connect and do so as soon as possible. If you don't have access to a computer, or you need assistance, contact the Extension Office. Computers are available that you can use, and the agents will assist you. We're here to help.

#### 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

Don't forget, 4-H Council meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month, at the Kellyville Center, at 5:00 p.m. Due to the holidays, no meeting was held in January. Next meeting will be February 12, 2008. Please mark your calendars.

#### ATTENTION: ALL 4-H MEMBERS AND LEADERS

All those enrolled in 4-H must be a member of a chartered 4-H club, and all chartered 4-H clubs should have a monthly meeting schedule. If your club has not been meeting at least once a month, you need to rework your schedule so that you do meet at least once a month. Members participating in 4-H contests and events at district or state levels should be enrolled in one of the chartered clubs.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

The county photography contest was held December 11, 2007. Six Marion County 4-H members advanced to District competition. They are: Anna and Micah Crumbie, Katlyn French, and McKala, Naomi and Savannah Vila.



#### ONE THE STATE & NATIONAL LEVEL:

Note from Mrs. Cooper .....

As we travel into the new year, there are a few big events you, as members and leaders, should set your goals to achieve. Record books play a very important role in the opportunities youth can seek as a result of their achievements and for scholarship applications.

#### RECORD KEEPING AND RECORD BOOKS

Record keeping and 4-H Record Books are an important part of all Texas 4-H projects. By learning good record keeping skills, 4-H members are able to reflect annually, and over their 4-H career, the growth and development they have experienced in 4-H. Record keeping is done on a daily and monthly basis on all projects, recording such things as financial investments, learning experiences, goals of projects, and leadership.

At the end of the 4-H year, 4-H members are encouraged to transfer their records into a Texas 4-H Record Book, which is a competitive process allowing youth to be evaluated with other youth in one of thirty-nine categories. Record books are a family affair that involves the 4-H member and an adult family member in recording

and completing the record book of project experiences, leadership, community service, awards, and non-4-H accomplishments.

Further information is available from the Extension agents or on the website at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth/recordkeeping.html>.

## TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP

Texas 4-H Roundup is held annually in June on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station. Texas 4-H Roundup is a qualifying event for youth between the ages of 14 and 18 that have successfully placed in a qualifying spot at the district level. County and District Roundups are open to all 4-H members from ages 9 to 18. However, only senior-age members advance to State competition.

Texas 4-H Roundup includes approximately 40 different contests that test 4-H members on life skills in such areas as decision making, public speaking, demonstrations, organization and working with others. These contests include Food Show, Fashion Show, and an assortment of judging contests and educational presentations.

More information at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/index.html>.

## CAREER AWARENESS & YOUTH LEADERSHIP LAB

Career Awareness and Youth Leadership Lab (CAYLL) is an educational activity for youth, ages 14 to 19, held annually on the campus of Prairie View A&M University. The program is designed to provide experiential learning opportunities that reinforce the importance of education, improve employability skills, and explore careers in a non-formal setting. Youth participate in career workshops that focus primarily on agricultural and human sciences. They will also engage in social and life skills seminars as well as experience dormitory-style living in a college environment. This year's Lab will be held June 3-6. For more information, contact Mrs. Cooper.

## TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS

Texas 4-H Congress is the premiere leadership experience for Texas 4-H members between the ages of 15 and 18. Held on even-number years in the Texas State Capitol at Austin, Texas 4-H Congress allows 4-H members to experience the law making process first hand by writing and submitting a bill, then serving as a member of the House of Representatives, Senate, the Press, or as a Lobbyist during a mock session of the State Legislature. From these roles, the 4-H members determine the fate of each bill submitted over the four-day event. Cost for the event ranges from \$ 150.00 to \$ 250.00 per person, depending on donor support. For more information on this event, contact Mrs. Cooper or go to the following website: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/txcongress/index.html>.

## NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS

National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the National 4-H Program. Each year, a national design team of Extension educators, 4-H youth, and 4-H adult

volunteers analyze current youth issues and determine the most effective ways to address them. The program combines a variety of fun and exciting educational, recreational, and networking opportunities. It includes plenary sessions, seminars, discussion groups, and a service learning experience. The nation's most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present to those in attendance the most current and timely information available.

In addition to the events listed above, numerous summer camps are provided by Extension for youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 18 years of age. Most can be found on the 4-H website, <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/> or on the Cooperative Extension website: <http://pvcep.pvamu.edu/4-h.html>.

## IRS REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H CLUBS

The Internal Revenue Service has made it mandatory that all 4-H Clubs file a federal income tax return for 2007. This is the result of federal legislation known as the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The filing process is supposed to be relatively simple. The IRS is setting up a website where clubs can file their annual tax form called a 990-N (electronic postcard). The website is expected to be up and running in mid-February. All 4-H clubs must file their tax form by May 15, 2008. Texas 4-H will require proof that this filing has occurred as an element of chartering 4-H clubs. This electronic postcard is for clubs who had 0 to \$24,999 in income. Any group generating \$25,000 or more must file a form 990, paper copy.

The information needed to file this form is listed below:

Organization's legal name; Any other names the organization uses; Organization's mailing address; Organization's website address (if applicable); Organization's employer identification number (EIN); Name and address of principal officer of the organization; Organization's annual tax period (January 1 - December 31 for Texas 4-H); A statement that the organization's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less; and, if applicable, a statement that your organization is terminating.

In addition to it being an IRS mandatory requirement and an element of chartering for Texas 4-H, it is to the clubs' EXTREME advantage to have this opportunity. All clubs that file their tax form and are chartered will receive a letter from the IRS showing them to be federally tax exempt. This is advantageous as donors can give money or property to the club and then potentially claim it as tax deduction.

## CLUB NEWS

Have your club reporter write up a short item on what your club and club members are doing, send it to the Extension office, and we will include it in the newsletter. Everyone would like to know what's going on with other 4-H members.

Remember, what you get out of something is in direct proportion to what you put into it. Your 4-H career is what YOU make it, so "MAKE IT YOURS".

## CHOICES ... MY BELIEF, MY BODY, MY LIFE

The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University will host its annual CHOICES Abstinence Retreat, April 4-6, 2008 at the H. S. Estelle 4-H & Youth Camp located in Huntsville, Texas. This retreat is designed to help teens, ages 13-18, improve health habits and develop a greater understanding of the importance of abstinence education. With approximately 3 million teens being infected with sexually transmitted diseases each year, there is definitely a need for programs of this type.

Participants will reside at the camp for the weekend and attend workshops on self-respect, STD/AIDS, teen pregnancy and prevention, healthy dating practices, love vs. lust, effects of tobacco and drugs on the body, and sexual predators and the Internet. In addition to workshops, there will be general sessions, group discussions, and dramatic performances. The retreat will be interactive and provide participants with a wealth of information to promote abstaining from unhealthy behaviors and making responsible choices.

For more information about the retreat, please contact Paulette Cooper at 130 Kelly Park Road, Jefferson, Texas or call (903)665-2421.