

# The Wyoming Leader

SUMMER 2007



NOTES FROM YOUR STATE LEADER COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....

## Our 4-H youths deserve the best we can give

By **Kay Moyer**, *President, Wyoming State 4-H Leaders Council*

You have all heard the quote by John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

I offer this twist.

"Ask not what your 4-H program can do for you, ask what you can do for your 4-H program."

We as 4-H leaders come to 4-H for many reasons. Some because our children are involved. Some because we have something to offer youths. Yet others come because they have something to give back to the program. It doesn't matter which reason, they are all noble. Assisting youths to become useful, productive citizens of our great country is always a good cause.

Some folks accuse me of being married to the 4-H program. I guess in some ways I am. I do a lot of 4-H because I believe it is an excellent opportunity for youths to grow and learn in a caring and fun environment. My point is each of us has something to offer someone. Maybe you don't want to spend six days a week working on 4-H activities. I can tell you from personal experience that is OK. Not many have that kind of time to spend. It is important, though, if we do give our time, it is quality time.

Organizing an event or even just a project meeting requires planning – time spent on 4-H without youths present. We need to build in some fun time into all of the time we plan. As we say in shooting sports, if it isn't fun, why are we here? I guess

the main point is it doesn't matter how much time you want to give; it matters what kind of time you offer.

There are ways to assist an extension educator with this perplexing issue of filling program needs. Our extension educators know some subjects while our leaders may know other subjects. When your councils get together the next time,

*"...it doesn't matter how much time you want to give; it matters what kind of time you offer."*

see how many leaders you can get to the meetings and try to create a skills pool. Ask everyone to list their favorite sports, foods, book subjects, hobbies, and careers. Make it a fun activity so leaders get to meet new leaders and more experienced leaders can share experiences about 4-H with the new leaders and, maybe, new extension educators.

When the pool is completed, make sure the new and experienced leaders understand you may call on them for assistance on the subjects they listed. When I say assistance, I



*Kay Moyer*

do not mean for someone (unless they volunteer) to be in charge of an event for the first time by themselves. Let them determine the measure of time they can dedicate to the event. You will find these leaders coming back if the experience is a good one.

Next, make sure to communicate the findings to extension educators. Communication is the key to a good program. Trust is another key ingredient. If the extension educator trusts you and your councils and your intention to assist, you will find a partnership starting. All too often, our extension educators believe they must do it all themselves. That is just not so. We need to work together to get the job done.

I would like to conclude by asking if you have any ideas to share, please call me at (307) 632-4064 or e-mail me at [Kay\\_Moyer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Kay_Moyer@nass.usda.gov). I would like to hear about your ideas and how well they are working.

*Kay*

## Leaders sought for 4-H sportfishing program

A youth development specialist for the Wyoming 4-H Program is fishing for volunteers, hoping those interested in angling will take the bait.

All clichés aside, Warren Crawford is hoping there are enthusiasts in Wyoming who like fishing so much they're willing to teach youths. He's trying to build 4-H sportfishing, a relatively new program.

"There's been a lot of interest on the youth side," says Crawford, in the Wyoming State 4-H Office in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture. "But there is still a lot of misunderstanding of what the sportfishing project entails. There is a whole lot to it."

There are four components to the program: angling skills, tackle crafting, aquatic ecology, and fisheries management. "Angling teaches them to cast and to learn about the components of spin, bait, and fly casting," notes Crawford. "The 4-Hers make their flies and lures in tackle crafting. In

aquatic ecology, members gain an understanding of aquatic insects so they are able to match the insect with the lure they are trying to imitate."

The water quality section teaches 4-Hers what fish species can live in what bodies of water. Stocking rates and the need for regulations are explained in the fisheries management section.

Crawford is hoping more adults will step forward as volunteers for the state's youths. A training day for sportfishing leaders is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 23 in Casper.

The workshop is at the UW Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Agricultural Resource and Learning Center, 2011 Fairgrounds Road. There is a \$10 fee that can be donated to the 4-H Foundation for leader training or be refunded during the training. Deadline for registration is June 15.

Those interested in registering for the training or becoming a volunteer can contact their county UW CES office. A listing is available online at <http://ces.uwyo.edu/Counties.asp>.

## 2007 Junior Horse Show Rule Book now available

The 2007 Wyoming Junior Horse Show Rule Book is now available.

The cost is \$8, and hardcopies can be obtained by e-mailing Dee Bixby in the College of Agriculture's Resource Center at [bixbyd@uwyo.edu](mailto:bixbyd@uwyo.edu), calling the center at (307) 766-2115, or writing to the University of Wyoming, College of Agriculture, Department 3313, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071. E-mail orders must be accompanied by a credit card number.

The reining patterns were incorrect in the first printing. A correction has been printed and is now available. If you obtained your copy from a county office, please contact them for the correction. If you ordered from the Resource Center, please contact Dee Bixby at (307) 766-2115 or [bixbyd@uwyo.edu](mailto:bixbyd@uwyo.edu) and she will send the correction. The online version is correct.

The rule book is available for free download at [http://4-h.uwyo.edu/Wyo4H/4-HWebsite/Publications/horse\\_rulebook07.pdf](http://4-h.uwyo.edu/Wyo4H/4-HWebsite/Publications/horse_rulebook07.pdf).

### WYOMING 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location
Youth Leadership Conference	June 11-14	Cancelled
Citizenship Washington Focus	June 17-23	Washington, D.C.
Horse Camp	June 15-17	Douglas
Sportfishing leaders training	June 23	Casper
Horse Judging Contest	June 27	Laramie County
State Shooting Sports Match	July 12-15	Douglas
Wyoming State Fair	August 11-18	Douglas
Livestock Judging	State Fair	Douglas
Vegetable Judging	State Fair	Douglas
Fashion Revue	State Fair	Douglas
Presentation Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Shooting Sports Awards Trip	September 12-16	Raton, New Mexico

# Understanding age development for age-appropriate activities

**By Warren Crawford,**  
*State 4-H Youth Development  
 Specialist*

Age appropriateness seems to be a topic of interest for many working in the field of youth development.

Those of us in the 4-H program are no different. The program allows youths ages 8 to 18 to join 4-H, and we know there is a large disparity between the needs of an 8-year-old and an 18-year-old.

Many 4-H volunteers and parents also work with youths younger than 8 through in- and after-school programs. Among them is the 4-H Cloverbuds, a companion activity to the traditional 4-H program open to all youths ages 5 to 7. Developing age-appropriate 4-H events and activities is an important consideration, but what does that really mean to you and your work?

When we talk about age-appropriateness, we are really talking about the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development or characteristics of young people. What are youths able to grasp, handle, or do that is conducive to creating a positive learning environment? We have a responsibility to help foster the educational development of our youth participants, but just as important are the physical, social, and emotional needs.

Many life skills 4-H helps develop focus on the social and emotional needs as well as the intellectual needs. To get a better understanding of each stage of development, it is important to understand the different characteristics at each stage.

Current research divides the various age categories into four stages of development: 5 to 8 year olds, 9 to 12 year olds, 13 to 15 year olds, and 16 to 19 year olds.

### Characteristics of 5-8 year olds:

- Mastering physical skills – have better control of large muscles than small muscles.



*Warren Crawford*

- Learning how to be friends and may have several “best friends.”
- Dependence on adults besides parents is a new experience.
- Cooperative games are enjoyable – competition with others is inappropriate.
- Like to play games – rules and rituals are very important.
- Very concrete – like to see, hear, taste, feel, and smell.
- More interested in process than final product.

### Characteristics of 9-12 year olds:

- Very active and boundless energy.
- Small muscle coordination is increasing.
- Identify with same-sex groups and prefer to socialize with same sex.
- Prefer working in groups in cooperative activities.
- Individual evaluation by an adult is preferred to group competition – want to know how to improve.
- Find comparisons with success of others difficult – hard time differentiating between success or failure in activities with success or failure as a person.
- Academic abilities and interests vary greatly.
- Have increased attention span but interests change rapidly.

- Begin to think logically and symbolically. We are using symbols to help explain a concept or help explain understanding of inference or references to another item.

### Characteristics of 13-15 year olds:

- Experience rapid changes in physical appearance.
- Are interested in activities involving the opposite sex.
- Seek acceptance and trust from peers and adults – search for adult role models.
- Compare themselves to others but like to have adults compare them to past performances.
- Strive for independence and seek privacy from adults and parents.
- Want to be part of something important.
- Move from thinking concrete to thinking abstractly – can solve problems that have more than one variable.
- Are ready for in-depth, long-term experiences.
- Want to explore world beyond their community or current situation.

### Characteristics of 16-19 year olds:

- Are concerned about body image but more comfortable with maturity.
- Explore relationships and search for intimacy.
- Willing to make commitments and follow through.
- Want to take on adult leadership roles and be recognized as individuals.
- Desire respect, independence, and identity.
- Develop own set of values and beliefs.
- Search for career possibilities.
- Enjoy demonstrating knowledge.
- Will lose patience with meaningless activities.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Understanding age development for age-appropriate activities

(Continued from page 3)

It is important to point out not every individual youth fits into these defined and specific categories. Youths mature at varying rates, ages, and times but, as a general rule, these characteristics hold true. As we evaluate the need of the various age groups, it is important to understand how our efforts can affect the learning environment.

Now that you have a basic understanding of the different stages of development, the next step is to use the knowledge to create the best events and activities possible. This can be accomplished by taking into account the developmental appropriateness for our youth participants and planning accordingly.

## Implications for working with 5-8 year olds

- Activities need to allow for movement and action – hands-on learning.
- Don't plan projects requiring fine detail or perfection.
- Focus on projects easy to complete.
- Small-group activities are most effective and encourage parental involvement.
- Plan a small variety of activities to allow for those who learn at different rates.
- Focus on cooperative games that allow every child to "win."

## Implications for working with 9-12 year olds

- Activities should include physical movement and involvement.
- Focus on activities that help develop and refine fine motor skills.
- Plan time for youths to be in same-gender groups.
- Encourage leadership roles, and let members take on planning

and running meetings but clarify and enforce reasonable rules and limits.

- Avoid creating competitive situations – this age group has a hard time differentiating between success or failure in activities with success or failure as a person.
- Give positive feedback for the effort, and avoid generic praise – they will see through it.

## Implications for working with 13-15 year olds

- Plan activities that do not depend on physical abilities.
- Provide activities to be with opposite sex in healthy ways – planning groups, parties, etc.
- Let them choose when and if they are "front and center."
- Provide lots of opportunities to learn new skills.
- Plan activities that are more in-depth and require problem solving.
- Involve them in decision-making roles.

## Implications for working with 16-19 year olds

- Give them opportunities to prove their abilities.
- Encourage individual goal-setting and self-responsibility.
- Eliminate busy work – involve them in decision making and carrying out plans.
- Offer vocational and career exploration opportunities.
- Involve this group in leadership and teaching roles.

One of the most difficult challenges in implementing age-appropriate events and activities is the inclusion of all the age groups at one event or activity. Very rarely are we able to work with just the 9 to 12 year olds or just the 16 to 19 year olds. That means we must try to figure out how

to include all the differences into a single event. This can be accomplished with a little forethought and planning.

The best tool we have in 4-H is hands-on learning. One common theme throughout the various stages is activities that require movement and hands-on learning. To keep older youths active and involved, utilize them in the planning of events and activities. This is a great avenue for problem solving and higher level thinking as we use their creative minds to assist leaders and parents in creating events and activities that meet the needs of our youths.

A little flexibility in planning and organization can really have an impact on the overall quality and appropriateness of the 4-H experience.

Warren Crawford can be reached at (307) 766-5170 or [crawford@uwyo.edu](mailto:crawford@uwyo.edu).



## Recommendations offered, actions taken at leaders conference

Various items were discussed at the 2007 Wyoming State 4-H Leaders' Conference January 26-27 in Jackson.

Action was taken on behalf of the Wyoming State 4-H Leaders Council and forwarded to the Wyoming State 4-H Office for consideration. Complete copies of each recommendation and resolution are available for review at local University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service offices along with the minutes from the meeting.

Listed below is a summary of the meeting.



Johnathan Despain

Type	From	Summary	Action Taken
Recommendation	Johnson County	Minutes of the business meeting be forwarded to each county so accurate reports can be made to county volunteers.	Minutes will go to Wyoming State 4-H Office unapproved.
Recommendation	Goshen County	Dog conformation be eliminated from all Wyoming county and state fairs.	Sent to dog development committee to consider.
Recommendation	Laramie County	No longer allow dog conformation as a possible class for exhibitors at county and state fair levels. Focus more on showmanship	Sent to dog development committee to consider.
Recommendation	Albany County	Hold a senior round robin showmanship contest on Friday of the Wyoming State Fair.	Passed. Marius Wilson, Wyoming State 4-H Leaders Council treasurer, will be organizing with the assistance of George Haas, southeast district, director for the state leaders council.
Recommendation	Goshen County	Rally be added to the Wyoming 4-H dog program events at county and state fairs with AKC rally rules as a guideline in training for and implementing future 4-H rally events.	Sent to dog development committee to consider.
Recommendation	Laramie County	Add dog rally as a competitive event at the state fair level.	Sent to dog development committee to consider.
Resolution	Albany County	Offer open enrollment in the Wyoming 4-H program.	Passed.
From floor	Big Horn County	Have three term limits as a council officer or district director	Passed.
Bid for event	Northwest District	Washakie County host 2008 4-H state leaders' conference. They presented a PowerPoint.	Bid accepted. Will be in Worland in March 2008.

## State 4-H Leaders' Conference Awards



### State 4-H leadership team teach workshop

State 4-H Leadership Team members conducting a workshop are, from left, Shelby Welling and Becky Martinez, both of Evanston, and Jake Berg, Cheyenne.



### State leaders' council

**Back, from left,** Becky Martinez, State 4-H Leadership Team representative, Uinta County; Brenda Berg, Southeast 4-H District assistant director, Laramie County; Debbie Matlack, Central 4-H District director, Natrona County; Tamara Drake, Northwest 4-H District director, Washakie County; Mickey Thoman, Southwest 4-H District director, Sweetwater County; John Devoss, Southwest 4-H assistant district director, Sweetwater County; Tina Fish, Northwest 4-H District director, Crook County; Jake Berg, State 4-H Leadership Team representative, Laramie County.

**Front, from left,** Terry Fowlkes, historian, Crook County; Mike Moon, outgoing vice-president, Carbon County; Marius Wilson, treasurer, Laramie County; Kay Moyer, president, Laramie County; Jane Hill, new vice-president, Carbon County; Glen Terry, secretary, Campbell County.

**Not pictured,** George Haas, Southeast 4-H District director, Goshen County; Bonnie Ballou, Northeast 4-H district director, Crook County; Jessica Newberry, Central 4-H District assistant, Carbon County; Garnet Schatz, Northwest 4-H District assistant director, Park County.



### State Partner of 4-H

Peter and Tammy Ramirez of Lyman, Nebraska, received a state Partner of 4-H award for their assistance of Goshen County 4-H. At left is Johnathan Despain, Wyoming State 4-H Program coordinator, and at right is 4-H volunteer Linda Keeran.



### Achievement Award Winners

From left, Johnathan Despain, Wyoming State 4-H Program coordinator, with achievement award winners Mickey Thoman, Farson, Pat Litton and Kelly Barlow, both of Gillette, Dwaine Scott, Torrington, and Mike Moon, Saratoga.



### State Partner of 4-H

Jerry and Sharon Kanode of Moorcroft received a state Partner of 4-H award. At right is Johnathan Despain, Wyoming State 4-H Program coordinator. Also receiving the award, but not present at the conference, were Mike and Mary Kindt of Gillette, who own M&M Oilfield Services and Razor City Skateland.

## Changes made to 4-H livestock, horse education programming

**By Stephen Schafer**

*State 4-H Youth Development Specialist*

Several changes have occurred or are occurring in the Wyoming 4-H livestock and horse programs. I thought it prudent and beneficial to share those with the 4-H volunteer leaders who are the foundation and backbone of the 4-H program.

After a two- to three-year process involving 4-H educators and the state 4-H horse committee, the revised horse level exams (Level 1 and Level 2) were recently distributed to each county 4-H office. Many compliments have been received, and I wish to share these sentiments via this newsletter. So, on behalf of me as well as those sending compliments, a big thank you to all involved in this long process.

On a side note, a couple of typographical errors were discovered upon distribution, but they have been corrected; however, if other errors are found (and two have recently been identified), which is quite possible as their use increases, please let me know as soon as possible because we want to be as fair as possible to the youths involved in the Wyoming 4-H horse program. A revised edition.

Another change to the Wyoming 4-H horse program has occurred, the result of much time and effort by 4-H educators, 4-H leaders, and the state 4-H horse committee. This change was implemented to decrease the number of 12- to 13-year-old members dropping out of the program. This change centered on the addition of "action events" to the program. These include more speed events, cattle events, and roping events. To

facilitate the inclusion of these events for county programs, the Wyoming Junior Horse Show Rule Book was revised and has been distributed to each county 4-H office and posted on the Wyoming 4-H Web site.

Last year, at the request of 4-H educators throughout Wyoming, a CD on evaluation conformation of horses was written, produced, and distributed to all of the county 4-H offices posted to the Wyoming 4-H Web site at [http://4-h.uwyo.edu/Wy-04H/4-HWebsite/Publications/horse\\_rulebook07.pdf](http://4-h.uwyo.edu/Wy-04H/4-HWebsite/Publications/horse_rulebook07.pdf).

This educational piece has been utilized by many 4-H educators and 4-H leaders, and it has received many compliments, so it might be something that other 4-H educators and 4-H leaders may wish to use. It has sparked a few requests for a follow-up CD on the movement and gaits of horses. This CD is in draft form and has been distributed for review. Upon receiving input from extension personnel in Wyoming and other states, the CD will be revised and distributed to each county 4-H office as well as being posted to the Wyoming 4-H Web site. The date for completion is anticipated to be early summer.

Last year, a committee of 4-H extension personnel completed a year-long process concerned with the development of a livestock quality assurance (QA) program/curriculum. The QA program and curriculum was presented to 4-H educators in the spring of 2006. Many have had a chance to be involved in the teaching of this program, and the comments received have centered on two things: (1) the content is very good and much appreciated, and (2) could an additional piece be developed that



*Steve Schafer*

specifically targets the poultry and rabbit exhibitors?

A CD has been compiled and is being reviewed by extension personnel in Wyoming and other states. When suggestions are received and the appropriate revisions made, an additional chapter will be written for the QA curriculum manual. All of this will be made available to each county 4-H office. The completion date is anticipated to be late summer or early fall.

It is hoped and anticipated these program changes and educational materials will better serve 4-H leaders and 4-H club members. If you have suggestions for improvement of these programs/materials, ideas for other programming changes, and/or for the development of other educational materials, please forward them to your respective 4-H educator or contact me directly.

*Steve Schafer can be reached at (307) 766-5027 or [sschafer@uwyo.edu](mailto:sschafer@uwyo.edu).*