

The Wyoming Leader

Summer 2005



"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

~John C. Maxwell

STATE LEADER NOTES.....



Johnathan Despain

I was recently helping coach my 5-year-old son's T-ball baseball team. At the very first meeting, I invited parents to come and meet me, ask questions, and to share with them the games and practice schedule. As a parent who had been frustrated with other volunteer coaches in the past, I decided it would be appropriate to share my thoughts and plans with parents so we would all be on the "same page."

I emphasized that my goal was to have fun and give each child the opportunity to understand the basics of the game while trying each position at least once. I wasn't ever a professional baseball player but

am a fan. More importantly, I wanted the young people to have a good enough experience they would want to play again. What startled me were the expectations of some parents for their children.


It became very evident a few parents expected too much from their children. I wanted each child to finish the short season (12 games) knowing the name of the bases, each position, how to bat a little, which direction to run and when, and maybe a little of catching and throwing techniques. It would be a bonus if we got a couple of outs. (At least everyone batted and everyone played each inning.) Comments from parents to me of disappointment in the skills of their child, or that their wishes of professional dreams weren't being met under my tutelage, were sparse but disturbing.

It led me to some questions about the motivation and expectations we have for young people in our 4-H program. Do we expect too much? Hoping for excellence and working toward that is admirable. But it becomes detrimental to the development of those children when parents cross the line into expecting high levels of

excellence in their children or constantly demanding perfection to live vicariously through their children's successes. Self-esteem, self-worth, and resiliency to risks as an adolescent are critically important.

As volunteers who care about Wyoming's youths, I would encourage you to help parents within our 4-H ranks keep the competitive events, learning experiences, and meetings in perspective of what skills and developmental assets are being supported and developed.

The successes of our 4-H clubs, activities, and events hinge upon the ability to reinforce such assets in our young people. Keeping those things in mind over the course of the rest of this year will help parents and others avoid the pitfalls of some of the T-ball parents. Enjoy teaching our young people!


Johnathan Despain
Wyoming 4-H Program Coordinator

Warren Crawford new state 4-H youth development specialist

By Robert Waggener

Editor, Office of Ag Communications and Technology

Warren Crawford enjoys teaching youths.

His work as an extension educator in Carbon County helped that county develop a number of successful 4-H and youth programs.

Camping, fishing, hunting, and spending time outside enjoying Mother Nature are among his hobbies.

Crawford's new job as state 4-H youth development specialist will bridge his professional interests with his personal avocations.

Previously the Carbon County 4-H/youth educator, Crawford has been promoted to the state 4-H office on the campus of the University of Wyoming.

Crawford will lead the state's 4-H natural resource programs, including the shooting sports, sportfishing, entomology, natural resources, geology, and range management projects.

He will continue to advise the Wyoming 4-H Youth Leadership Team and help the team organize its annual leadership conference on the UW campus.

"I am delighted that Warren has chosen to join the Wyoming 4-H Office in the role of a youth development specialist. He provided marvelous leadership for the CES 4-H and youth development program in Carbon County for more than six years. He is loved and appreciated by both leaders and youths in Carbon County," says College of Agriculture Associate Dean and CES Director Glen Whipple.

"I am confident that Warren will provide the same kind of inspired leadership to our statewide 4-H and youth programs," Whipple adds.

Crawford's first day in the state 4-H office was February 28.

"I really enjoy working with the kids. In my six years in Carbon County, I had a chance to see the 4-Hers and other youths develop and grow. 4-H gives young people more opportunities to do things they may not be able to do, everything from raising livestock to sewing beautiful outfits they can wear," Crawford says.

"I have joined a lot of the kids on trips to places like Kansas City, Missouri, Louisville, Kentucky, College Park, Maryland, and to the state capital in Cheyenne. The trips have given them a chance to see other parts of the United States and to meet and develop friendships with other 4-Hers," he adds.

Crawford will direct a number of 4-H natural resource programs.

"Numbers wise, the Wyoming 4-H Shooting Sports Program is the big one. The kids really enjoy shooting, and our program teaches them gun safety and the proper use and responsibility of firearms," he says.

About 550 youths from Wyoming participated in last year's 18th annual Wyoming 4-H State Shooting Sports Match in Douglas, while approximately 1,500 4-Hers took part in the state-qualifying county shoots.

Another program is still in its infancy, but it is being expanded. "The Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing Program is fairly new, and I see it growing," adds Crawford, who notes that a second annual Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing Camp



Warren Crawford

is July 18-20 in the Medicine Bow National Forest near Laramie.

Crawford says the title of the position he now occupies was previously "state 4-H natural resource specialist" but is now "state 4-H youth development specialist."

"The focus will still be on natural resource programs, but I hope to explore additional youth development issues including life skills and other broad topics," he notes.

"The biggest thing that drew me to the job is the challenge of developing programs statewide. I was able to do that pretty successfully on the county level in Carbon County, and now I look forward to duplicating that effort statewide and making the state programs stronger," he says.

In 1997, Crawford received a bachelor's degree in economics from Utah State University, in Logan, Utah. He then earned a master's degree in adult and post-secondary education and instructional technology from UW in 2003.

Horses prove potent prescription

Steve L. Miller, *Senior Editor, Office of Communications and Technology*

There's something about the outside of a horse that's good for the inside of a man, Sir Winston Churchill is credited with saying

Fifteen-year-old Kody and 10-year-old Kaycii Christiansen of Rock Springs are living proof. Leigh's disease had turned their lives upside down. They started horseback riding, joined a 4-H club, and are now back in the saddle of life.

Leigh's disease is an usually progressive disease characterized by degeneration of the central nervous system. Kaycii was diagnosed first at age 2, then Kody when he was in the eighth grade.

"I had started noticing it in the third grade," says Kody. "I was getting sick all the time. But it hit me hard in the third grade. I was missing a lot of school and getting weird things like meningitis."

His illness was finally diagnosed but not until much later, and not until after Kaycii had been diagnosed. "The doctors kept telling my mom I didn't have Leigh's disease," he says. "I was getting terribly sick. Mom had had enough. She made the doctors perform the tests."

The doctors did not believe both sister and

brother could have the same disease. "The doctors say having the disease in the same family is extremely rare," says Kody.

Because of their susceptibility to illnesses, their parents, Tammy and Harley, decided to have them home-schooled.

Kody admits he became lazy. "I was kind of a bum. I didn't want to do anything. I was hanging out with the wrong crowd and getting into trouble a lot. Never drugs."

Then, the Ride'em High Horse Club hosted a benefit horse show to generate proceeds for the siblings' medical fund. Deb Sundberg of Rock Springs, who is one of the leaders of the club, invited the two to her place to ride.

They joined the club.

Their lives haven't been the same.

"When I first got on the horse, I fell in love with riding," says Kody. "It was instantaneous. I don't know how to explain it. It made me forget about my sickness, my

past problems with health."

Deb and her husband, Ron, started the club nine years ago. The club now has 25 members. Deb, a forceful proponent of 4-H, says she's seen changes in youths working with horses. She's

certainly seen a change in the Christiansens.

"I've seen their spirits lift," she says. "When you talk about horses, they light up. Kody used to be down because he couldn't do things he used to do. By being able to ride a horse, he opened right up, and you could see his health change. Same with Kaycii."

Kody says he used to be sick once a week, and recently said he hadn't been sick in a month.

Tammy has also seen the changes.

"The horses have completely changed their lives. We don't know why. But we know it's the horses," she says. "The progression of their illness has changed since they've been riding horses. The doctors don't know why. They just say keep doing it. Leigh's disease is usually not a real fast progressing disease but fast enough."

Tammy sees the calming affect. "It's my dream come true to see them so happy. They are smiling every time they are riding."

Kaycii couldn't ride a bike. Couldn't swim. Couldn't walk places. Couldn't go to the park and play on the playground equipment.

She can do other things now.

Kaycii won a buckle in the walk/trot 10-and-under competition in Wind River Rider's Open Horse Show May 7 in Big Piney. She has a different take on her disease. "I've been sick since I was 2," she says. "I have my days where I really feel bad."

If she did too much, her whole body would hurt. "That keeps me up all night long," she says. "It has taken a lot out of my life."

"But if not for the disease, I wouldn't be involved with horses," Kaycii adds.



Kody Christiansen

Potent prescription

(Continued from page 3)

Kody likens riding to therapy, not just physical but mental. "I care for the animal. It teaches you responsibility. When taking care of a horse, you always have to be cautious about spooking it. It taught me to be more alert, more patient. They get confused. I never had patience before. Now, I have more. I learned to take my time on things."

His experience with horses made him change his mind about what he would like to do when he

them gentle," Tammy says. "Not that they were terrible kids. They weren't. It's the best thing that has happened to them. Kody was wearing the baggy pants, could have gone with the wrong crowd pretty easy, and was having a hard time accepting the disease and dealing with it. Being around horses, he's done a 180. He's 10 times more responsible and not hanging around that kind of crowd anymore."

What goes around comes around. Recently, the 4-H club had a garage sale. Kody and Kaycii and



Kaycii Christiansen

grows up, saying he didn't have a clue before horses.

"I have more of a guideline I want to go with," he now says. "It all has to do with horses."

The Sundbergs have mustangs now, and Kody is at that level. "He's helping train the mustangs," says Deb. "Ron is also a furrier, and Kody wants to learn how to work on hooves. He doesn't have the energy to go fast, but he wants to learn all aspects of horses."

Tammy sees as a mother the overall influence horses have had on her two children. "It made

the other members raised \$400 to donate to the medical fund of a young couple whose baby has been ill.

"I believe in the 4-H program," says Deb. "When I see a smile on their faces, that makes my day. People need to make the time (to work with kids). We need to spend more time with our youths. It's so rewarding for both. Kids become more responsible, and the adults give back to these kids."

On the Web: <http://healthlink.mcw.edu/article/921774134.html>

Resource available for including youths with disabilities in 4-H programs

4-H youth leaders and volunteers have a resource for including youth with disabilities into 4-H programs thanks to information compiled by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture.

"4-H: An Exclusively Inclusive Program," a new University of Wyoming Web site, was written with 4-H in mind but can be used by anyone working with youth. The information describes the benefits of including children with disabilities into 4-H programs and activities, training on understanding youth with disabilities, fact sheets about disabilities, links to disability-support associations, and a link to the Americans with Disabilities Act home page.

The information is available on-line by going to www.uwyo.edu/UWAG. At that site, click on the 4-H link. Inclusive 4-H is one of the options available. The Web address is www.uwyo.edu/wyo4h/Inclusive.

"4-H leaders, volunteers and educators need to have more information than just fact sheets," said Randy Weigel, professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. "That is why we also included links to resources and readings on working with young people and disabilities."

"A disability is not a reason to expect a young person to be helpless. A child with a disability has a limitation, but it is not debilitating. They have the right to experience opportunities just as someone without a disability does," added Weigel.

4-H scholarship endowment recognizes contributions of Powell couple

By Robert Waggener

Editor, Office of Ag
Communications and Technology

A Park County woman has contributed funds to establish a 4-H college scholarship endowment to recognize the work of Edna Mae McClaflin of Powell and her late husband, Wallace.

Shortly after the McClafkins homesteaded in Park County in the 1950s, they became active in 4-H, leading what became one of the largest clubs in the state and also heading up the sheep project.

Garnet Carey, who lives near Cody, recently sent a “very generous donation” to the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation to establish a scholarship fund, says foundation Director Steve Mack.

“In a letter, Ms. Carey wanted to acknowledge the leadership and commitment of Edna Mae and Wallace to the leadership and growth of the youths that 4-H positively impacts,” Mack says.

State 4-H Program Coordinator Johnathan Despain adds, “This donation says volumes about Edna’s leadership to the 4-H youths in Park County.”

Mrs. McClaflin says the gift made her feel “very blessed. I thought it was a very wonderful thing for Garnet to do. I hope the donation is one more way for 4-H to continue to do what it has for many years, and that is to help youths build character and knowledge.”

McClaflin says she and her late husband became actively involved in 4-H when their three children, Patricia, Mike, and Wayne, joined a Powell club.

“Wallace led sheep projects, and I was a leader in the Homestead Hustlers, which at one time was the largest club in Wyoming,” says McClaflin, who recalls that the club peaked at 90 members. “I got a lot of satisfaction out of 4-H. The more we got involved with youths, the more I saw in the value of learning. Many of our club members have gone on to become community leaders.”

She adds, “You can never invest too much into the lives of young people, for they in return make your life so much richer. It is gratifying to know that in some small way you helped them achieve some of their dreams and hopes for the future.”

The couple later became active in state 4-H, and Mrs. McClaflin wanted to carry on that work when her husband died.

“People were very gracious to me after Wallace passed away, and that’s when I decided to become involved with the 4-H foundation board. The people we were involved with in agriculture were more than ready to become donors, and they wanted to set up a foundation,” she says.

McClaflin started on the board in 1987.

“By staying so long with the foundation, it kept me involved with raising funds and making some decisions that we hoped would continue to make 4-H one of the best youth programs available to young people today,” she says.

Mack emphasizes, “Since Edna became involved, the foundation’s assets have grown by more than five times. Edna has really had a



Longtime 4-H leader and state volunteer Edna Mae McClaflin in 1992 received a “Partner in 4-H Award.”

passion and love for 4-H and youths. She’s always willing to help secure funds so more young people around the state would have opportunities to be involved in 4-H. She’s very dedicated and committed.”

Now 85, McClaflin stepped down from the board last year because of health problems, but she remains as active as she can in 4-H.

“I still help with fundraising, or if I can I assist a new leader. I try to help wherever I can.”

Mack says McClaflin has played a key role in the success of the foundation, which was established to secure funds in support of the Wyoming State 4-H Office, which is in the College of Agriculture.

“The role of board members is to go around communities in the state and use their contacts to help further the foundation’s mission,” Mack says.

The 15-member board meets two to three times per year. Members serve three-year terms.

“We miss Edna’s direct involvement in board activities, but her contributions have had lasting impacts,” Mack adds.

Glenrock's Kerry Nugent a voice for Wyoming youths

By Steve Miller, Senior Editor
Office of Communications and
Technology

4-H helped boost an 8-year-old Glenrock girl involved with rabbit projects to a 17 year-old providing a voice for the youths of Wyoming.

Kerry Nugent, daughter of Chauna and Brian Nugent, will complete her term on the Wyoming State 4-H Leadership Team this August. She also is on the National 4-H Youth Directions Council.

Nugent began leadership activities at age 10, and she became a junior leader at 13.

"Kerry is an outstanding individual who has really benefited from the 4-H program," says Johnathan Despain, state 4-H and youth development coordinator. "She has gained a lot of leadership skills that are evident in 4-H programming and her community."

Kerry at age 8 liked rabbits, but her father had said there was no need for them. So she searched for a use and found they were a 4-H project. Kerry showed rabbits for five years then was involved in such projects as visual arts, dogs, cooking, sewing, and cake decorating.

She then started leadership activities.

"The activities gave me the experience of doing things on my own," Nugent says. "It gave me self-discipline and time management (skills) and gave me the opportunity to run programs on my own and giving me a part in the planning process and the expectations to have it done."

Nugent says Sarah Cary Stoltenberg, Converse County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H



Kerry Nugent

and Youth program associate, was her biggest helper and was the one who pushed her the most. "She gave me enough support that I could get it done," says Nugent.

Stoltenberg calls Nugent "exceptional," and someone who loves every challenge she faces.

"She just has an incredible energy to her," says Stoltenberg, who has worked with Nugent for five years.

Sarah says she had encouraged Nugent to change to a club that had a more active membership and was in Nugent's community, and "just planted seeds of opportunities in 4-H. Every time I see an opportunity come up and I mention it to her, she jumps at it," says Stoltenberg.

"It's a pleasure when you work with a youth like her. It's great to be their cheerleader and have them pursue these opportunities."

Nugent plans to attend college in the fall. She will bring added skills from 4-H.

"I am very organized," she says. "I can handle stress well. I can do 50 things at once, and they usually turn out all right. I have good speaking skills, and I love to give speeches."

Areas Nugent says need improving include time management and realizing when

she has too much on her plate to turn people down.

The State 4-H Leadership Team serves as the youth voice at the state level for 4-H, she says. The team is responsible for managing the Gold Conference, the youth leadership conference. This year's conference was June 6-10 on the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie. The team also met with legislators last session and visited with Gov. Dave Freudenthal.

Nugent represents Wyoming on the National 4-H Youth Directions Council and serves as their national communications director. She will be the state representative until November and the communications director until March.

"Nugent has been trained in youth-adult partnerships for community action," says Despain.

"It's important and beneficial that youths be involved and show that they do care and do want a voice," says Nugent. "It shows the adults we are not just youths. We do have benefits and resources for them. We care enough about our future to be involved."

Nugent says the youth voice is promoted more now than in the past. "I think it's been good," she says. "It's been something everyone has been more aware of, to promote it more."

Despain says Nugent understands that youths need to be viewed in communities as resources and participants and not as just recipients of services.

"They should have a voice in how their communities function," says Despain. "Adults tend to view youths as recipients of services. They tend to view them as objects of concern, not as resources for positive change."

On the Web: www.n4-hydc.org/who/

FOUNDATION NOTES

4-Hers earn \$51,000 in scholarships; foundation seeks sponsors

By Steve Mack

Foundation Director

The Wyoming State 4-H Foundation is in full swing as the busy 4-H summer season approaches.

The 4-H scholarship committee recently awarded approximately \$51,000 to Wyoming 4-H members planning to attend the University of Wyoming or a community college in the state.

First-time scholarship winners were: Stephanie Budd, Platte County; Vanessa Greer, Niobrara; James Tomich, Sweetwater; Charli Raben, Goshen; Lauren Ingabrand, Sweetwater; Kadria Talbot, Washakie; James Comer, Campbell; Kathleen Meyers, Park; Rita Palm, Carbon; Lacey Rose, Goshen; Stephanie Pruitt, Laramie; Cally Pfister, Niobrara; Kitson Brown, Niobrara; Nikki Marincic, Sublette; Sheridan Little, Johnson; Kaila Rohrer, Washakie; and Bryan Overy, Uinta.

These youths have succeeded throughout their 4-H careers and should be commended for all they have accomplished.

Next year the scholarship committee will have even more scholarships to award to Wyoming youths. This is due to three recent donations to the 4-H foundation and the scholarship endowment program. This is an excellent way to honor or memorialize a family member, a loved one, or a 4-H leader or mentor who has had a tremendous impact on your life or the lives of other Wyoming 4-H youths.

New to the 4-H program and the related state contests this year is the intermediate age category. This category separates the former junior division (ages 8-13) into two age groups: junior (ages 8-10) and intermediate (ages 11-13). Creating this category has increased the number of awards available to 4-Hers by almost 50 percent.

The 4-H foundation has been busy finding support for these additional awards but is still in need of additional donors. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring an award for a deserving 4-H member, the



Steve Mack

foundation is the place to make that happen.

For more information on how to donate, please contact the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation at (307) 766-2528, e-mail me at smack@uwyo.edu, or mail a letter to 1000 E. University Ave., Department 3354, Laramie, WY 82071.

On the Web: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/wyo4h/Foundation.htm>

State leaders conference February 3-5 in Casper

The Wyoming State Leaders Conference is Friday through Sunday, February 3-5, 2006, at the Ag Resource and Learning Center Building, the Natrona County Cooperative Extension Office, 2011 Fairgrounds Road in Casper.

Friday night begins with clinics on horses, dogs, shooting sports and wool felting. Tours of Casper sites will also be available.

The remaining two days have many concurrent clinics and activities, with a state Leadership Council meeting Saturday. "We will have a large array of clinics going ranging from rubberstamping on leather, to leadership activities for youth, quality assurance in animals for livestock sales, photography, cats and many more," said Colleen Campbell, 4-H program associate for Natrona County.

V.J. Smith of South Dakota State University will be guest speaker at the banquet Saturday evening and a leadership clinic presenter. Smith is the director of the South Dakota State University Alumni Association.

For more information about the conference, call (307) 235-9400. There will be a Web site for the event linked through the State 4-H web page.

Volunteer leaders are the 'heart and soul' of Wyoming 4-H

By Robert Waggener

Editor, Office of Ag Communications and Technology

State 4-H Program Coordinator Johnathan Despain says volunteer leaders are the backbone of any successful 4-H program.

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of the educational

efforts of our 4-H programs. Leaders like Beulah, Cerella and Joyce who see the value of 4-H programs to the extent they have is phenomenal," Despain says.

Despain is referring to three leaders who have 133 years of combined service to Wyoming 4-H. They include Beulah Domsalla of Mills, Cerella

Overgard, who lives on a ranch northwest of Riverton, and Joyce Johnston of Powell.

"How often do you see a volunteer leader in any program for 40 or 50 years?" Despain asks. "How often do you see three ladies with 130 years of combined service to the state of Wyoming and the youths of our state?"

Cerella Overgard's 41-year career started with daughter's request

By Steve Miller

Senior Editor and Writer, Office of Ag Communications and Technology

Cerella Overgard crisscrossed the Intermountain West with her husband before alighting in the Midvale area 20 miles northwest of Riverton.

With two daughters and a 10-day-old son, the couple moved onto 100 acres of land.

Her husband Edwin had worked construction in projects in Rock Springs, South Dakota, Butte, Montana, Littleton, Colorado, Glendo Dam, then at Gas Hills in the uranium mine in 1958. The couple purchased 100 acres in the fall of 1962 in the Midvale area. They've been there since on Zigzag Road.

When her first daughter was old enough, she decided she wanted to join a 4-H club and study dairy. "Guess what?" Cerella says. "There were no dairy leaders, so Mom did it!"

Cerella had the experience. Her mother and father, Reinhold

and Rose Denke, who farmed north of the South Dakota Badlands, milked about 40 cows and separated the milk and shipped cream to Minneapolis, Minnesota. "That was our living when I was a child," she says now.

Her daughter's request started a 41-year 4-H volunteer career that is still going. That first club was the High Hopes. Cerella is now the community leader of the Midvale Outlaws.

"It's mostly girls," she says quickly to explain. "Somebody had kiddingly said to them 'You are just a bunch of outlaws!' and they used that name."

Cerella is also a 42-year member of a homemaker club and still active in the same club – the OAO, or Our Afternoon Off club. She has also received the Quealy Award, the highest honor given to homemakers in Wyoming.

After the High Hopes, which sometimes had as many as 45 4-Hers, she was with the Lone Star

club quite a few years and then the Outlaws.

"I was never in 4-H," Cerella says. "I was always interested in helping youngsters. I think they learn responsibility. Most take livestock as a project, and when you have livestock, you are responsible for their care. The kids knew that when the livestock had grown up, they were for sale. I think this gives them a lot of insight, and they are able to put their money away for awhile."

All three of her children are 10-year 4-H members. One daughter lives in Cheyenne, another in Alaska, and a son works at a mine near Wright.

"I've also taught hunter safety, although I'm out of the profession now," she says and laughs. "I drove a school bus for 17 years for Wind River schools, and right now I'm more involved in the VFW auxiliary."

The couple have six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren with a sixth on the way, says Cerella.

Joyce Johnson's 4-H experience led to adult career

By **Steve Miller**, Senior Editor
Office of Communications and
Technology

Joyce Johnston doesn't mind being bugged about her interest in insects which led to 41-plus years as a 4-H volunteer.

Johnston, the Park County Cooperative Extension Service horticulturalist program associate in Powell, grew up with three siblings on 10 acres that teemed with animal life.

Joyce joined 4-H when she was 9 years old as a member of the Willwood Junior Livestock Club. Good choice, she says. "The agriculture club was where the boys were!" The Willwood Junior Livestock Club still exists, and so does her love of entomology.

Having allergies to livestock and their feed, an entomology project opened the door for a life-long career. She later received her master's degree in entomology from the University of Wyoming.

"It all started in 4-H," she says

Continued involvement in other 4-H projects such as swine, sewing, gardening, landscaping and junior leadership kept Joyce busy until time came for her to receive the 10-year ring.

She preferred to keep her projects simple. "The more projects you have, the less time for friends and fun in the summer," Joyce says. "We had wonderful 4-H camps. The camps were held at the Buffalo Bill Boy Scout Camp on the north fork of the Shoshone River. Values, crafts, rifle range and life skills were built into the camps' agenda."

4-H leaders receive many benefits while educating 4-H youth.

Benefits such as building leadership qualities, working with people in the community, and developing individual self-esteem are a few. "An example would be being able to talk to anyone on any topic and feel good about doing it," she says. "We want the youth to learn values and life skills that they can use the rest of their lives."

The agenda is the same today in 4-H.

"For the last two years, two wonderful Park County 4-H Junior Leaders that I educated have

“4-H leaders receive many benefits while educating 4-H youth.”

conducted the entomology project," she says. "I am still available to help out when needed in entomology, geology and the vegetable judging projects. 4-H is a great youth organization. I enjoyed it as a youth and my children grew up with the values and life skills that they would not have found anywhere else.

"I love helping youth with their projects either by looking for rocks and insects in the hills or educating the proper ways to prepare vegetables for county fair exhibits."

Through the years, her only disappointment has been with parents, not with kids. "4-H teaches both youth and parents. Some parents wanted to use 4-H

project leaders as a babysitting service," Joyce says. "We take our volunteering seriously. Youth accomplish more and build better bonds with parents who become involved in 4-H."

Joyce advises a new key leader to make sure to sign the parents up as leaders, too, so they will accompany their children in learning about their projects and going on fieldtrips.

"If parents are involved, the kids are great," she says.

She predicts possible changes in 4-H. "As leaders we all need to look down the road 15 to 20 years and not be afraid to make changes in 4-H that will be of value to youth. 4-H has a lot of good programs, made better by redoing project manuals and changing methods of recording information," Joyce says.

"Youth need to experience a project and then discuss how it would enhance their lives. Sometimes it takes a little coaching for the 4-Her to understand the project. Do I think 4-H will grow more than it is now? No. Not with the busy lifestyle of today's families. The youth in the 21st century have a lot of activities. They are going to have to pick and choose to be able to enjoy their choices. When asked, activities with their friends, having fun and food is what the youth of today want."

Joyce and husband, Clifford, have two children and three grandsons – possible budding 4-Hers.

"I really want to thank 4-H for letting me volunteer, continue to grow in knowledge and be of value in my community," Joyce says.

51-year 4-H partner, Beulah Domsalla, a model for others

By **Steve Miller**, *Senior Editor*
Office of Communications and
Technology

Beulah Domsalla was a baby as she was rocked in the wagon her parents used to travel from near Paxton, Nebraska, to homestead near Glenrock.

She's 86 now, been married, had children, and whose husband, Fred, died two years ago. She's lived in the same house in Mills for 54 years, "and I'll be here the rest of my life to the day I die," she quips.

Beulah can't think of a better place to live than Wyoming. She's never thought of venturing away. "I came up here when I was a little nut, an infant," she says. "I married my husband, and they had started that coal mine." Her voice stops not out of emotion, but matter-of-factly waiting for another question.

Beulah has been active in 4-H either as a leader or as a volunteer for more than 51 years – all in Natrona County. She is a key leader, one who helps out however one can.

Linda Montgomery of Casper had Beulah and Ann Stratton as 4-H club co-leaders from age 8 through 14. Linda lived right next door to Beulah, and Linda rode with her to the meetings. She sees Beulah frequently. Ann died last year.

Herself a 28-year leader, Montgomery says she has modeled her leadership from Beulah.

"I guess why I am in 4-H is her, mainly," says Montgomery, who adds that four generations of her own family have been involved in 4-H. "Because of my experiences, I just liked it. I sort of do old school, like Beulah did."

Beulah doesn't remember why she decided to start a 4-H club. "It's been so darn long ago," she says. "We had three daughters. I felt our kids should have something to do



Colleen Campbell, left, presents Beulah Domsalla the 50-year award from the Natrona County 4-H Council. Campbell is 4-H program associate in the Natrona County CES office.

We started it in my basement, but we had so darn many kids in the club our basement was getting darn little. We got a building by the fairgrounds and started it in there."

She started Shady Acres 4-H Club, a name she laughs about now, accounting for how few trees are in some parts of Wyoming.

"I let the kids have every kind of project," says Beulah. "Cooking, sewing and even snakes."

That first year the club had one project. The second year it had two and three projects the third year.

"After that they could have any kind of project they wanted, but they had to complete every project," she says. "I was stern with them. I didn't have to put up with that crap, you know. When they came to my house, they sat and listened. I had the best 4-H kids. But I set the rules down with the parents first. I told them if the kids were not good they would go home.

"I had one lady with three or four kids. She came and said she wanted a meeting every night. She was always in the bar every night. I said 'lady, I don't want your kids anymore.' She came and got them. I wasn't going to baby-sit them."

She insisted on members towing the line. "They were supposed to sit

and listen and complete their projects or they would get kicked out," she says. "If I was going to put in all that time, you just can't put up with that."

Today, says Montgomery, many 4-Hers do their projects at home. She has her club members manage their projects like Beulah had required of hers. "You went there, did your project, and made sure you got it done. You always had to give demonstrations. In my club, you have to give demonstrations. I was an extremely shy child. Now, I'm the total opposite. I think that's probably because of 4-H.

"What 4-H is all about, I got from her, that club."

Beulah was a young woman hauling coal when she met Fred, her soon-to-be husband. "I had my own truck, pickup, tools," she says, remembering. "I'd haul to Glenrock and Douglas and to the (forest) rangers."

Coal eventually brought the husband and wife together. "My husband, his dad, and his brother started the Badger Coal Mine with a borrowed wheelbarrow, pitchfork, and a donkey. They started it from scratch."

It was only a matter of time before the two met and married. They couldn't make a living at the mine and moved to Casper, where he went to work for Standard Oil. They bought a house in Mills and settled into life.

Their three daughters went through 4-H and helped Beulah with the club. Although still a volunteer, she says she misses the clubs.

"Because I liked it," she says matter-of-factly. "It's so interesting. You get attached to it. You can't get over it."

Beulah says she will be 87 on October 22.

Wyoming 4-H judging teams place in national contests

By Stephen Schafer

4-H Youth Specialist, Livestock, equine, poultry, and rabbit programs

Three Wyoming 4-H judging teams (livestock, horse, and meat) excelled in their respective national contests at the Western 4-H Roundup this year. The roundup is held in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado.

The livestock judging team was composed of 4-H members from Big Horn County, and they were the national champions.

Members were Marty Gifford of Greybull, Clayton Malson of Cowley, and Casey Sorenson of Deaver, and they were coached by Russ Boardman, a 4-H volunteer leader from Frannie.

The team placed first in sheep classes, second in swine classes, second in oral reasons, and fourth in beef classes.

Individual honors were also earned by Marty and Casey. Marty was the reserve champion high individual, and she was second in swine classes, second in oral reasons, and third in sheep classes.

Casey tied for 10th overall in individual competition.



Steve Schafer

The meat judging team was comprised of 4-H members from Fremont County, and they placed third. Members were Mark Evans, Amanda Garland, and Garrett Horton from Pavillion, and Hannah Osborne from Riverton.

They were coached by Amanda Winchester and Charlie Griffin, volunteer 4-H leaders from Riverton; and Ron Cunningham, a University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service area educator for Fremont County and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The team was second in oral reasons, third in retail cut

identification, and fourth in meat classes.

Individual honors went to Garrett and Mark. Garrett was fourth high overall individual, and he was second in meat classes, fourth in oral reasons, and fifth in retail cut identification.

Mark was the seventh high overall individual.

The horse judging team was from Platte County, and they finished in sixth place.

Members were Katy Crossland, Kelsey Jenkins, Lexie Klatt, and Ashlee McGuire, all from Wheatland, and they were coached by Mike Hoffland, a 4-H leader from Wheatland.

The team was third in performance judging and fourth in oral reasons. Individual honors were also received by the team members. Lexie was third in oral reasons and fourth in halter judging. Ashlee was sixth in oral reasons, and Katy Crossland finished seventh in performance judging.

The teams earned their trips to the national contests by qualifying at their respective state contests.

On the Web: http://www.uwyo.edu/ces/wyo4h/4-HWebsite/Newsletters/Animal_Main.html

Wyoming State Fair Web site wealth of information

Don't pass up the Web site of the Wyoming State Fair if in need of leader information.

The site <http://www.wystatefair.com> is broken into News Room, 2005 Fair & Rodeo, WSF Entry Forms, facility rentals, links, and maps. Each link leads to more information about this year's state fair.

The News Room has a link to the complete Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo schedule.



From Warren's desk...

I want to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Warren Crawford and I am the new youth development specialist in the State 4-H Office.

I am writing this column having only been in this position for about four months, but I already feel like an experienced veteran. So much has happened in the short amount of time, but I guess there is nothing like jumping in and getting your feet wet right from the start.

I want to talk about one of my most rewarding and most important responsibilities – providing leadership training, development, and opportunities for our members. The Wyoming 4-H program is renewing its commitment to providing our youth members with the leadership skills necessary to lead our state into the future.

This commitment is being mapped out with the development of the new Wyoming Youth Leadership Education (WYLE) curriculum and the Youth in Governance program. The purpose of this program is to develop leadership skills in Wyoming youth through utilization of new and innovative practices and to foster youth-adult partnerships with the end goal of securing youth as equal decision makers within our communities.

Although the primary focus of Youth in Governance Program is local youth serving their local communities, the State 4-H Program is also making the commitment to provide youth members with leadership and decision-making responsibilities to direct the 4-H program throughout Wyoming.

The redesign of the State 4-H Leadership Team is one example of this commitment. The 4-H Leadership Team is a

group of seven outstanding individuals selected because of their experience and desire to help lead the 4-H program on a state-wide basis. The team is made up of two members elected by their peers at our annual leadership conference, and the remaining five are selected through an application and interview process held annually at the Wyoming State Fair.

As you participate and lead 4-H clubs, put on county events, camps, clinics, or contests, I encourage you to keep in mind that one of our goals in 4-H is to develop future leaders. We are a youth-serving organization, so I feel it is imperative we utilize the skills and abilities of our youth leaders. 4-H was founded on the principal of “learning by doing” and what better opportunities are there available to practice what we preach?

WYOMING 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location
Sportfishing Camp	July 18-20	UW Rec. Camp, Centennial
Wyoming State Fair	August 13-20	Douglas
Livestock Judging Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Vegetable Judging Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Fashion Revue	State Fair	Douglas
Presentation Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Shooting Sports Awards Trip	September 21-25	Raton, New Mexico
National 4-H Congress	November 24-28	Atlanta, Georgia