

The Wyoming Leader

Spring 2002



You will wear many hats, including that of a lifelong learner. — Greta K. Nagel



Helping youth learn to make good decisions while gaining the skills they will need to succeed in real life is the focal point of the 4-H program. “Responsibility,” “honesty,” “caring,” and “teamwork” are more than just buzz words used by company managers to describe their ideal employees; these words describe the character and habits of youth who are involved in 4-H. A recent study in Montana found that 4-H members get better grades, don’t participate in risky behavior, are more likely to take on leadership roles, and have better relationships with adults than their peers who are not involved in 4-H.

That is why I’ve made 4-H my career.

I’m Johnathan Despain, the new State 4-H Program Coordinator and Volunteer Development Specialist. I was raised in Big Horn County and graduated from the University of Wyoming. I worked as a county 4-H Program Associate in Washakie County for a little more than four years.

4-H has always been an integral part of my life. As a child, I lived and breathed for the county fair, and as I got a little older, the Wyoming State Fair became my goal. As a teenager, I became involved in 4-H as much as possible, from the county level to state activities. I began to realize how the enjoyment of individual 4-H activities builds into the overall power of the program.

Whenever I try to describe the power of 4-H, I think of a story that’s been passed down in my family for several generations. A neighbor once asked my grandfather why he bothered investing so much money, time, and anguish in his children’s 4-H dairy cow project.

“We have the cows,” my grandfather explained, “not for the milk, but for the kids. We’re raising kids, not cows.”

That sentiment is at the core of every 4-H project, from animals to shooting sports to ready-to-wear and beyond. It’s not about cows or clothes or marksmanship, but about kids and about 4-H volunteers mentoring 4-H members—helping them to expand their experiences and abilities and to broaden the scope of their imaginations—while preparing them for their lives as adults. And in the end, it’s about kids with self confidence who know how to raise livestock, kids who are responsible and honest and can cut fabric on the bias or hand-finish a hem, kids whose commitment to teamwork is as impressive as their shooting skills.

Please explore the many opportunities 4-H offers for youth members and volunteers. We want you to continue to help us make a difference in the lives of Wyoming’s youth today. As a 4-H volunteer, you already know that 4-H can help change the lives of youth, but this wouldn’t be possible without a century’s worth of volunteer leaders, including you. The power of 4-H is the result of your interest and involvement, and the time and effort you bring to the program. Thank you!



Celebrating 100 years of 4-H

by Donna Woitaszewski,
4-H Centennial Coordinator
University of Wyoming Cooperative
Extension Service

This year, 4-H commemorates its 100th anniversary as one of America's oldest and most influential youth development organizations. In true form, 4-H is celebrating its centennial not by erecting a monument to itself, but by giving America the Power of YOUth, a year-long

program to make our communities, our country, and our world the best it can be. The 4-H Power of YOUth Pledge Campaign is harnessing the energy, interests, and geographic reach of the program's participants, beginning with each 4-H member who volunteers his or her time for community service.

Here's the formula: 4-H has 6.8 million members and 610,000 adult leaders. If everyone donated a day of community service to a civic project, it would generate nearly 60 million volunteer hours worth over \$300 million at just the minimum wage. And if every 4-H participant recruits another worker, the numbers double—120 million hours and \$600 million in civic engagement.

A 7-year-old might pledge to help elderly neighbors keep their yards clean. A 12-year-old might take three friends to clean up a park or start a group at school that would help classmates find solutions to arguments. An older teen might pledge to raise money for a domestic violence shelter, organize a countywide cleanup, or collect cans of food for a local food bank.

The Power of YOUth Pledge Campaign is being conducted in tandem with 4-H's National Centennial Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century, a series of local, state, and national conversations uniting children, adults, and civic leaders throughout the country. The purpose of these conversations was to identify the needs of communities nationwide and develop a youth-led action plan to address these needs. The findings of these conversations served as the basis for an action plan, which was delivered to President Bush, members of Congress, governors and others during the National Conversation in Washington, D.C.

4-H members and leaders are encouraged to involve other organizations and individuals in the Power of YOUth Campaign. For more information, contact your county extension office or Donna Woitaszewski, 4-H Centennial Coordinator, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 3354, Laramie, WY 82071.

Pledges may be made on-line at www.4hcentennial.org/powerofyouth.



Left to right: Krystal, Lusk; Elizabeth, Worland; Senator Enzi; Andy, Worland; and Cissie, Rawlins.

National 4-H Hall of Fame inducts new members

Wyoming Senator Craig Thomas was one of the 100 individuals inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame April 11, 2002. The inductees represent the dedicated volunteers and county, state, and national staff members who have helped millions of young people learn valuable life skills through 4-H.

Senator Thomas credits his ability to work and get along with a variety of people, to respect others and their viewpoints, and to work hard on the task at hand to his 4-H experiences as a young boy in Park County, Wyoming.

The induction ceremony took place at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, during the National 4-H Conference. Every state and Washington, D.C., had at least one favorite son or daughter inducted. The National 4-H Council, USDA, and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents also were well represented.

The Centennial Class of 2002 includes 13 4-H pioneers; 29 state extension directors, state program leaders, or state staff; 6 major donors; 9 county 4-H agents; 10 of the founders of the National Association of Extension and 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA); 11

long-term volunteers—many with 50 or more years of service; 3 members of Congress or the U.S. Senate; 6 national program leaders; and a songwriter, an astronaut, and several successful businessmen.

The Hall of Fame will exist exclusively in cyberspace on the national 4-H website (www.nae4ha.org/hof). Each inductee will have his or her own web page featuring a photograph, a brief biography, and a quote. Many of these dedicated people are deceased, but as inductees of the 4-H Hall of Fame, the memories of their dedication to 4-H will live on.

UW 4-H youth specialist chairs national curriculum committee

by Regan Smith, Intern
Office of Agricultural Communications
and Technology

In the past, 4-H project manuals were not considered the most exciting part of the program. However, one of the University of Wyoming's own, Steve Schafer of the College of Agriculture, has been invited to help develop a project manual that will optimize 4-Hers' experiences through a fun and interactive format. The new manual will provide more than basic information—it will provide a foundation for learning through experience.

Schafer, the UW 4-H Youth Specialist, was selected in February by the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System to serve as a National Liaison for the organization. In this capacity, he will chair a committee in charge of developing the national 4-H Meat Goat Project Manual.

Schafer was selected for the position because of his extensive experience in the development and evaluation of state 4-H livestock manuals and his comprehensive understanding of the experiential learning cycle, the Targeting Life Skills model, and curriculum development.

Schafer is working with Susan Kerr, professor of animal science at Washington State University and chairperson for

cooperative extension in Klickitat County, to coordinate the efforts of 17 committee members who have been selected for their different areas of expertise in meat goats. The design team will produce three different meat goat manuals based on the level of experience of the 4-Her, as well as a project helper manual and an up-to-date website.

Aside from directing the design team, Schafer will also be writing a section of the manual on the different breeds of meat goats and assisting with a section on proper showing and grooming techniques.

Though the design team has been communicating primarily by e-mail, they will meet in September and October 2002 to assess their productivity. The team's efforts have been coordinated through the use of a project page on the web that allows team members to post their work

and obtain feedback from their peers.

"It's great to have a hand in something like this," Schafer said. "Not only are we making the information about these projects as comprehensive as possible, we're putting it all together in a way that's interesting and easy for project members to understand. And this, like any new project, has the potential to interest even more kids in 4-H programs. I'm just glad to be a part of it."



Steve Schafer

2002 Wyoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location
Wool Judging Contest	May 31-June 1	Campbell County
Youth Leadership Conference	June 10-14	Laramie
Horse Camp	June 14-16	Douglas
Citizenship Washington Focus	June 15-22	Washington, D.C.
Camp FANTASTIC	June 18-20	Jackson
Horse Judging Contest	June 26	Torrington
Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest	June 27-28	Goshen County
Shooting Sports Match	July 12-14	Douglas
National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest	July 24-28	Wooster, Ohio
Wyoming State Fair	August 11-18	Douglas
Shooting Sports Award Trip	September 11-15	Raton, New Mexico

FOUNDATION NOTES

Wyoming State 4-H Foundation and Wyoming Livestock Roundup Catch-a-Calf contest

The Wyoming State 4-H Foundation and the Wyoming Livestock Roundup will sponsor the Catch-a-Calf contest on Thursday, August 15, 2002, at the Wyoming State Fair. During the event, 20 youth will vie for the opportunity to catch 1 of 10 sponsored calves. The 10 winning contestants will show their calves at the 2003 Wyoming State Fair. The contest is coordinated by Jennifer Womack from the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and Jill Klein, 4-H Youth Specialist, Wyoming State 4-H Foundation. For additional information, contact Jennifer (307) 234-2700, Jill (307) 322-3667, or Fred Schlutt (307) 766-3430.

Helen Miller and 4-H Foundation Discretionary Grant Funds available

During the 2001 annual meeting of the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation, the Board of Directors voted to channel discretionary funds from Helen Miller and the 4-H Foundation into a grant program. Grants from this fund are subject to the discretion of the board, and applications will be considered at each scheduled board meeting. Grant applications must be received by the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation 30 days prior to the next board meeting. Applications may be downloaded from the Wyoming 4-H website: www.uwyo.edu/ces/wyo4h/wyopr.htm. For more information, contact Fred Schlutt at (307) 766-3430.

Community Pride Grants

Chevron USA has contributed to the Wyoming Community Pride Program's grants to fund projects and training. Information and grant applications are available on the Wyoming 4-H website: www.uwyo.edu/ces/wyo4h/wyopr.htm.

2002 Wyoming State Fair

The Wyoming State Fair will be held August 10-17, 2002. The 4-H section of the State Fair Premium Book and the 2002 Wyoming State Fair 4-H changes can be found on the Wyoming 4-H website: www.uwyo.edu/ces/wyo4h/wyopr.htm.

4-H in Big Horn County: A family affair

“4-H is something our family has always been involved in,” said Chandra Preator, 18, of Greybull. “My younger sister and I learned from our older brothers and from our own experiences. In turn, we are now able to help younger kids in 4-H.”

“Helping kids is what the Preators’ life is about,” said Gretchen Gasvoda-Kelso, Big Horn County 4-H volunteer. “They are positive and consistent in their willingness to teach others.”

Chandra was a junior leader in Big Horn County 4-H until she enrolled at the

University of Wyoming in the fall of 2001. But if her siblings’ involvement in 4-H is a predictor, her associations with 4-H will continue to benefit her as she goes through life.

4-H has been a part of the Preator family since the oldest son, Aaron, was 8 years old. All the Preator children—Aaron (26), Brad (25), Ryan (22), Chandra (18) and Lacey (14)—have been involved in 4-H, and their mom,

Judy, has been a leader in

Big Horn County for many years. Aaron, who is now a professor of animal science and livestock judging coach at Panhandle State University in Oklahoma, began his career as a Cooperative Extension Service (CES) educator in Texas.



“When Aaron worked as an agriculture agent, he saw CES from a different angle,” said Judy Preator. “He learned exactly what I’ve seen as an adult volunteer—4-H is one of the best ways in which

you can have a positive impact on children’s lives.”

According to Big Horn County 4-H volunteer Dennis Barnard, Chandra has already had an impact on the lives of younger children in the county. “Chandra has been one of the most active 4-H members not only in this county, but in Wyoming as a whole,” he said. “Young people around the state greatly benefited from the example she set as a junior leader.”

“We all learned good leadership skills and the value of helping younger 4-H members,” Chandra said. “4-H helps you focus on community service in a way that you might not otherwise be aware of if you weren’t a member of this organization.”

Gosvoda-Kelso noted Chandra has contributed a great deal to Big Horn County during her years in 4-H. “Chandra is willing to explain a concept to anyone who asks—whether it’s a 9-year-old jun-

ior 4-H’er or a 50-year-old leader—and make it accessible and fun for that person to learn,” she said. “Anyone who has had the opportunity to learn from Chandra should hang on to that knowledge.”

Chandra was awarded the senior 4-H Best in Class Showmanship Award at the 2001 Wyoming State Fair, and Lacey won the junior division Showmanship Award at the 2000 State Fair. “The process of preparing to show a pig at fair teaches you so many things,” said Chandra. “We have learned about nutrition, feeding and care of livestock, as well as different showing techniques.”

“In addition to practicing the basics of preparing an animal for fair, Chandra earned this award through her excellent self-control and communication in the show ring,” said Barnard. “Her hard work really paid off.”

4-H also has meant times of family togetherness for the

Preators. “I can’t think of a better way to spend time with kids,” said Judy Preator.

“4-H is something everyone can participate in,” said Chandra. “The more you get involved, the more fun everyone has—it really is a family thing.”



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