



C O N N E C T I C U T

4-H



NEWSLETTER

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FOR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, LEADERS, AND FRIENDS OF 4-H

Caring For Your Animal Before, During, and After the Fair

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Animal shows, 4-H fairs and other exhibitions where animals are on display for the public are common in New England, and across the nation, and are the only direct contact that most urban dwellers have with farmers or farm animals. It is therefore extremely important that what they see and experience is the best we have to offer in terms of animal care and management. Exhibitors must be knowledgeable and be able to provide accurate, science based information about the animals under their care.



Proper care and management starts the moment the animal comes under your care. This includes transportation from the point of purchase to its home at your farm, facility or home. Best management practices for hous-

ing and environment, feeding, health care and biosecurity, and transportation must be followed for each species of animal under your care. For farm animals, the local extension agent or extension specialist at the university will be able to provide this information for you. For pet animals such as dogs or cats, the breed associations for each are usually good sources of information on their care.

Animals that are in less than top condition should not be put on public display. Some animals that are in very good production condition, such as dairy cattle, may look bony or skinny to the uneducated public and care must be taken to explain in precise terms that while the animal may look underfed it is actually quite healthy and a good producer of milk.

The welfare of the animal should be the primary concern of all who care for animals, which means that the basic needs of the

animal in terms of social and physical environment and housing, nutrition and health care are being met. This will be the case if best management practices are being followed.

Youth preparing an animal for show must be taught the proper techniques of fitting so the animal will not be injured in the process. Halter training, trimming hair or wool, hoof and foot care, etc., are practices that may be perceived by the general public as stressful to the animal, which is true if they are not done properly. When these practices are being performed in a public place, such as in a show barn, be sure that a knowledgeable spokesperson is available to explain to the public what is being done and why, and how this is not harming the animal.

Show barn management should regularly check to be sure that exhibitors allow proper space for each animal, are using the correct form of restraint, and animals are kept clean and properly bedded to ensure their comfort. In hot weather, proper ventilation should be provided. They should also check to be sure all animals are being regularly fed and watered. They should also be alert for any management and care practices of the exhibitors that are unacceptable.

Show barn managers and exhibitors should be prepared for dealing with animal activists. Our concern is the welfare of the



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animal, not animal rights. We believe that animals should be properly cared for, but they are animals, not humans, and should not be compared with humans relative to social, environmental, and nutritional needs. Again, a qualified spokesperson should be available at each event to help explain to the public the purpose of the show and how the welfare of the animal is the primary concern.

Avoid confrontation. If someone asks excessive questions, especially about how you feel about eating your pet, etc., and is taking a lot of pictures of the animals, barns, exhibitors, then the spokesperson or law enforcement should be contacted immediately and let them deal with the person. Remember, not all people who are asking questions are animal activists, some may just be truly curious about what you are doing and you should treat them with courtesy and respect and explain the care and management afforded your animals.

2010 CT 4-H All Camps

*Marc Cournoyer
Windham County 4-H Program
Coordinator*

On the weekend of June 18-20, 2010 over 100 4-H camp staff, foundation members and other invited guests participated in the 14th annual CT 4-H All Camp staff training weekend which was held at the New London County 4-H Camp in North Franklin, CT. This three day event brings 4-H camp staff from around the state together to receive training on an assortment of topics including DCF Mandated Reporter and blood borne pathogens to name just a few.

Guest presenters including former camp director and motivational speaker Chuck Lester and nationally recognized camp expert Steve Maguire were also present to speak about various camp dynamics that

all camp staff face on a regular basis. Topics included how to work with homesick campers, positive behavior modification skills, beating burnout as the summer progresses, motivating campers and teen leaders to reach their potential and a host of other areas that camp staff need in order to provide their best to children in their care throughout the summer. Scott Driscoll from Internet Safety Concepts was also present on Sunday morning to talk to staff about proper internet behavior and other public safety issues. In this world of social media all professionals need to be aware of their responsibilities when communicating online.



The theme of this year's All Camp was "Peace, Love and Camp". Not only did this theme play into the presentations of speakers throughout the weekend but was also evident in the lighter moments throughout when staff from different camps had opportunities to realize the universal goal they have as 4-H camp professionals. As one camp staff member said, "We might come from different places but we are all here for the kids and that is universal no matter where you are located."

Don Beebe, New London County camp foundation member says that the All Camp program was created 14 years ago as a means for 4-H camps from around the state to pool their financial resources thus being able to invite nationally recognized speakers to provide training. Up to that point camps did not have the resources to bring in speakers of this caliber on their individual

budgets.

The All Camp committee is a group of camp staff, foundation members and county 4-H extension educators who spend a year meeting monthly to plan what needs to happen to make this annual event the success that it is. Participants in this year's All Camp included staff personnel from the New London County 4-H camp, the Hartford County 4-H camp and the Windham-Tolland 4-H camp. These young people not only participate in this program but also spend a week of intensive training at their respective camps in preparation for the summer season. The Middlesex County camp is also a recognized 4-H camp in Connecticut though it was not able to be present at this year's All Camp event.

There are currently four established 4-H camps in Connecticut including the Middlesex County camp in Moodus, the Hartford County 4-H camp in Marlborough, the New London County 4-H camp in North Franklin and the Windham-Tolland 4-H camp in Pomfret Center. If you would like more information about any of the 4-H camps or would be interested in making a donation to assist with the CT 4-H All Camp training weekend you may contact Marc Cournoyer, CT 4-H camp liaison at 860-774-9600 or marc.cournoyer@uconn.edu.

Middlesex County 4-H Members Win Horse Bowl World Championship

Four 4-H members from Middlesex County, Emily Berman, Emily Ferjak, Heather Morrow and Alyssa Payette along with their coaches, Robyn and Kerri Fortier, traveled to Oklahoma this summer to compete in the Horse Bowl World Championship at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA) Youth World Championship Horse Show. On August 3rd the four young women from Connecticut walked into the chilly, air-

conditioned Sales Pavilion at the Oklahoma State Fair Grounds to face 13 teams also competing for the championship. Little did they know they would be walking out of the competition with World Championship belt buckles in hand and the title of World Championship Horse Bowl Team.



The girls had to study seven new source books, some of which include college equine science textbooks, in order to be competitive at the contest. They also had to fund raise over \$1500 in preparation for their trip.

After a grueling final round against North Carolina the Connecticut team emerged victorious. As Alyssa Payette states, "Our final round against North Carolina was the most exciting part of the contest because



the other team put up a good fight. All of us were fighting for the winning title, going back and forth for every question which added to the suspense." Congratulations to the Connecticut team and their coaches for all their hard work and perseverance.

4-H Teen Urban Gardening Project
Through a USDA Children, Youth and Family at Risk grant, 4-H clubs are being created in New London and Bridgeport through an after school and summer urban gardening 4-H program. By creating

learning opportunities in a safe environment with supportive staff, adult community members and each other, teens learn to become competent young adults. Using the urban garden as a life laboratory they will learn and practice life skills and leadership in their peer group, their families and the wider community. Teens will learn about planning, recruiting and gathering resources as well as experience gardening, practice entrepreneurial skills, develop leadership skills, and like good gardeners, they will share the bounty and continue to sow the seeds of opportunity. Computer technology will be an integral part of the learning process for the participants. The goal and objective are relevant because through a 4-H framework teens are offered positive choices.

The desired long term results and goal of the 4-H Teen Urban Gardening Project is to teach 4-H teens through a comprehensive urban gardening program, life skills, responsible family membership, workforce development and participatory citizenship. Participants to be served live in at risk neighborhoods in New London and Bridgeport, CT. The long term desired result is to build a vibrant local food system and a food secure community by increasing the community capacity to sustain an urban gardening program. The age range of 4-H participants is youth ages 13 to 19. The 4-Hers will meet twice a week for two hours each on average and more hours during the growing season. The curriculum used will be the "Down to Earth" 4-H Gardening Curriculum. Integrated throughout the project is a focus on community collaboration to use existing and underused resources and technology to highlight program planning, gathering research, development and implementation, networking, and communication between the two sites.

Tolland County 4-Hers and Master Gardeners Bring People's Garden Harvest to Community Soup Kitchen's Table

On a beautiful August afternoon, adult and youth volunteers from 4-H and the Master Gardeners program came to-

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gether at the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC) People's Garden to pick the herbs and vegetables that were ready for harvest. Heirloom tomatoes, green beans, basil, dill, sage and garlic chives were some of the plants added to the first basket gathered for the local community soup kitchen. Peppers, melons and zucchini will be ready to harvest in the coming weeks as more baskets of food are created and donated.



Community and neighborhood outreach and education unite people towards common goals. Youth involvement is essential to the continued growth and development of any program because with youth comes the future. The TAC People's Garden is a cooperative endeavor between the TAC Executive Board, NRCS,

Master Gardeners and 4-H along with community leaders, volunteers and local schools.



The vegetable garden is just one area where individuals and groups can gather, learn, share and enjoy. Surrounding TAC's many barns, buildings and pavilions are rain gardens, a pollinator garden, compost bins, vegetated buffers and edible shrubs. These community spaces and structures are places for people to explore ideas, inspire creativity and innovate problem solving. Health, sustainability, education, potable water and environmental impacts are areas for further study.

4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.