THE PEACH PRESS

The Official Publication for the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents



Important Reminders

GAE4-HA Membership Final Postmark Date January 13, 2021

GAE4-HA Annual Meeting May 3-5, 2021

A Message from President Jones

As the holiday season is upon us, I want to reflect, to reminisce, and regain perspective. As a child and even now as an adult with children of my own, one of my favorite holiday traditions is piling up in the car & going to see Christmas lights. I remember the anticipation of what we would see and feeling of togetherness as we rode around listening to Christmas music and finding lights. Seeing the wonder in my children's eyes brings back that warm nostalgic feeling. I think sometimes we lose that awe & sense of wonder in our everyday lives & even in our jobs. In this midst of this pandemic, awe & wonder are often no where to be found; however, I think 4-H has always had the perfect opportunity to create & afford opportunities for those moments. The light in a child's eyes as they hear



their name called for an achievement in 4-H, the joy of making new friends across the state & nation with 4-H, the wonder and excitement of programs and activities in 4-H, the sound of laughter as youth meet & have fun face-to-face or via Zoom, the desire of youth to explore and learn about new topics in 4-H even in nontraditional settings, and the buzz of kids being resilient time after time as COVID-19 has altered plans and changed activities or events. 4-H helps youth grow and learn, and your presence makes that happen. Make sure you are present, engaged, and continuing to build relationships as we forge toward a new year.

I also think of decorating the tree and taking time to talk about each ornament we have made, been given, or purchased on special trips over the years. This is something I still do with my own children. We get ornaments from our family trips & travels to reminisce about during our time together decorating the tree during the holiday season. It is those moments of presence that I adore the most. Think presence not presents. If you must associate the season with presents or gifts, consider the greatest gift we can give others is our time. Gifting our time doesn't only apply to our 4-H'ers, it can mean spending time with or doing something special for a colleague, giving your time to your community, or making sure your donors and supporters know you appreciate them. Your presence is needed to make sure 4-H continues to be successful in your county & beyond.

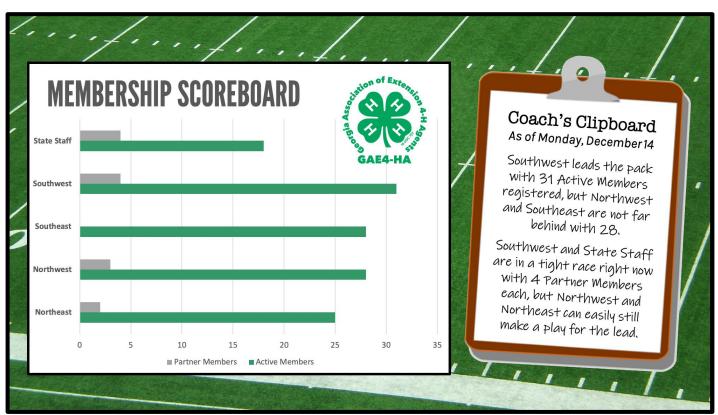
Take time to reminisce all of those fond holiday memories & traditions you loved growing up. Every single one of them included presence whether in person or felt. You can be present in numerous ways: via emails, texts, Zoom meetings, front porch or mailbox drop-offs, sidewalk parades, handwritten letters, face-to-face meetings, and more. Stay connected through the holidays and the rest of 2020, and start 2021 off with your presence! It has been a pleasure serving you all in 2020, and I cannot wait to see the wonderful things this association and Georgia 4-H accomplishes in the new year. I hope you all take time to make sure your presence is known with your family, your 4-H program, & your communities. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



GAE4-HA 2021 Membership Drive

Register Today!

Members must be registered online and dues payment received by GAE4-HA Treasurer by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 to be eligible for awards.



Members who met the Early Bird Registration deadline were entered into a drawing for free registration to the 2021 GAE4-HA Annual Meeting.

Results are in.... Lauryn Gilmer is the WINNER!

1st Alternate: Megan Powell; 2nd Alternate: Cindy Sheram; 3rd Alternate: Lori Bledsoe

Visit https://site.extension.uga.edu/gae4-ha/membership/ for full membership details, dues, and the link to join!



Serve GAE4-HA in a Leadership Role

Take the Opportunity to Serve GAE4-HA!

During our state meeting in 2021, the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents will be electing two officers: a Treasurer (2-year term) and a Vice President (a 4-year term that ascends to being the President). As the GAE4-HA Past President, Cheryl Poppell serves as the Chair of the Nominating Committee and will appoint members to serve. The Nominating Committee solicits candidates for both of these important positions and coordinates the election process. Those interesting in running, must first seek the approval of administration beginning with their county CEC and ultimately ending with the Associate Dean for Extension. The approval form is available on the GAE4-HA Webpage under documents

(https://site.extension.uga.edu/gae4-ha/documents-forms/). Prior approval has been needed to serve in national association leadership roles in the past. However, approval is now needed to serve in some state association leadership roles, including any office that ascends to the President and Treasurer. Candidates will have to submit the required forms and obtain all necessary approvals six weeks before the election. The deadline for this form to be submitted is February 26, 2021. Any interested candidates for the Vice President position and Secretary position are welcome to contact any member of the Nominating Committee for more information. In addition to the document mentioned above, candidates should submit a 1-2 page biographical sketch, outlining their background and experiences, previous leadership roles, and qualifications for office. Additionally, they should also complete the attached form (will be emailed out) and obtain all necessary levels of support. The deadline for both the biographical sketch and form is Monday, March 1, 2021. All paperwork should be submitted to Cheryl Poppell at cashburn@uga.edu.

Contact Cheryl Poppell (cashburn@uga.edu)
for more information!

Cloverleaf Project Achievement Success in Southeast District During the COVID-19 Pandemic

By: Shelia Marchant, Jeff Davis County; Riley Wimberly & Cheryl Poppell, Toombs County; Kevin Tatum, Coffee County; Julie Waller, Montgomery County

Non-traditional, or a "new look", is the first thing that comes to mind when we consider the challenges of 2020. This new reality held true in the Fall of 2020 when Cloverleaf Project Achievement required some adjustments. Traditionally, this fall Southeast District contest is held in Lyons, GA with ten to fifteen counties participating. In an effort to move the local 4-H program forward in 2020, with some sense of normalcy, Project Achievement was promoted with plans for a competition in November. Coffee, Jeff Davis, Montgomery and Toombs counties attempted to have a smaller version of the traditional event in Lyons, GA.

Workshops to prepare for the event also were going to look different. In Jeff Davis and Montgomery counties, schools were gracious to allow 4-H staff in-school time to work on projects with students and teach them how to present for the upcoming event. Toombs County held afterschool workshops on school campus. Coffee County utilized Google Classroom as well as by appointment only workshops. Pre-registration numbers were higher than expected and once again the staff in these counties were faced with making some last-minute changes to accommodate the interested students and meet the guidelines for face to face programs. Too many participants, what a great problem to have! We quickly began to alter the plans to meet the needs of the students. Two models were then pursued. Jeff Davis County decided to host an afterschool county contest and the other three counties decided to hold an in-person contest in Lyons with the participants split between two school campuses.

One County Only Model:

Jeff Davis County hosted a county contest at the local elementary school afterschool. Instead of traditional project areas, projects were categorized based on topics to provide competition for each child. Project categories included animals/pets, animals/livestock, sports, STEM, wildlife/outdoors, recreation, and human development (people). This arrangement gave each competitor an opportunity to present their projects and receive medallions. All students stayed after school and the event was held at the school with extension staff and teachers assisting. 21 Jeff Davis County 4-H'ers prepared and presented projects in November at the County level for Project Achievement. While this was not the traditional Project Achievement, students were still able to have the experience of the event on a smaller scale complete with competition and awards for their work.

Traditional Model:

The traditional model event was hosted by Toombs County 4-H at the Toombs County Middle School and The Toombs County Agricultural Center. Around 60 students from Coffee, Montgomery and Toombs Counties competed in the event.

By having this event in two separate locations and with fewer participants, we were able to follow the proper safety guidelines. Each location was cleaned and sanitized before anyone arrived. Masks were required of everyone who walked into the building and parents were not allowed to stay and watch their child. Students were placed in their judging rooms as soon as they arrived and were seated 6 feet apart. No more than 6 students were in a room together to allow for social distancing. Two judges, sitting 6 feet apart from one another, judged each group of student's speeches. Judges typically had to judge 3 separate categories.

Traditional Model (continued):

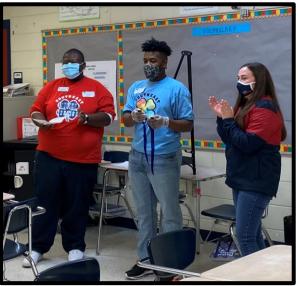
Since the groups were so small and only one to two 4-H'ers were in a category, judges tallied up scores and then gave the scoresheets to the contest coordinator who made sure there were no errors and scores were tallied correctly. At the middle school, when the judging was over students were held in their same rooms while District Officers came around and handed out ribbons and medals to the winners. The officers wore masks and gloves when handing out ribbons to students. At the Agricultural Center, students were told to move back into the large meeting room. This a very large open room where students could spread out and keep social distance. Once they were all in the space, the coordinator called out names of winners. Ribbons and medals were given to the winners by a District Officer, who was wearing a mask and gloves.

Once every winner was announced at both locations, students were released back to their parents who were outside waiting for them. From start to finish the whole event lasted about 2 hours. After the event was over both locations were sanitized.

Event Take Aways:

All in all these events were a success. It was nowhere near as large as a typical year, but having any sort of face to face competition in 2020 was positive. Allowing these Cloverleaf 4-H'ers to experience speaking in front of peers and real judges will benefit them in ways they do not realize. Also, having this in person will hopefully make an impact on these 4-H'ers and encourage them want to stay in 4-H and experience everything it has to offer.







Pollinator Grant Success in Grady County

By: Kasey Bozeman, State 4-H Staff

Butterflies, bees, and bats ... oh my! Through a partnership with National 4-H Council and Corteva Agriscience, Grady County 4-H was awarded a \$14,000 grant to educate about the importance of pollinators and install a pollinator garden in their community. The project was organized into three phases: training 4-H teens to be content teachers, educating youth and adults in the roles that pollinators play in the ecosystem, and installing a demonstration garden.





Grady County 4-H Agents Deron Rehberg and Lisa Pollock recruited 10 middle and high school youth to serve as 4-H Pollinator Ambassadors. These youth completed multiple virtual trainings, led by Becky Griffin, Richard Evans, and Donna Stewart. Additionally, Kasey Bozeman provided an in-person training where youth dissected flowers to learn the parts, modeled the pollination process, and created "bee bots" using mini-robotics supplies.

Under the direction of Rehberg and Pollock, these youth provided monthly lessons at all the schools in Grady County, teaching students about how pollinators affect our ecosystems and food supply. To date, 7 Pollinator Ambassadors have led 648 students in various activities such as the Honey Bee Challenge, Flowers and Pollinators – Oh My, Pollinator Jeopardy, and a Pollinator Maze. Additionally, these youth have read pollinator-related stories at the local library and provided online story time for families at a distance.

In late November, a large pollinator garden was installed at the school. Utilizing support from Shiver School FFA and Quail Forever, over 400 students and adults participated in the planting field day – spreading seed and participating in a variety of hands-on demonstrations. Students planted native pollinators in hopes of attracting bees, butterflies, birds, moths, bats, ants, and lizards. All attendees were given wildflower seeds, a trowel, and literature about starting a pollinator garden at their place of residence. "The pollinator planting site will serve as an example of what families can plant on their property to attract various pollinators. Planting a pollinator garden doesn't have to be complicated," says Rehberg.

Additional support for the grant program was provided by Melinda Miller and Jenna Daniel. Despite a global pandemic, the team has prevailed and easily exceeded the goals of the grant project. "I'm so excited that Grady County 4-H was selected to be part of this national agriculture educational effort. The expertise of Extension agents Deron Rehberg and Lisa Pollock shines through the pollinator habitat partnership. They are exceptional 4-H youth development professionals who embed the 4-H essential elements (independence, belonging, mastery and generosity) in their total program," Melinda Miller, Southwest District 4-H Program Development Coordinator. The team shared their successes at the virtual Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance conference and plans to continue to share the lessons learned and promising practices at other events.





The Elite NE Trivia Tournament

By: Jonathan Page, Jackson County 4-H & Renee Smagur, Habersham County 4-H

A seasonal tournament of champions, the Elite NE Trivia Tournament is an opportunity for counties to come together in a fun, relaxed environment, and match wits over who knows more about a wide variety of topics. Normally held in person at the campus of North Georgia Technical College in Clarkesville, the tournament moved to an online format for its Fall 2020 match held on November 10. Covering a wide variety of topics from agriculture to movies, pop culture, history, space, 4-H, and more, this tournament requires all kinds of knowledge.

Originally begun as the Tri-County Trivia Tournament between Hall, Habersham, and White Counties in 2018, the tournament has since grown, with nine counties (Barrow, Habersham, Jackson, Jasper, Monroe, Madison, Oglethorpe, Rabun, and White) participating in the November 2020 match. The teams compete for bragging rights as well as a traveling Trivia Trophy, which is held by the winning county until the next match. During the in-person tournaments, there would be music and dancing in addition to service projects during the half-time break. Teams are also encouraged to have unique or themed team names; for example some teams that attended the recent tournament were Monroe County's Risky Quizzness, "I'm doing this for a Klondike Bar!" from White County, and The Untouchables from Jasper County.

For the online tournament, rules were modified, and allowances needed to be made to ensure a fun environment while also maintaining a sense of fairness. Each county could register a maximum of two teams of 3-4 youth each. Teams could be hosted at their local 4-H office or Zoom from their homes, depending on the local set-up. Teams were reminded not to use technology for anything other than submitting answers or asking questions of the moderators. Questions were presented using a PowerPoint over Zoom, with each question read out by announcer Dr. Al Parker. Google forms were used to answer submission. Teams would list their team name, answers for each of the round questions, and what points they wanted for each answer and then submit it at the end of the round.

The Fall 2020 tournament featured 11 teams from nine counties in a close pitched battle through the topics of agriculture, world history, flag identification, fast food, Disney, famous 4-H'ers, and logic. In the end, the Rabun County Rhinestone Cowboys Band were victorious and will be holders of the Trivia trophy until the next tournament. Jackson County 4-H's Bucket Heads came in second place followed by a tie for third between Monroe County's Risky Quizzness and Oglethorpe County's Team Oglethorpe. The next Elite NE 4-H Trivia Tournament is scheduled for April of 2021.







Professional Development

National 4-H STEM Symposium - May 4-6, 2021

Pennsylvania 4-H is coordinating the National 4-H STEM Symposium for 4-H professionals to form a 'think tank' on the future of 4-H STEM programming, curriculum development across state lines, and have an overall forum for collaboration. The conference will be held virtually and include keynote speakers, workshops, and poster sessions delivered by peers from across the United States and opportunities to hear from industry partners. Workshops

(https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OF0Sim4HEsjWO9) and poster proposals (https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3vNpBxcJFDJxUmp) can be submitted until December 20, 2020.



GROWING LEADERS

Ready for Real Life

We know that organizations other than 4-H do outstanding youth development work. However, we are so occupied with the good work we do, that we often fail to explore what others are doing and how they do it. Growing Leaders is a non-profit organization that partners with schools, colleges, athletic departments and organizations to develop today's emerging generation of leaders. They really understand Generation Z and offer curricula, books and trainings for people like us who strive to help youth grow and succeed. Check out their website at www.growingleaders.com. Jakyn Tyson and Craven Hudson became Habitudes facilitators this past summer and can share how the Habitudes resource could work in your situation!

ACA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
INNOVATION

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2021

American Camp Association National Conference February 2-5, 2021

American Camp Association (ACA) is an international group of camping youth development professionals with experience in operating a variety of child and youth programs. For the first time in the association's history, the national conference is going virtual – so you can enjoy s'mores from the comfort of your office! This network of industry professionals can provide new and refreshing ideas for 4-H programs, including youth activities, staff training (think teen leadership opportunities), volunteer recruitment, fundraising, and more! Virtual networking events and research symposiums will also be featured throughout the week. Kasey Bozeman (kaseyb@uga.edu) serves on the ACA Local Council of Leaders and would be happy to answer any questions. Register at: https://www.acacamps.org/conference.



By: Ashley Carroll, Tift County 4-H Agent

Like many of our favorite annual events in 2020, the traditional Georgia National Fair was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many 4-H members, this was a fun and educational way to participate in out of county competitive projects and get sharing and helping experience for Jr/Sr Portfolios. In an attempt to offer a quality alternative in the absence of the Georgia National Fair, Ashley Carroll, Tift County 4-H Agent; Megan Powell, Lanier County 4-H Agent; Christina Garner, Stewart County FACS Agent/CEC and Sonya Jones, Pulaski County 4-H Agent/CEC collaborated to offer a Southwest District Static Exhibit Fair for 4th-12th grade 4-H members. Students had the opportunity to enter projects for six different exhibit categories including Computer Graphic Design, Decorated Agricultural Products, Minibooths, Recycling, Terrariums/Dish Gardens and Food Recipes.

After promotion, 4-H members from 14 counties in Southwest District registered over 100 static exhibits in all of the six exhibit categories. Once entered, county 4-H faculty, staff and volunteers came together to judge exhibits and declare winners for each exhibit type. This is event was a great opportunity for Southwest District 4-H'ers to continue participating in 4-H projects safely while also get sharing and helping experience for Jr/Sr Portfolios.









Best Practice Recommendations for 4-H Volunteer Risk Management Policies and Procedures

By: Al Parker, Ph.D.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who assisted me in my doctoral research on 4-H Volunteer Leaders. Since my topic of research is so relevant, I wanted to share my findings.

Research of this type has not been conducted at this level in over 20 years (Swanson, 1999). Two studies were utilized in the research. To determine the importance of 4-H Volunteer Leaders and 4-H Volunteer Leader risk management policies and procedures to a successful 4-H Program, a five-round Delphi study that used simple grouping, ranking, and a five-point Likert scale was conducted. The survey audience consisted of ninety-four 4-H Agents and Educators from across the country who were identified by their State 4-H Leader as having a successful 4-H Program. There was a total of 47 people or 50% of the original group from 17 states who participated in all five rounds of the study. The data showed 4-H Volunteer Leaders rank as the most important asset and background screening ranked as the most important 4-H Volunteer Leader policy or procedure necessary to a successful 4-H Program.

The main research instrument consisted of two qualitative and 36 quantitative questions. The survey audience was made up of 4-H Volunteer Leader Specialists and State 4-H Leaders from all 50 states. The group was asked to identify the reasons for the heightened awareness and concern for 4-H Volunteer Leader risk management policies and procedures, the 4-H Volunteer Leader risk management policies and procedures currently in place in their states, and what policies and procedures they would like to see changed. All 50 states or 100% of the survey audience completed the research, confirming the need for the study. The majority of the group attributed the heightened awareness to occurrences of abuse by adults and volunteers in other youth organizations and institutions including the Boy Scouts, Catholic Church priests, and Gary Sandusky at Penn State. From the policies and procedures identified as being followed in a majority of 4-H Programs across the country and from recommendations of changes in current policies, a total of fifteen best practice recommendations were identified in the research.

These recommendations will be presented to 4-H Programs nationwide in hopes to not only protect the 4-H Program, but more importantly, better protect the youth we serve.





- 1. Potential 4-H Volunteer Leaders should be required to pass a background check to serve as a 4-H Volunteer Leader.
- 2. Potential 4-H Volunteer Leader background checks should include Criminal, Motor Vehicle, Sex Offender Registry, and any others required by law in the specific state. Financial is optional.
- 3. Potential 4-H Volunteer Leaders may be allowed to volunteer even if the person fails one of the background checks except for Sex Offender Registry. There should be limitations on their involvement.
- 4. The responsibility for processing the background check falls, in this order, on the university, the state 4-H office, and the county office.
- 5. The responsibility for paying for the background check falls, in order, on the county office, the state 4-H office, the volunteer, and the university.
- 6. Follow-up background checks should be conducted on active 4-H Volunteer Leaders. Recommended time frame is every three years or for other reasons such as a lapse in service or when issues are presented that could warrant a new check being conducted.
- 7. The potential applicant should provide references. The recommended number is three. Those references should be checked by the local county office.
- 8. An interview should take place with the applicant as part of the screening process. The interview should be conducted on the local county level. The person could be denied volunteer status from the interview alone.
- 9. Educational orientation or certification should take place with the potential volunteer applicant. Recommended delivery methods include face-to-face, live video, and recorded video. The recommended length of the sessions is two and a half hours and should cover these recommended topics: Ages & Stages; Positive Youth Development; Risk Management and Liability; Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Procedures; General 4-H Knowledge; and Volunteer Roles, Expectations, Behavior, and Code of Conduct.
- 10. Additional educational orientation and certification should take place after the person becomes a 4-H Volunteer Leader. Recommended delivery methods include face-to-face, live video, and recorded video. The recommended length of the sessions is 1.6 hours and take place once a year. Recommended topics for these sessions include: Protection of Minors, Mental Health, First Aid, and Need Specific topics.
- 11. The 4-H Volunteer Leader should sign a 4-H Volunteer Leader agreement. The agreement should be signed once a year. Behavioral expectations and consequences of being found guilty of any violations of the behavioral expectations should be included in the agreement. Roles and responsibilities of the 4-H Volunteer Leader should be included in the 4-H Volunteer Leader agreement.
- 12. The state 4-H office, college, and university should consider providing more support for the local county level with 4-H Volunteer Leader risk management policies and procedures. There should be more rigorous enforcement and less gaps in policies across all counties, quicker response time on issues, and better training of staff members and volunteers in the county offices.
- 13. Create a more centralized application, vetting, and onboarding process and allow online signatures for applications, codes of conduct, and acknowledgement of risk to speed up the screening process.
- 14. Offer more ongoing training of staff and 4-H Volunteer Leaders including online modules on safety, risk management, minor protection policies, and positive youth development.
- 15. Increase involvement of regional and national resources to allow 4-H Volunteer Leaders to work across state lines, to create regional and national educational videos, and to hold annual trainings and professional development opportunities for 4-H Volunteer Leaders across the country.





Bright Ideas at Work

Award Tips

Be Intentional

I think strong award applications begin with intentional effort when planning, implementing, and evaluating your programming. When you begin to organize your 4-H year, plan of work, etc., see what awards align with what you are already doing. Then look at the scoring rubrics - what are the "components" needed to be successful? Can you tweak your plans to ensure you are meeting these requirements? Write your award narrative to match the rubric. If there are 4 scoring sections, have 4 sections in your narrative. Just like a 4-H portfolio, make it as easy as possible for the judges to read about the awesome work you are doing. Finally, apply! We ask young people to try new things all the time – don't think your work isn't worthy of being recognized. Submitted by Kasey Bozeman, State 4-H Staff

Check out the Examples

The GAE4-HA website has award descriptions, applications, and examples! To browse past winning examples, visit the awards tab at https://site.extension.uga.edu/gae4-ha/awards/ or reach out to someone that has had success in that category!

Take the Leap and Apply!

You will definitely not win an award if you never even apply for it....Set a goal to apply for one (or three, or five) awards! You might surprise yourself with your success. ©



<u>Curriculum</u> Corner

Just In Time Resources



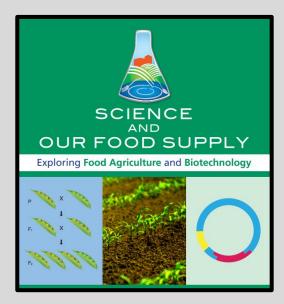


This is a quick share system that utilizes One Drive as an online platform for 4-H staff to share and find new resources. There are sub folders aligned with our most common content areas and six resources have been added so far. If you have resources to share, please upload them into the Just In Time One Drive. You can find this at: 4-H Enrollment → Shared Files → Staff Only → PY2021 Programming Resources for Re-entry and Recovery → File Name is "Just In Time Resources Overview.pdf" → In that file, click on the One Drive link.

Science and Our Food Supply

Submitted by Kasey Bozeman, State 4-H Staff

Science and Our Food Supply: Exploring Food Agriculture, and Biotechnology is a series of lesson plans developed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use with high school students. The curriculum is comprised of five modules that each have two parts/activities in addition to the background information. From apple tree grafting to citrus greening, this advanced plant biotechnology can challenge older 4-H'ers to learn more about the science behind growing our food. Download the free guide here: https://www.fda.gov/media/140264/download



State Awards

Outstanding Program Assistant



Teresa Chauncey, State Winner



Roberta Prince, Coweta County

Allison Barnes, Oconee County

Outstanding Individual Volunteer Leader



Alexis Floyd, State Winner

Jessica Whealy, Northwest District

April Eckerman, Southeast District

Jenna Black, State Staff

State Awards

Outstanding AmeriCorps/VISTA



Joy Edwards, Appling County

Emily Waller, State Staff

Outstanding Volunteer Leader Program

Erica Pullen, Douglas County

Outstanding Secretary



Melissa Norton, State Winner



Darlene Williams, Lamar County



Teresa Hall, Appling County

Elizabeth Penn, Jackson County

State Awards

Outstanding Support by Public Media

WQLI 92.3 FM Nominated by Debra Cox Mitchell County



Outstanding Support by ANR or FACS Professional



Bradley Averill, State Winner



Phillip Hensley, Spalding County



Scott Carlson, Worth County

Terri Black, Burke County

Diane Bales, State Staff

Young Alumni Spotlights

Shelby CraneJackson County



Shelby Crane began her 4-H career in 2010 as a 5th grade Commerce Middle School student. She was an active Jackson County 4-H'er competing in Project Achievement, Challenge Bowl, serving as a county council officer all four years of high school, and a certified teen leader. Upon graduation in 2017, Shelby immediately became one of our adult volunteers. She is a senior at the University of Georgia, majoring in Exercise and Sport Science, Pre-Physical Therapy. During UGA football season, you can find her on the field cheering on the DAWGS as a member of the UGA Flagline.

Ben MurrayBerrien County

Ben Murray, a Berrien County 4-H alumni (17), was one of four undergraduate students from the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences selected this past fall to serve as a 2020 CAES Congressional Agricultural Fellow. The fellowship allowed for hands on learning opportunities in the offices of Georgia's U.S. Congressional delegation. Ben served in the office of Senator Kelly Loeffler. While in D.C., the students witness how the legislature affects the agricultural industry, from national policy to state-level decisions. They also get to be a part of the conversations, learning from experts with decades of experience. The Congressional Agricultural Fellowship is funded by Georgia EMC and the Georgia Agribusiness Council. Ben is a senior agricultural communications major at UGA. He is currently serving as a regional field director for Kelly Loeffler's campaign.



Young Alumni Spotlights

Will Wallace McIntosh County



Will Wallace was an active McIntosh County 4-H'er while growing up in Darien, GA, including five years competing in District Project Achievement, and remains active as an adult. After graduating high school, Will stayed active with 4-H working as a summer camp counselor at Wahsega 4-H Center (2013, 2014), Rock Eagle 4-H Center as a CAP (2015), and Burton 4-H Center (2016). Throughout college, he also served as an adult volunteer for a variety of county and district 4-H events. Will returned to Camp Wahsega after graduating college to work as an Environmental Educator for spring of 2019. Last year, Will moved back to his hometown of Darien, GA to teach at McIntosh County Middle School. As a seventh grade science teacher, he partners with the McIntosh County 4-H Agent to provide 4-H in-school meetings. Outside of the classroom, he currently serves as a Southeast District Board Advisor and volunteer for McIntosh County 4-H programs. Will applies many lessons learned through his 4-H experience in his classroom and inspires his students to 'make the best better' everyday.

Julie Bacon Tattnall County



Miss Julie Bacon began her 4-H career in Tattnall County where she participated in archery, cotton boll consumer judging, and project achievement. Julie was also involved in local activities such as service projects and recreational 4-H trips. In high school, Julie was elected to Southeast District Senior Board of Directors and later served on the State 4-H Board of Directors. Her Senior year, Julie achieved Master 4-H'er status as the recipient of a State 4-H Scholarship. Julie then spent three summers at Rock Eagle where she served as a Muskogee MI, Shawnee CAP, and CAP Mico. Julie has continued her success as she attended college at UGA, where she served as an Ambassador for the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences and a member of Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority. Julie graduated from UGA in Spring 2020 with a degree in Agricultural Communication. This Fall, Julie has enjoyed living in Washington, DC where she is participating in the Washington Semester Program as an Agricultural Fellow within the Senate. When asked about what 4-H taught her, Julie says "From the very beginning, the program allowed me to establish a sense of perseverance. While 4-H has contributed to innumerable skills and lessons, the importance of never giving up, especially when challenges arise, has kept me focused over the years. In addition to perseverance, the program allowed me to understand the significance of giving back and lending a helping hand to others. I would not be where I am today without the help of 4-H, and I am looking forward to seeing where it will lead me next."

Meet the Members

Ashley Carroll, Tift County



Position: 4-H Agent

Years in Extension: 7 years

Hobbies: Traveling, hanging out with friends, going

to UGA Football games, and Escape Rooms!

Favorite 4-H Activity: Poultry Judging and Clover Jam

Favorite Book: The Harry Potter series

Favorite Movie: anything with Melissa McCarthy!

Favorite Music: Rap

Favorite TV Show: Grey's Anatomy or Madam

Secretary

Favorite Quote: "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and

those who matter don't mind." -Dr. Seuss

If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... a recruiter

for UGA! Go Dawgs!

Kelly Zern, Coweta County

Position: 4-H Agent

Years in Extension: 1.5 years

Family: Leidy (Husband), Natalie (13) and Catherine (8)

Hobbies: Traveling, reading, Disney, and visiting my parents' lake

house on Lake Hartwell

Favorite 4-H Activity: Camp

Favorite Book: Anything by Elin Hilderbrand

Favorite Movie: Love Actually

Favorite Music: I love all types from Christian to country to pop!

Favorite TV Show: The Crown

Favorite Quote: "There are far better things ahead than any we

leave behind." -C.S. Lewis

If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... a classroom teacher.



Meet the Members

April Edwards, Jackson County

Position: 4-H Agent Years in Extension: 3

Family: I am the mother of 4 awesome adults! My husband and I have a farm where we raise sheep, cattle, and 10,000 chickens. On November 17th, I became a GiGi!

Hobbies: Traveling with my husband, caring for our flock of sheep, and loving on my sweet grand baby!

Favorite 4-H Activity: Cheering our livestock exhibitors on from the ring

side.

Favorite Book: The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Favorite Movie: Princess Bride

Favorite Music: 80's Favorite TV Show: Grimm

Favorite Quote: Teamwork makes the dream work! If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... a teacher.



Lili Hester, Ware County



Position: 4-H Agent

Years in Extension: Less than one as an agent. I served as a Summer Intern in Toombs County and as an AmeriCorps State Member in Greene County.

Family: I am the youngest of two children. My dad and brother both work out of state, currently in California and my mom lives in my hometown of Lyons, GA. I currently live in Waycross, GA with my 6-year-old American Pit bull Terrier who I rescued 2 years ago. Hobbies: Portrait photography, sewing and anything crafty.

Favorite 4-H Activity: State Congress
Favorite Book: I do not have a favorite

Favorite Movie: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Favorite Music: Whatever is playing! Favorite TV Show: Criminal Minds

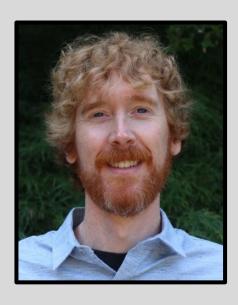
Favorite Quote: "Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will" Suzy

Kassem

If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... a graphic designer.

Meet the Members

Matt Hammons, State Staff



Position: Rock Eagle 4-H Center Director

Years in Extension: 16

Family: I have been married to Cail Hammons for sixteen years. We have a nine year old son named Lee. Rock Eagle 4-H Center has been our home since 2009.

Hobbies: Camping, Hiking, and Canoeing

Favorite 4-H Activity: Environmental Education and Sunday

Lunch at Rock Eagle 4-H Center

Favorite Book: Blue Highways by William Least Heat-Moon

Favorite Movie: O Brother, Where Art Thou? Favorite Music: Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, etc.

Favorite TV Show: Northern Exposure

Favorite Quote: "Trust God. His plan is perfect, even when

it is so contrary to our own."

If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... Applying for a

job at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

May your
Head, Heart, Hands & Health
be filled with the
holiday spirit!

Happy Holidays!



Publish in The Pulse!

Submit articles online at: tinyurl.com/ThePulseSubmit

Contact: Jeffrey Burke NAE4-HYDP Southern Region Director jburke@uga.edu

Caring & Sharing

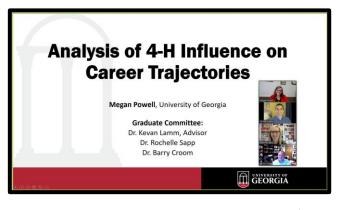
Often times, people cite the importance of their Extension family support during times of celebration and times of sorrow. We encourage our members to share about their personal lives – marriages, births, deaths, accomplishments – through our Caring & Sharing page.



Carol Warren Smith

August 5, 1965-November 26, 2020

Carol is missed by everyone that had the opportunity to know her! She grew up in the Quitman Community and was known to many as the "4-H Lady" or "Mama Carol" over the years. Carol retired from UGA Extension in 2018 after 23 years of service. She loved working with 4-H and had a passion for watching all children and young teens excel through the program.



Jeri Gilleland (Ben Hill County 4-H Agent) retired on November 30! She served in Ben Hill County for 14 years starting as a part time program assistant and retiring as a CEC and 4-H Agent.



Megan Powell (Lanier County 4-H Agent) graduates from UGA on December 18, 2020 with her Masters of Agricultural and Environmental Education Degree.

Billie Ann (Pierce County 4-H Agent) married Joseph King on November 14. Congratulations to these newly weds!





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Special thanks to all contributing authors and the 2019-2020 GAE4-HA Media Committee for their contributions to this newsletter.

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