



## **2009 URI State 4-H Annual Program Report** **College of the Environment and Life Sciences**

**Written for the January 30, 2010 RI 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting**

### **2009 4-H Team Members:**

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### **A Very Special Thank You!**

**A special thank you to each and every board member of the RI 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. Listed below are the highlights of the 2009 4-H programs and events that your hard work and support has made possible. If you would like more information, please ask and I can provide you with the detailed quarterly report. As I have said before, you are major players in the success of the CELS/4-H program and the URI/CELS administration, 4-H Staff and 4-H volunteers commend you for your outstanding contributions. We realize that 2009 has been a very difficult year for raising funds and we truly appreciate your continuing efforts to support our Rhode Island 4-H members and their programs. Marcia**

### **The RI State 4-H Awards Banquet**

Our Annual State 4-H Awards Banquet was held at West Valley Inn in West Warwick, Rhode Island on *Friday, January 19, 2009*. There were approximately 300 4-H members, leaders, volunteers and parents in attendance. We were thrilled to see a big increase in attendance from the previous year. The Awards Banquet honored 127 4-H youth who submitted record books; 5 special volunteer awards; and, 7 special club awards. This event was sponsored by the RI 4-H Club Foundation and the SRI 4-H All-Stars.

### **Monsanto Volunteer Training Grant**

For the third year, RI 4-H received a \$2,000 4-H Volunteer Initiative Grant from National 4-H Council and Monsanto. The funds were managed by the 4-H Club Foundation. The purpose of these funds was to provide direct training to 4-H volunteers and to purchase educational resources. Funds this year were used to develop a series of online training modules for new 4-H volunteers. This online training tool was developed by Brianna O'Connor and will be piloted in 2010.

### **RI 4-H Public Presentation Contests**

The district contests were held Coventry High School on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and Jan 30<sup>th</sup> at Richmond Grange. Approximately 100 youth and 40 volunteers participated in the two district contests. Participants who scored 90 points or higher, were eligible to move on to the state competition. The state contest was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Swan Hall, at URI with 45 members plus one large group skit participating. Shelly Kozun once again did a great job coordinating the district and state events. The RI 4-H Foundation

provided funds for the event coordinator and special awards for public speaking and cash awards for the top presenters.

#### **4-H Photo Fine Arts Show**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Fine Arts Show was held at the Warwick Mall on *March 13-15th, 2009*. Over 180 artworks registered and 154 items made it to the show for display. The Photo Fine Arts Fair provides another avenue for children to express themselves while raising the public's awareness of the diverse opportunities offered through 4-H. This year 248 mall goers took the time to vote which of our Best of shows (about 20 total from multiple categories and age divisions) would win the "Viewers Choice Award". Newell Robert's photograph and Chris Jackman's painting split the vote and both received a rosette. The "Viewers Choice Award" makes the exhibit much more interactive and gives the public a chance to be a judge. Additionally, due to Chairperson Susan Woloohojian and club leader Roda Motta's special efforts, a Cloverbud Art Show was added to the schedule. About 25 Cloverbud artworks were displayed at the Louitt Library in West Greenwich *March 6<sup>th</sup>–March 16<sup>th</sup>*. These younger members enjoyed being able to display their artworks with other 4-Hers.

#### **RI 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Series**

*Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>* was the official Kickoff of the 2009 Horse Judging and Hippology Series, a series of horse judging clinics and hippology nights for 4-H members interested in learning more about horsemanship. Caitlyn MacGlaflin, CELS/4-H graduate student and Diane Martin served as the co-coordinators for the series with Rainy Day serving as the coach/instructor. Several 4-H volunteers assist with setting up clinics with area horse barns and horse professionals to teach our members about breed standards. An average of 30 members and plus parents and leaders attended each of these educational events. On *April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>* RI horse members traveled to UCONN to compete in their State Horse Hippology and Horse Judging Competitions. Four juniors and 6 seniors compete in Horse Hippology and 2 juniors and 4 seniors compete in Horse Judging. On *October 10<sup>th</sup>*, four seniors went on to compete at the New England 4-H Regionals in Horse Hippology Team Event. A very special thank you to Caitlyn and Diane – without them, this would not have happened. Also a thank you to the 4-H Foundation for providing the volunteer coordinator contract, ribbon awards at the state contest and travel expenses for the regional competition.

#### **Cumberland Farms Youth In Action Grants:**

Once again the Blueberry Patchers and the Metamorphosis 4-H Clubs have received the National Cumberland Farms Youth in Action Grants. Both clubs are focusing their grants on the children of deployed military through our Operation: Military Kids "Hero Pack" project. The Blueberry Patchers, led by Kristy Horan, have completed their grant by putting together 186 backpacks and making 12 blankets for young children. Metamorphosis 4-H Club, led by Kim Pond, will be doing some of the same activities during the year.

#### **National 4-H Conference**

Our National 4-H Conference delegation departed *March 28<sup>th</sup>* and stay at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland thru *April 2<sup>nd</sup>*. Four delegates were selected to represent Rhode Island. They are Fidelia Vasquez, Erin Lee, Miriah Reynolds and Jessica Hoppe. The selection process involved submitting a résumé and participating in a group interview. Virginia Gobeli chaperoned the delegates including the two Connecticut delegates. We partner with UCONN by sharing a chaperone. This trip was funded by the RI 4-H Club Foundation and CELS administration.

#### **4-H Foundation Club Grants**

Five 4-H clubs received 2009 Searle Club Grants: SRI Dairy Club for Dairy judging books and judging CD', the America Rules, Fun-4-All, Stadium Sharks and Eden Park Dolphins 4-H clubs for yearlong programs in environmental education, nutrition, culture of The Ocean State.

#### **4-H Goes to the Zoo**

Another successful summer of 4-H youth presentations at the Roger Williams Park Zoo was held in 2009. Roger Williams Park Zoo staff and visitors were once again amazed at the animal science knowledge and public speaking abilities of our 4-Hers. In addition to our speaking program at the zoo 4-H clubs contributed to the zoo's Farm Fun Days.

#### **4-H Junior Workshops**

On *April 25, 2009* the 4-H Junior Day – “Letterboxing, Salad Garden, Space Art” was held at Hidden Meadows Farm in West Greenwich RI. Youth learned about the native trees and wildlife and agriculture past and present on the farm. Youth constructed a container garden to take home and were given instructions on the care of a container garden and recipes for salads and dressings. A 4-H Junior Rocketry Day was held at URI on *May 2nd*. Youth learned about aerospace, building their own rockets and of course launching them.

#### **SRICE Funded programs through RI 4-H Foundation**

On *May 9, 2009* at the URI East Farm Festival approximately 100 youth participants made bean sprout necklaces and received a small booklet showing how a seed germinates

A 4-H poultry science club organized four workshop dates using funds for curriculum books, 21 youth participated in the club activities and six teens helped provide leadership.

A rabbit workshop with Veterinarian Dr. Darlene Jones was held on *May 14, 2009* at Peckham Farm, URI, 6 youth rabbit showman participated learning about animal health and welfare.

After polling key 4-H club volunteers in animal science programs, we learned that they needed the following educational materials, quiz bowl buzzers and Ohio State Learning Lab kits for the Dog and Rabbit Programs

#### **Rhode Island 4-H Horse Shows**

The State 4-H Horse show was once again a great success! The show took place at URI's Peckham Farm on *July 26<sup>th</sup>*. Once again, we combined the state horse show and the pattern class so that 4-Hers attempting to qualify for ESE could meet both requirements the same day. The State 4-H Horse Show is one of the requirements our 4-H Horse members must compete in, in order to be eligible for the Eastern States Exposition. In addition to the state show, 3 district 4-H Horse Shows were held *May through July, 2009*.

#### **RI 4-H Fair Season**

Across the state, 4-H volunteers devoted numerous hours and great energy toward planning the district 4-H fairs. 4-H fairs provide the public with the opportunity to witness first hand the great achievements of our 4-Hers. Fairs, a key component of our education program, provide 4-Hers with a public venue to demonstrate the knowledge and skills learned in their 4-H projects over the year and receive valuable feedback and recognition from the judges and the general public (plus have a lot of fun).

District Fair dates for 200 were:

SRI 4-H FAIR –*June 26, 27, 28*, Washington County Fairgrounds

ERI 4-H COUNTRY FAIR - *July 18 – 19*, Glen Farm, Portsmouth

NRI 4-H Fair - FOSTER OLD HOME DAYS - *July 24, 25, 26*

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR - *August 12 – 16* (4-H classes and 4-H Exhibit Hall)

We must thank all the adults and teens who volunteer hundreds of hours to make these summer fairs possible. Once again the foundation provided coordinator stipends for the NRI and SRI fairs as well as the 4-H animal shows and exhibit hall at Washington County Fairs (a stipend was also offered to ERI, but not used this year).

#### **Summer Environmental Education Programs**

On *July 15<sup>th</sup>* Brianna O'Connor coordinated the 4-H Aquatic Life at DEM's Jerusalem Coastal Lab Facilities in Charlestown where 4-Hers learned about coastal waters and species. This summer we partnered with DEM Parks and Recreation to provide 4-H educational programs at Rhode Island Great Outdoors Pursuit, URI undergraduates Brianna O'Connor and Leah Adams developed 4-H environmental science workshops for over 500 youth that signed up for the twelve-week program. Each week between 120 and 150 youth consistently participated in the four 4-H workshops. Steve Wright and Alan Stone from DEM Parks and Recreation (also 4-H volunteers) were instrumental in this partnership that we hope to continue next year.

#### **4-H Farm School**

On *Friday August 14<sup>th</sup>* in the Show Barn at Washington County Fair the 4<sup>th</sup> annual 4-H Farm school program was held. The purpose of this program was to provide the opportunity for youth to educate and

entertain the public about agriculture and promote the 4-H program by showcasing their 4-H animal projects. Four-H members worked in teams to develop a ten-minute presentation that would interest the general public and feature live animals. The program was non-competitive so each participant received equal recognition. After each presentation the audience was invited to ask questions, which the 4-H members answered, further demonstrating their knowledge of the subject. Heidi Wright organized this educational event.

### **Eastern States Exposition**

Our 4-Hers had another great year at the Big E. A great team of approximately 100 youth and 60 adults represented Rhode Island in the New England Center and all of the 4-H animal areas this year. We also had a large number of 4-H clubs go up to ESE on 4-H Day – we gave out almost 400 tickets for that one day.

A very special “thank you” to our volunteer head chaperones for working with our children at the Big E and to the 4-H Foundation for its financial support of this important learning experience. The 4-H animal program head chaperones were Tim Dutra -Horse, George Whitford-Dairy Cattle, Kim and Bill Coulter – Beef, Tim and Penny Tefft -Dairy Goat, and Mary Anne Reynolds - Dog. Kristy and I would like to send a special thanks to Leah Adams for doing a super job as the coordinator of the RI delegation to the New England Center. The 4-H Club Foundation is the major supporter of this important learning experience.

### **4-H Club Officer’s Training**

Over 30 youth, teens and adults participated in workshops teaching parliamentary procedure, planning club meetings, how to be a good leader and Officer responsibilities.

### **4-H Greens Workshops**

This year included in the SRI CE grant management the 4-H Foundation took over the management of funds for the Greens workshop. Due to demand we expanded from one night to two, December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Exeter Grange. For the two nights 97 youth and 30 teens and volunteers played a horticulture tree and plant matter id game, created wreaths, centerpieces, holiday card and gingerbread houses. The night was capped with pizza, drinks and vegetable trays. This plant related event continues to be very popular with the youth.

### **4-H Record Book Judging**

We are pleased to report that over 130 record books from 18 4-H clubs were turned in for the 2009 4-H year. County Medal and other 4-H awards will be presented at the Rhode Island 4-H Awards Banquet – *January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*

**Once again a Very Special Thank You  
To The  
RI 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.**

