Happy New Year—So What’s New?

Welcome to 2017. I am looking forward to a new year for our Tennessee 4-H program. It promises to be a great year. When I arrived, not quite two years ago, my top priority was to build our curriculum. Since that time Dr. Jennifer Richards has been working tirelessly to build a curriculum structure, complete with outcomes and ties to state education standards. This year should see new curriculum beginning to be available for our agents to utilize!

In 2017, we will be unveiling a comprehensive professional development plan for 4-H professionals. This effort is under the leadership of Dr. Lori Gallimore. The plan will help agents at various stages of their careers identify appropriate in-service training that builds upon previous skills. Lori will also continue to give leadership to the B.E.S.T (Building Exceptionally Skilled Teachers) program for new agents.

2017 promises to be a banner year for grant funding in leadership, citizenship, healthy living and STEM programs. As these grants develop, we will be working with counties to deliver excellent programs utilizing the new funding.

The new year will also see major efforts at Lone Oaks. The camp/educational center is in the process of developing a master plan for use of the property. This should be completed in July. Committees are being formed to look at program development for the camp. We will also have two weeks of small STEM camps for 7th and 8th graders this summer utilizing the existing homes and facilities for housing and programming.

Lastly, I have committed to visiting via Zoom with two counties a week starting in February. This will give me the opportunity to learn more about the outstanding programs being conducted and also see where the State 4-H office can be of assistance.

I hope you are also looking forward to a great 2017.

-Dr. Richard Clark
BE A CWF PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Justin Crowe, Extension Specialist

National 4-H Council is looking for qualified youth, at least 18 years old, to apply to be program assistants at the upcoming Citizenship Washington Focus session next summer. Program assistants get paid and live on the campus of the National 4-H Youth Conference Center while spending some quality time in our nation’s capital. They become licensed Washington, D.C. tour guides and facilitate the program’s educational workshops.

If you have or have had youth in your program who might be interested and would make good program assistants, I encourage you to forward them the following link: https://tiny.utk.edu/shTGD.

The application deadline is January 23, 2017.

RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING 4-H ALUMNI
Ryan Hensley, Executive Director, TN 4-H Foundation

4-H alumni can be a great asset to county 4-H programs. Do you have an active 4-H alumnus in your county you would like to recognize? The state 4-H office is now accepting nominations for the Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award, which will be presented during Tennessee 4-H Congress. To nominate a 4-H alumnus, simply go to the Form and Materials page on state 4-H Web site. You can find the Alumni Recognition Nomination Form (F841) under the heading “Volunteers.”

Nomination forms should be sent to Ryan Hensley at rhensle5@utk.edu. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 20. Let’s get those forms in and give outstanding alumni the recognition they deserve!
Membership Drive
Sign Up Today!

We are celebrating new members in the new year, and 2017 is a perfect time to reconnect with Tennessee 4-H Alumni and Friends. By filling out the online form, you will receive quarterly newsletters, event updates, and opportunities to serve your local and state 4-H program. Active alumni help to fulfill our mission statement:

We believe the country’s future depends on reaching today’s youth with the values and opportunities provided through the Tennessee 4-H program. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst to build and foster relationships among Tennesseans, support the development programs of 4-H, and connect today’s youth with 4-H alumni.

Interested in learning more?
Visit: www.tn4halumni.com
Find Us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TN4HALumni/

Encourage Alumni to Sign up & Everyone Wins:
During the month of January, counties can encourage 4-H alumni members to sign up through the website. At the end of the month, the county signing up the most new alumni members in each Region will receive $300 for their 4-H program. Counties must sign up 10 members to be eligible for the prize. Members who share our Facebook post and new members who register will be entered into our drawing to win a $50 gift card.

Save the Date: Feb 25, 2017 Tennessee 4-H Alumni & Friends Annual Meeting
CURRENT GRANT PROJECTS
Shelby Brawner, Extension Assistant/Grant Manager

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! I wanted to share the ongoing grant projects throughout the state at this time. Each of the following counties have been busy implementing their programs, focusing on various areas depending upon the grant parameters such as healthy living, nutrition, fitness, 4-H club activities, and more. In the coming weeks, I will highlight one county per week so they can share their current happenings and activities.

There are 18 counties who have the Health Rocks! grant, which began September 1, 2016 and ends August 31, 2017. This program focuses on healthy living and teaching youth the consequences of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use. The counties are:

- Bradley
- Cannon
- Clyde Austin 4-H Center
- Clyde M. York 4-H Center
- Crockett
- DeKalb
- Dyer
- Grainger
- Henry
- Madison
- McNairy
- Morgan
- Robertson
- Scott
- Sevier
- Tipton
- Union
- W.P. Ridley 4-H Center

There are four counties who have the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Mentoring grant, which began December 1, 2016 and ends January 31, 2018. This program focuses on providing youth with a mentor to establish a mentoring relationship, and they partake in various 4-H activities, educational, and cultural events. The counties are:

- Dyer
- Hardin
- Madison
- Scott
There are 10 counties who have the Wal-Mart Youth Voice: Youth Choice (YV: YC) grant, which began September 1, 2016 and ends August 31, 2017. This program focuses on promoting healthy living through nutrition, physical fitness, and safety. The counties are:

- Bledsoe
- Bradley
- Cannon
- Carter
- Hancock
- Madison
- Morgan
- Polk
- Robertson
- Scott

There are six counties with the 4-H Food Smart Families (FSF) grant through UnitedHealthcare. This program focuses on families who are eligible for or receive SNAP and/or WIC benefits and teach them how to plan, shop, and prepare healthy meals on a budget. The counties are:

- Bedford
- Chester
- Cumberland
- Giles
- Monroe
- Shelby

CURRICULUM CORNER

Jennifer Richards, Assistant Professor

We are happy to announce that we have a new resource available for use! During the break, a training manual for 4-H Club officers completed the publication process and is now available. This manual is available at https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W387.pdf

Within the next few weeks, expect several lesson plans to be available for use. Topics for those include public speaking, STEM, and life skill development. As these clear Marketing and Communications, we will include links in the weekly newsletter.
More Portfolio FAQ’s
Lori Gallimore, Extension Specialist

Since my last article, I have received a few more questions about the 2017 4-H Portfolio changes. The answers are included in the information below. In next week’s IDEAS newsletter, I will be releasing the instructions on how to upload the portfolios to SharePoint. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to email me.

Question:
Is the online process is just for senior high portfolios?

Answer:
The online process is just for senior high portfolios. Junior high portfolios are handled through each regional office. Any changes to the junior high portfolio structure or submission format will come from your regional office.

Question:
Will there be new guidelines for junior high portfolios?

Answer:
I don’t know. Again, you need to check with your regional office. If you are asking (and I think you are) if the junior high portfolio will be changed to fit/flow with the senior high model, we are too early in the process to determine this. Yes, this will be ideal for all involved! BUT … while it is in the back of our minds at this point and will be considered as we make changes to the senior high portfolio model, it is not on the timeline for completion and implementation in 2018.

Question:
Will we use the new online portfolio form for submissions for Academic Conference?

Answer:
I am not aware of those plans. I will find out.

Question:
One the rubric, the points only add up to 90. Why is citizenship less points than leadership? Shouldn’t they be equal?

Answer:
The citizenship section has been given less points that leadership simply because there are only four sections to citizenship and there are five sections in leadership. If you go back and look at the old scorecards, points were assigned so that the final score turned out to be 100. In order to do this, random scoring weight was given to portfolio sections, like project plans. With project plans, for example, 4-H’ers were given 10 points for “goals set/met” and 6 points for “knowledge and skills.” Now, while this certainly helped in creating a
score card in which the total points equaled 100, it was signifying to our 4-H members that writing clear, attainable goals is more important than the knowledge and skills that are learned from them.

By creating the new score card, each section is given the same weight – five points. This means that it does not matter if the final score totals 90, 100, or 132. Everyone is on an even playing field. If you are competing in citizenship, you still have to have a fantastic leadership section to “win the prize” and likewise for leadership. The rubric is helping us to move away from putting emphasis on the “number” score and helping us to better focus on the quality and content of the work.

**Question:**
What is the deadline for submitting my portfolio?

**Answer:**
The portfolio deadlines have **not** changed. February 1 is the deadline for submission of senior high citizenship and leadership portfolios into the state office. Again, you will be receiving step-by-step instructions on how to scan and upload the portfolios into SharePoint next week. May 1 is the deadline for submission of senior high main project portfolios into the state office.

**Question:**
In the 2017 “Portfolio Checklist” that is online, agents must check off the “Portfolio Contains the Following” section. Is this the order that the portfolios should be submitted in or should they include a “Table of Contents” section as in year’s past?

**Answer:**
To make a very, long story short, it came to my attention last year that there are actually **TWO** guidelines on how/what order a portfolio should be organized floating around the state. We just rolled with it last year because the portfolios were submitted in so many different ways. Ideally, we would like to receive the portfolios in the order on the checklist which are as follows:

- Tennessee 4-H Report Forms
- Project Plans
- 4-H Narrative or Resume
- Project Pictures
- Other Project Records

This means that a formal “table of contents” is not included. If you have a 4-H’er who already has a “table of contents” in his/her portfolio, by all means leave it. It does not get scored anyway. But if your 4-H’er does not have a “table of contents” as this is his/her first year to do one, then do not bother trying to create it. It is not necessary.

NOW … let’s talk about tabs. You cannot scan in tabs, obviously. It will be helpful, but again not required, if instead of tabs to separate each section, you have a page with the section title written on it and placed in between the two sections. These instructions will be discussed more next week.
Question:
What is the order – where do the miscellaneous pages go?

Answer:
Please see the instructions above regarding the order for the miscellaneous/supplemental pages. As a reminder, the pages are limited to five. The records worksheet (most often used with livestock projects) are included in this count.

Question:
Records worksheet – how does that work? Are these part of the miscellaneous/supplemental pages or do these count separately?

Answer:
The records worksheet (most often used with livestock projects) are included in the five miscellaneous pages.

Question:
Regarding the five, miscellaneous/supplemental pages – is one page considered both front and back or would front and back count as two pages?

Answer:
AHHHH! You all are SO CREATIVE! Just when I thought I had worked out everything … you guys have come up with this ingenious idea! Let’s just make this as easy and fair as possible – front and back are fine!

Question:
Do the “Guidelines for Assembling the Tennessee 4-H Project Achievement Portfolio” still exists? Is it still current? I can’t open it on the Website.

Answer:
Yes, the “Guidelines for Assembling the Tennessee 4-H Project Achievement Portfolio” still exists. It can be found on the Website. Look at the top bar under “Resources”, click on “Recognition Handbook” and then “Portfolio”. Yes and No – regarding the currency of the information. Now, I understand that most of you are unable to access it because of the on-going issue between Microsoft and SharePoint. SO … here’s what I am doing … I have opened it up on my computer. I am making a quick run through on checks/changes. I will have Daniel Hinton upload a PDF version to the Website and will email you all the link. Watch for this to come to your inbox by Monday.
Before the holidays, we have been working our way through Bloom’s Taxonomy as a tool to improve instructional design. The final level of Bloom’s Taxonomy is CREATE. At this level, learners have progressed fully into higher level thinking skills and are prepared to design, build, and model things with the knowledge they have gained. Students can combine items in new ways or patterns and propose alternate solutions to problems.

Learner objectives for this level often include words such as build, propose, solve, and test. Below are some examples of learner outcomes written for this level.

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:
- Design a project management model that can be used by yourself and others in multiple situations
- Lead a group in a service learning experience, complete with debriefing activity
- Estimate the total amount of feed consumed by a livestock herd based on herd health and other existing conditions.

Assessments for this level of Bloom’s could include redesigning of a livestock lot or creation of a sheet that contains pointers related to giving a speech or demonstration.

If you have questions regarding curriculum or lesson planning for the spring semester, please do not hesitate to contact James or I. We are always more than happy to help!
Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti —
Have Your 4-H’ers Got Talent?!

Lori Gallimore, Extension Specialist

Auditions for the 2017-2018 Tennessee 4-H Performing Arts Troupe are coming up in mid-March. If you have a 4-H member in grades 8-11 with an interest and talent in singing, dancing or sound/technical work, we would love for them to try out for the Performing Arts Troupe! They may audition for the following categories: vocal, dance, vocal and dance, and technical. There are two ways:

(1) Schedule a live audition. All live auditions will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Music City Sheraton Hotel in Nashville. To submit your live audition, simply apply online at [https://tiny.utk.edu/Troupe17](https://tiny.utk.edu/Troupe17). All applications must be received by March 8, 2017.

(2) Submit a YouTube video. The video must include the statement of the 4-H member’s name, county and category (vocal or dance) at the beginning. To submit your pre-recorded audition videos, simply apply online at [https://tiny.utk.edu/Troupe17](https://tiny.utk.edu/Troupe17). The application for all YouTube submissions is April 6, 2017.

Each vocalist and/or dancer, whether applying in person or online, must include two selections with at least one having musical accompaniment. One of the selections may be a group performance where they are clearly identified. It is also desirable for all vocal applicants to include at least one selection that includes movement and dance.

Those applying for a technical position should include any experience they have working with A/V. 4-H members who are considering participating in the troupe should be available for the summer workshop -- July 7-9, 2017 — in Lebanon, as well as all additional performance dates.

More detailed information will be sent to those involved in the live auditions after the application deadline. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming auditions, please feel free to contact me — lbelew@utk.edu or 865-974-7239.
**ALEC Graduate Program**

Masters of Science in Agriculture Leadership, Education and Communications (ALEC)

Online degree is available!!

For more information, please visit [https://ALEC.utk.edu](https://ALEC.utk.edu)
Or Call 865-974-7371

*Carrie Ann Stephens*
Professor, 4-H/ALEC

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**4-H PLEDGE**

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking;
**My HEART** to greater loyalty
**My HANDS** to larger service; and
**My HEALTH** to better living,
For my club, my community, my country and my world.

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**Upcoming Events**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Livestock Quiz Bowl</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16-18</td>
<td>State Jr. Market Hog Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20-21</td>
<td>Shooting Sports Instructor Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27-28</td>
<td>State 4-H All Star High Council Meeting</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Beekeeping Essay Due</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Congress Minority Scholarships Due</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Sr. High Citizenship/Leadership Portfolios Due</td>
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