As we reach this time of year, many of our 4-H members will be involved in various types of competitions. These include things such as public speaking, skill-a-thons, animal shows, portfolios, and quiz bowls. It is important that we have the right philosophy towards competition if these activities are to be a positive experience for youth. Competition is not just focused on winning. The goal is to increase one’s personal abilities and challenge youth to do their very best. I think the following quote from Virginia Extension expresses this philosophy well.

“4-H programming with youth is guided by a process that includes goal setting, cognition, practice, and performance. The performance stage is when members demonstrate what they have learned through various 4-H activities and events, including competitions. Competition can be an individual event against a standard (Danish System), an individual event against peers (Standard System), or team vs. team competitions.

When planned and conducted appropriately, competition experiences enhance positive youth development and prepare youth with positive competitive knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations that can lead to success through life.

Team competitions provide opportunities for youth to develop the interpersonal, leadership and cooperative skills necessary to be successful in the interdependent, global society of the 21st century.

Youth must be developmentally ready to handle competitions. Being recognized for performance in comparison to others can be a strong motivator for many older youth, but a deterrent to younger youth.”

Remember, whether you are a volunteer, parent or 4-H professional, help our 4-H members understand that improvement of one’s personal best will always be the goal … not just winning a contest.
CURRICULUM CORNER
Life Skill Outcomes Posted for Review
Jennifer Richards, Assistant Professor

As you may know, over the 18 months, we have been working to develop the Tennessee 4-H Life Skills Outcomes Framework (LSOF) to guide programmatic decisions at the state level and to provide guidance for in-school clubs. The Targeting Life Skills model, developed by Patricia Hendricks of Iowa State University in 1996, served as the foundation for the development of the LSOF. The life skills and sub-skills identified in the Targeting Life Skills model were crafted into outcomes and indicators and then organized according to cognitive and affective domains of Bloom’s Taxonomy. These outcomes and indicators were then aligned to grade levels based on developmental stage.

This fall, a workgroup comprised of 4-H agents and specialists reviewed and refined the outcomes, which were then evaluated by the state staff. We are now ready for the LSOF to be reviewed state-wide. This is where we need your help!

On the projects page of the state 4-H website, https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/4HProjects.aspx, there is a link to the outcomes for your review. Please look over these and email any comments or concerns you have to James Swart at jswart@tennessee.edu by February 17th.

If you have any questions about the outcomes, their structure, or how we intend to use these programmatically, please do not hesitate to reach out to James or me.
4-H Foundation Announces
The 4-H Grows Campaign

Ryan Hensley, Executive Director, TN 4-H Foundation

The Tennessee 4-H Foundation is proud to introduce the 4-H Grows Campaign. The 4-H Grows Campaign offers a $1000 incentive for county and regional 4-H Programs to increase the value of local 4-H Foundation endowments.

How it works:
Between now and December 31, 2017, the Tennessee 4-H Foundation will deposit $1000 into your local 4-H Foundation expense account after the county raises $2000 for one of the local 4-H Foundation endowments. Example: If Wilson County raises $2000 to grow the Wilson County 4-H Endowment. Then the Tennessee 4-H Foundation will deposit $1000 into the Wilson County expense account.

The $1000 incentive will be available for you to spend on your county or regional 4-H Program and the $2000 added to the local endowment will generate around $100 per year for your local 4-H program.

Fine Print:
1. Only one $1000 incentive per county or region.
2. The funds must be new to the 4-H Foundation.
   i.e. Funds may not be transfer from another 4-H Foundation account to receive the incentive.
3. Counties and regions may split the required $2000 into multiple 4-H Foundation endowments.

Example: If Loudon County raises $1000 for the Loudon County 4-H Endowment and $1000 for the Sara Brakebill Scholarship Endowment. Then the 4-H Foundation will deposit $1000 into the expense account of Loudon County’s choosing.

This is a great opportunity to grow local funds and the local 4-H program. The Tennessee 4-H Foundation is proud to partner with the you. Please help us invest in the youth of Tennessee.

If you have any question please contact Ryan Hensley at TN4H@utk.edu or Lindsey Renfroe at ltritt@utk.edu.
Shropshire Starter Flock Award

Applications due April 1st, 2017 We are pleased to announce that through the generosity and vision of several prominent Shropshire breeders that the Third Shropshire Starter Flock Award will be given to a lucky youth in the spring of 2017.

What it is...
The Shropshire Starter Flock Award will be given out annually and will help to establish one new Shropshire flock every year. The award in 2017 will be a credit voucher of $1,500, which can be used to purchase no less than two ewes in one of the following sales, Shropshire Classic, Great Lakes, Shropshire Spectacular and The Midwest. In addition ewes can be purchased at any sale that has ewe lambs nominated for the Shropshire Futurity. The National Junior Shropshire Sheep Association will identify a local breeder to act as a mentor to the recipient. The sheep will range in age from lambs to yearling ewes. The animals selected will be of sound structure and will maintain good breed type.

How it works...
If you are interested in winning this award flock, you are expected to do the following:
Write an essay to the National Junior Shropshire Sheep Association. Be sure to include background information about yourself. This document should illustrate your goals and intentions with the animals should you win the award. There should also be a budget included in the paperwork that is sent in. We ask that you type your essay and email it by April 1, 2017. Please include your mailing address and telephone number. All applicants should be between the ages of 8 and 20.

Also...
Winners are asked to give back to the Starter Flock Award Program in some way in the years to come. The awarded animals are asked to be shown at a county fair, a state fair and a Regional National show (All American Junior Show, North American International Livestock Expo, The Big E, or the Midwest Regional Show). These is the only things that we, the NJSSA, ask from the winner of this annual award.
Email Address: shropsec@hotmail.com

Essays and supporting documentation should be e-mailed to the above address no later than April 1, 2017. All essays will be reviewed and discussed by the board members and the winner will be chosen and contacted to make arrangements to receive their award at a spring sale. Whichever sale you chose to make your purchase you will have a $1,500 credit which can be used when you pay for your purchases. You must purchase at least 2 ewes with this award.

Whether you are looking to add a second breed to your farm or looking to make a start in the sheep business. We invite you to take a chance and write to win. Good luck and God bless.
   Rylie Miller, President, Junior Shropshire Association

For additional information contact: Alan Bruhin, wabruhin@utk.edu or Becky Peterson, shropsec@hotmail.com
Tennessee 4-H Alumni & Friends Annual Meeting
Ryan Hensley, Executive Director, TN 4-H Foundation

The Tennessee 4-H Alumni and Friends will host the second annual meeting on Saturday, February 25. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. Central at the Wilson County Expo Center. The annual meeting will serve as an opportunity for 4-H alumni and supporters to come together, to learn about the current state of 4-H, and to discuss what can be done to support and to improve the Tennessee 4-H program on the local, regional, and state levels.

A 4-H original, Amy Gallimore, will be the Keynote speaker for the luncheon. We are also honoring Dr. Jim Byford with the 2017 Tennessee 4-H Alumni Leadership Award.

Tennessee 4-H Alumni and Friends was officially formed in 2015 and set out to unite people who believe strongly in promoting and supporting the 4-H program. Anyone who has been involved with or supported the 4-H program is eligible to join and can help serve and better the Tennessee 4-H program. Believing in the power of the 4-H program to transform today’s youth, the Tennessee 4-H Alumni and Friends plans to serve in a variety of ways acting as mentors and project coaches, providing financial support, and volunteering to staff and to support 4-H programs and events.

Register for the event at: https://4halumni2017.eventbrite.com
TENNESSEE 4-H ALUMNI & FRIENDS

2017 ANNUAL

LUNCH MEETING

& SILENT AUCTION

FEBRUARY 25, 2017

Wilson Co. Expo Center.
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. CST
Tickets $20 Per Person
CURRENT GRANT PROJECTS
Shelby Brawner, Extension Assistant/Grant Manager

MADISON COUNTY
HEALTH ROCKS! IN MADISON COUNTY
Kane Reeves, Extension Agent

Each year, the Madison County 4-H program sets up a booth at the West Tennessee State Fair. Health Rocks! was our focus this year. We had the display board that showcased the effects of drugs and smoking tobacco. We had a volunteer that set behind the booth and was passing out brochures about the 4-H Health Rocks! program and the effects of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. Additionally, we had the drunken goggles simulation and a game that attendees could try out.

One night a parent came to the table and recognizes the 4-H Health Rocks! logo and says, “Hey, my son has been bringing home information about Health Rocks! and we go over it at night.” He explained that he and his son talked about the program because he struggled often with smoking. His son wanted him to quit so bad and he helped explain to his dad what it was doing to his body, which he learned from the 4-H Health Rocks! program. The dad finally decided that he was right and gave up on smoking to be there for his son. He said that if it was not for his son’s participation in the 4-H Health Rocks! program, he would still be smoking tobacco. He thanked us and expressed the importance of teaching young people prevention methods.
ALEC Graduate Program
Masters of Science in Agriculture Leadership, Education and Communications (ALEC)

Online degree available!!
For more information, please visit https://ALEC.utk.edu
Or Call 865-974-7371

Carrie Ann Stephens
Professor, 4-H/ALEC

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.

Upcoming Events

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<td>February 24-26</td>
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