

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Local 4-H'ers participate in the 2009 Jr. State Championship Fishing Tournament**

On April 11, 2009, members of the Cherokee County 4-H Sport Fishing Club traveled to Clanton, Alabama to participate in the 2009 Jr. State Championship Tournament on Lake Mitchell. The members represented Cherokee County well. Will Stevens placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the 15-18 age division.

Sportfishing is an activity for everyone-girls, boys, young, old, city folks and country folks. Participation in 4-H Sportfishing is not limited by skill or physical abilities. The program is open to youth ages 9 to 19. In addition to learning about fishing and field safety, participants get to practice angling skills and learn more about tackle crafting, people and fish and aquatic ecology.

This program is a cooperative effort between the recruitment and education arm of the American Sportfishing Association, The Future Fisherman Foundation, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Weiss Lake BassMasters, Aquatic Resource educators and staffs of certain state and federal management agencies.

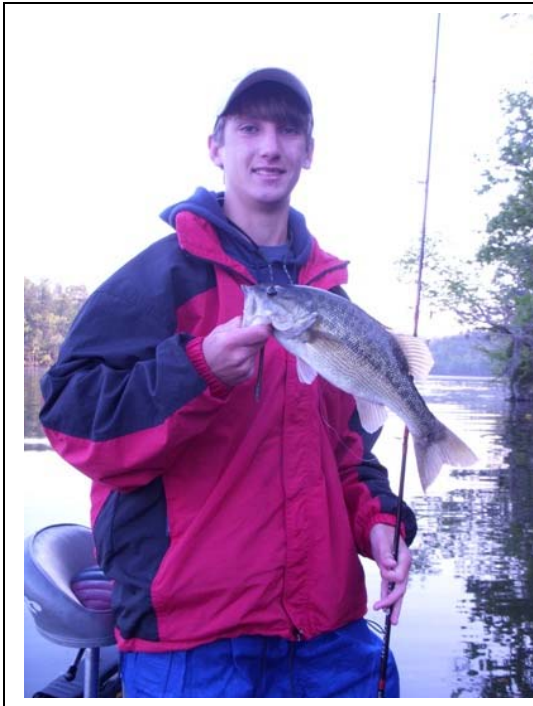
The National 4-H Sportfishing Program is a youth development program that provides a comprehensive curriculum designed to develop life skills while providing information and motivation to youth and adult audiences interested in sportfishing and/or aquatic resources.

The Cherokee County 4-H Sportfishing Club is also a member of ESPN/BASS and TBF/FLW. Membership in these organizations allows the club members to participate in fishing tournaments throughout Alabama and the Southeast.

The club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Cherokee County Extension Office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System from 6 to 7 p.m. If anyone would like more information about this club, please feel free to contact Robert Farrar, 4-H Volunteer Club Leader at 256-927-4773 or at [rwfarrar@tds.net](mailto:rwfarrar@tds.net).

If you need more information, please contact Linda Starr, Cherokee County Extension Coordinator at 256.927.3250 or Amy Burgess, Regional Extension Agent for 4-H and Youth Development at 256.558.7443 or [burgeap@auburn.edu](mailto:burgeap@auburn.edu).

4-H is the youth development component of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. 4-H helps young people from rural and urban areas explore their interests and expand their awareness of our world while providing opportunities to develop a greater sense of who they are and who they can become – as contributing citizens of our communities, our state, our nation, and our world. The mission is achieved through research-based educational programs of Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities and an ongoing tradition of applied, hands-on/minds-on experiences, which develop the heads, hearts, hands, and health of Alabama youth.



Will Stevens of the Cherokee County 4-H Sportfishing Club places sixth in the 15-18 age range at the 2009 Jr. State Championship Fishing Tournament.