

# Regional 4-H Newsletter

APRIL '08

Greene, Hale & Sumter Counties  
4-H, "To Make the Best Better"



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## The "Root" of a Volunteer

By David Perry, 4-H REA

The "Root" of a volunteer; what is that? Well, coming from experience of being a volunteer in many different roles the "root", so to speak, comes from the heart. It is something that runs deep within us. As a volunteer we have a heart for helping others and meeting the needs and services of others. I have played the role of a volunteer in coaching, Youth Sunday school teacher, as well as in a volunteer Fire and Rescue department. Many times we get discouraged in things that we do or don't do and some volunteering roles can be time consuming. However, when the day is done, there is nothing more gratifying than to know how much you have helped someone.

4-H does just that!! 4-H teaches youth life skills through educational, research based, hands-on learning. I have to take this moment to say, "Thank You", to volunteers helping with 4-H and for having a "heart" that is caring, giving, and has the desire to see today's youth achieve Great things through our 4-H program that is one of the longest living youth programs. Thank You.

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Clover News includes:

\*Power & ATV @ NSJH

\*JMG Promotion

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\*4-H New Comers

\*Skins & Skulls

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\*Hale Co. Jr. Cattleman

\*Mobile Dairy Classroom

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# "Power & ATV" @ NSJH

By David Perry & Wendy Padgett



4-H REA's, "David Perry and Wendy Padgett", teamed up and visited North Sumter Jr. High. Energy Efficiency and ATV Safety were the hot topics of the day. David taught the youth about identifying different types of insulation and its usage plus discussed how we can be more energy efficient by simply replacing the incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb. The youth were amazed at some of the statistics proclaiming how much "energy" we, as a nation, use in our homes and how simple it is for us to become more energy efficient. He also discussed methods

on how to conserve energy. Wendy pulled out the helmets, and discussed the dangers of riding double on ATV's. She used a great illustration of "Riding double is double trouble". She also taught the youth about proper protective- gear while riding and the advantages that each item had to offer. 4-H volunteer Patricia Bryant and Principle Elijah Bell thought the presentation was great and said that it was definitely information



the youth needed to hear. Mr. Bell added that some of the information was new to him as well.

# “Junior Master Gardeners”

Recently, our JMG state coordinator, Laurie Vines and I had the opportunity to visit a couple of schools in Greene and Sumter County to promote our JMG program. Our first visit was at North Sumter Jr. High. NSJH was already well on track with their program; they have “raised bed gardens” in place and active 4-Hers in an after school program learning about gardening. They are calling themselves the, “JMG bugs and dirt” 4-H club. NSJH is also planning on incorporating the curriculum into the classroom this fall when the new school year begins. Our second stop was at Warrior Academy where several teachers attended Mrs. Vines’s presentation. Warrior Academy plans on having Laurie return before the new school year begins in the fall to put on a JMG workshop. The teachers want to include JMG in the classroom and would like to work on setting up a small garden site for the students. Laurie and I were very pleased with our visits at the schools. Laurie plans to return this fall to do a “workshop” with the groups.

## T.G.I.F.

*By Denise Shirley, Hale Co. CEC*

4-H T.G.I.F. (Teens Getting Involved for the Future) is an Alabama Cooperative Extension System program that utilizes Teen Leaders, 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, to team teach an abstinence series High School’s 2008 Teen row from left, Alicia Shine, Denise Shirley, County and project director; back Brooks, Bianca Love, Ketty Meeks, 4-H T.G.I.F. shown are LaGracia Gibbs



Teen pregnancy as well as diseases is two very real sexually active. But a H TGIF is helping Hale County young people make better decisions. As part of the 4-H T.G. I. F. (Teens Getting Involved for the Future) program, 26 Hale County Teen Leaders

to six graders. Sumter Leaders are below: front Cortensia Wilson, and Extension Coordinator row from left, Sharnay JaMarkus Crowell, and Agent Assistant. Not and Taneisha Smith.

sexually transmitted risks for teens that are unique program called 4-

from all five high schools recently completed team teaching a five-session series on abstinence-until-marriage to 195 Hale County sixth graders.

These Teen Leaders earned their position after a rigorous selection process. These Teen Leaders are high achievers in school and community activities who are committed to the program's success.

Teen Leaders, who received extensive training before they entered classrooms, were used to teach their younger peers instead of the adults for several important reasons. Adolescents are often more open to messages, ideas and behaviors from their peers than they are from adults. Teen Leaders are also effective role models for younger youth demonstrating that young people can be successful without engaging in negative behaviors.

Finally, Teen Leaders help increase the ability of younger youth, in this case sixth graders, to resist social and peer pressure.

At Right, Greensboro West High School's 2008 Teen Leaders are: back row from left: Lee Williams, Brittany Kelley, Danielle Lighting, Louise Kiker and Bobby Perkins. Front row, From left: Martin Colburn, Carol Lynn Townsend, and Anna Ruth Randall. Edmonia Pickens, 4-H T.G.I.F. Agent Assistant and Denise Shirley, County Extension Coordinator and project Director is not pictured.



## 4-H New Comers

I am also excited to welcome our new 4-H groups to our communities. I welcome, Phyllana Bowers, 4-H volunteer at Warrior Academy in Greene Co. will be leading an in-school 4-H club with youth of all ages. They just had their first club meeting and so far about 15 youth have enrolled. Also, our other new comer is in Hale Co. @ a Youth Services Center made up of several volunteers; Beverly Tubbs, Pattye Brown, Lorraine Ross, Frechesis Toeran, and possibly a couple more. This group wants to incorporate 4-H into their program and they are very excited about the opportunity to offer 4-H and positive youth development to their youth. Let's give these volunteers a BIG round of applause!!



# Skins & Skulls

By David Perry, 4-H REA

Skins and Skulls is a new teaching kit we have in the state of Alabama, 3 to be exact, that we can use to teach our youth of all ages about our natural resources and wildlife habitat we are fortunate to have in our great state. Kids seem to love this teaching kit! It is composed of actual animal skins and the skulls of wildlife animals we have in our state. We are able to teach them which animals are carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores; moreover, what each animal likes to eat and if that animal is a predator or prey. I was fortunate to be able to use one of the kits this month and it has brought many smiles to the kids' faces. At first, some of them are not so sure they want to hold the skins but before the presentation is over, they all are ecstatic about it. I really enjoyed sharing this with them!!



# Robotics & Conceptual Design

By David Perry, 4-H REA

What is that, you might ask?! Well, I had the opportunity to visit one of my volunteers, AL Williams, in his classroom at Bell-Brown Career Tech School in Livingston and was able to learn more about it but most of all; the students were very enthusiastic and creative with the kits. In today's workplace, there is concern about a shortage scientists, engineers, and technical workers. Young people can develop skills needed for technical jobs in various 4-H programs. Constructing and programming robots is a way to develop some of those skills. Robots are most often a tool that solves a problem in some way. Learning about **Robotics** can help youth develop a wide range of science, technical and workforce skills. Skills and subjects learned may include areas such as electricity, electronics, computer programming, mechanics, physics, geometry, systems design, problem solving, teamwork, and communications.

**Design** is a about the process. The process includes and design. A about how to A design is the problem. Youth study a challenge presents various



Also, **Conceptual** workshop activity engineering engineering conceptualization concept is an idea solve a problem. plan to solve the work in teams to scenario that problems to solve.



Each set of “challenges” are based on various themes such as outer space, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agriculture, environmental concerns, etc. Teams examine each scenario that presents different issues and choose one that most interests them. Working as a team youth will study the scenarios further, conceptualize solutions, and illustrate their work.



## *Hale Co. 4-H Jr. Cattleman*

*By Lynn Marsh, Livestock Club Volunteer*

Hale County Jr. Cattleman Livestock club consist of approximately 15 youth and meets 6-8 times a year. Our members range in age from 8-17 and we participate in



various livestock events. We have 3 youth within the county who are currently showing cattle and another who will begin showing this fall. Our members have competed in showing, beef quiz bowls, and livestock judging over the past few years. We normally hold our meetings at Rocking “R” farm and last summer we had a cookout. We have even had a fundraiser to raise money for our club.

In March we had 14 members go to SLE (Southeastern Livestock Expo) week to compete in showing and the beef quiz bowl. During the district show we won 3 first place ribbons, and 1 second, third, and fourth place ribbons. In the state show we placed the same again. Our Jr. Quiz Bowl team finished runner up and we won 1<sup>st</sup> place in our division of “Herdsmanship”.

We really enjoy the fellowship and fun we have in our club but we also learn a lot about livestock by being an active 4-H group.

## Mobile Dairy Classroom

I wanted to take this chance again to apologize for the inconvenience of having to reschedule and cancel the mobile dairy classroom. It took a great deal of time just to get everything worked out but as we all know, things happen. I hope each of you that were scheduled to see it will welcome the outdoor classroom back during your next school year. Thanks for your patience!

David Perry, REA

## Upcoming Events

- Quarterly Volunteer Leader Meeting-April 7
  - 4-H Space Day-April 12
- Regional Congress-June 6 (deadline May 15)
  - Summer Camp-6 Sessions in June
  - Competitive Events Day-June 27
  - State 4-H Horse Show-July 7-11
  - 4-H Natural Resource Camp-July 17-18
- Quarterly Volunteer Leader Meeting-July 14
- 4-H Youth Leadership Conference-August 23-24

\*Please ask to find out what you can do to get involved!!

# County Extension Coordinator

## Serving your county

### with their thoughts!



One-Hundred years and counting 4-H has been around in Alabama touching the lives of young people and families. In Sumter County 4-H has a rich history and tradition of being the catalyst of developing young people into productive citizens.

4-H offers so many exciting opportunities to our youth and is a program that can enrich families and bring them together; it's a program that is the "backbone" of youth development.



I love 4-H! It is a wonderful program that offers many opportunities for our young people to develop skills that will help them be successful throughout their life. I was fortunate to have been a 4-H Agent many years ago and I can still recall some of the young people that touched my life in positive ways. It has been a humbling experience to watch as these young people finished high school and college and then began to give back to the community just as the community had given to them many years earlier. Congratulations on being a part of 4-H. I look forward to watching our programs continue to grow in the Black Belt.



*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.*

**Head represents:**

- Thinking, planning and reasoning.
- Gaining new and valuable knowledgeable.
- Understanding the whys.

**Heart represents:**

- Being concerned about the welfare of others.
- Accepting the responsibilities of citizenship.
- Determining the values and attitudes by which to live.
- Learning how to live and work with others.
- Developing positive attitudes.

**Hands represent:**

- Learning new skills.
- Improving skills already known.
- Being useful, helpful and skillful.
- Developing respect for work and pride in accomplishment.

**Health represents:**

- Practicing healthful living.
- Enjoying life.
- Using leisure time wisely.
- Protecting the well being of self and others.

***\*If you know someone who would like to be a 4-H Volunteer, please have them call their local county extension office or David Perry (see info on front page)***



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