

Regional 4-H Newsletter

AUGUST '08

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



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4-H Mid-Year Re-cap

By David Perry, 4-H REA

Well, school is out, the summer is HOT and it looks like we could use a little rain!! However, we can't let that stop us now and with 4-H; well its just like show business, the show must go ON! This summer youth in 4-H have had some good times; while some of our 4-H clubs take a short break in the summer months, some do not. There are many exciting things to do in 4-H around the state while school is out and even some of our local youth have found something to do at home. We have had 4-H Volunteers attending a JMG workshop, parents discussing plans for a 4-H horse/livestock club, teacher and students attending our State Forestry Invitational, 4-H Summer Camp, State 4-H Horse Show, and a community service project. Also, as the school year was coming to an end, Moundville elementary students

participated in their Classroom in the Forest Field Day where they had the opportunity to learn more about our natural resources. There are also some exciting things coming soon as the new school year gets underway. You will just have to take a glance through the newsletter to check out all the happenings.

Mid-Year Re-Cap cont.

Finally, I will have to say it has been an awesome year for me as a Regional Extension Agent. I have gotten to know some great people in Greene, Sumter and Hale counties over the last year since being assigned to these counties. I am looking forward to this next 4-H club year and meeting more folks in these communities and getting to see more youth and adults become involved with 4-H. It just makes me happy to see youth learning and exploring new skills, enhancing old ones, and making themselves part of there community.

Thank You to all of those that have been apart of this program and remember; our youth are our leaders for tomorrow!!

Forest In the Classroom Field Day

By Denise Shirley, Hale Co. CEC

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Treasury Forest Association partnered to conduct *Classroom in the Forest* field day on May 2, 2008. About eighty fifth grade students from Moundville Elementary, parents, adults and teachers: Mitchell, Burroughs, Roberts and Wyatt, participated in the activity held at the privately owned forest land of volunteers Ed and Mary Ann Avery in Moundville. Other Forestry volunteers included: Buddy Hall, Douglas Fulghum and Tim Washburne. Extension personnel included: Denise Shirley, County Extension Coordinator; David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension Agent; and John Ollison, Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Regional Extension Agent.



Classroom in the Forest: Forest in the Classroom is an educational program designed to teach the importance of private forest land and private forest landowners, regarding the multiple-use management of our forest natural resources. The project has

FIC cont.

two goals. The first goal is to help educate fifth grade students and their teachers, regarding multiple use management of our forest resources, and to show how important private landowners are in the management of these valuable resources. The second goal is to involve private landowners and stake holders in the education of our youth, other landowners, and the general public regarding the importance of our natural resources.

Sumter Co. Round-up

By David Perry, 4-H REA

On June 4 several parents along with 4-H Regional Extension Agent, David Perry, got together and discussed opportunities for their children and other youth to get involved with 4-H with emphasis on Horse Shows and Beef cattle showing. Attending with the parents was also, Stacey Dial, Assistant Rodeo coach at UWA. Many of the youth have



already been involved with a Horse club over in Mississippi, so this is good news for Sumter Co. We have the interest from parents and youth, so why not Sumter Co. Well, wait no longer!! The meeting went very well according to David Perry and the group is planning on getting back together for another meeting in August or September. I feel this was a great start for this excellent opportunity for our youth here in Sumter Co. that has an interest in livestock. It was also discussed that the youth could possibly use the UWA arena as long as it was not

being used by the university. One great thing about 4-H is that the youth really don't have to have livestock to be involved with some of the "livestock" programs; we have knowledge bowl or quiz bowl programs as well where youth will compete as a team and individual. Other things discussed at the meeting were having a horse show in Sumter Co., attending the AJCA Round-up in July, showing cattle in the fall and spring at the Alabama National Fair and the Southeastern Livestock Expo in March, and the helmet and age requirements when dealing with horses and livestock. "I am excited about the future of this 4-H program," said David Perry and "hats off" to all the parents and adults that attended that are equally excited about this opportunity and I am looking forward to working with each of them.

State 4-H Forestry Invitational

By David Perry, 4-H REA

Students from Sumter Co. High along with the Agricultural teacher, Kim Parker, and David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension Agent were just among a few to attend the State 4-H Forestry Invitational on June 9th and 10th. Students from across the state compete as a team in Tree Identification, Tree Measurement, Identifying Insects and Disease that can harm trees, using a Compass and a knowledge bowl contest. The winner of the state invitational will go on to the National contest in West Virginia. This was a great experience for the youth that participated according to David Perry. The youth from Sumter High went over there this year to just observe and learn about the contest but next year we are planning on competing in the event. Also, while over there we met many people from the surrounding area that have offered to help our youth from Sumter Co. if needed. Competing in this type of event takes a lot of preparation and is a great learning experience; furthermore, it can also spark interest into maybe pursuing a career in areas concerning our Natural Resources.



Regional Council "Hunt"

Over the next few months, our County 4-H program will be selecting youth that have been active 4-Hers, demonstrated leadership, and shown integrity as a 4-Her. The 4-H Regional Council Committee is a part of the 4-H leadership program that prepares youth to serve its community through 4-H programs and community service projects. The 4-H Regional Council works together as a team and has fun while giving back to their communities. The 4-H Regional Council also serves as an Advisory Committee to the Regional Extension Agent in the region. The Regional Council is a small group with a very important mission. If you know of someone that demonstrates these attributes and you would like for them to be considered as a Regional Council member, please let your 4-H REA know.

4-H Summer Camp

By David Perry, 4-H REA

Well, 4-H Summer camp has come and gone but what a tremendous time we had. Youth from Greene and Sumter Co. went to camp June 16-18 along with others from around the state and had a great time. 4-H summer camp has six sessions during the month of June for three days each and this year a new “on-line open enrollment” option was available that worked very well and I am sure will be available in the years to come. I know some of these youth are anxiously waiting now for next summer. We also had two adults attend with the youth from Greene Co., said David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension agent, one of which was Mrs. Alvis and she said “her daughters were still talking about camp a week later”. Youth at camp get to experience many things such as rock climbing wall, swimming, canoeing, fishing, put-put golf, archery, air rifle, field games, arts and crafts, GPS, and also get to learn about reptiles. Furthermore, a very important program is also done at each meal teaching the youth the importance of food waste and why we should not waste food and our resources. I am also looking forward to camp next summer as well and if you have questions please call your County Extension office.



Left: The youth and the 4-H volunteers from Greene County pose for a picture in front of Guthrie Lodge at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL.

Growing Good Kids...4-H Junior Master Gardeners

By David Perry, 4-H REA

A leader workshop was held recently at the Agricultural Fish Farming Center in Greensboro, AL teaching adults how to use the curriculum and activities involved within the Junior Master Gardeners workbooks and also giving them an orientation of what youth can learn from being involved. JMG not only teaches youth about plants, insects, and diseases, soils and so forth; but teaches youth teamwork, leadership, and community



service. JMG is a teacher friendly, motivating, researched-based, award-winning, flexible, hands-on state curriculum correlated science program for young people. Teachers across the state and nation use JMG also in their classrooms; not just in after-school clubs or project clubs. The curriculum correlates well with the science studies taught in different grade levels since the JMG curriculum has three different age levels. David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension Agent, thought that the workshop went great and would

like to say another, “Thank You”, for those who came out and for Laurie Vines, State Coordinator for JMG for leading the workshop. Also, a special thanks to Kristy Abrams, Assistant Manager @ the 4-H Center for coming and informing us of the Coosa River Science School that accepts students during the school year to come for 2-3 day programs held at the 4-H Center that provides students of Alabama with an amazing hands-on, experiential, environmental education experience. Students are exposed to a variety of classes that are all correlated to the Alabama Course of Study and approved by Auburn University. Your students experience the outdoor classroom in a safe structured atmosphere while benefiting from the comforts and amenities of a full service conference center. If you would like to acquire more information about either one of these youth programs please contact David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension Agent, at 334-321-8240.

4-H Community Service

By Sam Ledbetter, 4-H Volunteer

On July 2nd, a group of students from North Sumter Jr. High, 21st Century Afterschool program and 4-H club, along with Patricia Bryant (4-H Volunteer and coordinator for the 21st Century Program) came to the UWA greenhouse and Black Belt Garden. Also attending with them was David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension Agent and Sam Ledbetter, Manager of the UWA Greenhouse/Black Belt Garden and 4-H Volunteer.

They were treated to a tour of the greenhouse where they saw a variety of plants. While one group was touring the greenhouse the other group was shown a variety of plants planted in the front, a bluebird box that has a nest with one egg, and a 40 million year old petrified tree that is on display in the front. After both groups toured the greenhouse and the front of the gardens, each student was given a swamp chestnut oak tree and they were given the task



of upgrading the tree from a smaller container to a larger container and then they were able to take home their own oak to plant on their school campus or they could take

them home if they preferred. This same group is also building Eastern Bluebird houses as a community project with the birdhouses being placed at UWA campus, UWA Nature Trail, York Westend Jr. High, and North Sumter Jr. High. On July 14th we brought the group back to the UWA Campus where the youth helped place some of the bird houses on campus. The youth seemed to have a great time and learned a lot about the Eastern Bluebird.



State 4-H Horse Show



Well, the 2008 State 4-H Horse Show has now come and gone... but what a huge SUCCESS it was! The support received from the volunteers was tremendous and we could not have had such a successful show if it weren't for them. The days were long and hot, but the youth had a great time. Classes offered ranged from different riding disciplines to Educational Classes. Youth participated in Jumping, Hunt Seat, Dressage, Saddle Seat (Trotting and Gaited), Timed Events, and

Western Performance classes. New this year was the first Drill Team Competition. Drill teams are a team event where riders perform a pattern choreographed to music. Educational Classes offered included Photography, Public Speaking, Model Horse Scene, Demonstrations, Horse Judging, Horse Quiz Bowl and creative riding... just to name a few. If you are interested in more information about 4-H Horse Programs contact David Perry, 4-H Regional Extension Agent or visit http://www.aces.edu/~ebertra/2008_state_4-h_horse_show.pdf. All youth that participated in the 4-H State Horse show are members of 4-H Horse Clubs from all over the state.



Upcoming Events

- 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference-Aug. 23-24
 - 4-H AU Football Day-Aug. 30th
- Quarterly Volunteer/Advisory meeting-Sept. 15
 - Southern Regional Volunteer Forum-Oct. 2-5
- Alabama National Fair Youth Livestock Events-Oct. 3-12
 - Mobile Dairy Classroom-Oct. 15-16

*Please ask to find out what you can do to get involved in some of these FANTASTIC events!!!

“Web Links”

Feel free to check these out for more 4-H information.....

- <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/>
- <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/volunteers/>
- <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/programs/>
 - <http://www.aces.edu/~ebertra/>
 - <http://www.aces.edu/4hcenter/>
- <http://www.aces.edu/counties/Greene/>
- <http://www.aces.edu/counties/Hale/>
- <http://www.aces.edu/counties/Sumter/>



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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