

Commendation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Youth programs in Alabama can be traced back to the early 1900s, when Thomas M. Campbell was appointed the first Alabama-based Extension agent. Thomas Campbell was hired by the USDA Office of Cooperative Demonstration to assist black farmers, and he used the Jessup Wagon, a movable school of agriculture, to spread the knowledge of better farming and home life to Alabama farmers. He and others quickly learned that while adults were resistant to farm practice changes, but their children were more eager to learn. The idea of teaching children, who in turn teach others, was born and is still in existence today as 4-H; and

WHEREAS, The first youth clubs began in 1909 as Boys' Corn Clubs in Anniston and Tuscaloosa. By the end of the year, there were more than 2,000 members; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Alabama organized girls' tomato clubs in Pike and Walker counties; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 58,000 Alabama youth statewide participate in a variety of educational programs to learn belonging, independence, generosity and mastery. Alabama 4-H reaches kids ages 9 to 19 through in-school programs, special interest programs, traditional club programs and competitive events; and

WHEREAS, The mission of 4-H is to serve all youth. At the heart of Alabama 4-H's curricula is the belief that programs must instill life-development skills. No matter the subject, 4-H instructs youth in character values needed to be productive citizens. Alabama 4-H also teaches leadership skills through its commitment to positive youth development; and

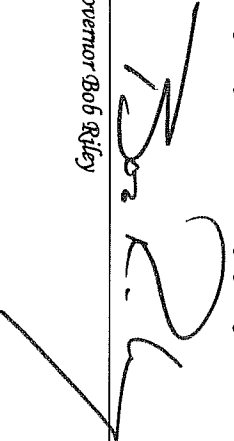
WHEREAS, 2008 is the Centennial Year of the Alabama 4-H;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby commend

Alabama 4-H

On its 100th anniversary.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 27th day of August 2008.



Governor Bob Riley

