

# NYS 4-H 1st Friday Newsletter

## May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Issue #6

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[NYS 4-H Volunteer Forum](#) -Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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### NYS 4-H LEADER ADDRESS

One of the quotes in my office reads "Life Begins At The End of Your Comfort Zone."<sup>1</sup> Life could easily be replaced with change to read "Change Begins At The End of Your Comfort Zone." As a program, we are at the end of our comfort zone. Two notable changes in NYS 4-

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<sup>1</sup> Neale Donald Walsch

H has been our move to the College of Human Ecology's Bronfenbrenner Center for Translation Research and my appointment as the New York State Program Leader. These two changes are remarkable. First, because 4-H has historically lived in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as part of the CCE administrative unit for decades; second, prior state leaders were resident 4-Hers with many, many years of 4-H experience. I am certain both of these pronounced differences in the NYS 4-H leadership stimulated conversation, some concern about the future and some discomfort.

Since my tenure began in August, I have listened to, met with, read through and thought about "NYS 4-H". As a practitioner, I believe equitable opportunities for all children and youth are priceless and that all children and youth should be afforded the types of experiences that 4-H provides. My work as an Extension Agent in Philadelphia generated excitement for me about what kids can do and learn to do through 4-H! Unfortunately, excitement and commitment are no longer enough to maintain programming; we must provide evidence about our impact on children. As a researcher, I believe we can provide equitable opportunities to all youth by producing evidence and conducting research to demonstrate, learn, guide and investigate what works.

State specialists will work to connect research with practice through papers published to our website or blog, investigate and publicize opportunities available to educators for professional development, provide workshops during visits to association meetings, and focus on proving support for state supported projects.

Under my leadership, the state office team will ask what is the logic [model] behind the projects you support in your county? You will regularly hear us ask:

- What types of data do you collect on your projects?
- How do you collect data?
- Which youth development outcomes have you identified as indicators of change?
- What is the Cornell research resources connected to your project?
- What are the research resources connected to your project?

[Click here for the rest of the address.](#)

[Valerie N. Adams, PhD](#)  
New York State 4-H Program Leader

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## **Report on Research for Continuous Improvement of 4-H**

### The Western District Pilot Project

Working with Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties, Steve Hamilton and Angela Northern are leading a project designed to explore ways of using research to strengthen 4-H. The project relies both on the research literature – evidence produced by professional researchers – and on local research, which may be produced by educators, youth, and volunteers, ideally in collaboration with Cornell researchers.

### **Goals/Objectives**

1. Explore, test, and model approaches to strengthening the research base of 4-H.
2. Plan, implement, and evaluate 3-5 research-based initiatives that demonstrably improve 4-H.
3. Develop research-related practices and products that are useful statewide.
4. Develop one or more externally funded research project(s) based on the pilot.
5. Communicate findings and lessons learned from the project statewide and nationally.

An initial meeting with the 4-H educators from the five counties identified three topics:

- How to get parents and youth to make 4-H participation a more preferred choice
- Engaging, recruiting, and retaining volunteers/mentors
- Fairs – what is their value to youth development and how can we document that?

Angela's meetings with the educators have identified another topic:

- How to evaluate programs

In addition, the first two questions have been combined and restated:

- How can youth members and adult volunteer leaders be retained longer in clubs?

### Research Reviews

Angela has drafted and circulated reviews of research on two topics: retention of 4-H members and retention of 4-H leaders. She is working on a third about fairs.

## Evaluation

Angela encouraged other Western District educators to sign up for the next iteration of Evaluation Partnerships from the Cornell Office for Research on Evaluation (CORE) as a means of building their capacity to design and conduct useful evaluations. Monica Hargraves has been very supportive of this effort. We need measures of what young people gain from 4-H. Fortunately both the national 4-H office and the Northeast regional leaders are working on meeting this need.

## Collaboration vs. Customization

There are great advantages to working jointly on the same issues in multiple counties. However, even among the five participating counties there are quite different contextual issues and priorities. Our approach has been mixed, looking for a shared activity while also trying to respond to counties' distinctive needs and concerns. Some shifting may be needed as the project proceeds, most likely in the direction of greater cross-county collaboration.

## Research Plan to Strengthen the 4-H Club Program

A plan is emerging to focus on how 4-H clubs work or don't work. This will involve looking closely at clubs that endure and clubs that don't, consulting with educators, volunteers, and members about the factors that are associated with long-term success, shorter-term success, and with clubs ending.

A CCE summer intern will work with Angela for six weeks, assisting her with research reviews and with data collection (e.g., interviews, focus groups surveys). A graduate student in Education is interested in studying how translational research works in practice and how its use affects practitioners and their organizations. He will be exploring this project as a context for that research.

## [Stephen F. Hamilton](#)

Professor of Human Development, Associate Director for Youth Development  
Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research

## **4-H STATE OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS'**

### **HOW TO'S**

Have you already asked yourself; how can I submit an article for the FFN well? Then you are in luck, take a look at our list of how to's by clicking the link below. You will find a how to for submitting news to FFN; in addition, there are instructions on how to submit photos to Flickr, how to join listservs, and how to submit success stories.

<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/staff/Pages/The4-HBrand.aspx>

[Jamila Walida Simon](#)

NYS 4-H Communications Coordinator

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### **ACCESS 4-H NEWS**

Interest in a statewide training at Cornell in the fall is trickling in. Is there a region or two that would like to host a training "closer to home?" A computer lab with hard-wired computers would need to be available. Don't forget to let us know your availability to visit Cornell by filling out the form below:

<https://cceconferences.wufoo.com/forms/access-4h-training-2012/>

Are your re-enrollments done for 2011-2012? The national advisory committee is trying to determine when to change the system so that clicking "re-enroll" defaults to 12-13 rather than 11-12.

Are you tracking any assessment/evaluation in ACCESS or another database management program? If so, please let me know what system you are using and what outcomes you are tracking by emailing me at [adamdavis@cornell.edu](mailto:adamdavis@cornell.edu).

[Adam Davis](#)

NYS 4-H Office Manager

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### **TRACTOR SAFETY**

The Department of Labor (DOL) has withdrawn the proposed legislation requiring youth working with tractors to undergo 90 hours of Ag safety training. Thank you to all those who made comments during the comment period, your voices were heard.

<http://www.dol.gov/whd/media/press/whdpressVB3.asp?pressdoc=national/20120426.xml>

[Adam Davis](#)  
NYS 4-H Office Manager

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**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Thanks to everyone who attended my April 27th, webinar “Risk Management in 4-H Clubs” if you missed it the archived webinar can be seen at:  
<http://staff.cce.cornell.edu/Pages/webinars.aspx>

We’re working to put together a webinar on 4-H Risk Management with animals, stay tuned!

[Adam Davis](#)  
NYS 4-H Office Manager

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**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**  
**State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR) 2012**

The 2012 STARR was a success! There were more than 36 presenters on topics related to STEM (Robotics 101, Entomology, Fiber Science), Healthy Living (Bread Making, Yoga, Zumba), and Civic Engagement (Public Speaking led by 4-H Alumni Marissa Horton, No Hate Campaign, and a Revolution of Responsibility (RoR) video workshop). There were 221 participants representing 37 counties and our theme: A Revolution of STARRs was realized in the action plans of the 4-H'ers, educators, and volunteers alike that attended. Check out our [NYS 4-H YouTube channel](#) for ROR videos and videos from STARR 2012!

[Jamila Walida Simon](#)  
NYS 4-H Civic Engagement Coordinator

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**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT LISTSERV**

Please email me if you would like to be added to the civic engagement listserv. In addition, if you are interested in joining the Civic Engagement PWT please send me an email in anticipation of reactivation during the fall of 2012.

[Jamila Walida Simon](#)  
NYS 4-H Civic Engagement Coordinator

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**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE UPDATES**

The NYS 4-H website has undergone many changes over the past few months. Over the next couple of weeks, the Civic Engagement feature on our website will at long last be updated.

[Jamila Walida Simon](#)

NYS 4-H Civic Engagement Coordinator

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## **HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**

### **2012 United Healthcare and 4-H Healthy Living Grant Award**

Our 4-H program is one of ten recipients of the United Health Care (UHC) 4-H Healthy Living Grants via the National 4-H Council. Wendy Wolfe, DNS, leads the project in cooperation with the NYS 4-H Foundation and four collaborating CCE associations involving 4-H and Nutrition colleagues. The NYS county programs will use our Choose Health teaching tools, Choose Health Action Teens, and Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness, in addition to the other activities and toolkits provided at the national UHC-4-H May training. The other 9 states will have an opportunity to use our materials as well. Our two upcoming state level events, Career Explorations and State Fair will also include Healthy Living experiences as part of the Healthy Living Grant. More information to follow: The 4 CCE counties implementing local programs are Broome, which has a CYFAR-funded civic engagement project, Citizen U; Jefferson, which has a healthy living coalition that UHC has just joined and has great interest in 4-H Healthy Living programming; and Madison and Oswego with ongoing Healthy Living programs. In addition, Wendy Wolfe and Sally Jo Croisar will be facilitating a major part of the UHC-National 4-H Partnership training in May for all the states' teams. Two CCE educators and a teen from our lead county, Broome will also attend the training. Congratulations to all involved!

[Jo Anne Swanson](#)

4-H State Office Program Administrator

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## **PRESIDENT'S ACTIVE LIFESTYLE AWARD (PALA)**

In the place of a webinar that was to take place on 4/4/12 there is a prerecording available on the President's Active Lifestyle Award and PALA + (activity plus nutrition) to view anytime at: <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/p6m7cog1lzw/>.

You may access the recording anytime and learn about resources available for groups and individuals to participate in the award program.

[Jo Anne Swanson](#)

4-H State Office Program Administrator

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## **NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY RESEARCH WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER**

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) includes National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, USDA and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. NCCOR has redesigned and enhanced its communications products to improve usability and user engagement. The website – [www.nccor.org](http://www.nccor.org) – has new features, written material and presentation templates have also been updated, and an improved NCCOR e-Newsletter debuts in May.

Some of the new website design features include:

- Social media tools: Users can now follow us on Twitter, keep apprised of the latest childhood obesity issues and news
- Image carousel of featured projects/events
- Improved navigation bar

The website also features upcoming grant opportunities, project pages reflecting all of NCCOR's current activities, biographies of the inaugural NCCOR External Scientific Panel (NESP), and the Collaborative's latest infographics.

[Jo Anne Swanson](#)

4-H State Office Program Administrator

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## **SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) 4-H STEM E-LIST FOR EDUCATORS**

Information and opportunities related to the STEM Mission Mandate are being sent to the CCE-STEM-Youth-L list. Contact me at Nancy Schaff [nschaff@cornell.edu](mailto:nschaff@cornell.edu) for more information about the listserv.

[Nancy Schaff](#)

STEM Specialist

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## **4-H STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND YOUTH LEADERS: REGISTER NOW FOR THE GEOSPATIAL SCIENCES PROGRAM IN-SERVICE!**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Cornell University**, Lodging and some meals provided.

**GPS:** Learn to use handheld Global Positioning System receivers to geocache, navigate and collect data locations.

**GIS:** Introduction to Geographic Information Systems using ESRI ArcGIS Online Software, and other web mapping applications.

**Remote Sensing:** Learn from a distance with air photos and satellite images.

**Putting it all together:** Design a community mapping project for your club, camp or afterschool group to experience the excitement of Geospatial Science in action.

To register or for more details or questions please contact Lori Radcliff-Woods at lr63@cornell.edu, Chip Malone at cwm4@cornell.edu, or Susan Hoskins at sbh1@cornell.edu. Your host: IRIS, 1015 Bradfield Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. PH: 607-255-6520.

[Charles \(Chip\) Malone](#)

State 4-H Program Specialist - Energy & Geospatial Science Education

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**4-H ROBOTICS**

**New York 4-H First Robotics Challenge (FRC) Teams Compete At Championship Event April 25-28**

We have many 4-H teams participating in FIRST Robotics this year at the FLL (middle school) and FRC (high school) levels. All three rookie FRC teams at the Finger Lakes Regional FIRST competition in March were 4-H teams. The Otsego and Ontario County FRC teams traveled to the National Championship event in St. Louis last weekend!

This is a message I received from Ana Martinez, the FIRST Regional Director for New York following the Finger Lakes Regional event:

*"You probably already heard the buzz... but still I wanted to congratulate 4-H on behalf of NYS FIRST on the amazing performance of 4-H teams this weekend at the 2012 Finger Lakes FIRST Robotics Regional. There were three 4-H rookie teams, which ended up drawing the applause and admiration of all competitors. I feel especially grateful to them for pioneering a level of robotics activity much more challenging than any other offered by FIRST and probably by other pre-college extracurricular programs: the FIRST Robotics Competition uses highly sophisticated industrial platforms and state-of-the-art technology most schools and afterschool groups find too overwhelming to jump into!. These NYS 4-H Clubs undertook a huge challenge and mastered it with formidable success, showing how 4-H Clubs are succeeding in leading youngsters through higher level robotics and technological innovation..."*

*Oneonta 4H Team #4203 won the "Rookie All Star" Award - they really impressed the judges with the quality of organization and their gracious professionalism. Orleans County 4H Albion Club, Team 4093 was a very close contender winning the "Rookie Inspiration" Award, and Ontario County 4H Team 3951 not only won the Rookie Highest Seed Award but was also a REGIONAL WINNER! Needless to say all three teams*

*found very creative solutions to this year's "Rebound Rumble" engineering challenge. However, what impressed everyone most was the amazing dedication of the adults and the supportive community the 4H Clubs organized around these young people: parents, teachers, businesses, rolling up their sleeves and standing to cheer and support young people, led by the inspiring enthusiasm of tireless 4H Club leaders!*

*KUDOS 4H! You do show the way towards preparing youth for the XXI Century!*

[Nancy Schaff](#)

STEM Specialist

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**4-H CAREER EXPLORATIONS CONFERENCE – JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> -28<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

Registration has closed – over 500 people will be participating in the Career Explorations Conference again this year. Over the next few weeks we will be selecting Focus Assistants and contacting them, posting the handbook, contacting participants, etc. We look forward to seeing many of you on campus in late June.

<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/CareerEx.aspx>

[Nancy Schaff](#)

STEM Specialist

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**2012 NEW YORK STATE FAIR**

The second State Fair Blue Ribbon Express newsletter was sent on April 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are involved with State Fair in any way, it is important that you take the time to read these periodic newsletters.

<http://ow.ly/awVMb>

[Nancy Schaff](#)

STEM Specialist

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**4-H CURRICULUM**

**New Releases:**

Agri-Science

Food Culture, and Reading

Exploring Your Environment

No New Water; Entomology

**Upcoming Curriculum**

- Fall 2012 Beef, Swine, Communications, Theatre Arts
- Winter 2012/2013 Career Education, Physical Activity
- Spring 2013 Money Management
- Later 2013 Veterinary Science, Food Science

### **Resources / Capacity Building Tools**

- Summer 2012 Bullying Prevention Guide
- Fall 2012 Using University Resources in Developing Curriculum Guide
- Fall 2012 Using 4-H Curricula to Develop Individual Learning Plans for Youth
- Fall 2012 4-H Curriculum Evaluation Tutorial

### **Curriculum Bundles**

I recently attended the National 4-H Science Management Team meeting at the National 4-H Center. One of the things announced was the plan to release Curriculum Bundles, such as STEM Afterschool, Videography, and Camp Bundles. These may include high quality resources from states as well as national curricula. No details about when they will be available.

### **4-H RESOURCE REVIEW WEBINARS**

The National 4-H Curriculum Working Group will be hosting 4-H Resource Reviews bi-monthly on the third Wednesday from 2:00-2:30. Upcoming topics: Entrepreneurship (May 16<sup>th</sup>), Bullying (July 18<sup>th</sup>), Environmental (September 19<sup>th</sup>), and Photography and Videography (November 14<sup>th</sup>). These will be 30-minute webinars designed to provide a snapshot of new & current, state & national curricula, and resources related to a specific topic.

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/new-releases/>

[Nancy Schaff](#)

STEM Specialist

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### **ANIMAL SCIENCE EVENTS**

Be sure to check out these statewide animal science events:

Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Animal Crackers

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/crackers/index.html>

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - State 4-H Horse Communications Contest

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/horses/index.html>

Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 - Horse In-service.

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/horses/in-service/index.html>

[Dana Palmer](#)  
Animal Science

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Archived Curriculum Development and Other Professional Development**  
**Webinars**

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/professional-development-learning/webinar-archives/>

[Nancy Schaff](#)  
STEM Specialist

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**National 4-H Online Learning Center**

Courses available at this time: Curriculum Reviewer Training and Using Inquiry-Based Learning to Support 4-H Science

<http://4h.interactyx.com/login.aspx>

[Nancy Schaff](#)  
STEM Specialist

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**NYS 4-H Volunteer Forum – Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Binghamton**

Theme: Join the Revolution of Responsibility (RoR)

The planning committee has issued a Request for Workshop Proposals

<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/staff/Pages/VolunteerDevelopmentOpportunities.aspx>

[Nancy Schaff](#)  
STEM Specialist

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**ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**TSC Paper Clover Sales**

The Spring 2012 Tractor Supply Co. and Del's Paper Clover promotion is here! Spring Paper Clover launched Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and runs through Sunday, May

13<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already done so, reach out to your local TSC or Del's to find out how you can work with your store to help maximize the fundraiser's success! Be sure to visit the TSC/4-H mini-site at [www.tractorsupply.com/4-h](http://www.tractorsupply.com/4-h) to track the progress of the promotion.

Enter the Photo Contest for a Chance to Win \$1,250!

Don't miss out on the chance to win an extra \$1,250 for your county! 4-H Youth, Volunteers, and Staff who submit a photo of themselves assisting with the Paper Clover fundraiser at their local TSC will be entered to win \$1,250 for their club and county 4-H program. For complete details on how to enter the contest, check your Paper Clover Toolkit.

Be a Secret Clover Shopper! Want to be a Secret Clover Shopper? Sign up and help say "thank you" to your local cashier who is helping to raise money for your 4-H program. Find out how you can be a Secret Clover Shopper by visiting the Paper Clover Toolkit.

[New York State 4-H Home Page](#)

**JOIN** | **THE REVOLUTION**   
**OF RESPONSIBILITY**