

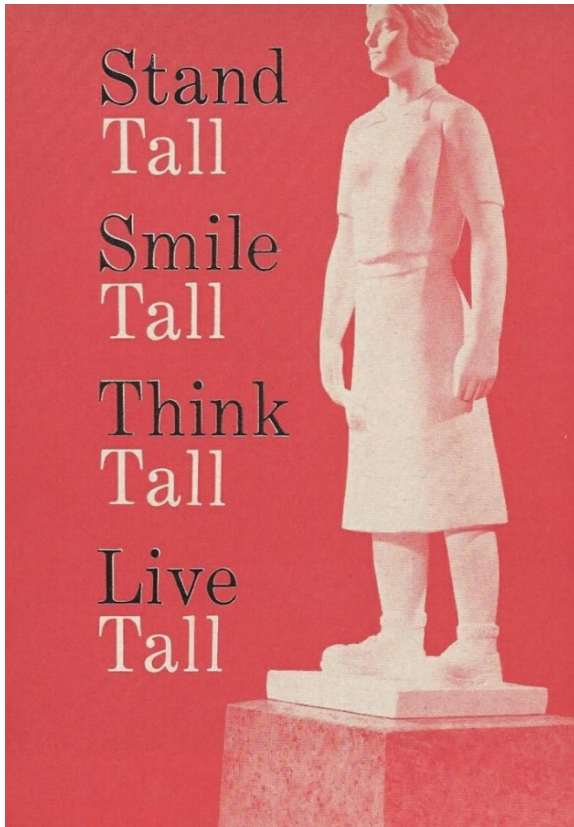


# National 4-H History Preservation Program

**April 2017 Newsletter**

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## On this Day in 4-H History



**April 22, 1963:** "Typical 4-H Girl" statue, joining boy statue in Danforth Court at the National 4-H Center, is dedicated.

### **4-H'ers Are Serving Their Clubs, Communities, Country and World**

Every day, 4-H'ers across the nation pledge their hands to larger service.

And every day, 4-H'ers are rolling up their sleeves and putting their pledge into action – leading positive change that empowers their peers and their communities.

This April, 4-H launched an annual "True Leaders in Service" initiative in honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Month. "True Leaders in Service," a month-long community service activation, officially kicked-off the first day of April, and will culminate with the National 4-H Day of Service on Saturday, April 29. Thousands of 4-H'ers will venture out into their communities to do what 4-H'ers do best: they will lead in service to tackle community challenges and help meet the needs of others.

But this is not something new in 4-H.

### **4-H'ers have been Active in "Service" Projects Since 1917 and before**

America entered World War I on April 6, 1917, when Congress approved President Wilson's declaration of war on Germany. The war created an increased demand for food in Europe and eventually the US. President Wilson appointed Herbert Hoover to lead the Food Administration, established by executive order on August 10, 1917, to combat starvation in Europe. ["Teaching with Documents," National Archives, <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/sow-seeds/>]. This brought a call to action both in food production and food conservation. Members of 4-H stepped up to do their part.

In response to the shortages of food and fiber, 4-H membership increased and youth began raising more livestock and crops and created projects to teach about substitutions for food products. Girls learned to repair their own clothes and to make garments from fabric scraps. 4-H also began to expand into several cities, such as Portland, OR and Detroit, MI due primarily to canning and gardening programs. Club membership expanded from 169,000 in 1916 to over 500,000 in 1918. [Reck pp. 147-150].

Hazel Furman of University Place, NE was quoted in the March-April 1919 edition of Junior Soldiers of the Soil magazine, "I shall never regret that I became a canning club member, and have been well repaid for what I have done in conserving food for Uncle Sam and the rest of the world."



Early girls' canning club.

State 4-H programs mobilized for the war effort. In North Carolina, over 600 boys and girls attended the agricultural club Short Course, which focused on food preservation. [NCSU libraries, [https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenngrowing/essay\\_wwi.html](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenngrowing/essay_wwi.html)]. An effective war effort program created by NC Farm Makers' Club agent John Wray was "Uncle Sam's Saturday Service League," which formed in 1918. Nearly 5,000 Club members pledged to work Saturday afternoons until the war was over. He observed, "in view of the great food problem facing the country these little patriots have continued their work and are soliciting new members and sending their names daily." [Clover All Over, James W. Clark, Jr., pg. 48].

Otis Hall, Kansas State Leader, wrote in a report at the end of 1918, "War! War! They've thought it! Dreamed it! And lived it! But always for victory! Search the world over; see if anywhere you can find more patriotism than has been displayed by Kansas boys and girls. They backed up their county agents, their Farm Bureaus, their big brothers and sisters and, incidentally, they helped back the Kaiser clear off the map." ["Kansas 4-H – The History of Head, Heart, Hands and Health," 1906 – 1993, pg. 9].

One such 4-H member who backed up her brother was Marie Kyte in Tuscarawas County, OH. In the spring of 1918, her brother ordered 30 eggs for hatching. But before the eggs arrived, her brother volunteered for military service. He recruited Marie to carry on with the poultry project. The chickens earned some first place breed prizes at county and state, and third in the poultry contests at the state fair. Marie's work to raise the chickens provided a needed source of meat during the last months of the war and earned money for her college savings. [May 1919, Soldiers of the Soil magazine].



Marie Kyte shows her poultry project to her soldier brother.

The war ended with the armistice signed on November 11, 1918. But the need for food and the efforts of 4-H members continued. One member wrote to the Junior Soldiers of the Soil magazine, "We are glad that the war is over but I am not going to stop raising food. It is just as patriotic to raise food now as ever, so let all Junior Soldiers raise more food and make ourselves known as loyal Junior Soldiers." [Junior Soldiers of the Soil, V1 No1, January 1919, pg. 2].

### Hands-On History – National 4-H Day of Service

These are just a few examples of 4-H members serving their communities and the country during World War I. April 2017 has been dedicated as a month to celebrate community service and service learning throughout 4-H. This month of celebration



will culminate with a National 4-H Day of Service on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

4-H National Headquarters, National 4-H Council, and State 4-H partners, through the 4-H Citizenship Leadership team, are preparing this opportunity. Have your 4-H group plan and conduct a community service or service-learning activity on the National 4-H Day of Service.

## 4-H History 101 – Capturing the Essence of 4-H



This repurposed 1970 National 4-H Poster helps kick off the development of an online course for staff. (The original poster said "4-H is for Us!")

The National 4-H History Team is embarking on an effort to develop an online curriculum to enhance the understanding of the history of 4-H, primarily for new 4-H hires at the county/city, state and national level. The goal is to provide an engaging learning experience that focuses on the philosophical base of 4-H, rather than on the specific elements of 4-H history. We can draw on the rich history of 4-H to make the philosophy come alive for the work that 4-H and other extension educators do with youth today!

A work in progress, the project will focus on education at the root of 4-H and experiential education as a driving force. Another critical element is the emphasis on federal, state and local partnerships, partnerships for philanthropy and 4-H's unique position in the youth development field of being research-based, beginning with agriculture and home economics and moving to other content areas.

We don't want to reinvent the wheel. If you know of existing curricula that address the history of the 4-H program from this unique perspective, we want to hear from you! The team will be working this spring and summer to design an introductory lesson. We are seeking people to serve as reviewers and contributors as the project unfolds. If you are interested, please let us know at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

**The first 15 helpful ideas will be rewarded with a historic 4-H prize!** Your feedback about the project and insight into resources, including people to interview, are welcome. We hope to launch the first lesson at the NAE4-HA meeting in Indianapolis this fall. The lessons can be made available on eXtension once completed.

**How is your county or state using your 4-H History in the 4-H Program?** Please tell us at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

## 4-H Alumna Peggy Whitson Breaks Space Records this Month

During this month she took her eighth space walk, making it the most by any woman and giving her a total of 53 hours and 22 minutes walking in space which is also the most time by a woman. On April 10<sup>th</sup> she became the new commander of the 51<sup>st</sup> space mission taking over from the 50<sup>th</sup> who was on his way back to earth. This makes her the first woman to head up two space missions. On April 24<sup>th</sup> she will break the record again to become the American who has spent the most time in space.



Peggy also showed her "true colors" on a recent day on the space station when she donned her 4-H cap!

## 4-H'er Created NASA's "Chix in Space" Project

*This story is taken from the National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility on the National 4-H History Website at [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/?h=4-H\\_Promotion](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/?h=4-H_Promotion)*

The Challenger disaster of January 1986 was a tremendous loss for NASA and for the United States in many ways. The science project of 4-H Alumnus (and Purdue University senior) John C. Vellinger was part of the payload aboard the ill-fated spacecraft. The science project, "Chix in Space," was lost.



NASA mission patches associated with "Chix in Space"

Vellinger had been working on the chick embryo project since he was a ninth-grade 4-H member. The experiment consisted of a special incubator designed to cradle the fertile eggs during their journey. Vellinger's experience in wiring and building circuits as a 4-H electric energy project member was valuable in designing and building the incubator.

The idea for the space chicks project began to take shape when Vellinger was a student at Tecumseh Junior High School in Lafayette, Indiana. He entered a national contest sponsored by NASA and the National Science Teachers Association while still an eighth grader. Not winning that first contest, Vellinger redesigned the project several times before succeeding in getting it selected at the national level on the third try in 1983.

After his first year at Purdue in 1985, NASA arranged for mentorship by Mark Deuser an engineer who was working for Kentucky Fried Chicken, the corporation that sponsored the \$50,000 incubation project. On the Challenger flight, the experiment was to be monitored in flight by S. Christa McAuliffe, who would have been the first school teacher in space. The project consisted

of carrying chick embryos at two different stages of development into the weightlessness of space and comparing them against a control group.

After the shuttle accident, Vellinger and Deuser carried on with NASA on development of the hardware and integration for Student Experiment (SE) 83-9 Chicken Embryo Development in Space a.k.a. "Chix in Space." The experiment finally reached its goal when it went into space on a Discovery Mission STS-29 in 1989.



Vellinger, pre-flight, with his incubator. (Photo: Courtesy John Vellinger)

Of those incubated for the full term in the young embryo group, not a single egg hatched, while all of the eight more mature eggs, subjected to the nine-day pre-incubation on earth, hatched and proved to be viable. Dissection revealed that in the younger embryos, development ceased at varied stages during exposure to microgravity conditions aboard the spacecraft.

After this pilot experiment, NASA scientists launched chicken embryos again in late 1992 aboard Endeavor STS-47 for collaborative study with Japan, and the research of chicken embryos in space is ongoing worldwide. For NASA, the "Chix in Space" hardware served as the prototype for additional space embryotic studies.

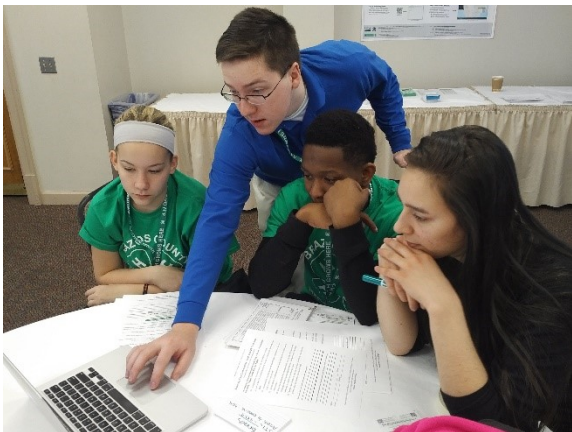
John Vellinger and Mark Deuser later went on to co-found IKOTECH, a company with design teams which develop and provide equipment for life science experiments on space shuttle missions

## Contemporary History

### How Healthy Is Your Community?

Impossible to know, you might think. How would you even begin to find out what the most pressing health needs are in your community? Well, not impossible for much longer. Ask a 4-H'er.

4-H youth from 25 states spent President's Day weekend discussing health issues and learning to access complex health data from their state and local online sources using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. These 250 youth from every region of the United States attended the National Youth Health Summit, February 17-20, 2017 at the National 4-H Conference Center where they learned how to access data and analyze resources about the factors and impact of bad health behaviors on the health outcomes of their families and communities. Youth and adult leaders in attendance learned to access and analyze computer and online-based data and maps, to visualize health trends in their counties most in need of improvement.



GIS 4-H'er demonstrates to Health Summit delegates how to find their local health data.

The National 4-H Geospatial Leadership Team made up of youth and volunteers from New York, Tennessee and Maryland, conducted six working sessions over two days, to assist youth and adult leaders from 15 of the states to become aware of

and begin to master the use of online health data converting complex data into visual forms making the multi-year data easy to understand and base decisions on by a wide range of people concerned about health priorities in their communities. You can access the data at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

Post workshop assessments suggested that the sessions helped prepare the youth for targeting health needs in their counties back home.

Workshop attendees are now more likely to:

- “look at data to see how healthy their county is compared to other parts of the state;”
- “look at which health outcomes are most in need of improvement;”
- “show other members of their community how to access county health rankings to analyze and visualize data about actions needed to improve their communities’ health;” and
- “develop a plan of action and visuals to inspire others to take action to improve their communities’ health.”

### Do you Have Your Historic 4-H Postcards yet?



You can buy them from the 4-H Mall at <http://bit.ly/4HPostcards>

### The 4-H Flag

By Ron Drum

One day in May of 1998, I received a package from the Knox-Lincoln County 4-H Educator. When I opened the box, I found a vintage 4-H flag affixed to a wooden staff painted like a green and white barbershop pole. With the flag was a card that explained it was being offered by Robert Umberger of West Rockport, ME for use in our 4-H Exhibit, just then being added to the [Page Farm and Home](#)



[Museum](#) located on the Orono campus of the University of Maine.

Probably purchased from the National 4-H Supply Service, probably in the late 1930s or early 1940s, Mr. Umberger indicated the flag had been used for at least 50 years during many 4-H club and county ceremonial events by the members of the West Rockport 4-H Club, always attached to the original green and white painted staff, green and white being the official colors of 4-H.



Although obviously an old 4-H flag, this flag is not the first 4-H flag to exist, in Maine or elsewhere. In fact, it is uncertain when the first 4-H flag was created. Perhaps it was created to add significance to a 4-H Camp flag-raising ceremony, giving 4-H a flag to raise in addition to the national flag. Perhaps some 4-H Member needed a “banner” of sorts to identify his or her club in a parade or community ceremony. Maybe a 4-H club just wanted something to say their 4-H pledge to! Whatever the reason may have been to place a 4-H clover in the center of a white, rectangular background and use it as a flag, the concept quickly caught on. Produced in quantity and sold nationally by the National 4-H Supply Service, a 4-H flag became a standard element of almost every 4-H Club meeting and event across the country right up to the present. In fact, it may be that the National 4-H Supply Service, which organized in 1925, was the first to create a 4-H flag. A 4-H flag is among the first items they offered for sale that first year of operation, which is the earliest documentation of a 4-H flag’s existence we have found.

Do you know of a 4-H flag that existed earlier than 1925? Write to us and tell us about it so we can tell the story of the (perhaps) FIRST 4-H flag in a future issue of this 4-H history preservation Newsletter [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

### Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

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