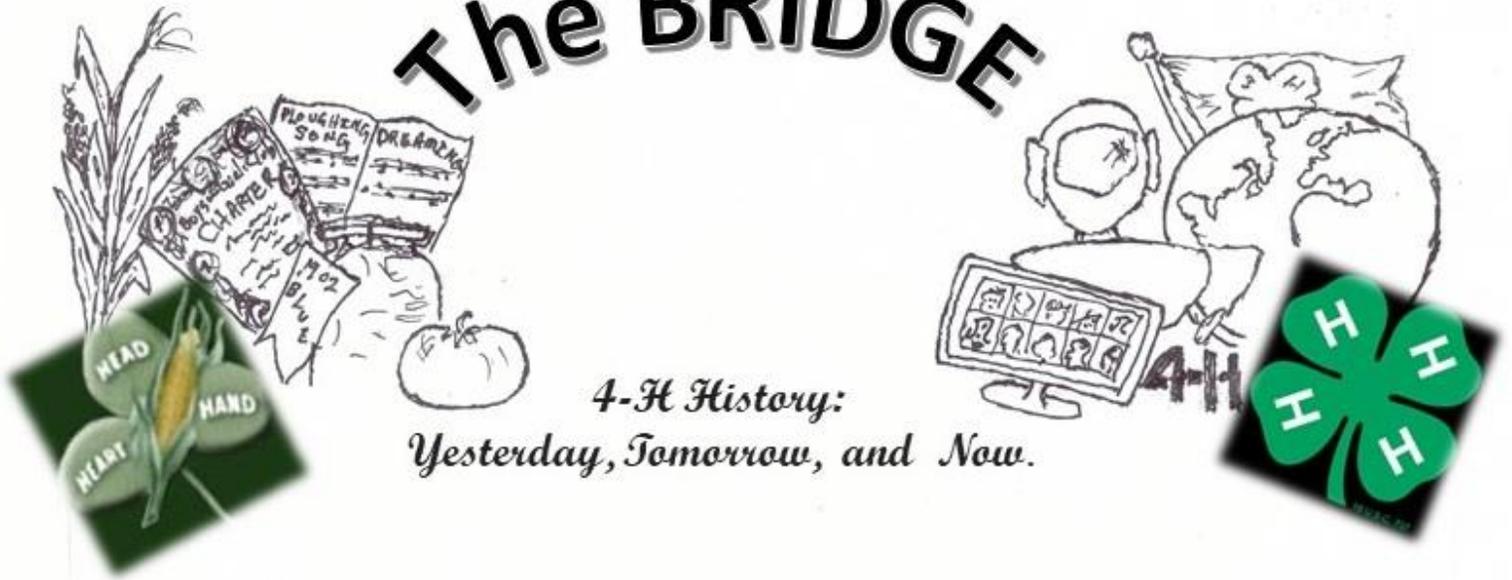


The BRIDGE



*4-H History:
Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Now.*

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August, 2022

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Youth Using Technology to address Community and Health Issues: 2018-2023 Community Food Security Crisis

By Tom Tate, National Program Leader (Retired), Extension Service, USDA

Where's The Food? www.wheresthefood.us

The "Where's the Food?" project was started by the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership team to identify where access to healthy food is plentiful or limited in their own community. Places with low access are called food deserts. People living in food deserts often have significant health problems and low quality of life. Even when healthy food is within a reasonable walking or driving distance, some people still struggle to afford it, leading to the same issues as before. The team plans to use the results of its research to help our partners develop solutions to improve the overall health of our communities around the country.

With the introduction of COVID-19, communities across the U. S. saw numerous food operations, organizations, and facilities close to reduce the transmission of the virus. An un-intended consequence was that school meal and food distribution programs were no longer available. Without these school food programs millions of youth in the K-12 school feeding programs went hungry.

Members of the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership Team wondered if they could help by mapping where the problem was most extreme, and to identify options and alternatives for taking actions to solve the problems. The team identified five questions to help find solutions.

- What data would be needed to understand the problem?
- Where would the data come from?
- How would we verify that data was accurate?
- Who would we need to partner with to learn about where things are in our community?
- Does our county have a Food Security Plan?

THE National 4-H Geospatial Team members represent five states (California, North Carolina, New York, Louisiana and Tennessee). Meeting monthly via Zoom, the team brainstormed approaches to the problem. They identified partners to interview in their own communities, then identified interview questions they wanted to ask. Potential interviewees included representatives from local health facilities, Sheriff departments, Food Banks, Food Pantries, Farmers Markets, school food leadership, nutrition educators, elected officials. Through this process youth got officials talking and working together as part of the youth team efforts.

These Geospatial Tech Savvy youth and adults used ESRI geospatial software to capture data about problems or solutions as they were discovered. The magic of the new tools that the team created, which they called the “Where’s the Food? dashboard”, allowed information to be recorded and stored based on the physical address that the information was linked to. This information could then be retrieved for reference, through a computer or a hand-held smart phone.

Youth teams can map locations of healthy food in their community by going to:

<http://bit.ly/SurveyWhereIsTheFood>

Youth or adults who want to see what locations have already been entered that offer healthy food in their community can visit:

<http://bit.ly/DashboardWhereisTheFood>

Youth and adults can learn more about starting their own “Where’s The Food?” project by visiting: www.wheresthefood.us

The Geospatial Team plans to pilot test and grow this project during 2022 and beyond. They invite interested youth and adults to email the team: nat4hgis@gmail.com

Our GOAL

Bring awareness of the shortage and accessibility of healthy food in America.

Engage youth in understanding the problem and become part of the solution.

Increase access to healthy food choices.

How Can We Increase Access to Healthy Food?

- Gather data to find locations
- Analyze the data to reveal hotspots
- Understand the data
- Move data into action through GIS

Join our effort at wheresthefood.us

Our Purpose

Increase Access to Healthy Food

Using Big Data to Create Big Impact

Interested in Joining the National 4-H GPS/GIS Leadership Team?

Apply Today at nat4hgis.com

****NO GPS/GIS Experience is Required****

WE NEED YOU!

We need more pilot test states to help us continue to grow and expand our project!

Want to join us? Want to learn more about GIS? Want to host a virtual workshop?

Email us at nat4hgis@gmail.com

Where's the Food?

www.wheresthefood.us

Our mission is to use GIS and data to help improve access to fresh and healthy food.

Project founded by National 4-H GPS/GIS Leadership Team

Learn more at nat4hgis.com



Changing Lives for the Better

By Tom Tate, National Program Leader (Retired), Extension Service, USDA

A delegation of 4-H youth and adult leaders from 5 states (California, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee) represented 4-H at the annual ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) International Users conference in San Diego California held July 7 – 12, 2022.

The 4-H Youth Community Mapping Team spent two days in workshops with educators from across the United States, learning how geographic information systems (GIS) is being used with K-12 learners nationwide. The 4-H Team traded their ideas with K-12 educators, who in turn became new 4-H partners.

The 4-H Team spent an additional 2 days attending the ESRI International User Conference sessions on utilizing geospatial technology, hearing presenters from around the world. The 4-H state delegates presented their community mapping projects which were exhibited in a map gallery, where they explained their maps to conference attendees.

The 2022 National Project, “Where’s The Food?”, was the focal point of the Youth Community Exhibit. All state delegations featured maps produced by their team, to demonstrate social, economic and environmental conditions in their communities.

The International Map Gallery, in the San Diego Convention Center, is like a giant world’s fair of exhibits showing how new geospatial technology is being applied to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions of communities around the world. Team members met conference attendees from more than 100 countries wanting to learn about their projects.

It was, in many ways, a “life-changing” experience for teens attending. Most of the conference attendees work for organizations that use geospatial tools in their day-to-day work. Frequently, these adults offered the youth delegates opportunities to intern at their organizations and suggested ways that their organizations and 4-H might partner on future projects. Many became 4-H volunteer leaders back home, helping start up new 4-H teams/clubs.



However, let us not forget that the real purpose of this project, or any 4-H project, is the development of the youth themselves. Sudharsan (Sudy) Gopalakrishnan, 4-H Geospatial Team youth member from California summed it up best saying:

All your consistent training in team management, learning, public speaking, taking initiation, owning responsibility etc...all showed me a whole new path to improving my day-to-day life. Having you all as my mentors have changed my life for the better. I truly appreciate everything that you all have done for me and for all the youth members of our team.



About the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership team

The National 4-H Geospatial Leadership team is supported by ESRI, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The team consists of 4-H Youth selected from across the country and 4-H Adult mentors.

Other recent projects of the team include presentations at the National 4-H Youth Summit for Healthy Living held in Bethesda, MD, April 21-24, 2022 and the development and maintenance of the [National 4-H History Map](https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/) (https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/).



Explaining GPS and GIS

Many people have what they refer to as a “GPS” similar to the one shown in the photo or as a component of their car. Few people, however, understand how it works; most just being happy that it does work, especially when they find themselves lost in an unfamiliar city! The technology that allows it to work is exactly the technology being used by the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership team, albeit for a somewhat different goal.

GPS stands for Global Positioning System(s). A GPS unit is a device on the ground that receives signals from satellites orbiting the Earth. By analyzing data received by the unit from various satellites, it can calculate its position on or above the Earth’s surface - latitude, longitude and height.



GIS stands for Geographic Information System(s). A GIS computer system combines various types of data, including GPS data, to create maps.

Examples of what can be done by combining these two technologies include: tracking a car driving down a roadway, or a plane as it flies over the country, on a smart phone or computer screen; learn the location of an address on a map; map a route to the address; or pinpoint the location of a store on a map that sells nutritious foods and then map a route to that store. Unfortunately, it doesn’t help the shopper select the nutritious food, that’s what the Extension’s Nutrition Education Programs are for!



Fifty Years of Mulligan Stew

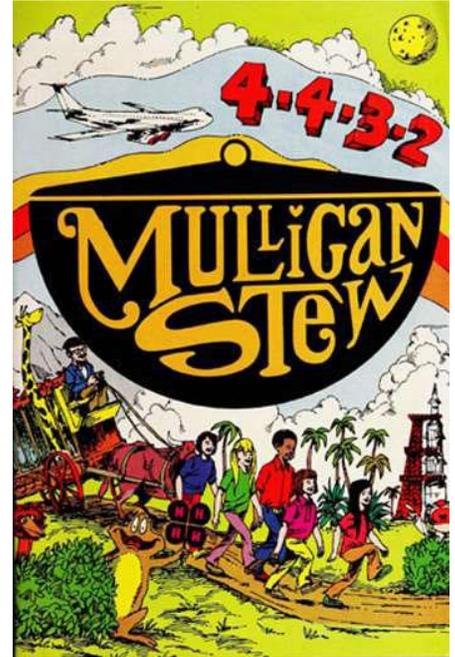
Many 4-H’ers of the 1970’s remember a 4-H TV series called “Mulligan Stew”. These episodes, filled with good nutritional advice provided through entertaining programs, were a “must see” TV event. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Mulligan Stew. If you would like to learn more about this pivotal event in the history of 4-H, visit the National 4-H History Preservation Team’s web site and go to:

<https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/Television/>.

The following is just some of what you will find.

Eleanor Wilson, national 4-H TV coordinator, recalls that once the EFNEP funds were secured, her office subcontracted with Iowa State University to develop an outline of educational concepts for the series. The 4-H TV developmental committee responded favorably to what Iowa State did with nutrition content, but the series did not emerge as a creative whole until Extension hired Ira Klugerman to direct the series. Klugerman, who came from a background of children's television at WQED in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, came up with the title and general treatment for the series.

Production began on location in southeast Washington, DC in 1971. Wilson remembered that the project consumed her and whatever staff she could involve. The budget, always a precarious item, had to be watched with dogged attention. On the other hand, the nutrition subject matter had to meet the standards of a host of home economists who did not always agree. Klugerman insisted that the production be entertaining as well as educational, but was unwilling to let pedantics dominate the series. The child actors were sometimes difficult and Wilson recalled that when she was not juggling columns of numbers, she was settling arguments on the set or haunting the local produce markets looking for just the right shade of green vegetables for the next day's shooting. Wilson herself was without much direct experience in TV production but she did know about Extension and she was convinced that if the show was to be a success it would have to be a compromise effort.



Mulligan Stew premiered on October 4, 1972, during the National 4-H Week at the National 4-H Center, but it was already a winner. Advanced information on the series had enticed the states and they were lining up their viewing schedules and stockpiling materials. The series included the six half-hour films, leaders' guides, and a Mulligan Stew comicbook developed by Michigan State University.

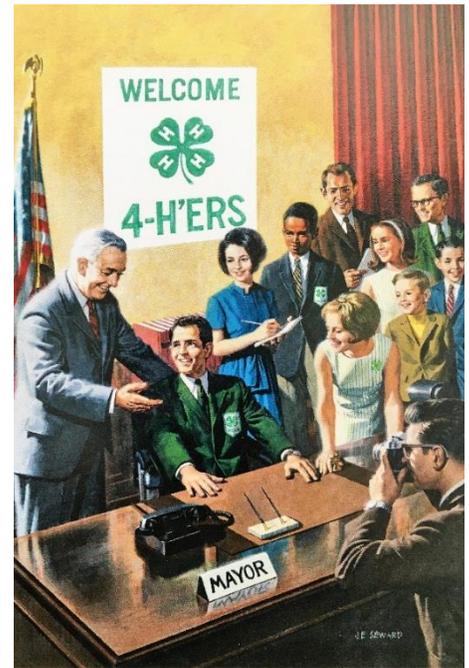


Caption Please!

This painting has been selected from our historic 4-H Calendar Art collection. Your job is to give the picture a caption! Make it funny. Make it pull at the heart-strings. Make US smile!

Send your caption suggestion to: Editor@4-HHistory.com.

Our EdBoard Team will review the suggested captions and select "the best" (in our humble opinion, of course). Look to see if YOUR caption appears in a future issue of The BRIDGE.



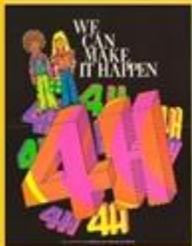
Tell Us Your 4-H History Story

We know you've made 4-H History. So, tell us about it! The world wants to know YOUR 4-H history!

Send your articles to: Editor@4-HHistory.com

Submissions longer than 500 words must include a 500-words or less summary. The in-depth articles will be posted to our web-site and linked to the summary that will appear in the newsletter.

Thanks for reading The BRIDGE. Look for our next issue November 15, 2022!



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