

4-H Youth Development In Connecticut 1952-2002

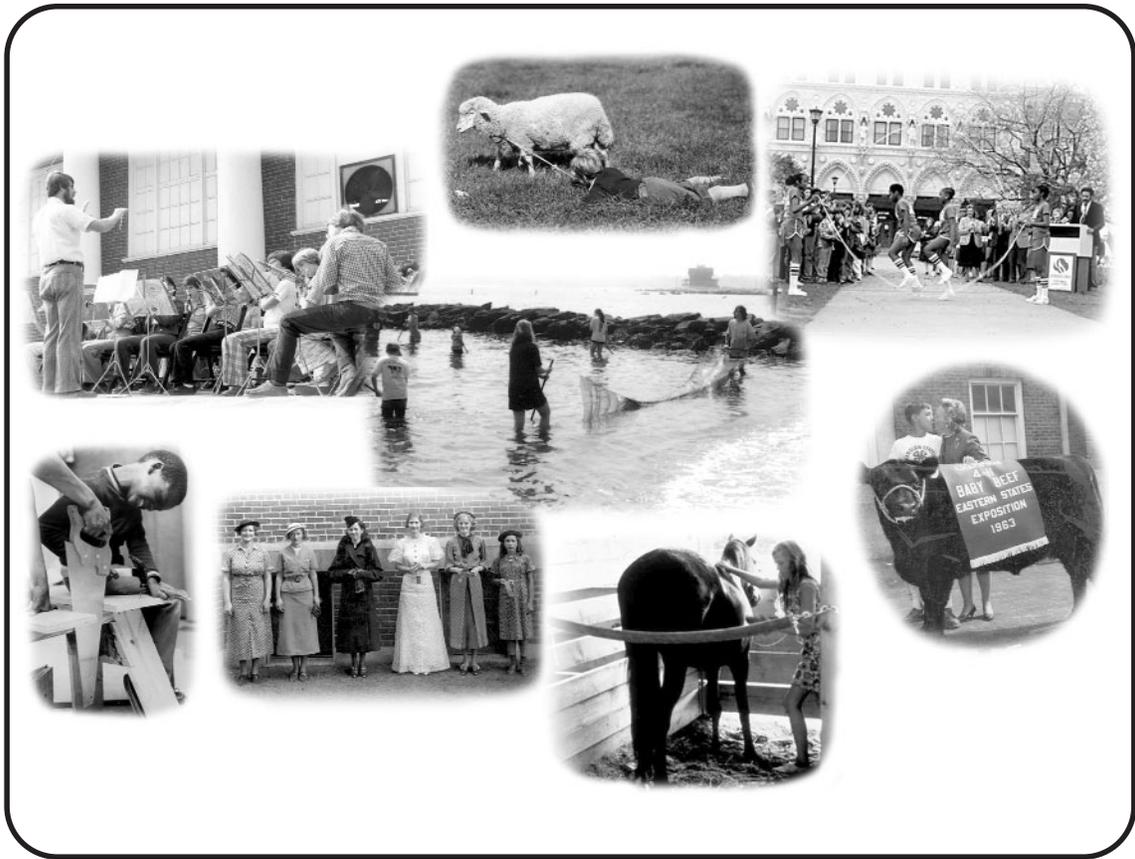
An Overview
Of Who We Are
And What We
Remember



By
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University of
Connecticut



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University of
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GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN AND DIRECTOR

From the first Connecticut 4-H Club founded in Mansfield on August 16, 1913 until the National 4-H Centennial Celebration in 2002, 4-H has had a significant impact on the lives of millions of youths.

My own 4-H experience started at age nine in West Virginia with my sheep projects. As a result of my projects, I became a member of the 4-H Livestock Judging Team that won the state championship. I learned how to shear sheep using the Australian method. Through the money I earned shearing sheep and by working with Cooperative Extension Service leaders, my dream of attending the university and becoming a veterinarian was achieved. My career as a university faculty member and administrator has been the result of the skills I learned in 4-H.

It is for me, as for many others, difficult to imagine what my life would have been without the influence of the 4-H program. Leadership and citizenship development continue to be the cornerstones of 4-H.

As part of the Centennial Celebration, we honor and celebrate our 4-H youths and alumni over the last 100 years. The 4-H program would not be possible without the dedication of volunteer leaders who give of themselves so that youth members might learn. We also recognize and honor our 4-H professional staff members of the Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. The 4-H program would not have been possible without each component of this educational network working together.

We invite you to read about the unique experiences and accomplishments of our highly successful 4-H program. The story is bright with pride that reflects the enthusiasm of all whose lives have been changed by the spirit of 4-H. We celebrate and salute this momentous occasion!



Kirklyn M. Kerr
Dean and Director

DEDICATION

This publication is dedicated to the Connecticut 4-H members and 4-H volunteers who have given of themselves over the past 50 years to "Make the Best Better." The 4-H youth development program is an integral component of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Connecticut. A previous booklet chronicled the First Forty Years of 4-H in Connecticut. We have built on this rich and long history to share program highlights from 1952-2002.

There are countless people who in some way have played a significant role in the Connecticut 4-H program. Each gift of time and talent has been unique and crucial to the long-term success of the program. While it would be impossible to identify all of these individuals, their legacy nevertheless survives in the strength of the 4-H program. This tradition of excellence in education is reflected in this historical publication.

The history of the Connecticut 4-H program is rich and encompassing. This recollection is just a small but vibrant piece of the whole story based on what we have found and what people related to us. We would love to hear your unique portion of the story as well.



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OVERVIEW PRIOR TO 1952

In 1914, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act that established the Cooperative Extension Service. This Act set aside funds for developing a 4-H youth development program "to encourage rural and village boys and girls to become interested and efficient in farm and home activities, to provide careful organization and field follow-up in such projects as growing field crops and gardens, canning, and finding markets. The [Extension] agent was to seek cooperation of schools, business interests and other organizations in the pursuance of these objectives" (Reck 111).

4-H began as a way to involve the heads, hearts, and hands of farm youths in education in agriculture and home economics related subjects relevant to their everyday lives. In 1915, there were 3,129 Connecticut youths enrolled in 11 types of 4-H clubs. From the beginning, 4-H has had few paid leaders, the majority being volunteers. In 1915, the first statewide egg laying contest was held. In 1916, 130 Connecticut club members exhibited at the National Dairy Show in Springfield, Massachusetts, the forerunner of The Big E.

By 1918, there was a county club leader in each Connecticut county, and by 1929 there were 12 club agents. In 1919, the first Junior Short Course was held at the Agricultural College in Storrs.

Homemaking clubs involved 570 girls when Elsie Trabue began her career as Assistant State Leader in 1920. Twenty-five years later, the number of participants was 3,865.

Following World War I, the 4-H club program stimulated the rapid expansion of the state poultry industry. State 4-H Leader A.J. Brundage challenged a Goshen club (1918-1921) to attempt to clear a profit over one year of \$1,000 on a flock of 400 hens. Roy E. Jones, Extension Poultryman, for

whom the current Nutritional Sciences Building at the University of Connecticut was later named (1959), supervised the project. In just nine months, the boys had cleared \$1,437; while at the end of the year, the profits were \$1,750. Several of the boys brought their birds to UConn and continued to earn funds to defray expenses while attending college.

Ten years later, two of the boys owned the home farms, three were on the home farm with their fathers, one was a student at an agricultural college, one was a caretaker on an estate, one was a county club agent, one was in the brass industry, and the tenth was at Yale. Eight of the ten were still connected to agriculture. These statistics reaffirmed the slogan of 4-H, *Learn by Doing*.

In 1929, local events included the County Club Round-up (a member achievement program), the County Club Exhibit, County Field Trips and Tours. Statewide events included the State Club Round-up and the Junior Short Course. The first State Dress Revue was held in 1930. Regional and national events included Camp Vail at Eastern States Exposition, Eastern States Dairy Camp, National Dairy Show, National Club Congress, National Poultry Judging Contest, and National 4-H Club Camp, the first being held in 1910 in Washington D.C.

Frank Roberts, Middlesex County, remembered his trip to the Third National 4-H Club Congress:

"Our first visit was to the livestock yards where animals were judged and then sent to slaughter. The capacity was 3,000 hogs per hour with various places where meat was converted to sausage, corned beef, and other forms for shipment. The evening banquet included the style show, the first of its kind to be held, and the Moses Leadership Trophy presentation."

In 1934, due to the increasing cost of food, the rates for the Junior Short Course were raised to \$7.75 per youth, an increase of \$1.50, and for Senior 4-H Club Conference \$9.50, an increase of \$2.00. In 1935, 344 youths and 27 leaders attended the State Junior Short Course.

In 1935, the county club workers were James Case and Marjorie Green (Fairfield), Randolph Whaples and Charlotte Gove (Hartford), Donald Gaylord and Marjorie Green (Litchfield), Elizabeth Alling (Middlesex), Warren Brockett and Maria Shaw (New Haven), Tilford Cocks and Kathryn Strouse (New London), Elizabeth Clark and Prescott Block (Tolland), and Benton Cummings (Windham).

Donald Whaples, Hartford County, remembered that he had laying hens and sold eggs during the War:

"We had egg laying contests. One of my egg customers said she would never buy another egg if the price went to 50 cents a dozen. Well, it did and she did!"

Beulah ("Billie") Baldwin remembered her work as a 4-H agent in Fairfield County during the War and as a part-time agent in Litchfield County:

"I helped start many clubs and helped spread up-to-date agricultural and nutritional information to the boys, girls, and leaders. There were local exhibits during the War when there was a gas shortage. When the War ended, we started a county fair and we could again have dairy tours."

A 1951 *Helps for 4-H Leaders* booklet defined the "4-H club uniform for boys as white duck trousers and white broadcloth shirt, green four-in-hand tie, black shoes; the green and white 4-H chevron was to be worn on the left pocket of the shirt. For the girls, an outfit consisting of green and white striped seersucker jacket and skirt with white accessories-dicky, shoes and a crocheted beanie. A shoulder bag of matching seersucker is desirable. The green and white 4-H chevron should be worn on the left of the jacket 6 inches from the shoulder seam centering on the dart. The style of the dress may vary from year to year to keep abreast with changing fashion."

4-H Club work has always been about fun while learning. Songs, bands, and dancing have been an integral component of 4-H. One song in the 1951 Dress Revue Program was titled *Hymn of the 4-H Hosts* to be sung to the tune of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. "Spirited" singing was remembered by one 4-H member as an integral component of Senior Conference at UConn. 4-H songs included the *Plowing Song*, *The Dreaming Song*, *4-H Field Song*, *Song of the Open Country*, *4-H Friendship*, and *4-H Health Song*. The Federation of Rural Youth was a state organization of senior 4-H clubs, service clubs, and fair associations that provided opportunities for expanding acquaintances, broadening viewpoints, exchanging ideas, and sponsoring of statewide activities.

In 1951, a week-long State Short Course included sessions on dairy, animal husbandry, conservation, poultry, song leading, tractor driving, dance, personality plus, and news writing. A daily newspaper for the Short Course reported happenings as well as the scores of major league baseball games.

Julie Manning Dutcher remembered:

"The first club I was part of was a Health Club at Cooley Hill School, now Franklin Post Office. In those one-room schools, good hygiene was important. A 4-H Agent came once a month. The teacher periodically checked for nutritional lunches, our teeth, hands, nails, and hair; especially for head lice. Kerosene hair wash was the home treatment and a fine-toothed comb to rid one of the infestations."

Extension Directors were responsible for the overall Extension program including 4-H. Prior to 1952, Directors included C.D. Jarvis (1913-15), H.J. Baker (1915-23), B.N. Ellis (1923-37), R.B. Corbett (1937-39), R.K. Clapp (1939-48), and R.G. Hepburn (1949-53).

The historical document, *The First Forty Years of 4-H in Connecticut*, (1953) closed with this vision for the future:

"The automobile, telephone, radio, and television will bring people closer together more quickly and effectively than circumstances permitted in 1913. 4-H still offers a rich reward for a

good job done well in humble and homely skills. The next 40 years will offer still greater challenge and opportunity."

Let's now look at what those next 40+ years brought to the 4-H program.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 4-H PROGRAM FROM 1952-2002

1952-1959

The first day release of the 50th Anniversary 4-H United States Postal Service stamp occurred on January 15, 1952.

In 1952, enrollment reached 10,667 youths with a total of 1,748 volunteer leaders. Leadership for the program came mostly from former members. 1953 ushered in a decade that saw the expansion of 4-H nationwide with strong growth in special interest groups. Citizenship and science projects received particular attention. A two-year pilot project in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire became the basis nationwide for future Extension work with young adults.

In 1953-54, a survey of the use of county club agents' time encouraged local staff to change the way they worked. A 1958 conference examined the differences the time study had made in ways that agents could save time and do a more efficient job. Evaluation studies were conducted on State 4-H programs including the 4-H Junior Leader Conference.

Poultry record books from the 1950s reflected hints for "managing your laying flock including selection, preparing the laying house, and good management practices." Records of flock production as well as money spent and received, by month, helped to develop sound business practices.

Four Connecticut youths were national winners at the 1955 National 4-H Club



Congress in Chicago. Awarded scholarships were Bob McClatchey, Janet Gaylord, Davetta McComb, and Elizabeth Minor. In 1955, a Share the Fun Festival was held on the county level.

In 1956, Connecticut initiated the country's first 4-H Favorite Food Show. For the show, participants planned, developed, and prepared exhibits related to their foods and nutrition projects. At the Show, an adult advisor discussed the project with the 4-H member and helped to evaluate learning.

In 1958, 7,665 Connecticut youths participated in 641 clubs. State 4-H Leader (1948-59) Randolph Whaples counseled county club agents on the importance of 4-H committees to program growth. In 1958, 7,999 adult 4-H club leaders participated in 338 county training meetings compared to only 1,440 leaders in 124 meetings in 1948. Training lay people developed a strong force to work side-by-side with the professional staff.

From 1948 to 1958, participation in the annual State 4-H Leaders Conference doubled to 450 people. Lorraine Wetherell, Tolland County, remembered learning the principles of responsibility and leadership:

"We learned so many square dances including how to call the dances. We attended the annual square dance festival held each summer behind Hawley Armory on campus."

Maurice Hill (1959-61) served briefly as State 4-H Program Leader before moving to the 4-H office at the United States Department of Agriculture. Henry M. Hansen was Associate Director of Extension from 1954-73.

Helen Pepper Loomis, Litchfield County, remembered radio programs with Frank Atwood:

"4-H camp, 4-H fairs, Dress Revues and Food Shows were great experiences along with the Baby Chick program by the Kiwanis Club of Torrington. Western Connecticut Camp was probably my favorite; camper, counselor, camp nurse, and helped open and close camp. Leadership from the 4-H agents, my leaders, and my mom played a big part in my life. I try to live by the 4-H pledge everyday."

By 1960, more than half of the 4-H participants were non-farm youths. This change reflected the shift of the U.S. population from an agrarian society to an industrial base. The membership of 4-H followed these economic and social trends. 

1960-1969

With President Lyndon Johnson's (1964-68) focus on the "War on Poverty," 4-H responded with almost one-third of the membership coming from such families. Nationwide, the 1960s saw an increase in federal appropriations for urban 4-H. Youth development was about all youths learning to live in the world of today and tomorrow. Nationally, the age requirements for 4-H members were changed from 10-21 years of age to 9-19 years of age (acted upon in 1962 and implemented in 1965). In 1969, a National 4-H TV Review Board was established to develop a long-range plan for instructional 4-H TV programming and to recommend the development and production of instructional 4-H TV series.

Jane Rider, Windham County, remembered a 1960 photo of the Galloping Ghosts 4-H Horse Club of Killingly:

"The photo showed a large covered wagon pulled by two roan horses and surrounded by boys and girls on horseback. Delia Norton was the 4-H leader

and was active in horse rescue efforts. The group made the 16-mile trek to Pachaug State Forest where they camped and rode horses for three days. All of the horses were owned and loved by 4-H members who, with the guidance of the club leader, would go on to many successes in local and New England-wide horse shows."

In 1960, the Extension Service held a Testimonial Dinner at the University of Connecticut for Maud Manning, recognizing her many years of service to youth and 4-H.

In 1961, when Ronald Aronson (1961-77) became State 4-H Program Leader, there were two full-time 4-H agents in each county, plus three state 4-H professional staff who conducted programs for 8,000 4-H members. The program grew to more than 11,000 members by 1977. From 1973-78, George Whitham served as Associate Director of Extension.

In 1962, Governor John N. Dempsey paid tribute to the 8,300 4-H members in 730 clubs and to the 4-H program that "does so much good for so many."

In 1962, there was an active county-wide 4-H service or senior club in both Windham and New London Counties. Senior 4-H and Service Clubs were for youths over age 15 who met monthly for a self-planned program of education, recreation, and community service activities. Members furnished "clover" pins to 4-H club leaders, prepared the camp premises for the opening of the camping season, and assisted in 4-H Sunday services at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire. Junior leaders were given a greater responsibility for not only their own work, but that of younger club members as well.

Clothing construction was one of the most popular projects, and riding horse was the fastest growing project. Safety was stressed in all project areas, and one club focused on gun safety during the winter months.

The 1962 4-H State Conference was held March 3-10 in the Student Union

on the Storrs campus of the University of Connecticut with 300 leaders in attendance. Four 4-H Alumni Awards and 4-H Citation Awards were presented.

Starting in 1957 and continuing through the 1970s, the Key Club Award was a means to recognize outstanding 4-H members who were at least 16 years old and had completed five years in the 4-H program. A county committee reviewed



nominations with the total number nominated not to exceed 1% of the county 4-H enrollment. The award recognized consistent growth in 4-H work, leadership ability, citizenship in their community, and represented the high ideals for which 4-H

stands. Members selected received a 4-H Key emblem with their name and year. Cities Service Oil Company (CITGO) sponsored the award. Key Club members could also apply for a scholarship to the University of Connecticut. An annual dinner welcomed new award recipients.

By the late 1960s, Connecticut began 4-H programs for urban youths and later moved to school-based programs. During this time, offices were added in New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury and Stamford. The staff experimented with different projects, materials, and methods. The search for sufficient volunteer leaders presented a challenge in urban programs.

In 1963, nine and ten year old New Haven City youths living at Farnam Courts participated as 4-H members in nutrition projects. At Winchester School, New Haven, an indoor gardening club was initiated in addition to two science clubs. Youth members worked with volunteers from Yale University Volunteer Services and with the local 4-H professional staff. While interest was high and the needs pressing, 4-H was challenged to develop adequate youth programs for all income groups.

In 1966, 5,000 boys and girls participated in Connecticut 4-H foods and nutrition programs. One girls club conducted an experiment to see whether eating breakfast really made a

difference in the way they felt. One boys club learned that eating an adequate breakfast improved the safety records of airline pilots. International foods became a popular project area.

In 1968, Louise Mather and Elsie Woolam, Hartford County, developed the 4-H Clover program for children 7-8 years of age. Rules for participation in the fair were altered to lessen the emphasis on competition and encourage parental assistance. This was also the beginning of 4-H Clover camps.

The 4-H program included a wide array of specialized 4-H clubs. In 1967, these included a cooperative effort with the Torrington Library for 4-H members to read to pre-schoolers. Rid Litter Day was organized by several 4-H groups in Coventry. In Middlesex County, an adult home economics program teamed with a 4-H club to offer programs for families through the Community Action Centers of Middletown and Portland. Youths were engaged in sewing, clothing, woodworking, crafts, electricity, bicycle safety, and wood-working. There were 9,500 members in 800 clubs led by 1,500 leaders.

The *Career Exploration 4-H Members' Guide* provided teens a systematic method of studying and evaluating a series of careers that might fit their needs and interests. Twenty-seven hundred campers participated in five 4-H camps. Carol Whitaker, Tolland County, and Margaret Dudley, New Haven County, received scholarships at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Ms. Whitaker was one of only ten 4-H'ers in the nation to be named to the 4-H *Report to the Nation* Team.

In 1969, funds were appropriated for the first time through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program to carry 4-H type programs in nutrition to youths in urban areas.

Charles Crary, New London County, remembered that:

"4-H taught me humility and how to be humble; 4-H helped me to be honorable and honest; 4-H gave me the chance to be helpful; and 4-H gave me happiness."

Janet Barnett, New London County, remembered that:

"4-H gave me the first opportunity to participate in a banquet, travel, live in a dormitory, do public speaking, and meet famous personalities."

Andrew Popinchalk, New London County, a 13-year-old 4-H member, noted that the impact of 4-H was that his family attained a greater feeling of togetherness by being involved.

A 1962 *Norwich Bulletin* article noted that Chester Perkins and Patricia Weingart were both 4-H club leaders. In 2002, Mr. Perkins still serves as a leader of the Quad-H Nutmeggers 4-H Club and Mrs. Weingart is a club leader for the Franklin 4-H Variety Club.



1970-1979

Factors that converged to influence 4-H youth programs during the latter part of the 20th century made this one of the most exciting and challenging periods in the history of the program. The 1970s heralded the arrival of almost two decades of unprecedented social, economic, and technology change. The Information Age arrived, family structures were in flux, youths were in crisis, and electronic technologies were emerging.

4-H programs included economics; jobs and careers; animal, plant and social science; environmental and natural resources; health and safety; leadership; citizenship education and community development; creative and performing arts; leisure education and communications; mechanical sciences; and energy conservation.

National interest in computer technology and youth-at-risk were

emphasized. Youth-at-risk programs focused on school-age childcare, collaborations within communities, and developing literacy including technology literacy. A national study of 4-H Alumni revealed that powerful effects of 4-H expansion continued, but young people needed to be given a greater voice in decision making and leadership.

Waterbury, Bridgeport, and New Haven formed a Tri-City Entity to sponsor Teen Weekends with funding from the cities and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. During 1973-74, 13,000 school-based 4-H club members participated in the chick incubation and embryology projects. While each school used the project for a different purpose, everyone was interested in learning how the fertile egg developed into a lively, healthy chick in a 21-day period.

Connecticut was one of the first states to adopt a policy by which participants might be members of a 4-H club, a student in a 4-H school program, a participant of a short-term special interest group, or a lone 4-H member. In 1974-75, 10,299 members were enrolled in 4-H clubs, 325 enrolled as lone members, and 11,859 youths participated in 4-H school programs and in 4-H special interest groups. The most popular short-term programs were bicycle safety, embryology, plant growth, and human relationships.

In 1974, the Sojourner Truth Drill Team was organized in Hartford County. This synchronized marching unit relied on discipline, rhythm, and natural sounds to provide entertainment at parades and other organized performances. The original team was disbanded and a new team formed in 1976. The Hartford County Extension Council funded the purchase of equipment and fabric for uniforms. In 1979, there were 85 youths and 25 adults involved with the drill team. One member noted that drill team members learned that working together and practice do matter. The drill team helped to enhance self-confidence.

In 1975, the state 4-H professional staff had been reduced from three full-time positions to one and one-half. The county 4-H professional staff had increased from 16 individuals to 22 plus program aides and program

assistants. A total of 122,158 youths enrolled in all 4-H programs including 10,299 in clubs. A total of 3,740 volunteers worked with youths who mostly lived in rural communities. During the 1970s, 4-H professional staff were successful in obtaining funding from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to conduct special 4-H health and nutrition education programs.

Numerous 4-H Teen Leaders in New Haven and Waterbury were employed to work in the 4-H program. Teens worked 10 hours per week after school through CETA In-School Work-Study program and in the Summer Youth Employment program for 25 hours per week. Fifty to 60 teens from New Haven, Waterbury, and Bridgeport provided an after school program for 75-100 youths at each location. An outgrowth of the strong urban 4-H program has been the Hill Cooperative Youth Services, New Haven, celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2002.



Urban 4-H staff worked with schools, especially during summers, and conducted training for teachers in the 4-H curriculum. Staff members participated in school assembly days by conducting project demonstrations and hands-on activities.

In 1975, a University 4-H Club was organized with 30 members. A program of social and 4-H service activities was planned. Started in 1975, the Teen Ambassadors program was a public speaking program that trained 60 teens a year to speak at civic and social groups on 4-H and to work at The Big E.

Nancy P. Weiss served as State 4-H Program Leader from 1977-87.

During Nancy's tenure, six new 4-H programs were added and more than a quarter million dollars of private resources were raised. From 1978-92, Anne Rideout was the first female Associate Director of Extension.

In 1978, Robert Ferguson, Hartford County, participated in the 27th annual four-day National Commodity Marketing Symposium. The purpose was to understand the basic principles of commodity marketing and how these principles apply to commodities sold in the cash market and traded on the futures market. Robert had worked in orchard production at the Auer Farm in Bloomfield. The Chicago Board of Trade sponsored the program.

In 1979, Robert McCauley, New Haven County, received a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to National 4-H Congress in Chicago sponsored by The General Motors Foundation for his 4-H farm safety efforts. A 4-H leader in Windham County was honored for her leadership in developing a marketing seminar for rabbits attended by 95 adults and youth members. Another Windham County leader helped initiate a 4-H skiing program that included raising funds to pay for related costs.



1980-1989

By the early 1980s, coping with change had become a way of life. While the University of Connecticut faced increasing budget shortages, the demand for Cooperative Extension Service programming increased. The 4-H program was challenged to do more with less. By 1988, the Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service had changed its name to Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. By the late 1980s, the potential impact of technology on program delivery was being assessed, 4-H professional staff members were reassigned to match program needs, state staffing support for 4-H was reduced, and the 4-H commitment to urban and special needs youths was reaffirmed. Staff responded to budget cuts by seeking funds from alternative sources to address specific youth issues such as school-age childcare. Volunteers, an integral component of the 4-H program since its inception, declined in number with changes in the work force.

In 1980, the total youths enrolled in Connecticut 4-H were 105,873 with 6,886 in clubs. A total of 3,488 volunteers worked with youths mostly living in rural communities. By 1985, 72,976 youths were enrolled in 4-H with 14% being club members. There were 3,919 volunteers engaged with youths, one-third of whom lived in urban areas. The staff consisted of professionals and paraprofessionals in 12 offices across the state.



Two large school-based programs in the 1980s were Bicycle Safety and School Bus Safety. These two programs were especially popular in New Haven and Fairfield Counties. The talking bicycle and the talking bus taught hundreds of children the basics of safety. In 1980, over 63,000 youths participated in eight 4-H school-based programs in Fairfield County. The programs were in veterinary science, fire prevention and safety, the environment, embryology, bicycle safety, food and nutrition, career exploration, and plant science. All of the programs were designed to teach basic life skills. Programs were taught in cooperation with local professionals including veterinarians, firefighters, and conservationists.

In 1980, 4-H Citizenship Day was an annual event in Hartford that attracted 150-200 youths. 4-H members visited State Representatives and Senators, met with a lobbyist, went to the State library and museum, and talked with a judge.

Working with local leaders, urban community gardens were established and Double Dutch activities were developed. The most significant accomplishment was the development of self-confidence and achievement, both personal and competitive. Skills of leadership, interpersonal relations, logical and critical thinking, and self-confidence were often credited to an experience in 4-H.

By 1980, more than 100 Hartford City youths tended 4-H garden projects covering seven acres. Working with the Hartford Food System, 4-H professional staff members and youths were involved with the development of community gardens, farmers' markets, and nutrition education. John Alexopoulos, Director of Knox Parks Foundation, now a faculty member at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, provided technical advice. Teenagers were employed through the federal Youth Job Corps. 4-H'ers became regular vendors at the Farmers' Market at the Old State House in downtown Hartford. A 4-H staff member observed:

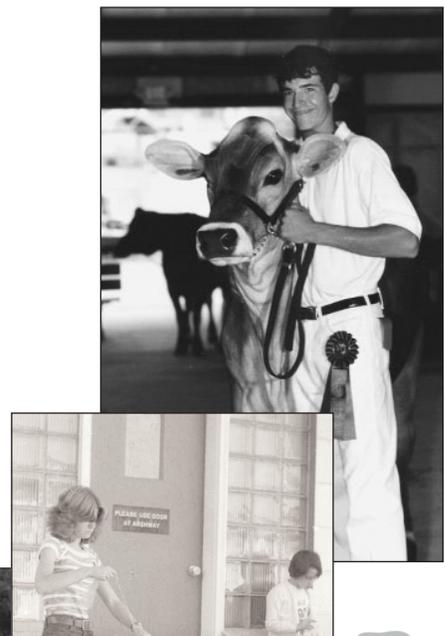
"It's a good feeling to help a kid sell 75 pounds of beans in a few hours. It's an even better feeling to remember he was the one who planted the seeds, moaned when he had to carry water, swore when he had to weed the plot, and promised never to look at another bean after picking them. But he was smiling when they were fetching 50 cents a pound!"

Master Gardeners, an adult education program of the Cooperative Extension System, worked with 4-H professional staff to introduce *Growing Vegetables the 4-H Way* in New Haven and Hartford. Volunteers, working in pairs, met with the superintendent of schools in their neighborhoods and asked permission to conduct the program. Teams then went to grades three, four, and five to recruit students. Four instructional meetings were held over four months on the topics of choosing a site and plants; soil testing, fertilizing, composting, and planting; weeding, mulching, staking, and watering; and harvesting, storing, and exhibiting at the 4-H Fair.

In 1981, ten 4-H club members were working with a small group of children, most of whom were handicapped. Working on a 4-H nutrition project, the challenged children felt accepted. The 4-H club provided a peer group that supported the youths and their efforts to be part of a team.

In 1982, a 4-H violin club was formed in Bristol. Twenty-five junior and teen leaders planned and scheduled programs for monthly meetings of the Granby Club. Robbins Smith served as State 4-H Program Leader from 1987-92.

In 1987, a 4-H Zoo Summer Camp was started at the Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport. The camp gave children 7-12 years of age an opportunity to work with animals in the Children's Zoo including pigs, chickens, rabbits, cows, goats, ducks, sheep, and llamas. Groups of 12 to 15 children were taught the importance of proper animal husbandry and general health checks. At the close of each camp session, 4-H'ers gave presentations to their family members on the animals of their choice.



1990-1999

The last National 4-H Congress, with a focus on recognition of achievement, was held in 1993 in Chicago, Illinois. In 1994, Congress was held in Orlando, Florida, followed by two years in Memphis, Tennessee. Since 1997, Congress has been held in Atlanta, Georgia where the focus is on leadership and citizenship development as exemplified by community service.

In 1990, 45,158 youths participated in 4-H programs with 3,930 volunteers. Nearly one-third of the members lived in urban communities. This decrease from a high of 122,158 members in 1975 reflected a decrease in the number of professional staff members as well as a change in the program focus.

In 1990, the Beardsley Zoo 4-H Club was established. Two leaders and 15 members met twice a month during the school year. A variety of activities in the summer keep 4-H'ers connected to the Zoo. Since 1990, the club has grown to 30 members, the Children's Zoo has become the New England Farmyard, and the animal species expanded to include porcupine, geese, reptiles, and amphibians.

Members are active with business meetings, cleaning meetings, public speaking, Fallback, the annual Horse Benefit Show, story time at the Zoo, and several other activities.

Community service projects include bread baking for food shelters, painting sewer drain covers to help stop the disposal of toxic substances, beach clean-ups, pledge walks for M.S., and taking their pets to senior citizen centers. Traditional summer overnight trips have included the National 4-H Center, the National Zoo in Washington D.C., the National Aquarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo in Rhode Island, and Mystic Aquarium. Sleepovers at the Beardsley Zoo are also part of the Club's traditions. The club has hosted State 4-H Zoo Day several times.

Since 1991, fifteen 4-H professional staff have developed federal or state funded projects working with children, youth, and families-at-risk. Competitive USDA grant projects, each with five-year horizons were Youth-at-Risk, State Strengthening, and New Communities. Over \$1,000,000 of USDA grant funds have supported community projects

involving 2,000 youths, 500 parents, 75 welfare participants, and 50 state and community organizations.

Projects such as parent run school-age childcare centers, middle school enrichment programs, and technology clubs located in urban and rural schools and local community centers used 4-H programs and curricula.

Outcomes of funding included a five-year collaboration between the State Department of Education Family Resource Centers and Cooperative Extension System with 23 new computers and printers along with internet capability being installed in the low resource communities. In addition, 15 low resource community agencies and 100 individuals were trained on computer use. The program reached 2,000 youths in high poverty, at-risk neighborhoods.

The nationally recognized USDA funded 4-H Youth Entrepreneur Program is a collaborative effort between schools, businesses, and UConn. The program develops teamwork, leadership, and public speaking skills as well as personal responsibility, decision making, cooperation, math, reading, and civic responsibility. The program develops business and organizational related skills and may improve the economic stability of families. Youths make a profit ranging from \$4-\$270 per child.

By working in groups with an adult facilitator, youths involved in a 4-H Entrepreneur Club research business ideas, decide on a business concept, develop a business plan with a detailed budget; orally present their business plan to a "Bank" loan committee to secure a capital venture loan; provide ongoing management of the business-planning, selling, scheduling, promotion, money management, inventory control, and record keeping; and disband the business by sharing profits among members, repaying the loan and donating a percentage of their profits to a charity of their choice.

4-H SPACES, stressing science and technology, started in New Haven in 1991. The New Britain program, in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club, centered on the prevention of teen pregnancy. School-age childcare programs were established in Hartford. 4-H LIFT (Learning, Interaction, Friends, and Talents) was an

after-school program conducted in cooperation with the Windham Middle School.

Gene Whaples was Associate Director from 1992-93. With the retirement of Robbins Smith as State 4-H Program Leader in 1992, the State 4-H Office consisted of Nancy Wilhem, 4-H Program Coordinator, and Carole Eller working on 4-H related grant projects. In spite of the weak staffing pattern, the 4-H program remained strong and committed. As retirements occurred in the state office, county 4-H professional staff assumed more responsibilities for statewide events.

In 1995, the number of 4-H professional staff members was at a record low with some staff sharing counties. Staff included Edith Valiquette and Bari Dworken (Fairfield), Laura Marek (Litchfield), Rosemarie Syme (Hartford and Tolland), Elizabeth Salsedo and Janice Melvin (Hartford), Diane Lis (Windham, New London, and Middlesex), Emily Alger (Middlesex County), and Margaret Grillo and Wanda Little (New Haven). Some staff members worked in the traditional 4-H program while others were hired on targeted funds for a specific program focus.

In 1995, there were 35,160 youths involved in 4-H programs in Connecticut of which more than two-thirds lived in rural areas; a new quarterly Connecticut 4-H Newsletter was initiated. Nancy H. Bull was appointed Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension System.

A Teen Conference was initiated in 1995 as an updated version of Short Course that originated in 1919. Workshops focused on veterinary science, tours of the animal barns, CPR training, floral design, acting, fabric art, and athletic events. The 4-H Teen Ambassadors played a key role in planning and conducting the conference.

In 1996, *Kids and Critters* was a favorite after-school program for 350 children in Fairfield County. The program targeted 7 to 9 years olds to increase their understanding of agriculture. In 1998, there were 21,000 members and 2,700 volunteer adult leaders.

2000 and Beyond

In 2000, 25,934 youths participated in 4-H programs with the majority of the members still living in rural areas. In 2002, the 4-H professional staff included Bari Dworken and Edith Valiquette (Fairfield County), Linda Horn, Harry Mangle, Janice Melvin, Shihan Ghazi, and Elizabeth Salsedo (Hartford County), Laura Marek (Litchfield County), Emily Alger (Middlesex County), Margaret Grillo and Wanda Little (New Haven County), Pamela Gray and Diane Lis (New London County), Rosemarie Syme (Tolland County), David Colberg (Windham County), and Nancy Wilhelm (State 4-H Office).

The 4-H Citizenship Team began with an idea at the State 4-H Citizenship Day in 1999 when Windham County 4-H'ers met with their State Representative Jefferson Davis. Windham 4-H'er Kelsey Bernier told Representative Davis that she had difficulty starting a 4-H sheep project because local zoning prohibited livestock on her property despite the fact that she had plenty of room and the neighbors did not object. She said there should be a law that allows youths to keep reasonable supervised livestock projects despite local zoning regulations. Representative Davis agreed.

The Citizenship Team was formed with the guidance and support of 4-H volunteers. The team began working on creating legislation that would allow 4-H and FFA members to conduct supervised educational livestock projects on their own property within zoning restrictions. The team held many planning meetings at the State Legislative Office Building and had a sleepover at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp. Those who participated attended workshops on public speaking and persuasive writing. With



Representative Davis' assistance, the 4-H members wrote House Bill 5172 "An Act Concerning Rural Agricultural Land Use." The bill was introduced into the Spring 2000 legislative session.

The 4-H Citizenship Team and FFA members testified at a public hearing of the State Planning and Development Committee. The bill was passed by the Planning and Development Committee and moved to the State House for a vote by the entire House membership of the General Assembly. The bill passed the House and went to the State Senate for vote. The Spring 2000 legislative session ended before the Senate had an opportunity to vote on House Bill 5172. The Connecticut 4-H Citizenship Team would have to wait for the next legislative session to begin the process again.

With the help of Representative Davis, the 4-H Citizenship Team created "Raised Senate Bill No. 1126, An Act Concerning Rural Agricultural Land Use" that was introduced to the State Planning and Development Committee during the Spring 2001 Legislative Session.

As a result of the program, the level of 4-H awareness among state legislators increased and the 4-H'ers developed a real understanding of how government works. Members of the team expressed how empowered they felt by making their voices heard in state government and some expressed an interest in pursuing a career in public policy

In preparation for the National Conversations on Youth Development, local conversations were held in each county. On February 9, 2002, 28 youths and 26 adults met at the State Legislative Office Building for the State Conversation and identified four policy areas. These four topics must yet be presented to the State Legislature and the Governor. The four policy areas are:

- Provide training and recognition for youth workers who participate in youth development training programs;
- Provide more work and study experiences for youth in government;
- Increase visibility of positive youth

activities and actions especially through the media; and

- Provide free or inexpensive transportation to participants of youth programs on a local, regional, and statewide basis.

In February 2002, the *National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century* was held in Washington, D.C. Today, the most popular 4-H project areas nationwide are citizenship, communications and expressive arts, consumer and family sciences, environmental education, personal development and leadership, plants and animals, and science and technology. 4-H programs are conducted in 3,051 counties of the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia, and Northern Mariana Islands. There are over 60 million 4-H alumni.

Kirvin Knox, Dean and Director (1987-92), noted that:

"The track record of the 4-H program has been one of enormous and continuous successes and has added uncountable value to the young people of this nation. Many of today's community leaders obtained original training and experience as a 4-H volunteer. 4-H has never been more needed than it is today!"

The mission of 4-H is to empower youths to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. Donald Beebe, New London County, remarked that:

"The true hallmark of the 4-H program is that it is a program that empowers youths by making youths not only a part of the decision making process, but making them the individuals that have to execute those decisions."

The strength of the 4-H program is derived from the involvement of youths as members, the commitment of caring volunteer adults, and the competency of the professional staff. All of these factors are dependent on the financial resources to build and evaluate effective educational programs in leadership and citizenship development.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE 4-H PROGRAM

Historically, the Cooperative Extension System has been funded from a partnership of federal, state, and county governments.

Reck's *The 4-H Story* (p.123-124) noted:

"In fact the colleges [land grant universities] and the Department [USDA] agreed, shortly before the final approval of the Act [1914], that 25 percent of the Smith-Lever funds should be earmarked for 'movable schools, study clubs, or boys' and girls' clubs,' and for printing, with only five percent to be devoted to printing. Thus by deduction, it may be assumed that close to one-fifth of the [Smith-Lever] money was to go to club work."

Funding for the Cooperative Extension System comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Smith-Lever Act established the status of the Extension method of teaching and committed substantial appropriations on the federal and state levels to support it. The state must match dollar-for-dollar the federal appropriations.

The 1952-53 county budget for Fairfield County supported a 4-H Club Agent, Agriculture for \$3,840, of which \$2,640 was paid by University funds and \$1,200 from county

Extension funds. The Assistant Club Agent, Home Economics was paid a total of \$3,000 with \$2,340 from University and \$660 from county funds. Travel funds for the two agents totaled \$1,450. The total University appropriation for the county was \$10,000; the county appropriation was \$13,000 and Farm Bureau provided \$2,933. For the same time period, the Assistant Club Agent in Hartford County made more than the Club Agent; \$500 was allocated for a 4-H summer worker and \$300 for 4-H events. New London County received \$150 for 4-H camp and Round-Up.

The 1953-54 Litchfield County Farm Bureau budget indicated that \$5,000 (other counties appeared to have received \$1,000) was transferred to the Extension account, and \$1,000 of the assets were in the County 4-H Foundation.

Club Agents in 1952-53, included: Helen Trepal, Robert Deming, John Lukens (filling in for James Wilson on military leave), E.W. Farnham, Henry Krebsler, Arlene Martin, Normand Manning, Marion Watson, Warren Brockett, Mary Milnerd, Tilford Cocks, Miriam Nichols, Albert Gray, Shirley Weik, Maynard Heckel, Justine Hoxie, James Case, and Mary Wadleigh. Annual salaries ranged from \$3,000 to \$5,400.

In 1960, when county government was dissolved, Cooperative Extension System volunteers stepped to the plate! Groups of agricultural producers and 4-H volunteers sold shares in a new corporation or mortgaged their own farms to finance the establishment of local Extension Centers. In 2002, the University of Connecticut owned and operated six local Extension Centers, while private groups still owned the Fairfield and Tolland County Centers. This shift in county government also changed the funding base for the 4-H program.

Support from private companies has been crucial throughout the history of 4-H. One example was the tremendous commitment of the electrical utility companies to rural development. In 1978, Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) Company of Northeast Utilities was recognized as a State Partner to the 4-H program. Three CL&P farm youth specialists were honored for their contribution to teach-

ing 4-H members and leaders the fundamentals of electricity, simple electrical wiring, construction of soldering guns, and repair of electric motors and appliances. CL&P also built the 4-H kitchen and shop in the Youth-A-Rama Building (originally known as the Boys' and Girls' Building; now called the New England Center) at the Eastern States Exposition.

Julie Manning Dutcher, New London County, remembered:

"My most challenging club experience was the winter Gusty [sister] and I led eight energetic 11-12 year old boys in an electrical project. We repaired chains, replaced plugs, and made lamps. I have on display the lamp my son Charles made; the only thing I've changed is the bulb. We did well, not even blowing a fuse!"

Faced with limited resources, private giving to support the 4-H program increased in importance. One example is a 1979 bequest from the estate of Elsie Trabue to the 4-H Development Fund that financed the purchase of farm equipment including a tractor, baler, rake, and brush hog. Miss Trabue served as Assistant State 4-H Club Leader from 1920-45. More than 50,000 girls were influenced by Miss Trabue's work. A second gift from Miss Trabue still supports transportation and scholarship funds for 4-H members to participate in Citizenship Washington Focus.

A unique feature of Cooperative Extension System has been the involvement of key local leaders in determining program direction and in raising funds. Volunteers have played an important role in legislative liaison activities since the early 1970s. Lay leaders annually visit Washington to inform Congress about needed financial support.

The role of local clubs, County Farm Bureaus, and later County Extension Councils has always been critical in the funding of the Cooperative Extension System. One example of the importance of this funding was the Litchfield County 4-H Foundation. Following the 1968 sale of the 4-H Camp located in Warren, the Board of Trustees of the Litchfield County 4-H Foundation invested the \$172,107 in proceeds. In 1957, the Foundation

established two college scholarships in honor of F. Kingsbury Bull, and in 1964, one in memory of Dorothea Curtiss, 4-H secretary. The Walter Howe scholarship was established in 1966 and the Patricia Kimberly scholarship in 1981.

The Foundation assisted in financial support of interstate 4-H member exchanges and the State's International Four-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) program. An annual 4-H volunteer banquet was funded and support provided to delegates attending citizenship conferences. The financial support of the Foundation provided 4-H agents with the opportunity to experiment with innovative ideas including the 4-H Home Show and 4-H summer assistants.

Local Extension Councils continue to be an important source of support. An example is the Fairfield County Agricultural Extension Council who has funded \$6,400 in scholarships and camperships for 4-H youths.

The evolution of the 4-H program into new geographic locations and new program areas necessitated the need for new funding sources. Since the early 1990s, there has been a steady and substantial increase in the receipt of competitive grant funds in support of new 4-H programs. Grants have provided after-school 4-H programs for youth-at-risk as well as summer programs.

A 1995 USDA Connections-Linking University to Community grant was funded for \$150,000; The Family Nutrition Grant funded a 4-H Summer Nutrition Education Program in New Haven for \$24,950. Strong Families, Strong Kids was funded by the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for \$118,349.

The fiscal year 2002 annual budget for the total Cooperative Extension System program was \$9,423,641, of which \$2,607,760 came from federal Smith-Lever funds and \$5,603,870 from the University of Connecticut, not including competitive grants. In addition to salaries, funds were used for office supplies, communications such as telephone, fax, and e-mail, and travel. Funds raised in support of Cooperative Extension System programs accounted for \$1,212,011 of which \$642,747 was for 4-H.

These resources supported 26,675 4-H members and 3,189 volunteers. With a total budget of \$1,027,157 for 4-H staff support, the investment per 4-H youth is \$38.50.

Nationwide, in 2002, the value of time, mileage, and out-of-pocket expenses which the 640,000 volunteer leaders contribute annually to 4-H exceeds \$2 billion, five times the combined county, state, federal, and private sector support received by 4-H.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM (CES) FACILITIES FOR 4-H

State 4-H Office

The first State 4-H office was housed in the old Whitney Building, the original home of the University of Connecticut, Storrs. About 1920, the office was moved to the second floor of the Farm Machinery Building (built in 1915 and renamed the Klinck Building in 1989) where only beaver board partitions separated offices. Tractors and other gasoline-burning machinery occupied the first floor. In 1950, the main part of the W.B. Young Building was completed and the office moved.

Fairfield County

The Farm Bureau sponsored Extension work in Fairfield County from 1922 until 1955 when the Fairfield County Agricultural Extension Council, Inc. became the sponsoring agency. During the early years, Cooperative Extension Service offices were in downtown Danbury on the second floor of the Post Office Building. In 1950, one dollar purchased the first of two pieces of property that later became the site of the Fairfield County Extension Center in Bethel.

As plans were being made to develop the land in Bethel for an Extension Center, a building became available at the Shepaug Dam site. That building,

now known as the White Building, was dismantled by members of the 4-H Fair Association and other volunteers and moved to Bethel. Renovations have included additional office space, a conference room, an improved meeting room, and ADA access. A brick office building was constructed in 1970, and in the Spring 1971, Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), and Soil Conservation Service (SCS) moved into the Extension Center on Route 6 in Bethel. The property also includes horse show rings, pole barns, and a food booth. In 1996, ASCS (now Farm Service Agency) and SCS (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) moved to a regional office and Cooperative Extension System expanded to fill the office building.

Hartford County

In the early days, the Hartford County office was located in the Hartford County Court House, 95 Washington Street, Hartford. In the 1950s, the Extension Service had to find new office space due to heavy demands on the courthouse space. The Hartford County Farm Bureau raised funds and purchased a three-story apartment building at 6 Grand Street, behind the Capitol, renovating the first two floors for offices and a meeting room. This facility was air-conditioned, a rarity in those days.

After years of negotiating for larger quarters, the Cooperative Extension Center moved from 6 Grand Street and the Capitol area in May 1973 to the old Carriage House of the Goodwin Estate at 1280 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, a facility owned by the University of Connecticut.

In late 1984, the office moved to West Hartford into the old University of Connecticut School of Law Building on the West Hartford campus. Here staff faced new questions like: What will be the impact on programming from leaving the City of Hartford? What will this move mean to the public? Will we adapt and survive with professional and program staff on the third floor and clerical and reception offices on the first floor? The Center remains at this 1800 Asylum Avenue location.

Litchfield County

There are three dates of importance to agriculture in Litchfield County. One was 1914 when the Litchfield County Farm Bureau was organized and Cooperative Extension Service began. In 1934, the Litchfield County Extension Office was in the County Court House in Litchfield. The second date was 1949 when the 4-H Foundation was established. The third date was 1950 when a home was provided for all agricultural organizations in the county. This was precipitated by an April 30, 1950 fire that forced the Extension Center to seek temporary quarters.

On September 20, 1950 a contract was signed for the purchase of the Agricultural Center on the Litchfield Town Green for \$50,000. The first floor housed Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Credit Association, and the county committee of the Production and Marketing Administration. The second floor consisted of three apartments. The basement was remodeled to accommodate a meeting room. To finance this building, the board of directors sold bonds bearing 4% interest and maturing in 30 years for a total amount of \$50,000.

In 1995, the corporation's board sold the building for \$350,000 and reinvested the funds. During the construction process (1995-2001) for the new Center, faculty and staff members were located in a leased facility on Winsted Road, Torrington.

On April 27, 2001, the new Litchfield County Extension Center was dedicated on the University of Connecticut's Torrington Campus. A check for \$465,000 was presented by the original ownership group with additional funding provided by the *UConn 2000* program to construct the \$1.8 million, 7,400 square foot building, designed as a modern Extension Center.

Middlesex County

Earlier sites for the Middlesex County Extension Center were quite different from the current facility. In 1935, the Middlesex County Office was in the Post Office Building in Middletown. Then, Extension was quartered on the second floor of a building at the busy intersection of Main and Washington Streets in Middletown. Subsequently, it was



located overlooking the also well-trafficked corner of Main and Marlborough Streets in Portland over Gahan Motors. This office consisted of one room with dividers.

In May 1957, through the efforts of many friends, the Cooperative Extension Center moved to Haddam into the former Children's Reception Cottage and turned bedrooms into offices. The Center was located on Route 9 (now Route 154). In the late 1960s, the need for more meeting room space became apparent and another rally of community support brought about the addition of the annex. This facility greatly increased the usefulness of the Center for programs and activities to meet the needs of local residents.

The age of the structure, built in 1887, creates a steady stream of repairs and improvements to ensure the building's utility. Nonetheless, this UConn Cooperative Extension office provides unique surroundings in which to work and provide educational programs. Each year the County 4-H Committee sponsors an auction at the facility to raise funds in support of the countywide 4-H program.

Julie Keithan, a 4-H member from the 1960s Nine Busy Beavers 4-H Club, Higganum, remembered:

"We went to the 'Ag Center' for our meetings and made 'snow ball' candles in the downstairs kitchen. The meetings were held every other Friday

night, and we wished they were every Friday night."

New Haven County

In 1935, the New Haven County office was in room 301 of the Post Office Building in New Haven. In 1952, the office moved to 335 Prospect Street in New Haven.

In 1970, the New Haven City Office was located at 155 Minor Street, a rented facility. In addition, the main county office was in Waterbury and housed the EFNEP staff, and in 1975 4-H moved to Waterbury as well.

There was also a New Haven County Center at 322 North Main Street in Wallingford (1955-80s) as part of the New Haven County Agricultural Center, owned by a group of local volunteers. This office also housed SCS and Farm Bureau. Following the close of the Wallingford office, the County Extension Center moved to 670 Wintergreen Avenue in Hamden.

In 1988, Cooperative Extension Service offices moved to 43 Marne Street in Hamden, a leased facility. In 1996, it relocated to 305 Skiff Street in North Haven into a facility owned by the University of Connecticut.

New London County

In 1935, the New London County office was in room 19 of the Shannon Building in Norwich. In 1962, a deed was signed between the New London County Extension Council, Inc. and

the State Department of Education for the use of land to construct an agricultural center. If the New London County Council ceased to be the sponsor of the Extension Service, then the land and all buildings were to revert to the State. During the spring of 1963, the New London County Center moved from the basement of the downtown Norwich Post Office to the new Center located on New London Turnpike, in the East Great Plains section of the city. In addition to the Extension staff and programs, the Center housed ASCS and SCS staffs. The Extension Council celebrated its 1986 annual meeting with a "Mortgage Burning."

With changes in the federal law to accommodate the Americans with Disabilities Act, the two sister federal agencies sought new office facilities. In 1998, the New London Extension Council donated the building to the University of Connecticut. In July 2002, a \$896,740 six-month renovation project funded by *UConn 2000* began. During the renovation process, the Center staff moved to the Avery Point Campus of the University in Groton.

Tolland County

In 1935, the Tolland County office was in the Prescott Block Building in Rockville. Subsequently, for many years, the Tolland County office was located in rented space in a Rockville office building on Park Street. The building lacked adequate parking. The offices consisted of one large room that had been an auditorium and a three-flight walk-up. A 1959 fire destroyed much of the building, including some Extension records and furnishings. The staff worked in temporary quarters at the old "B" school across the street in Rockville for about two years until the present building on Hyde Avenue was completed in 1961.

The Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC) was the vision of five local residents who conceived that Cooperative Extension Service and two federal sister agricultural agencies (ASCS and SCS) should have permanent quarters. In 1957, the land for TAC was purchased for \$10,000 by a group of individuals who signed a banknote in the name of Tolland-area citizens. The activities building (known as the Gold Building) was erected in 1959. The main office building was built in 1960 and in 1998

named for John Elliott, County Agricultural Agent from 1947 to 1972.

Since 1961, The Tolland County Agricultural Center Board of Trustees has directed the building operations. A manager oversees the day-to-day care and maintenance of the grounds, the main facility, and other structures that have been built to accommodate expanded programming needs.

Windham County

Eleven men met on January 22, 1915 to discuss the possibilities for rectifying the very unsatisfactory conditions on farms in Windham County. The outcome was the formation of the Windham County Farmers' Association. Murray G. Lincoln, the first county agent in Connecticut and assigned to New London County, took part in the meeting. Cooperation with the State College Extension Service and USDA formed the basis for the educational work of the Association. Offices were established in the Union Block of Putnam, moving to the Post Office Building on June 1, 1933. In 1937, the Windham County Farmers Association joined the State and National Farm Bureau.

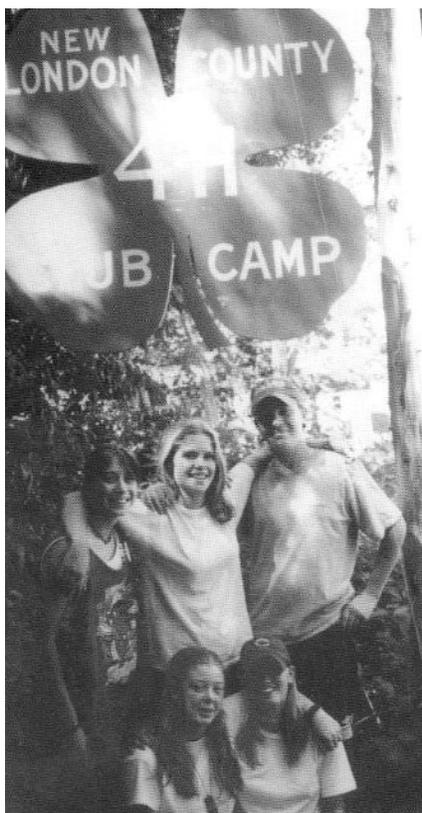
Membership dues were established to meet a requirement of state law to raise \$1,000 in the county before state funds would become available. In 1922, the membership enrollment fee was set at \$5 each for a total of 275 members. In 1939, the membership had increased to 428.

A 1958 report of the Extension Council indicated that the Council was required to raise \$1,000 annually in support of the Extension Service. The 4-H agents that year were Robert L. Anderson and Elizabeth C. Child. In that same year, on July 1, the Windham County Extension Council assumed the role of sponsorship of Extension work in Windham County.

The deed, for the current Center, transferred from the County of Windham to the University of Connecticut a piece of land on the southerly side of Wolf Den Road in the Town of Brooklyn described by the location of the stone walls. The deed was formally transferred from the county commissioners for the sum of \$1 on September 23, 1960. The land contained an easement to the Hartford

Electric Light Co. that had been granted in 1927. A map attached to the deed indicated approximately 13 acres of land. The building had been used by the County as an orphanage. The Windham Agricultural Center was established on September 16, 1957 at a meeting of State Representatives and Senators of Windham County.

While the nine Extension locations house staff, the 4-H program also includes four 4-H Camps, each owned and operated by volunteer board of directors.



THE 4-H CAMPING EXPERIENCE

4-H camping dates back to the early 1930s when camps were open only to 4-H members. However, as the need to extend the camping season was driven by financial concerns, the camps opened their doors to all youths, regardless of 4-H membership.

One of the unique characteristics of the Connecticut 4-H camping program is that each camp is owned and operated by a board of directors of dedicated

volunteers. These 4-H volunteers have a rich history of participating in National 4-H Camping Conferences and in the American Camping Association (ACA). Three of the camps maintain ACA accreditation, an indication of the quality of the camp program and staff. Alumni 4-H members remember 4-H camp as the place they met their future life partner and as the site of 4-H weddings.

In 1994, 3,700 youths ranging in age from 6 to 15 years explored and discovered life at a 4-H camp. Camps employed 125 camp staff members from a variety of countries in addition to the United States and including the Ivory Coast, England, Australia, Russia, Sweden, Spain, and Hungary. More than 250 volunteers served on committees in support of the camping program.

Growth in the camping program demanded specialized training in a variety of areas from program development to volunteer recruitment. A formal statewide training program was held in Hartford in 1949 followed by sporadic training sessions until 1996. At this time, a regular annual training program for all camp staff was established with each camp rotating their turn to host the event. Training issues recognize the importance of liability, financial concerns, and diversity needs involved with operating a camping program for over 3,500 youths per year.

In 2002, there were four privately owned 4-H camps in Connecticut that included 450 acres of land and 100 buildings. All of this has been accomplished through private donations and incredible amounts of donated labor and time.

Hartford County 4-H Camp

The first Hartford County 4-H camping program was held in 1930 for boys and girls who had to complete a 4-H project prior to attending. At the close of the 1934 camping season, there was a balance in the account of \$24.82. Most staff members received \$5.00 per week. In 1935, 4-H club members from Hartford County camped the last week of June and the first week of July, and camp was held at Aya-Po in Somers. The camp program consisted of boating, knitting, story telling, dancing, and poultry. In 1938, 133 campers each paid \$6.50 to

attend. In 1942, a senior club weekend was held with a fee of \$2.00 for the weekend and a cup of sugar. Eggs cost the camp 38 cents a dozen.

No camp was held in 1944 due to the War. By 1947, the camp fee had increased to \$14 per week and camp was held from Monday through Saturday. The camp officially incorporated as the Hartford County 4-H Camp in 1954. After camping at the Litchfield County 4-H Camp in 1956, the Hartford County Camp then used the New London County 4-H Camp from 1957 to 1965. The Camp Board purchased 72 acres known as the Rankl property on South Road in Marlborough in 1959. The first building was erected with a \$1,200 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Hartford. 1966 saw the dedication of the new Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center and the first day of camping at the Marlborough facility. In 1968, dedications were held for Baldwin Hall that included a dining hall with seating for 266, with a lower recreation and workshop area; Woolam Equestrian Park that stables 48 horses with 4 riding rings; and Grant House that serves as a staff house, infirmary, and cook's quarters. In 1970, the Fritzer Nature Center was added. By 1972, the camping program had grown to nine weeks.

In 1980, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of 4-H camping in Hartford County, the net worth of the camp corporation was estimated to be \$500,000. A 1985 annual fund drive titled *4-H Camp Forever* initiated an endowment fund. Hurricane Gloria forced the cancellation of the 20th birthday party for the Marlborough facility. Over the years, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving supported several renovations at the camp. In 2000, the facility celebrated its 35th camping season with 230 alumni, friends, and donors present.

In 2002, the camp consists of 100 acres, adjacent to the Blackledge River and State Forest, giving campers many trails for hiking, nature observation, and trail riding; a pond for swimming, canoeing, and snorkel and fin instruction; and 16 cabins for a total of 25 buildings on the grounds. In 1998, an eight station low ropes challenge course was initiated with four additional stations added in 2001.

Litchfield County 4-H Foundation

The Litchfield County 4-H Foundation was incorporated on March 25, 1949, "to provide for the education of boys and girls of Litchfield County in cooperation with the 4-H program for youth training carried on by the United



States Department of Agriculture, University of Connecticut and the Litchfield County Extension Service; to purchase and maintain suitable property, real and personal on which the educational activities of 4-H club work may be carried on" (p. 1 *History of Litchfield County 4-H Foundation*).

In 1946, the Western Connecticut 4-H Camping Association was organized among Middlesex, New Haven, Fairfield, and Litchfield Counties to provide a two-week camping experience for 4-H members at Camp Mohawk, owned by the YMCA. In 1949, Henry Krebsler, 4-H Agent, learned that a boys camp in Warren was for sale. The camp consisted of 150 acres including a 50-acre pond. The Litchfield County 4-H Foundation was formed to purchase the camp for \$30,000. A Board of Trustees was established to serve as custodian of donated funds and properties. The Litchfield County Farm Bureau advanced a loan of \$5,000. The first camping season was held in 1949 with four to six weeks of camping held through the 1968 season. At that time, the camp property was sold to the Town of Warren, and the Foundation invested the \$172,107 in proceeds from the sale to support the 4-H program.

Nancy Neumann-Glasgow, a camper during the 1960s, remembered that:

"For one week in the summer, away from school and family, telephone and radio, I discovered my inner peace. The unheated cabins with pitched roofs and open windows were crafted of

rough wood. Four cots, each with sleeping bag became our bedrooms for a week. We [campers] met as strangers and departed as friends, for we shared moments that no one else would ever experience together in the same way. We realized life, and health, and friendship. In short six days and five nights, we learned together, swam together, created together, and kept each other's secrets."

Middlesex County Camp

Prior to 1962, Middlesex County 4-H Camp shared a camp program with Litchfield and Fairfield Counties. In 1962, the Middlesex County Extension Council purchased the current camp property from the Frankels for \$46,650. The property on Route 149 in Moodus was known as the Hilltop View Resort consisting of 80 acres, 11 cabins, a large field house, swimming pool and a nine-room house. During the summer of 1962, 450 county residents attended camp at a cost of \$27.50 per week.

In the 1970s, the house was sold to finance two new cabins, an office, a new in-ground swimming pool, and a horse barn. In the late 1980s, the camp was closed for one year to conduct a needs assessment. During that one-year hiatus, the camp struggled for its future against town residents who wanted to seize the camp property by eminent domain to build a school.

The camp prevailed and underwent a complete renovation in 1988-89. This included the gutting of eight original cabins to bring them up to building code. Monroe cabin was torn down and a Central Bath House was constructed, the Nature Hut was leveled, and an 80'x30' Activity Center was constructed in its place.

In 1995, the Middlesex County Extension Council sold the camp to the newly formed Middlesex County Camp Foundation. New additions to the sports complex included a low ropes challenge course, 35-foot climbing wall, a bouldering wall, basketball court, soccer field, softball field, beach volleyball court, and archery range. In addition, three used cabins, donated by the Salmon River Club, were moved by flat bed truck to the camp property. By 2002, through the efforts of volunteer labor, all the

HEAD



HEART





HANDS



HEALTH



camper cabins were renovated to include built-in wooden bunks.

In 1962, the camping session consisted of five weeks. In 1963, the season was extended to eight weeks and continues as such in 2002. An occasional snowy winter extends the school year into late June and reduces the camping season. In 2002, the camp had 900 campers both in its day and residential program at a fee of \$275 for a one-week session.

New London County 4-H Camp

In 1942, the New London County Farm and Home Bureau, Inc. purchased 17 acres of land in Franklin to be used as a 4-H camp. The site included a 2-acre pond. Little work was done on improvements to the camp from 1942-47 due to World War II. New London 4-H Camp was held at Avery Pond in Preston and moved to the Franklin site in 1947. A camp committee comprised of members of the County Club Committee (presently called the County 4-H Advisory Committee) was responsible for the program. The first auction to raise funds in support of the camp program was held in 1950 to fund the pond and related dam repairs.

In 1956, a committee was formed to study the matter of who would hold legal title to the camp once Farm Bureau and the Extension Service divided into two entities. The committee recommended the establishment of a foundation with a governing board representing Farm Bureau, the County Club Committee and 4-H Fair Association. The New London 4-H Foundation was incorporated on March 22, 1957, and on June 3 the deed was conveyed from the Farm Bureau to the Foundation.

In order to maintain a viable camping program and to attract qualified staff, the camping season was extended in the 1960s and more cabins were built. In 1960, the Connecticut Nurseryman's Association donated \$100 for foundation plantings and shrubs. In 1961, the 4-H Foundation donated \$500 to the Extension Center building fund.

In 1965, the 4-H Foundation purchased an additional 7.5 acres of land increasing the camp holdings to 24.5 acres. Buildings constructed on the

property included the infirmary, Staebner Building used for arts and crafts and as a boys cabin, director's cottage (built with a \$10,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation), bathroom facilities, 11 cabins, horse barn (converted to a theater/drama building in 1978), and extensive expansion and renovation of the Holdridge kitchen. Initially, the camping season was just one week with volunteers serving as the staff. During the 1960s and 1970s, the livestock projects for the New London County 4-H Fair were exhibited on the camp property. In the late 1980s, the cabin names changed from just numbers such as Girls 1 and Boys 3 to Native American names including Mohegan, Narragansett, Pequot, Cherokee, Quinnipiac, Nipmuc, Shetucket, Hammonasset, Poqonnock, Nehantic, and Nameaug.

At various times, the camp was rented to both Hartford County and Tolland County (1953) for their 4-H camping program. For several years, a Tri-County Camp was held as a cooperative effort between New London, New Haven and Fairfield Counties. The Tri-County Camp Committee raised funds to send 80 urban youths a year to the New London County Camp. That structure was dissolved in 1977. The camp has been accredited by ACA since 1972.

Today, the camp holds 140 campers per session with 8 one-week sessions per summer for a total of 806 campers in 2002, and includes a very active Teen Leadership training program. Programs include archery, arts and crafts, canoeing, rocketry, Double Dutch, and drama. In 2002, a new low ropes adventure course was added.

Chet Perkins, a volunteer working with the camp, remembered that:

"Help often comes from unexpected places. After joking to another volunteer about getting shamed into donating my flagpole to the Camp, I received a call telling me when to install the flagpole at Camp! Collins & Jewell Boiler Company offered to make a base for me. The pipes were taken to Ernie Staebner to be welded together and I was all set. George Robinson was working for me at the time and he helped to dig the hole for the base, set the pole, and planned on mixing the concrete the next day to

complete the job. At that time, they were just beginning the kitchen addition. That evening Tilly Cocks, 4-H Agent, called to say they were planning to pour the kitchen foundation the next day and that he would order a half yard extra for the flagpole base. The next day Tilly, George, and I sat waiting for the concrete truck to arrive. When I asked Tilly who was going to arrive to help with the kitchen pour, the response was, 'I guess we are all here now.' Not only did the camp have a new flagpole, but also a new kitchen foundation."

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp

In 1935, Camp Woodstock was the site for the Windham County 4-H Camp that served 60 campers. The camp was held the last week of June and the first week of July with a highlight of the camp being a discussion on vocational decisions. Camp Aldersgate in Rhode Island was also used in subsequent years.

In Spring 1953, Freeman Nelson, driving his mail car down Taft Pond Road in Abington, drove past Cudjoe Corner and noticed a piece of property for sale. He went to a meeting that night and notified folks, who were looking for a 4-H camp, about the site. The idea of a 4-H camp appealed to the owner, Ed Jezierski, who had been involved in 4-H. The property included a six-acre pond, fifteen acres of land, and a waterfront cabin that had once belonged to Congressman Horace Seely-Brown of Pomfret.

Through the dedication of volunteers from all 15 towns in Windham County, the \$15,000 asking price was raised by April 1954. The camp was scheduled to open in 90 days. The Windham County 4-H Foundation was incorporated for the purpose of holding the camp in trust to serve all youths and the community. With the support of volunteers, local businesses, Granges, the Lions, and 4-H clubs, a 40' x 60' lodge, a director's cabin, an infirmary, 11 cabins, and a staff building were completed. A local fire department "blew" truckloads of sand into the waterfront area to create a beach. The night before camp opened, 50 people were constructing benches, tables, and finishing the kitchen. Campers arrived the morning of July 1, 1954.

In 1969, a capital campaign was initiated to purchase land and develop facilities for a horse camp. Rings, barns, and a dormitory were constructed. The 4-H horse camp opened in July 1970. The camp originally received their American Camping Association (ACA) accreditation in the 1970s. Following a lapse in the accreditation, the camp successfully reinstated their accreditation in 1990.

The camp now encompasses 257 acres, 43 buildings, three ponds, a 45-horse stall barn, three practice rings, and a dormitory. The Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center is used year round and, during the school year, is the home of the Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Education Program. Above the large stone fireplace in the lodge is the inscription: "Dedicated to Youth through the Generosity of Many." A yearly auction is held to raise funds for capital improvements.

A new flagpole was rededicated in 1998 to Merritt Gardner who died in the Korean War. In 2001, a new pavilion called "C.J.'s Place" was dedicated to Clarence J. Salmon, a founding member of the corporation on the occasion of his 92nd birthday. Also, in 2001, a new cabin in the horse camp was dedicated to Clarence H. Child. In 2002, 1,350 campers paid \$285 each for a one-week session with camp being conducted for seven weeks.

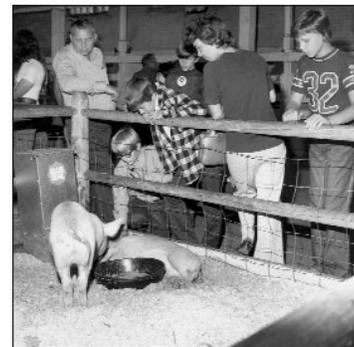
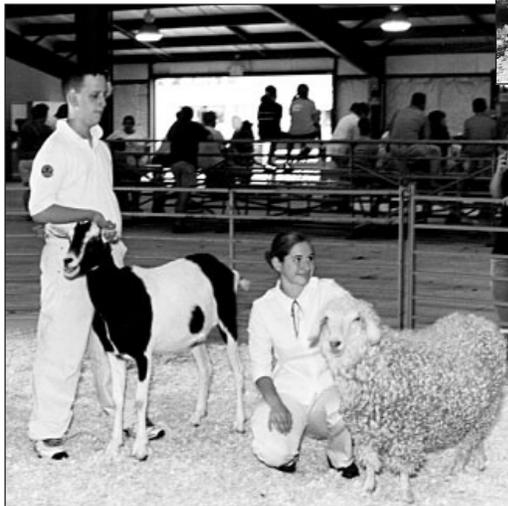
At the 4-H camp in the early 1960s, Carol Hagen, who worked as a counselor and waterfront director, recalled:

"The best memory of that summer was having an IFYE from Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe] come for a week to share his slides and be a part of camp. He was African and he was white. It was an interesting and enlightening experience and prodded me to want to be an IFYE; a goal that was achieved!"

For 3,500-4,000 youths a summer, 4-H camps provide an opportunity to be away from home for the first time, to develop a love of the out-of-doors, and to be involved with the 4-H program. A second summer time 4-H activity is the 4-H fair.



THE 4-H FAIR EXPERIENCE



The 4-H Fair Associations are volunteer youths working with volunteer adult advisors over a year to operate a two or three day county 4-H fair. That simple statement means that youths assume responsibility for the schedule, the financial obligations, and for the marketing of events that attract as many as 10,000 visitors. Alumni 4-H members remember talent shows, auctioning 4-H exhibits at the end of the fair, and king and queen contests.

Fairfield County

Halloween weekend is a special time in Fairfield County. On that Saturday, a one day fair called *4-H Fallback into 4-H Festival* is held. The Fallback provides evaluations for 4-H member's projects, educational experiences for members, 4-H visibility in the community, and leadership experience for seniors and selected junior 4-H'ers.

Exhibits, workshops, a county community service project, pumpkin decorating contests, and other activities make this a special day. The day is organized by teens, adults, volunteers, junior leadership youth, and staff.

Marie Ferrus Walker remembered during the 1940s, the fair was held in many places:

"It was rewarding growing veggies and flowers, knowing that in the end, you would display some of your hard work. The 4-H fair was held in the back of Hawley School in a meadow called Taylor Field (Newtown). It was held at the Extension Center in Bethel once and it was held at the Danbury Fair Grounds. It was such a thrill to get a ribbon and a little money as premium."

Hartford County

In 1931-33, Hartford County 4-H members exhibited at the Granby Grange Fair. The number of exhibits grew from 150 in 1931 to 250 in 1933. The Fair Association was formed in 1934 with the fair being held at Charter Oak Park. In 1936, the fair was moved to Cherry Park in West Avon with oxen drawing as an added feature. In 1939, the fair was extended to two days. In 1942, the fair was canceled due to the War, and community fairs were held through 1944. In 1945, with gas rationing over, the fair was held at Farmington High School. The 1947 fair added balloon races, duck races, cross cut saw contest, horse draw, freezing demonstrations, a Farm Bureau Picnic, and a Saturday Night Dance. In 1949, the fair moved back to Cherry Park and saw large increases in swine, sheep and beef projects. 1949 was the first year for a 4-H Horse Show at the fair.

At the time of the 1950 fair, County Club Agent James Wilson was called to active military duty and the fair secretary was ill. In his farewell letter to Randolph Whaples, Wilson expressed concern about the operation of the fair. But all went well with 1,620 exhibits, a greased pole climb, and a tractor driving contest added. In 1951, the fair hosted the State Sheep Show and held the first Victory Ad Campaign Banquet at Howard Johnson's.

In 1952, the fair moved to Bradley Field. Over time, the fair was held on the east side of Route 75 and then later on the west side. A poultry auction was held with a horse draw and a square dance on Saturday night. The fair shifted to Saturday and Sunday, and church services were held at the fair. By 1954, premiums paid out to all 4-H members for exhibiting rose to \$1,000. In 1957, the fair expanded to a three-day event. In 1958, the State provided land within the Bradley Field fence just north of the WAC field.

1961 saw the 25th anniversary of the fair and the beginning of the queen contest. In 1962, the fair operated on a budget of \$12,050. In 1965, the Fair Association offered five \$100 scholarships to 4-H members entering their first or second year in college. By 1969, a food building, flush toilets, and a second horse ring had all been built. In 1974, when Kevin Woolam became Fair Association President, he ushered in the first second-generation of fair officers as his father, Richard, had been president in 1943.

In 1979, the Hartford County 4-H Fair Association suffered a devastating blow when a tornado swept through the towns of Windsor Locks, Suffield, and Windsor. Right in the middle was the long time site of Hartford County 4-H Fair. Most of the facilities were lost including show rings as well as equipment. The State Department of Transportation approved the rebuilding of the facility, but would not make a long-term commitment (now the location of airport parking lots on Rt. 75). Since only a minor portion of the \$75,000 loss was covered by insurance, a major fund drive was initiated.

In 1984, Aimee Clark was elected as the first female president of the Fair Association. This was also the last year at Bradley Field. In 1985, the

fair moved to Fourtown Fairgrounds in Somers. More than \$20,000 of advertising was sold for the fair premium book. The search began and continues for a more centralized location.

Litchfield County

The Litchfield County 4-H Fair Association incorporated in 1933. Over the years, the fair has been held at several locations including a Grange Hall, The Western Connecticut 4-H Camp in Warren, and presently at the Goshen Fairgrounds. In lieu of a large rental agreement, the Goshen Agricultural Society has graciously allowed 4-H members to perform in-kind services such as building show rings and painting fences with small donations to the Society for use of the grounds.

A strong following in animal science projects is evident throughout the years, and is still true today. The home show has declined over the years after peaking in the 1960s, but has recently started to show an increase in exhibits as club enrollment has risen. The 4-H Fair Association has evolved to a system that invites all 4-H'ers to be part of the meetings, with two representatives as voting members from each club.

Early in its history, the fair gave premiums along with prizes of trophies and rosettes. Sometime around the 1960s, premiums were dropped, and today 4-H'ers compete for ribbons and trophies. The fair does not charge parking or admission fees and does not have a midway or carnival area. Some of the more unique contests at the fair are a premier showmanship contest that involves every animal species shown on the grounds for both junior and senior contestants (beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, rabbits, dogs, oxen, horses, sheep, swine, and dairy goats); a herdsmanship contest that involves every club that has barn space; an auction on Saturday night; and a legislators' event that pits area representatives against each other in goat milking or back seat driving. One of the highlights that has become a tradition at the fair, following its 50th anniversary in 1982, has been the Saturday Night Family Dinner.

The Litchfield County 4-H Fair Association continues to provide youths with meaningful leadership

opportunities, and an opportunity to display project work to the public. As projects change, the fair has added classes or events to reflect the present interests of 4-H'ers. The fair celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2002, and looks forward to a strong association for years to come.

Trudi Hill, a current 4-H member, wrote that:

"The same cookie recipe, that my grandmother used over 50 years ago with her 4-H club, won for me a trophy for the Outstanding Baker in the year 2000 at the Litchfield County Fair Home Show."

Middlesex/New Haven County

In 2001, the Middlesex-New Haven County 4-H Fair celebrated its Diamond Anniversary celebrating its past as the first 4-H fair of its kind in the country. The theme for the fair was "Building the Future." That first fair was held at Ridgewood Farm, Middletown, on August 30, 1924 with 2,000 people attending. So impressed were club officials from other states that the management of Camp Vail at Eastern States Exposition financed a trip for Frank Roberts, Middletown, to explain the plan for the fair to the National 4-H Club Congress delegates in Chicago.

For that first fair, Boy Scouts, YMCA and other organizations were invited to participate. Thirty head of purebred dairy cattle, 24 fat steers, 50 sheep, and more than 300 poultry were shown. Twenty steers ready for slaughter had been raised and fitted by Baby Beef Club members from New Haven, Middlesex, and Hartford Counties.

Clothing club girls exhibited more than 800 hand made articles of clothing. Middletown merchants and residents voiced their appreciation of the young people in financing and directing the fair. The annual Farm Bureau picnic was combined with the fair. Tickets were sold for 25 cents. Food available for sale included cake, sandwiches, ice cream, fruit, drinks, and candy.

Middlesex County 4-H Fair boast of being the "First Fair of its Kind in America" not because it was the first 4-H fair ever, but because it was the

first 4-H fair to have its entire voting board comprised of 4-H members. This model of governance is still used in 2002 for all 4-H fairs in Connecticut.

Eventually, the fair moved to Durham and, in 1989, the Middlesex and New Haven County 4-H Fair Associations combined.

As part of the 75th anniversary celebration, the fair sponsored an "Over the Clover" Division that was open to all 4-H alumni, volunteer or parents of a currently enrolled 4-H member. Adult entries were accepted in the Home Arts Division and adults could participate in the "Over the Clover" livestock, dog, and horse division. The "Almost a Clover" division allowed children 7 and under also to



participate. Three women, who had participated in the 1924 fair, were chauffeured to the 75th celebration. They were Helen Spencer, Evelyn Cornell, and Grace Kelsey.

New London County

The first New London County 4-H Fair was held in Pachaug in 1931. From 1932 through 1940, its home was in North Stonington. The 1941 4-H fair took place at the Elks Field in Norwich and then there was no 4-H fair until after World War II. From 1947 through 1964, the 4-H fair was held in North Stonington. In 1965, the 4-H fair moved to the New London County 4-H Camp in Franklin. The 4-H Fair Association contributed funds to build a large exhibit hall at 4-H Camp (now known as the Staebner Building) and donated funds to build a refreshment stand.

The New London County 4-H Fair then divided into two parts. The livestock shows were held at the 4-H Camp while the exhibit hall projects were displayed in the center of the enclosed Norwichtown Shopping Mall. 4-H demonstrations and special activities drew the attention of shoppers who would never travel to a

4-H fair. In 1978, the New London County 4-H Fair was reunited as one entity and returned to the North Stonington Grange Fair Grounds where it continues today.

The name of the event was changed to 4-H Exposition and the 4-H Exposition has certainly changed over the years in numbers of exhibitors, exhibits, and types of activity. 4-H'ers of the early years looked forward to the 4-H fair with great anticipation. It was a week for preparing 4-H exhibits, setting up displays, and a weekend for recognition, recreation, renewal of friendships, and festivity, a highlight of the summer and of the 4-H year. 4-H'ers prepared one-and three-act plays to perform during the fair. There were king and queen contests, greased pole climbs, greased pig contests, square dances, demonstrations, livestock shows, movies, and more.

There are still the exhibits of 4-H members' projects: photography, baking, educational booth exhibits, sewing, arts, crafts, record books and scrapbooks, woodworking, and more in the exhibit halls. The livestock project shows include horses, dogs, dairy and beef cattle, poultry, rabbits, goats, and sometimes swine and working steers, and even cats. The New London County 4-H Exposition is a small 4-H fair held in late July. It is non-commercial. There are no amusement rides or commercial food booths. The North Stonington Grange graciously provides the grounds free of charge with the stipulation that they operate the only food booth. The 4-H Fair Association sponsors a chicken (now pork roast) barbecue on Saturday evening, coordinated by 4-H alumni.

Features other than the 4-H shows include the ox pull which sometimes attracts up to 40 teams of oxen and runs long into the night with three weight classes. In 2000, a draft horse demonstration replaced the horse pull. Starting in 2001, a draft horse show became one of Sunday's features.

Today, the 4-H Fair Association is very concerned about safety and the appearance of events to the public. Gone are the greased pole climb and greased pig contest of yesteryear and even the sheep blocking contest. Many 4-H fair meetings have been dominated by discussions concerning

livestock and public health issues and precautions including rabies, providing physical barriers around displays of animals for which there is no licensed rabies vaccine (rabbits, swine, goats, young calves, and lambs), foot and mouth disease, and E. coli.

4-H'ers participate in livestock showmanship contests with poultry showmanship an intriguing addition in recent years. Poultry has been added to the premier showmanship contest in which the top showmen of each species have to show all the species. Huge rosettes and silver bowls are awarded to the premier showman and runner-up. Contestants show a horse, dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, working steers, and poultry. It's a highlight of the 4-H Expo.

Several 4-H clubs coordinate special activities such as the 4-H Exposition fashion show, the basket raffle, guest demonstrators, and performers including 4-H ventriloquists. New in 2002 was a very popular 4-H Olympics and the just-for-fun 4-H livestock obstacle course.

4-H teens are the officers and committee chairmen of the 4-H Fair Association. The ad campaign pays for the printing of the fair book and to help with the 4-H Expo expenses.

The 4-H Fair Association and a group of dedicated alumni have planned reunions over the years including ones in 1987 and 1998. Many of the attendees were alumni well into their seventies and eighties who fondly remembered their early days in 4-H.

Blue Slope Country Museum and 4-H alumna Patricia Weingart have become the caretakers of the 4-H fair memorabilia, coordinating a 4-H heritage display at the annual New London County 4-H Exposition.

The early reasons for holding 4-H fairs endure. Doug Hagen, 1964 4-H Fair President, stated:

"The 4-H fair is a combination of work and fun through which club members can exhibit their products and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others."

That remains true today.

Tolland County

From 1927 to 1941, the Tolland County 4-H exhibits were organized by the 4-H Extension Agents, 4-H leaders, parents, and 4-H members with the Tolland County Farm Bureau and the Tolland County Extension Service. The County Home was used for the 4-H fair from 1942-1948. 4-H exhibits were held at Vernon Center (1949), the Stafford Fair (1950-51), and the Rockville Fair. As was the usual custom of the day, 4-H exhibits were featured at the Farm Bureau Field Days as well.

The Tolland County 4-H Fair Association was officially organized on July 16, 1941. From 1942 to 1943, World War II prevented county 4-H exhibits. Instead, joint local community, school, and town exhibits were held. From its inception and through the early 1980s, a strong network of town committees composed of each town's clubs worked together to promote 4-H.



Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, major interests were in canning, vegetables, frozen foods, clothing, and livestock. The first 4-H Horse Show was listed in the fair book in the early 1950s. New classes in the 1950s included home nursing and health, frozen foods, childcare, home improvement, farm and home mechanics, entomology, recreation and rural arts, scrapbooks, and photography.

The annual Fair Rally in the 1950s was held at Ellington Town Hall to mark the successful end of the annual ad

contest similar to a current pizza party or spaghetti dinner. Awards were given to clubs for selling more than \$50 worth of ads.

In the 1960s, oxen demonstrations led to the formation of the Working Steer Class. In 1972, Raymond Ludwig organized the Tolland County 4-H Teamsters as a way to keep alive the art of oxen training. At early fairs, the 4-H Advisory Committee assumed responsibility for organizing and operating the food booth during the fair. This responsibility was later assumed by Fair Association adult advisors. In 1967, the fair expanded to three days and celebrated its silver anniversary. In 1968, 68 members of the 4-H band played. 1970 was the start of the still popular Saturday evening chicken barbecue with 600 4-H members participating in the fair and 1,300 exhibits judged.

During the 1980s, the 4-H Clover members received fair premiums, and new activities included computers,



bicycle freestyling, and a baseball club. The focus of the fair continued to be a family friendly event. The 1990s saw an increase in the number of Fair Directors, the addition of gardens to the grounds, the revitalization of the Frank Niederwerfer Wildlife Sanctuary, and the expansion of small animal projects. In 2002, the fair kitchen was expanded and brought up to code. A 4-H Centennial Celebration was also held.

Windham County

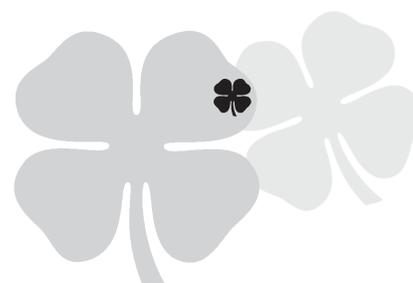
The origins of the Windham County 4-H Fair began in 1945 when several Windham County 4-H'ers and leaders formed the Windham County 4-H Service Club. The 4-H Service Club formed as a social and service organization for the promotion of 4-H club work and was opened to youths between the ages of 14 and 19.

With the support of the 4-H County Club Committee and 4-H agents Paul Latiner and Luella Pratt, the Windham County 4-H Service Club recruited the help of other Windham County 4-H'ers to organize the first Windham County 4-H Fair. The fair took place in 1946 and was held at the Finnish Hall in Brooklyn. In 1949, the fair moved to the Brooklyn Fairgrounds and then alternated between the Brooklyn Fairgrounds and Woodstock Fairgrounds for many years.

In 1969, 4-H Agent Robert McKay contacted the Connecticut State Tax Department and requested that Windham County 4-H Fair become a tax-exempt organization. On September 12, 1969, the State Tax Department approved the request. Bylaws for the fair were drawn up in 1971 officially naming the organization The Windham County 4-H Fair Association, Inc.

In 2002, the Windham County 4-H Fair celebrated its 56th anniversary at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. The fair still holds onto the original concept of allowing Windham County 4-H'ers to plan and run the fair with the support of adult advisors. The fair allows 4-H exhibitors to learn from one another and have the projects they worked on over the past year evaluated. And today, just like in 1946, the fair enables the general public to see the local 4-H program in action.

In addition to the 4-H fairs, a year-round 4-H based educational program is conducted at the 4-H Center at Auer Farm.



THE 4-H CENTER AT AUER FARM

The Connecticut 4-H Development Fund was incorporated in 1970 with 24 elected members of the Board of Directors and 12 appointed staff members to provide private sector financial support to the 4-H program. An initial fund drive provided a \$30,000 contribution to the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland and an investment fund of \$35,000 for programs in the state. President Dwight Eisenhower had opened the National 4-H Center in 1959. A hallway in the north end of the W.K. Kellogg Hall is designated in honor of Connecticut 4-H.

The purpose of the 4-H Development Fund was to raise funds for statewide 4-H programs and to operate the 4-H Center at Auer Farm in Bloomfield. The 4-H Center is located at Auer Farm, originally owned by Beatrice Fox Auerbach. Mrs. Auerbach was president of G. Fox and Co. in Hartford, one of the leading department stores in the country. She was a strong supporter of the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) program as well as of teaching leadership skills to women. In 1951, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt stayed on the farm for a short time. On November 18, 1955, the main dairy barn burned down. Within a year, a new and more modern barn was built as a one-story building with a separate hay barn. In 1967, the entire Auerbach herd of 124 cows, bulls, and calves was donated to the University of Connecticut.

In 1973, Mrs. Auerbach's two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Georgette) Koopman and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard (Dorothy) Schiro, challenged Hartford County 4-H members to make the apple orchard productive. In 1975, 4-H orchard sales totaled over \$8,000 and the 1977 season brought in \$12,000 in sales. In 1976, the Koopmans and Schiros gave 75 acres of the farm to the 4-H Development Fund. Implied or stated in the deed were the following conditions: the land was given to 4-H to use for youth projects; the land was given as long as it is kept in open space; and 4-H could build on not more than four acres plus the current building sites.



The Connecticut 4-H Auerbach Farm Resource Center was dedicated on September 28, 1978, for the purpose of providing an agricultural based educational program for children. In 1979, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving provided \$68,250 for facility renovations.

A volunteer Farm Committee was established to operate the farm. In 1977, following the death of Harvey Sinclair, Mrs. Auerbach's farm manager, John Rowson offered to manage the farm for six months at no charge. An early project was the development of an outdoor classroom in conjunction with the University of Hartford which built the facility and also used some of the existing farm facilities. The relationship between the 4-H Center and the University of Hartford ended in 2002 due to the University expanding programs elsewhere.

In 1977, the first part-time environmental education instructor was hired. In 1978, the first full-time on-site farm manager was hired. In 1980, the full-time staff included an executive director, an educational program director, and a farm manager. The Learning Center was first used in 1980. That same year, the Fall Festival attracted 550 people and a tractor driving school was held. In 1981, the main dairy barn was renovated.

The original gift of 75 acres has grown to 125.5 acres. The Hartford Foundation provided funding to convert the creamery into a Learning Center with a kitchen and to initiate the conversion of the young stock barn into a Learning Lab. In 2001, the Learning Lab was renamed the William D. Lowry, III Science Center in honor of long time volunteer Bill

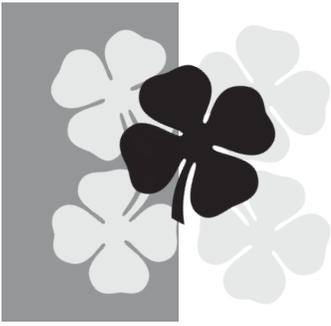
Lowry. The hay fields were restored, raspberry and blueberry patches planted, a Christmas tree plantation and a dwarf apple orchard started. Hay wagon rides to the original orchard overlooking the City of Hartford are a highlight of any visit to the farm. Two farm festivals were sponsored each year: one a Spring Fling that was held from 1979-89 as well as the Fall Festival. In 2002, a corn maze was cut in the shape of a 4-H clover.

The mission of the 4-H Center is to help youths and adults learn the importance of agriculture and its impact on their lives. People actively learn, through hands-on experiences, the science of the efficient production of plants and animals and the interrelationship of agriculture and the environment.

Educational programs included *Farms Produce Foods* for pre-school and children in grades K-3. Lessons covered how a cow converted feed into milk, the growth of apples from flowers to fruit, and green plants as food. The *Summer on the Farm* program included hayrides to visit the apple orchard, vegetable gardens, and farm animals. *Apples and Apple Trees* involved picking apples and making cider. Other programs included *Farmer as an Environmentalist* and the *Farmer as a Mathematician*. In 1996, 10,000 children, many from the Hartford Public Schools, participated. In 2001, 17,970 youths participated at an average cost of \$10.75 each.

In 2002, after much discussion and a facilitated strategic planning process, the 4-H Development Fund decided to focus on enhancing and growing educational programs and community outreach efforts at the 4-H Center at Auer Farm.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES: TOWN, COUNTY, STATE, REGIONAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL

4-H programs operate on multiple levels involving thousands of youths, adults, and professional staff. Clubs operate on a neighborhood, community, or town basis.

TOWN

Connecticut has a rich history of town-based clubs such as the 4-H Cantoneers Club and the Scantic Valley Riders 4-H Club, which have been active for over 50 years. Another example was the Southern Hartford County 4-H Baby Beef Club whose members showed at area fairs under the leadership of Walt Simmons and Bruce Grant with the assistance of Don Gaylord, Extension Specialist. The Melrose 4-H Variety Club, the Granby Club, and the Wethersfield Winding Brook Club are examples of town-based clubs.

Melrose 4-H Variety Club

The Melrose 4-H Variety Club is a community 4-H Club organized by Beulah Pease in 1951. At that time, many clubs were organized around one project reflected in the club's name. The name "Variety" indicated several interests. The original 4-H members lived in Melrose, a section of East Windsor, and had gardening and community service projects.

The one-room Melrose School was used until 1938 and today serves as the 4-H Club meeting place. The annual 4-H achievement night is held each fall to install officers and conduct an auction to raise money for the year's projects. 4-H'ers are the auctioneers

and in charge of the evening's program. The side yard on the schoolhouse property is a favorite recreation area after the 4-H business meeting.

A leader for 55 years, Hilda Purrington grew up in Melrose and had been a 4-H member. In the early 1950's, the Melrose 4-H Variety Club won a trophy for having 100 percent of its members exhibit three years in a row at the Hartford County 4-H Fair. All 4-H members gave demonstrations, and many went on to participate in State 4-H Demonstration Days and The Big E.

All club members were involved in two major community service activities each year. The Memorial Day Service placed flowers on the graves of veterans buried in the Melrose Cemetery. 4-H'ers marched in the parade and served refreshments after the ceremony. The other community service activity was the annual Christmas carol sing at the Melrose School. These activities provided an opportunity for members to develop citizenship skills.

In 1959, the first 4-H marching band and drill team was organized as part of the Melrose 4-H Variety Club. Under the direction of Louis Ungewitter, this group won many honors over the next 15 years. Hilda Purrington was instrumental in providing opportunities for members to have a horseless horse club (now known as equine studies), a clown club, a supper club where teens could prepare meals and learn etiquette, and bicycle safety. She worked with one of the first dog project groups. Members in the Clown Club learned about types of clowns, make-up, tricks, and performed at nursing homes and in parades.

The membership of the club varied from the original nine members to over 50 in some years. Currently, many members and leaders have third or fourth generational connections with the Melrose 4-H Variety Club. After saying the 4-H Pledge, members recite the following verse, "I live in one of the best communities in the country; Melrose is what we make it."

Granby 4-H Club

The Granby 4-H Club was formed in the early 1940s. By the 1960s, the

club had 220-250 members. Parents were recruited as volunteers to work with the Club and some 40-50 adult volunteers have been involved at any one time. One of the first fairs was held at the fairgrounds in Granby.

Early leaders of the Granby 4-H Club were Charlie Allen, Rob and Liel Shaw, and Bob Longlly. In the early 1940s, the boys group was called Nannutuck Farmers (named after the lake), and the girls group was called Healthy, Happy, Homemaking, Helpers. In 1948, Blanch Newton was the girls club leader along with Draughton Holcomb.

Betty Burke and Draughton Holcomb ran the dog club, and Joan Catton started the horse club. By 1956, the boys club changed its name to the Granby Junior Farmers. In 1957, there were 70 girls who participated in the State Dress Revue and Food Show. In 1958, Tom Fritzer led the Dairy 4-H Club.

By the mid 1960s, club meetings had moved from Freda Hayes' home to the Cossit Library, and then to the local Grange Hall with the boys meeting downstairs and the girls meeting upstairs. The structure of club meetings consisted of saying the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H pledge, the secretary's report, and the treasurer's report. The president of the boys club and the president of the girls club conducted meetings with assistance from junior leaders. The club held its own fair at one of the leaders' farms as a way for members to preview their exhibits for the county fair. These were held at the Hayes' farm as well as the Wilhelm's farm. Tom Fritzer formed the Marquis of Granby Fyffe and Drum Corps and carried the 4-H flag.

Only members of the club with livestock projects exhibiting at the fair were permitted to sleep over. Members were permitted to take as many projects as they wished. Record books have a long tradition in 4-H and, while not everyone enjoyed keeping records, they were crucial to understanding the economic value of a 4-H project. Record books were judged and state-wide winners were selected for awards.

A major change in animal projects has been the concept of leased animals.

When a member leases an animal, the 4-H'er assumes the primary responsibility but not the ownership. Frequently, the animal resides elsewhere from where the member lives. This change has allowed urban and suburban youths to participate in a livestock project.

The role of the town committee was to recruit new people, provide ideas and suggestions, and be involved with enrollment. When 40 youths signed up for a dog project, but with only one leader, the town committee sought additional volunteers.

In the 1970s, members of the Granby Club helped at the 4-H Resource Center in Bloomfield working in the orchard. Dan Cunningham was instrumental in teaching 4-H members the cider process, involving other towns' 4-H committees in the process, and in brokering the donation of the farm to the 4-H program. By the 1970s, there was less focus on girls vs. boys projects and more blending of the clubs.

Achievement nights provided an opportunity to recognize club members for their accomplishments. Record books were collected and certificates given for completion of projects. Awards were presented for outstanding boy and girl booths that displayed step-by-step instructions on how to accomplish a project task.

Winding Brook 4-H Club

Wethersfield's Winding Brook 4-H Club was begun in the mid-1940s by members of neighborhood farms: George Brandon, James Griswold, Arthur Griswold, George Harris, Floyd Davis, and David Anderson. The motto was "Feed a Fighter". This group of 10-12 males met on the second floor of the old Griswold Co. 2 Firehouse, formally a one-room schoolhouse. Girls clubs were initially separate, meeting at leaders' homes, learning skills such as cooking, sewing, gardening, and embroidery. Eventually boys and girls clubs joined to form a single program.

Starting in the 1950s, 4-H meetings were held in the Griswoldville Chapel at 178 Griswold Road. The Chapel was conveniently located so club members could walk from Mitchell School to leaders' homes for group meetings and to club meetings at the

Chapel in the evenings. Monthly 4-H meetings and special events in the evening are still held at the Chapel.

Winding Brook 4-H would not have existed for the past 50 years without the guidance of Myron and Beulah "Billie" Baldwin. Beulah (Shanley) Baldwin, Harwinton, joined 4-H at age 11 at the Campville School. In 1948, she married, moved to Wethersfield, and joined Winding Brook 4-H Club as a gardening leader. Myron Baldwin, Wethersfield, said that he "married into 4-H in 1948."

The number of Winding Brook 4-H'ers has changed over the years with three generations of 4-H'ers in the club. Club members participate in a wide range of projects such as sewing, cross-stitch, embroidery, cooking, canning, gardening, flower arranging, electrical wiring, woodworking, animal care, public speaking, and photography.



COUNTY

Counties provide the structure for Cooperative Extension System and the 4-H program. Countywide committees organize events, fairs, camps, and recognize the achievement of 4-H members and leaders. This level of organization allows youths and adults to work on a broader level, meeting new people, and gaining exposure to a diversity of ideas.

Nationally, the 4-H calendar program was initiated in 1947. This program has long been supported in Tolland County, initially by the Savings Bank of Tolland, and since the 1980s, by the Stafford Savings Bank. At one time, there was both a leader's calendar that was slightly larger as well as the member's calendar with a pocket for keeping important papers.

County medals were given by national corporations to recognize 4-H members, 12 years and older, who had achieved in a particular 4-H project such as horticulture, dog care, citizenship, public speaking, or food and nutrition. 4-H'ers completed a recognition form and submitted a 4-H leader recommendation. A county 4-H awards committee reviewed these and made decisions on county medals. In most cases, a 4-H'er received a particular 4-H project medal just once, unless there was significant growth,

progress, and achievement in that project to warrant a second medal. Some counties selected medal winners based only on leader recommendations and other counties gave junior level achievement certificates or medals, sponsored by the county 4-H committee.

Club or countywide community service projects provided citizenship development opportunities. Projects included community clean-up, nursing home visits, and work groups at the Grange Hall. Other projects included trimming community Christmas trees, collecting toys for the needy, caroling at nursing homes, holding local paper drives, providing Thanksgiving fruit baskets for the needy and Christmas wreaths for the elderly, beautifying historic buildings, and cleaning cemeteries. Clubs also participate in Ride for Research, an annual horse show to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, fund raising for hurricane victims in other states, collecting coats for needy children, and serving meals at community soup kitchens.

Sharon McDonald recalled :

"We raised money by riding our bikes to Friendly's and actually being sponsored for the whole thing. Seven cents a mile from some of the larger sponsors; purely a 'fun' raising event looking back. The club also made tray favors for the 'old folks home.' Above all this, my experiences with the Blend and Mend 4-H Club of New London County was such a joy - a supportive environment for young women to work together and independently toward collective goals. No matter what a woman chooses to pursue, one takes away from the 4-H experience a sense of confidence and the desire to give back something to the community."



STATE

State activities provide an opportunity for youths to work together across the state on events such as Marine Science Day, Teen Connection, Public Speaking, Dress Revue, Double Dutch, Interstate Exchanges, Computer Technology, and Environmental Action Day. In addition, a wide array of shows and clinics allow members to learn more about poultry, beef, dairy, dog, horse, and sheep programs. Many of these statewide events have been

held at the University of Connecticut campus in Storrs. Recognizing and honoring 4-H volunteers is an important statewide activity. These awards include the Alumni, Leadership, and Meritorious Service Awards.

4-H Marine Science Day

The 4-H Marine Science Day has been held since 1987. The two and



one-half hour experience on-board Project Oceanology's research and education vessel Envirolab, based in Groton, is the focal point for the program. On board Envirolab, the 4-H'ers enjoy helping to set and pull in the trawl net and examine the catch with a marine biologist. They use the vessel's educational instruments to measure the temperature, salinity, oxygen level, clarity, and density of the ocean water; examine a core sample of the sea bottom; and learn about navigation and the history of Long Island Sound.

On-shore workshops supplement what the youths see and learn while on Envirolab. Presenters for the on-shore workshops have been educators from the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, Cooperative Extension System, Coast Guard, USDA-APHIS, community environmental programs, and Extension volunteers.

The on-shore workshop topics have included shore exploration (types of shore, sand, plants, animals, environmental factors), marine botany (seaweeds including sampling of seaweed-based recipes), mollusks and shells, water pollution and clean up, net-making, Sound gardening, aquaculture, coastal cleanup, marine environmental protection, fisheries, fish art, turtles and tortoises, and quiz bowl to test the 4-H'ers knowledge.

In 1995, one workshop was held at the UConn Marine Science Research Lab in Noank. The 1996 program included a marine science nature hike at nearby Bluff Point State Park and Bushy Point Beach. The participants explored the unique environments of a lagoon, tide pool and barrier beach.

The program is filled each year with 100-150 participants. The minimum age of 11 and chaperones help to manage the large number of potential participants. Attendees come from all counties and types of 4-H programs. Participants increase their knowledge and appreciation for the marine environment. They are more aware of pollution problems and focused on improving water quality.



Teen Connection

This three-day, two-night conference is held at the University campus in Storrs every other year. The event is organized by staff, teens, and adult volunteers from across the state. Teen Connection provides teens the opportunity to better connect to themselves, to other teens, and to the University. The Conference includes workshops, discussions on topics important to teens, community service projects, free time to explore the campus, and a dinner-dance. Participants stay in the dorms on campus and experience the University in a highly structured, supervised event.

Objectives of the conference are to increase skills and knowledge, offer in-depth "action learning" in interest areas, provide access to the University campus and its wealth of resources, especially in the area of career exploration, provide youth development experiences above and beyond what is available at the local level, and develop leadership and enhance the personal growth of participants.

Eighty-100 teens typically attend at the most recent cost of \$85 per participant. Youths, ages 14-19 years, are eligible to attend upon completion of a registration form with a signed code of conduct and health information.

Public Speaking

The New London County contest was established in 1964 by 4-H Agent Robbins Smith. The program attracts 50 or more participants and includes demonstrations as well as original speeches. There are four regional contests throughout New London County coordinated by 4-H volunteers under the direction of the 4-H Educator. Sometimes the coordinators are 4-H teens who serve in this role as a leadership experience.

In 1986, the New London County 4-H Advisory Committee established junior and senior age divisions. Junior winners were invited to present their speeches at the county finals for experience only and were not judged. In 1998, a competitive category for juniors was added. In 1995, junior and senior demonstration winners were included.

The junior and senior winners in public speaking and demonstrations in each of the regional programs participate in the New London County 4-H Public Speaking and Demonstration Finals. One winner in each category receives a trophy. Each 4-H participant receives the judge's score sheet and comments at local and county programs. The senior public speaking winner goes on to the State 4-H Public Speaking Finals.

Senior speakers speak for 5-8 minutes; juniors 3-5 minutes. Speakers may use note cards so they are not tempted to read their speeches. Demonstrators use charts and props and actually show how to make or do something. All of the presenters are judged on stage presence, knowledge of subject, organization, delivery, power of expression, general effect, and their ability to answer questions.

There are many opportunities for 4-H'ers to learn and practice public presentations: talks and demonstrations in 4-H clubs, serving as emcees at 4-H events; officers of club, regional and county committees running meetings and giving reports; individual or team demonstrations at 4-H Food Shows; giving reasons in livestock judging events; leading songs, games or sharing thoughts at reflections at 4-H Camp; introducing workshop presenters at 4-H programs and much more. 4-H'ers are encouraged to give short talks and demonstrations in their

4-H clubs, a familiar setting with a supportive audience of family and friends. All who participate learn a life skill.

Donald Beebe, New London County, remembered that:

"My 4-H leaders, Ernie and Sandy Staebner, encouraged every club member to prepare a speech and to work through the process of making an outline, the cards, and then actually presenting it. I remember being so afraid my first year that I developed laryngitis the week of the public speaking event. My mother called Sandy Staebner to tell her the sad news. Sandy was not totally persuaded that the laryngitis that appeared on Tuesday would still be there on Friday night. She called my mother everyday for the next three days to check on the status of my voice. Needless to say, it was the longest period of laryngitis that I ever had. Although I worried about the daily phone calls, it occurred to me many years later that Sandy really cared about my getting past my fear of public speaking."

The first annual State 4-H Public Speaking Finals was held on March 2, 1985, at the State 4-H Leaders' Forum at the Mystic Ramada Inn. The judges for that first state contest were Donald Beebe, Louise Melling, and Arland Meade. The judges at county and state contests over the years have often included exemplary 4-H alumni, community officials, and representatives of the Toastmasters organization.

In the 1980's for five years, the State Finals were held at the same time as the State 4-H Forum. Then it was held as a separate event at various locations (1990 at the Bishop Center, UConn, Storrs; 1991 at Middlesex Mutual Insurance Building, Middletown; 1992 at UConn, West Hartford.) In an effort to expand the audience for these outstanding 4-H youth speakers, the contest joined the State 4-H Forum at Northeast Utilities at Berlin in 1993, the State Extension Volunteer Forum, UConn, Storrs in 1994, and from 1995 to the present, as part of the State 4-H Day at UConn, Storrs.

A 4-H teen serves as the emcee and there is one speaker from each county. In this contest, the finalists give speeches only, no demonstrations.

For many years, awards were sponsored by the Connecticut 4-H Development Fund.

In 2002, a State 4-H Equine Public Speaking Contest was established. Although 4-H horse project members have always been eligible to participate in public speaking contests, the State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee felt there was a need to have a special state contest to select a 4-H'er to attend the National 4-H Equine Public Speaking Contest. Two years prior, the State 4-H Equine Contest added team demonstration for the same purpose. 2002 saw the first State 4-H Horse Project Day at UConn, with a myriad of workshops and activities including public speaking.

Kathryn Maurice Christensen, New London County, remembered:

"Public speaking taught me to take pride in my work and to respect the work of others. I learned through constructive competition that win or lose, one can always gain insights and knowledge."

Dress Revue Now Called Fashion Revue

Dress Revues have been a strong part of the 4-H history. Young women and men who participated in clothing



projects have been evaluated and gone on to show their garments in fashion shows at county dress revues, county fairs, and in the New England Center at The Big E.

A member record book from 1954-55 reflected the cost of clothing articles made at home. These included a petticoat that took two days to sew and cost \$3.71, a blouse that cost \$3.25, and a skirt at \$6.90. The record book reflected fabric samples and sketches of the garment, documentation of dress revue participation, 4-H meetings attended, offices held and talks given.

Being selected for the court of honor at the county level gave participants the right to represent their counties at the State Revue. Being in the State Court of Honor, filling out the National Report Form, and being the one selected meant a trip to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago where they participated in the National Dress Revue. Because of a lack of national sponsorship, this event was dropped in 1993.

Counties and the State 4-H program continue to sponsor fashion revues. State Revues have been held in a variety of places including the UConn Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, the Parish House auditorium of the Storrs Congregational Church, the Faculty Alumni Center (both old and new), insurance companies in Hartford, an auto dealer on Church Street in Hartford, and Centennial Hall on the 11th floor at G. Fox where Mrs. Beatrice Fox Auerback as owner of G. Fox would speak to participants. In 1951, and again in 1955, the state fashion revue was held at the Hawley Armory on the University of Connecticut's campus. In 1969, the state fashion revue was held at the Hotel America in Hartford. In 1978, 53 girls participated in the spring state fashion revue held at the Faculty Alumni Center at Storrs. In 1980, the statewide event was held in the Old State House Court Room in Hartford.

Julie Keithan, Middlesex County, remembered:

"We went to New York City as a group with [4-H Agent] Barbara Maynard to tour the Simplicity Pattern Company."



Sue Blanchette LaTour, New London County, shared:

"Sewing still brings back memories of a lot of laughter. We always had a great laugh. Laughing at my mistakes and laughing together while we worked on our projects. I remember laying out my entire pattern and pinning it upside down in my leader's living room. Can we blame that on being left-handed? Or tripping up the steps at the Sheraton during the Dress Revue?"

Double Dutch

In the 1980s, Double Dutch brought an urban and minority audience to the 4-H program. It was the first large privately funded program for Connecticut. Programs were conducted in Hartford, Windham, New Haven, and Bridgeport, often in cooperation with the Girl Scouts. In Windham, 283 youths participated in the program that also included a nutrition education component. In Bridgeport, 794 youths participated while the New Haven Soul Patrol conducted Double Dutch programs with 200 youths in the Hill Section of the City. Double Dutch stressed physical fitness, teamwork, and fun. The Hartford program included teams from the American School for the Deaf.

For the first 10 or 12 years, United Technologies Corporation (U.T.C.) provided funding. Then Connecticut National Bank became the sponsor for three or four years. Since the mid-1990s, there have been numerous corporate and private sponsors. In 1986, the World Invitational Tournament was held for the first time indoors in the Hartford Civic Center sponsored by U.T.C. This was the first two-day World Invitational event.

4-H members in the program must maintain a C average or above to participate and must show their report card to their coaches. In order to travel, youth must maintain a B average or better. Connecticut members have traveled to Germany, Japan, Canada, Russia, Poland, France, and England to compete.

The World Tournaments were held on college campuses in order to expose youths to college life and give them time to talk to school recruiters. During the World Invitational

Tournament, youths are also competing for scholarship money.

Connecticut 4-H'ers have appeared on *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, *That's Incredible*, and the *Johnny Carson Tonight Show*, and performed at *Disney World*.

Since 1997, the New London County 4-H Camp has conducted training in Double Dutch. A Double Dutch leader and four 4-H members from Torrington have taught campers the intricacies of competitive jumping.

Interstate Exchanges

Connecticut has a long history of interstate exchanges. At one point, Hartford, Litchfield, New London, and Tolland Counties all had active interstate exchange groups. In 2002, Litchfield County has the only active program.

Litchfield County's involvement in exchanges started in the early 1970s when one Litchfield County 4-H'er visited Georgia and one Georgia 4-H'er visited Connecticut. The program grew over the years to include as many as a busload of 4-H'ers coming to Connecticut from Wisconsin and vice versa.

Once the exchanges meant traveling and hosting in the same year, usually for a week each. In 2002, exchanges often span two years, one week of hosting and one week of visiting in the following year. The cost of travel, the ability to raise funds, and schedules have caused this shift. Technology, in the form of 4-H hosted exchange websites, has made it easier for groups to connect. The recent availability of e-mail in homes has increased the communication between the 4-H'ers involved. The opportunity afforded by the exchanges gave youths from different parts of the country a cultural exchange within their own country.

Youths gained a better understanding of themselves as they lived with another family, faced the challenges of learning to accept new people, and cooperated in groups. Exchanges were often the first time teens had been faced with being on their own. The exchanges always included an element of fun, and the families involved usually find out as much about their own county and state as the guests they hosted. One of the ultimate

benefits was the lifelong friendships that formed.

Computer Technology Team

The Computer Technology Team was formed in 1999. Teens between 13 and 19 years of age from throughout the State joined together to learn more about computers and the internet, while exploring career possibilities and teaching skills to others through community service activities.

The Team has participated in the pilot Medicare/4-H collaborative program "Teens Teaching Internet Skills to Senior Citizens." Teens provided workshops on computer technology and the internet at schools and libraries, and assisted at statewide 4-H activities, creating power point slide shows for events such as Teen Leadership Weekend and Teen Connection. County-based computer technology teams were initiated to bridge the digital divide at a local level.

Members attended workshops to improve their own internet and computing skills, both in state and at the National 4-H Technology Conference. Two members of the Computer Technology Team served on the National 4-H Technology Leadership Team, helping to create a National 4-H website.

Environmental Action Day

The first Environmental Action Day took place in May 2001. The Cooperative Extension System, the Audubon Society, EASTCONN, and the Windham County 4-H Foundation sponsored this innovative youth program. The program is designed for teens and is held at the Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center in Pomfret. The goal of the program is to advance environmental awareness and responsible conservation with exciting hands-on and team-building activities. Along with learning about the environment, participants discover how they can take an active role impacting behavior, policies, and laws pertaining to the environment in their communities and beyond.



4-H Sheep Project Clinic

An educational day for 4-H sheep project members was established by Louis (Lonnie) Malkus, UConn Extension Livestock Specialist. The day was originally planned for just Connecticut 4-H sheep project members and leaders and has grown to 150 people attending from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.



The committee designed a two-track system with workshops specifically for the 7-12 year olds and different, longer workshops for teens. Topics have included biosecurity; information and equipment for beginning shepherds; selecting wool or meat sheep; owner responsibility for veterinary care; judging; animal rights and animal welfare; handling and maintenance of electric shears; digestive system of sheep; carcass evaluation; ethics in showing sheep; housing and fencing for small flocks; novice sheep handling; marketing; waste management and the environment; sheep dairying and cheese making; felting; routine health care; pathobiology; working with wool; halter making; sheep showmanship; nutrition through the life cycle; and lambing and care of the pregnant ewe.

Presenters have come from the University of Connecticut Departments of Animal Science, Plant Science, and Pathobiology, and 4-H alumni, 4-H volunteers, sheep breeders, State Department of Agriculture officials, and USDA-APHIS veterinarians.

A highlight of the day-long program is the sheep quiz bowl competition, a knowledge event. Forty youth eagerly sign up for a total of ten senior and junior teams for fun and learning.

Honoring 4-H Volunteers

The 4-H adult awards program consists of three awards: Alumni, Leadership, and Meritorious Service to 4-H.

The *Alumni Award* recognizes a previous 4-H member who continues to exemplify outstanding leadership and citizenship development. A nomination form is submitted to the State 4-H Office by an Extension staff person. The form includes the nominee's 4-H participation as a youth, their present citizenship and leadership qualities as exemplified in 4-H; civic, community, school, public service, and other related activities; career accomplishments along with evidence of the influence of 4-H training in the nominee's life; and his or her continuing commitment to 4-H.

The *Leadership Award* recognizes individuals providing leadership to organized clubs. The nomination is submitted to the State 4-H Office from either a 4-H volunteer or Extension staff person which includes the following criteria: how the nominee develops unique programs and/or leadership approaches, involves youths in planning and implementing 4-H activities, involves youths in community service activities, and has grown in their leadership skill and skill in involving youths in the 4-H program.

The *Meritorious Service to 4-H Award* recognizes individuals and/or organizations who have supported the 4-H program in roles other than direct leadership. The nomination is submitted to the State 4-H Office from either a 4-H volunteer or Extension staff person with the following criteria: the size, scope and significance of the nominee's contribution to the 4-H program in their volunteer role, how the nominee involves others in projects, and new resources accrued by the nominee's efforts.

Traditionally, two Alumni Award recipients, six Leadership Award recipients, and three Meritorious Service to 4-H Award recipients are selected.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Working on a regional basis provides an opportunity for youths and adults to work together on the "state" fair of New England called The Big E and to meet once a year for training and new ideas through the Northeast Regional Volunteer Forum and the New England 4-H Teen Conference.

Eastern States Exposition (ESE)

The Eastern States Exposition, founded in 1916, in West Springfield, Massachusetts, is called The Big E. Noting a decline in agriculture in the New England region, the founders of the Exposition saw the need to stimulate the exchange of innovative techniques, products, and methods of financing, marketing, and distributing agricultural products. The founders determined that the East was overly absorbed in industrial development and had neglected its agricultural roots. Farming needed a way to showcase and promote all aspects of agriculture. The Eastern States Agricultural and Industrial Exposition was incorporated in 1914. In 1915, the United States Department of Agriculture located a Federal Entomological Laboratory on its grounds. In 1916, the National Dairy Show was moved to the ESE grounds.



In 1937, the Connecticut General Assembly voted to spend \$35,000 on a new building on the Avenue of New England States at the Exposition if at least \$25,000 was raised privately. A total of \$38,000 was raised, and the Federal Works Project Act assisted in the building's construction.

Camp Vail was the name given to activities conducted during The Big E in support of 4-H. Founded in 1916 by H.A. Moses of the International 4-H Training School, C.B. Whitney was the Chairman of the first Boys and Girls Committee. The first manager of Camp Vail was J.A. Sherley in 1917. In 1916, a Congressional appropriation of \$15,000 made the first Camp Vail



exhibit possible. Camp Vail was named after Theodore Newton Vail, one of the founders of Eastern States Exposition.

A 1949 document reported that Camp Vail was sponsored jointly by the Eastern States Exposition and the Agricultural Extension Services of the New England States. It was one of the four divisions included in the Eastern States 4-H Roundup, and the only one that was open to all members regardless of project. The other divisions were Baby Beef Show, Dairy Show, and poultry exhibitors and judges. Eastern States provided meals and sleeping quarters for 12 Camp Vail delegates from each of the six New England States. The Camp Vail program centered on exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities in the Boys' and Girls' Building. The Country Kitchen, the Farm Shop, the demonstration platform, and the exhibit booths were featured. A dress revue was held each day. The purpose was to give the general public more information on 4-H members and club opportunities. Each Connecticut county nominated two boys and two girls for consideration. In the early 1950s, one 4-H'er remembered participating at The Big E for one week instead of the current three days of participation for livestock projects.



Participation of 4-H members in The Big E depends on the willingness and generosity of 4-H volunteers. These volunteers serve on the New England committees that plan and coordinate the programs, contests, and exhibits as well as chaperone 4-H members while staying on the grounds in the Moses Dormitory. Connecticut 4-H members participate at The Big E in sheep, dairy goat, dog, horse, beef, dairy cattle programs, and with demonstrations and activity booths in the New England Center. In recent years, stage presentations in the New England Center have included dress revue,

public speaking, and Double Dutch. In 2002, the Eastern States Exposition hosted a 4-H Centennial Celebration on September 29, the last day of the 2002 Big E. Currently, the New England 4-H Council that represents all committees and all states coordinates 4-H programs conducted during The Big E.

Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum

Massachusetts first hosted the regional 4-H Leaders Forum in 1978. Partially funded by the J.C. Penney Company, this program provided training for six volunteers per state. In 1980, the event was held in West Virginia. Connecticut hosted the Forum in 1983 with a planning committee of 10 volunteers and one staff member. Working over a three-year time period, the group planned, funded, and implemented the three-day conference. Marge LaRoche, Fairfield County, served as the volunteer chair.

The 1983 regional conference was held in Mystic with 230 delegates from 12 northeastern states participating. The theme was *4-H-Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* with workshops on electronic technology with microcomputers, life enrichment through leisure education, understanding your community by investigating your past, youth with special developmental and social needs, management skills to help leaders teach through 4-H projects, and club meetings provide citizenship development. An afternoon was spent at Mystic Seaport and an evening at Mystic Aquarium. A successful Chinese Auction raised \$1700. The J.C. Penney Company sponsored the closing banquet at Seamens Inn in Mystic with the banquet gifts being small white bells exclusively made by the Bevins Bell Company.

In 1996, the four-day Forum was held in Vermont and featured 80 workshops and tours from animal science, natural resources, community service to maple sugaring, nutrition and wellness. Connecticut will once again host the conference in 2003 to be held in Cromwell with Janice Castle, Tolland County, serving as volunteer chair.

New England 4-H Teen Conference

The fifth annual New England 4-H

Teen Conference was held in 2000 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. Over 60 4-H'ers from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont attended. Each New England state is permitted to send up to ten 4-H'ers and have four 4-H'ers on the planning committee. With the support of adult volunteers and 4-H staff, New England 4-H teens set goals and objectives for the conference, and plan the activities and workshops. The objectives of the conference include providing a regional, hands-on leadership opportunity, creating an awareness of different 4-H programs and ideas, introducing the New England Land-Grant Universities, exploring career opportunities, and creating new friendships.

During 1999 and 2000, members of the New England 4-H Teen Conference Planning Committee meet twice and communicated via mail, phone and e-mail to plan and organize the Connecticut conference. The theme was *Embracing New Horizons* which focused on diversity. "Funshops" conducted by the 4-H'ers included a current issues forum, team building, sign language, substance abuse, self assessment, problem solving, and Irish dancing. IFYE representatives, Yevhen Chernenko from the Georgia Republic and Katre Pilvinski from Estonia, talked about their experiences in the United States and life in their countries. True Colors conducted a workshop where gay youths shared their personal stories of discrimination and acceptance, plus answered questions.

The New England 4-H Teen Conference was created by New England 4-H'ers as a "back-home" plan during the 1995 National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C.



NATIONAL

National events, such as 4-H Conference, Dairy Conference, and Citizenship Washington Focus are often the reward for years of hard work and learning. Teams for judging contests, including the National Beef Judging Team and the 4-H Horse Judging Contest, have an opportunity to travel and learn together. Adult volunteers also have opportunities to be recognized in the Salute to Excellence program and the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

National 4-H Camp Became National 4-H Conference

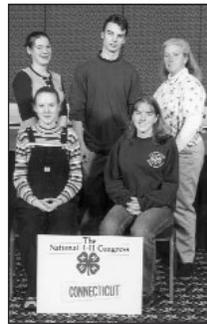
National 4-H Club Camps' 25th Anniversary was celebrated in 1956. Two years later the name was changed from National 4-H Club Camp to National 4-H Conference. The word "Club" was dropped to broaden participation. Conference, held at the National 4-H Center since 1959, was designed to reward and develop outstanding junior leaders in 4-H work, acquaint members with their government, and familiarize Washington with 4-H.

Larry Pennington, Hartford County, remembered being selected to attend in 1972 and having a chance to meet then President Nixon's daughter Julie Eisenhower during a tour of the White House. He remarked:

"I was impressed with the character of my fellow 4-H'ers from the other states. These kids were very articulate and expressive, and I am sure that many of them are prominent leaders today."

National 4-H Dairy Conference

From the beginning, 4-H dairy projects have been an integral component of the 4-H experience, reflecting the importance of the dairy industry to the agricultural economy. The National 4-H Dairy Conference began in Chicago, Illinois in 1955 for the purpose of career exploration and for networking with leaders from all aspects of the industry. Connecticut first participated in 1958 sending a team consisting of William Hopkins, New Preston; William Keish, Jr., Manchester; and Allen Stickels, Jr., Torrington. In the late 1950s, Frank Atwood was farm program director for WTIC radio. Through his connections with Traveler's Insurance, Frank administered a loan program to help 4-H members purchase registered dairy heifers which resulted in WTIC sponsoring members to attend the National 4-H Dairy Conference. This ended when the radio station discontinued its farm programming in the mid-1980s. In 1970, the National 4-H Dairy Conference moved to Madison, Wisconsin.



National Citizenship Short Course Became Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

Training in citizenship and human relations became an important component of the 4-H program in the 1960s. One example was the Citizenship Short Course held at the National 4-H Center. Most participants visited their Congressional delegation and toured the White House. This event evolved into Citizenship Washington Focus as the 4-H leadership program for high school youths, ages 15-19. For 38 years, CWF has enriched the lives of thousands of young people. While staying at the National 4-H Center, young people gain a broader appreciation and practice respect for themselves and others, increase their commitment of citizen involvement, understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities, and practice fitness, and have fun. These experiences lead to becoming "Better Citizens Today. Better Leaders Tomorrow."

National Salute to Excellence

Initiated in 1982 and funded by the R.J. Reynolds Industries, this unique national training program addressed the critical need for recruitment, training, and retention of volunteers. Each state selected one 4-H volunteer to participate annually in this week-long training session held at the National 4-H Center. Participants selected a project to complete in their

home state. Connecticut participants and their projects were as follows:

Elsie P. Woolam, Hartford County, (1982) developed a statewide program focused on leader retention through improved communications to new leaders and a training session for adult and teen leaders. J. Suzanne Larkham, New London County, (1984) designed a leader forum on program planning, club meetings, county and state events, record keeping, working with the handicapped, and communications specifically for leaders with five or less years in the program. Marjorie S. Brown, Tolland County, (1986) conducted a workshop on clothing and textiles, and invented a quiz game in which 4-H'ers could test their knowledge of home economics.

Thomas Morin, Litchfield County, (1987) developed record keeping forms on a computer and distributed the floppy discs to state 4-H members and leaders. William D. Lowry, III, Middlesex County, (1988) focused on the development of a "friends" network to establish a new dwarf orchard at the 4-H Resource Center. Pheobe Snowe, Fairfield County, (1989) wrote a volunteer manual and developed educational materials for the *Kids and Critters* program. Each of these individuals added to the strength and quality of the 4-H program.

National 4-H Hall of Fame

One hundred people, who have made a significant impact on 4-H at the local, state or national level, were the initial inductees into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on April 11, 2002. The inductees represented hundreds of thousands of dedicated volunteers and county, state, and national professional staff who have helped millions of young people learn valuable life skills through 4-H over the past 100 years. The induction ceremony took place at the National 4-H Center.

The Centennial Class included 13 4-H pioneers, 29 State Extension Directors, State Program Leaders or State Staff, six major donors, nine county 4-H agents, ten of the founders of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA), 11 long-term volunteers, three members of Congress, six National Program Leaders, a songwriter, an astronaut, and several very successful businesspeople.

Among the 100 honorees was Bernice Assard of Bethlehem, leader of the Bethlehem Busy Stitchers 4-H Club since 1956. In 46 years, more than 100 girls have benefited from her tutelage. The club has had as many as 30 members in a given year, ranging in age from 7 to 19 years.

Every year, her home economics club embarks on a community service project. In 2002, they sewed aprons for a local soup kitchen. Numerous young women from her club have been selected over the years for Citizenship Washington Focus, IFYE, and National 4-H Congress.

INTERNATIONAL

International programs allow 4-H youths and young adults to travel and learn abroad. Youths from other nations have the opportunity to live and work in Connecticut, learning about life in an urban state with a strong agricultural economy.

The end of World War II witnessed a growing global perspective for the 4-H program. In 1965, nationally, the first Teen Caravan visited England and the first IFYE World Alumni Conference was held in Switzerland. In 1971, International Farm Youth Exchange was renamed to International Four-H Youth Exchange.

To reflect the growing interest in global issues, the words "and my world" were added to the end of the 4-H pledge in 1973, the first change since the pledge was adopted in 1927. In 1978, John Garaventa, Hartford County, participated in the third 4-H Young Agricultural Specialist Exchange program. Selected as one of 12 American delegates, John spent three months in the Soviet Union, working with farm families on state and collective farms. The main objective of the exchange was to share agricultural technology and increase understanding between the two countries.

Originating in 1948, as the International Farm Youth Exchange program, IFYE was established on the principle that understanding between peoples is the foundation for world peace. IFYE, a people-to-people program, provided opportunities for cross-cultural experiences. Two specific IFYE programs were IFYE

Caravan and IFYE Representatives. The IFYE Caravan was a group experience for youths between the ages of 16 and 20 years of age who lived with host families and became acquainted with other languages through a planned program led by a group leader. Initiated in the 1960s by Owen Trask, State 4-H Staff, by 1979, 19 Connecticut youths had participated in IFYE Caravan.

Charles Larson, Hartford County, was the first Connecticut IFYE delegate who went to Denmark in 1948. In the same year, three IFYEs from France and three from Denmark came to stay with families in Connecticut. From 1948 to 1958, 18 young men and women went to 16 different countries. During this time 47 foreign exchangees from 30 countries visited Connecticut. Randolph Whaples organized the State IFYE Committee which was incorporated in 1953. By 1959, six of the eight counties had county committees. By 1979, 63 Connecticut young adults had participated in the IFYE Representative program in 35 countries. Under the leadership of Lonnie Malkus, Extension Livestock Specialist, a two-way exchange was conducted with Belize in the 1980s.

IFYE representatives have an in-depth experience in one country. Most IFYEs live and work with host families and are 19-25 years of age. IFYEs from other countries also live and work with families in Connecticut. A state committee of IFYE volunteers raises funds and selects participants. Upon their return to this country, IFYEs speak at numerous meetings and schools. These presentations generate additional resources and program exposure.

The Labo International Exchange Foundation initiated Japanese exchanges in the 1980s for youths ages 12 to 18 years to live and work in the United States. During the 1990s, a two week summer exchange with Chihuahua, Mexico was initiated as well as a year-long high school exchange. In 2002, the outbound IFYE delegate from Connecticut will live in Estonia while the two inbound IFYEs will be from Greece and Austria. Over the years, more than 1,000 families in the state have hosted an IFYE for some part of their stay.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The most powerful testimonials of the 4-H program are the impacts of this youth development organization on the careers of 4-H alumni. Several 4-H alumni shared their stories.

4-H alumni have commented that the most important thing that their 4-H leader did was "make them do public speaking." Many adult leaders would never give a speech themselves, but know the value of having youth learn to be comfortable expressing themselves in public. Some alumni say 4-H public speaking helped them in school classes and community groups, in adult life in their career, and in their involvement in community organizations and committees.

Gloria McAdam said:

"I learned public speaking as a 4-H member. Now, for my career, I do a great deal of public speaking, and I always credit 4-H with my skill."

Debra Munson Jamrog remembered growing up on a dairy farm in Kensington:

"Being a 4-H'er was a lesson in life that was not fully appreciated until I got older. The lessons learned have in many ways made me the person I am today."

Sue Blanchette LaTour said:

"I always tell my boys that the only thing I truly wanted to be in life was a mom. 4-H gave me the foundation, along with my parents, to teach good parenting skills and life's lessons. Without head, heart, hands and health, you truly have nothing. With your head you can make the decision between right and wrong. You can be a person of character. With your hands you can bandage a knee, turn the pages of a book, and hug your child. With your heart, you can teach them to give, to volunteer, to understand the feeling of accomplishment, to love and be loved. With health, you can show them the way to not only healthy living, but how to care for and respect ourselves to avoid the risk-taking lifestyles all around us."



There are many examples of 4-H marriages. One is the Robert Deming family. Robert wrote:

"I met my wife of 50 years, Mary Milner, a long-time 4-H member and the Home Economics Club Agent in New Haven County. Our four children have all been members of various 4-H clubs as they were growing up. All of our family has maintained life long relationships with 4-H friends we made many years ago."

Nancy Deming Squier, Middlesex County, shared that:

"My 4-H leader and extra 'Mom', Lillian Logan, made me see that everyone has their own special talent and that talent, whatever it is, should be shared with others. My husband Walter and I are a 4-H marriage, and even though we do not have 4-H children of our own, we have a very large 4-H extended family."

Margaret Maurice Lettieri, New London County, remembered that:

"4-H taught me responsibility. Each and every activity that I engaged in during my 4-H years gradually molded me into a responsible young adult. Throughout my 4-H career, I was always held to the highest standard. However, the level of expectation was always adjusted and appropriate to my age. I learned to be responsible to my community, for myself, and for the health of my animal. I entered my adult life, career, and parenthood a more prepared individual due in part to the life changing experiences provided to me in the 4-H program. As an adult, I utilize many of the skills I gained and I truly believe that I am a more well-rounded person because of the 4-H program."

Kimberly McNabb Cashman, a 4-H alumna remembered that:

"Some of the other projects we [brother and I] took included embroidery, electronics, baking, and foods and nutrition. These interests led ultimately to studying home economics in college where I earned a B.S. and M.S. in Clothing, Textiles, and Fashion Merchandising. I then moved to central Connecticut to work for Gerber Garment Technology, using my skills in the garment industry to

demonstrate, support, and train on CAD, CAM, and CMS products for 8 years."

THE FUTURE FOR 4-H

Kirvin Knox, Dean and Director (1987-92), noted that:

"One of the greatest satisfactions of working with 4-H was witnessing the increased commitment to serving all of Connecticut's young people regardless of their geographic location or ethnic background."

Impact of the National 4-H Conversation Effort

The *National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century* was an unprecedented series of discussions between youths and adults from around the country to devise ways of improving urban, suburban, and rural communities nationwide. The Conversation's findings are the basis for an action plan that leverages the strengths of both youths and adults to improve communities. A total of 1,200 youths and adults representing 600 organizations participated in the National Conversation February 28-March 1, 2002 in Washington D.C.

National Conversation Presents Key Findings

- Involve youth directly in creating policy and making decisions at all levels of government and society.
- Seek multi-cultural acceptance and unity for all families, lifestyles, and settings.
- Provide safe and inviting environments for a variety of learning strategies.
- Attract and retain exceptional people to the field of youth development.
- Build collaborations among youth organizations and across government programs impacting young people.

National Conversation Recommended the Following Actions

- Establish a National Office of Youth, a National Youth Advocate, or other youth advocates within each federal department or agency.
- Design programs, educational opportunities, and public relations

initiatives to promote knowledge of, and celebration for our diversity.

- Expand use of mentoring, work-based community-service learning, and technology so that each young person reaches his or her potential.
- Increase compensation and professional development opportunities to meet demand for professional youth development staff.
- Provide training, support, and incentives to expand quality and number of volunteers needed to fully serve America's young people.
- Maximize resources invested in youth development by creating procedures across youth development organizations and agencies that improve coordination and eliminate duplication.



The strength of the 4-H program is the core foundation of youth members working with adult volunteers over time. The biggest challenges to the 4-H youth development program in the next 100 years will include keeping the program relevant in rapidly changing times, improving diversity of participants, and avoiding the impression of program duplication.

The 4-H youth development program empowers youths to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. May the motto of 4-H, *To Make the Best Better*, and the slogan, *Learn by Doing*, guide us as we carry the 4-H program to the next 50 years.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

To all of the special friends of 4-H who so freely shared of their memories and 4-H experiences; current and former staff and faculty members who filled in the gaps in our memories; and, with endless gratitude, to all the volunteers who make the program work!

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Kelsey Whitmore for typing memories, Jenna Castle for scanning photos, Rosalie Narita for her secretarial support, and Elsie Woolam for her insights.

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“4-H has been the greatest influence in my life and has shaped me into what I am. Through 4-H, I have learned communication, organization, and leadership skills. I have learned how to communicate with peers and people of various ages in and outside of 4-H. When I was younger, I was shy and not always confident, however, I have matured and now can start a conversation with just about anyone. The organizational skills help me everyday of my life. Leadership skills have made me a more confident and respected leader in 4-H and my community.

The motto of 4-H is “To Make the Best Better” which means that 4-H’ers respect themselves and others in an attempt to make a better world. They work to the best of their ability and always lend a helping hand to anyone. They improve themselves while improving the world around them. I am honored to be a part of 4-H.”



Kara Forman _____
Hartford County 4-H Member
2002 Delegate to National 4-H Conference



The 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.

Motto

To Make the Best Better
 Adopted 1927

Slogan

Learn by Doing

4-H colors

Green and white

The white symbolized purity and the green is nature's most common color in the great outdoors, emblematic of springtime, life and youth.

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Windham County Extension Center

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2013 marks the Centennial Celebration of Connecticut 4-H. Have a memory you would like to share?
 Please feel free to send it to the State 4-H Office.

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 Kirklyn M. Kerr, Director, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

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