

4-H Annual Report Oldham County 2008-2009

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Oldham County
Cooperative Extension Service
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4-H Mission

The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development program uses a learn-by-doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to become competent, caring and contributing citizens of the world.

This mission is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of the land grant university system, along with the involvement of caring adults.

4-H Club Membership and Life Skills Development

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. The Oldham County 4-H Council believes 4-H club involvement is the foundation of all 4-H experiences. The 4-H Council requested all club leaders and members to complete a life skills survey. Club members are assuming additional leadership responsibilities in and outside of 4-H by planning church events, speaking in public venues, conducting training sessions, developing electronic club pictorial scrapbooks, booking riding clinics and locating soldiers to adopt and send care packages to.

Skills 4-H members have developed as a result of project work include: courage to volunteer for a job, independence, demonstrate a skill, speaking in front of others, recognizing the results of their actions, organizational skills, pride in completion, building others up, and teamwork.

Community service is a strong pillar in the development of young people. 4-H Club members were involved in the following community service projects: sent care packages to deployed soldiers, planted and mulched landscaping at a local church, sent Build-A-Bear animals to deployed soldiers, shipped gently used toys to a South Dakota Native America charity, provided financial support to Save Our Horses Rescue Facility,

Supported the Crusade for Children, Made quilts for hospitalized children, provided carriage rides at Light Up LaGrange, and participated in Valentines for Veterans.

Kids Cooking Camp

Kids Cooking Camp educated young people to make healthy food choices, prepare food safely, and participate in daily physical activity. The week-long day camp involved over 20 youth exploring a different food group each day, preparing an entrée, and exploring new modes of physical activity. Youth learned to read food labels and use labels as a tool to make healthy food choices. Participants explored a new and different spice each day exploring uses and origins.

Families indicated in the weeks that followed, youth were reading food labels during family trips to the grocery and making recommendations for alternative food choices. Kids Cooking camp was a collaborative effort of Oldham County 4-H, Family Consumer Sciences and the Oldham County Health Department.

Character Education

Character Education builds a sense of community in the classroom and fosters respect for everyone. Members who served as officers have carried over their leadership roles to other classroom situations. Character education helps my classroom to search for solutions rather than looking for a way to place the blame on others. Members have more confidence when speaking in front of groups as a result of their leadership roles in 4-H. 4-Hers remind each other about the pillars of character and use fairness to resolve classroom conflicts. All written comments expressed by 4-H school club leaders.

Character Education and Leadership Development is the focus of the 4-H School Clubs in Oldham County; each member receives seven hours of instruction. The 400 4-H members explore the six pillars of Character Education: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Students are introduced to a new pillar each month and participate in an activity to practice the newly introduced concept. Post surveys indicated 92% tell the truth, 95% treat others with respect and 95% practice self control. Teachers indicated members were more patient and caring with others differences and talents.

Surveys indicated officers are more confident and 75% of the officers have accepted additional leadership roles outside of 4-H. Club members are holding each other accountable for their behaviors by applying their character knowledge.

Five new 4-H Character Education Clubs were established during the 2008-09 school year. 4-H Character Education is a collaborative effort of Oldham County 4-H, Metro United Way and the Oldham County Schools.

Code Name: Home Alone

The economic downturn has led to many parents losing or experiencing reduced hours in well paying positions. Therefore, many parents are forced to work more than one job to make ends meet. As a result, Oldham County children as young as nine are staying home alone. In addition, when children reach the sixth grade, there are no child care opportunities in the county. The rising concern of our children staying home alone longer hours at a younger age lead to the request for the Code Name: Home alone program.

Code Name: Home Alone was offered to all school based after school programs targeting the fifth graders involving over 160 youth. Code Name: Home Alone teaches youth and their parents about issues related to self care, safety, and the over-all well being of children while children are home alone. Children participated in five hours of instruction plus take home activities to complete with parents. Parents also received a daily newsletters highlighting classroom instruction.

Teachers indicated the “program initiated conversations with families to open up lines of communication which seems to be the best way to keep our kids safe”. Code Name: Home Alone was a collaborative effort of Oldham County Public Schools, After School Enrichment and 4-H.

The Starting Gate

Kentucky is horse country! However, many of our children have a love for horses but cannot have a horse or be exposed to horses for many different reasons. While Cooperative Extension and 4-H have a reputation for outstanding equine programs, many times these opportunities can be limited due to the fact the youth does not have a horse. Of course, any child can join a 4-H Horse Club; however, the experience for a horseless child is very different from that of a child with a horse. The “*Starting Gate*” removed this barrier; youth participating either did not own a horse or could not ride a horse their family owned. Therefore, every participant could learn about an animal they love, even though they had limited exposure to horses.

While the “*Starting Gate*” was a non-riding program, the youth participated in three barn visits which provided interaction with horses. At the conclusion of the “*Starting Gate*” program, youth indicated the importance of safety around horses; each individual highlighting procedures to keep themselves and the horses safe. Each child demonstrated confidence of how to approach a horse in a safe manner, identify the markings on a horse, distinguish horse breeds, recognize the parts of a horse, and understood the cost of owning a horse. Throughout the program, parent participation increased by seventy-five percent. During the sessions, parents became actively involved in learning about horses with their children. As a result, other Cooperative Extension programs such as Horse College and Horse Owners Grazing School were promoted. Sixty percent of the participants now own a horse of their

own and are confident of their ability to care and interact with their horse.

Improving the Rural - Suburban Interface

Oldham County's population continues to grow, already passing the 55,000 mark. Many residents do not have agriculture backgrounds and often don't understand that farming is a business. Some don't realize the potential impact of their actions on neighboring farms (trespassing, allowing pets to chase livestock, etc.) Additionally, many residents don't realize the services offered by Extension and 4-H.

In May 2009, the Oldham County Extension Council, Program Councils and a number of volunteer leaders sponsored the 2nd Annual Extension Town & Country Day. This event was advertised in local newspapers, libraries, schools and businesses in an attempt to reach all areas of the county.

Event goals included marketing the Extension Service to new clients and educating suburban residents about co-existing with farm neighbors. Extension Clubs participated in the event with booths, demonstrations and activities, including a 4-H Pony Games demonstration by the newly formed 4-H Pony Games Club. 4-H Leaders organized horse demonstrations addressing hot shoeing, natural horsemanship and provided pony rides. 4-H Clubs also provided crafts and carnival games for the children. Oldham County Animal Control took part in organizing and exhibiting at Town & Country Day as well. Over 1,000 people attended Town & Country Day.

4-H Club Opportunities

The perfect way to experience all 4-H has to offer is to join a 4-H Club. Clubs can focus on one project area such as dog, sewing, or horse. Clubs can also choose to focus on a wide array of projects selecting a different topic each meeting. Clubs are led by parents or community volunteers. Clubs are available to all Oldham County youth beginning at the age of 6. For additional information, contact the Cooperative Extension office at 222-9453 or visit us at ces.ca.uky.edu/oldham/.

Oldham County 4-H Council

The 4-H Council is comprised of caring volunteers who have a sincere interest in working with other volunteers, staff and youth to develop, implement and evaluate the county 4-H programs and activities. The 4-H Council manages the finances needed to underwrite 4-H programs. The 4-H Council meets quarterly in July, October, January and April.

4-H Council Officers

President- Cindy Guenther
Vice President- Kathryn White

Secretary-Terri Griffin
Treasurer- Allen Kiekhefer

Council Members

Catherine Alger
Tami Anderson
Pat English
Elaine Evola-Lyverse
Terri Griffin
Cindy Guenther
Jean Jenkins

Allen Kiekhefer
Mary Kolb
Faye Korthaus
Martha Lewis
Ken O'Barr
Laura Wectawski
Kathryn White

Oldham County 4-H Council, Inc.
 Summary Financial Statement
 Year Ending December 31, 2008

<u>Revenue</u>			
	Direct Public Support		\$24,185
	Program Fees		<u>\$28,167</u>
		TOTAL	\$52,352
<u>Expenditures</u>			
	Administrative		\$2,438
	Program Expenses		
		Character Counts	\$14,084
		4-H Camp	\$25,172
		Summer Opportunities	\$632
		Recognition	\$2,131
		Leadership Training	\$839
		Reality Store Program	\$645
		Communications Day	\$20
		Starting Gate	\$433
		4-H Club Support	\$800
		4-H Fair	<u>\$1,661</u>
		TOTAL	\$46,417
<u>Accumulative Asset Balance</u>			\$37,895.00