

State 4-H Council ¹

Newsletter

December 2014 Edition

North Carolina 4-H'ers Give Back



Quote of the Month

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness."

~ *Helen Keller*

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The holiday season is of giving, is it not? There are not many things in this world that can bring us that wonderful warm feeling in our hearts like giving back to something or someone that needs our help. Let's take a look at some 4-H'ers that are giving back around the State! Our first highlighted 4-H program is **Nash County** 4-H Program. They are currently conducting their 4-H Hungry to Help Campaign. They are hosting several food drives throughout the month to help collect and make up family meal packs to deliver before the Holidays throughout their communities. Each year they collect between 8,000 – 12,000 pounds of food and this year the goal is to create 200 family meal packs that will be distributed through their local agency pantries. Wow! Way to

Another county that is giving back is Harnett County. **Harnett County** 4-H is Hungry to Help! Seventy 4-H members, volunteers, church members, and Harnett County Cooperative Extension staff gleaned 20,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to help the 14.5% of North Carolina families who are not food secure. Harnett County 4-H hosts an annual sweet potato gleaning as a part of the North Carolina 4-H Hungry to Help Campaign to fight hunger across North Carolina where 1 in 5 children are affected by hunger. Their team, made up of 4-H club members, leaders, community church members and Harnett County Cooperative Extension staff, loaded 12,000 pounds of sweet potatoes for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

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that serves 34 counties. The remaining 8,000 pounds of sweet potatoes were delivered to local food banks in Harnett County. Harnett County would like to give a big thank you to David & Clay Gardner for allowing us to glean from their fields. They could not do this community service project without the support of local farmers like the Gardner's! Thank you Nash County 4-H and Harnett County 4-H for inspiring us to help hunger!



Harnett County 4-H's give back.

On his assigned day Christopher Mack-Gonzalez of **Pitt County** delivers hot lunches to homebound elderly within a specific area/route. As he delivers the meals, he check to see if his client is okay. If something is unusual, he reports it to his supervisor. Christopher pick up the meals (hot and cold food containers),

a newspaper, occasionally a birthday card and his route sheet, at a designated Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) pick-up site. The pick-up times are from 9am - 11am. He maintains the correct temperatures of food by keeping the food in the containers provided and keeping those containers closed during transport. He delivers meals to 10 households, greets his clients, and checks to see that they are okay. At the end of the route, he returns the empty containers to the pick-up point. In January Christopher asked if he could deliver birthday cards to the seniors on his route and this is now done. For Christmas, Christopher plans to make each client a special gift. Great job Christopher brightening up people's days!



Christopher delivers meals to members in his community.

The **Pitt County** 4-H Allstars, participate in an annual sweet potato pick and give away, in which they glean, package and donate sweet potatoes to local senior citizens. This year the club had the honor of being invited to one of a club member's family farm, to enable them to continue their community service project. After the club members gleaned all the sweet potatoes they could, they packaged the sweet potatoes in paper bags. In previous years, club members had leaned from the seniors that if the potatoes are left unclean, the soil deposits actually aid as a method of natural preservation for the potatoes, and they will stay fresh longer. Later, the club toured their farm and learned about their agricultural process. Aside from this project, the club also had the opportunity to pick cayenne peppers, green peppers, peanuts, and more. After the club finished, they met with a resident coordinator to deliver the produce.

North Carolina 4-H'ers Give Back

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The coordinator instructed the group on how to proceed with the potato delivery to 60+ senior residents, at the University Towers, in downtown Greenville, NC. What a great way to serve Pitt County Allstars!



Pitt County 4-H Allstars

Members of the **Rockingham County**

Rockin' Roost 4-H Poultry Club members assembled 30 toiletry bags for the county Red Cross Food Bank. Bags included toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, band aids, deodorant and combs. The bags were delivered to the food bank and were shared with 30 families. Wonderful way to serve Rockin' Roost 4-H Poultry Club!



Rockin' Roost 4-H Poultry Club

State Officer Spotlight



State 4-H Council Vice President
Drue Stinnett

I have always considered myself to be a fairly lucky person. I live in a warm home, I have incredible friends, and a set of skills that have set myself up to be successful. The latter, of course, comes from my decade of involvement in North Carolina 4-H. My parents took me and my brother to our first meeting back in 2001 and we were immediately attracted to everything. Our club was eventually involved in all sorts of competitions like WHEP, Forestry, Poultry Judging, and Shooting Sports. I have gained incredible knowledge about those subjects but, perhaps more importantly, I have learned to be a team player. I have learned to be comfortable speaking to a big crowd. I was taught to be creative and quick on my feet.

State Officer Spotlight

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That's the great thing about this program, though! At first, you think you're just learning cool facts about animals or nature when, at the core, you're gaining skills and tools that help you to be a better leader and a better citizen.

I am honored to have grown up in this program. I started as a 5 year old Cloverbud who just wanted to talk about butterflies and I am now a young woman with an obsessive passion for improving the world I live in.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Council Vice President this year. It is my goal to represent you all to the best of my abilities and to show the world just how impressive you are individually and as a program. We are lucky to call ourselves North Carolina 4-H'ers and I will fully support this program until the end of my days.

~Drue Stinnett

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**.



Leadership Pipeline

Our State 4-H Officers have already hit the ground running and want to continue to build the leadership pipeline this year by making sure as a team they visit as many counties in North Carolina as possible. If you are having a county event where you would like a state officer to attend and bring greetings, speak, help hand out awards, teach a workshop or participate in a service activity, please contact Sarah Kotzian at least one month prior to the event and she will work with the officer team to see if one of them can attend. It might not be possible to accommodate every request, but we will do our best to try. Our State 4-H Officer team is looking forward to visiting your county 4-H program soon and looking forward to seeing all the great community service projects your 4-H'ers will participate in!

The North Carolina State Fair!

The North Carolina State Fair was filled with all kinds of excitement for 4-H'ers! 4-H'ers from around the state came to show off their skills whether it be in crafts, showing livestock, or even decorating hay bales. The 4-H State Officers even got to participate in cutting the ribbon in the opening ceremony for the North Carolina State Fair. Here are some fun State Fair facts for you from 2014.

A total of 1,504 items were entered in the State Fair's exhibits around the craft categories. Wow! That's a lot of items! Then there are county exhibits. Each district selects a county to represent the entire district in a booth decorating competition every year. The winners for this year were 1st place Moore County who won \$725, 2nd place Davidson County who won \$625, 3rd place Camden County who won \$525, 4th place Bladen County who won \$500, and 5th place went to Polk County who won \$475. The next county competition was Hay Bale Decorating. The hay bales are decorated in an effort to market 4-H in their county. There were 12 counties that participated in this and the winners were 1st place Moore County who won \$375, 2nd place Nash County who won \$250, 3rd place Rutherford County who won \$150, 4th place Guilford County who won \$100, and 5th place Caswell County who won \$100. Let's not forget the sweepstakes winners for this year. Sweepstakes are calculated by the total of entries per county and how many "ribbons" they receive. Those counties who excelled were 1st place Johnston County who won \$150, 2nd place Granville County who won \$120, 3rd place Franklin County who won \$90, 4th place Rutherford County who won \$60, and 5th place Forsyth County who won \$30. Thank you to all that participated in this year's State Fair! There were so many incredible works of art to great acts of showmanship that took place at the NC State Fair. We hope to see you all that were involved this year and more of you at the next State Fair!



A HUGE thank you to everyone that helped make the State Fair what it was this year. To the volunteers, judges, donors, sponsors, and parents, THANK YOU for all that you do!

For this edition of the newsletter, each District Reporter wanted to present an encouraging, leadership related, or cheerful quote in spirit of the Holiday Season. Please enjoy these inspiring words!

South Central

"I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work" together.

~Queen Elizabeth II

Southeast

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Northeast

"I don't believe you have to be better than everybody else. I believe you have to be better than you ever thought you could be."

~Men Venturi

North Central

"Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being."

~Kevin Kruse

If this quote doesn't describe 4-H perfectly, I don't know what does. 4-H is about giving to not just our club and community, but to our country and our world. Whether it may be a service project or helping a friend, we have learned that giving to others is what 4-H is all about.

Don't forget about The North Central District Winterfest will be held on January 31st at the Guilford County Office!

West

"A leader is someone who demonstrates what's possible."

~ Mark Yarnell

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from your State 4-H Council! Look for the next edition of the State 4-H Council Newsletter in February.