Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season. Most importantly I hope you were able to take some time for yourself and spend some quality time with your families and friends. The year barely has a foot in the door and already this is proving to be a year of opportunity for us as Extension professionals and the families we serve.

I am hearing many positive comments from other agents and specialists about the new contests that Texas 4-H has made available to our members. The Food Challenge seems to have hit district contests with many teams and much enthusiasm. I know here in District 9 the Food Challenge at our District 9 Food Show was a large event with many successes for those families and agents to take from their participation. I see this event exploding in the years to come. Another that I am hearing great things about is the interest in Discover Scientific Method: Science, Engineering and Technology Poster Contest. This not only allows for our traditional members to expand their project areas but also offers the opportunity for our non-traditional youth to be an active part of the 4-H world. I have a 4-H parent here in Brazos County.

Brandon Gregson
Brazos County
CEA—4-H & YD

Happy New Year to everyone! At the winter board meeting in Brownwood last December, I had a great conversation with the TAE4HA leadership. One of the items that was brought up was my patience related to the establishment of some of the new programs and events we are currently implementing. I appreciated this comment very much and wanted to follow-up with the membership regarding this item.

Chris Boleman
Texas 4-H & YD
Program Director

It will take time to establish these new programs. I completely understand this. I was thinking just the other day what the first livestock judging contest might have looked like. I am sure that too took a while to establish and I am convinced that today’s contests, programs, resources, and tools to teach livestock judging also look very different than when the first programs and events were established.

I also completely understand that every county will most likely not have a Leaders 4 Life Program, a Discover Science Method Program, or a Food Challenge Program in 2010. This is perfectly fine too. County Extension Agents, volunteer leaders, and most importantly, youth make decisions on what programs and projects to
offer in the county based on the issues, needs, and interests of everyone. Remember, there is not one county in Texas that currently offers every project, competitive event, or program in their county.

In saying all of that, these new programs offer new opportunities for youth. It is our duty as educators to let our youth and families know of these opportunities. I know there are some early adopters that have already initiated a plan to establish some of these new programs. At the other end of the spectrum, there are some that will watch from the sidelines to first see if these programs will be successful.

At the end of the day, our job is to provide quality programs, experiences, and activities to the youth we serve. In addition to providing these items, we must also ensure that youth know these opportunities are available. As long as we remember this and we are committed to the youth we serve, these new programs, the traditionally strong programs, and the programs of the future, I am convinced that the entire Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program will be more relevant and viable than ever.

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**Membership Committee Report**
Submitted by Sarah Chudalla, CEA-4-H & YD, McLennan County

Membership report is as of 12-11-09 and what was turned into Nationals:

- New Members: 22
- Renewals: 178
- Affiliates: 1
- Life Members: 38
- TOTAL: 239

The total is just 4 member shy of last years membership total in August. Note that you can still joint TAE4-HA and receive the benefits of being a member you just will not be able to apply for state and national awards.

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**Ways & Means Committee Report**
Submitted by Amber Parkinson, TAE4-HA Treasurer

At the Winter Board meeting, we had the privilege to meet with Jason McDonald who is the Wells Fargo investment advisor for TAE4-HA. Upon his recommendation we have formed an investment committee to look at forming an investment policy and possibly making some changes with our current investment which is in a money market account. Starla Garlick, Cory Talley and myself have volunteered to be on the investment committee. We need your help and input. If you have any suggestions or comments or would be interested in serving on this committee please let us know.
New Study Argues, Time Spent Online is Important for Teens

Submitted by Laura Huebinger, Research & Evaluation Committee Chairman

Article written by: Ken Jones, Youth Development Specialist, University of Kentucky

Results from the most extensive U.S. study on teens and their use of digital media indicate that America’s youth are developing important social and technical skills online – often in ways adults do not understand or value.

University of California - Irvine researchers argue that in contrast to common reports that kids spending time online is dangerous or promotes laziness, spending time online is essential for young people to pick up the social and technical skills they need to be competent citizens in the digital age.

The study was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s $50 million digital media and learning initiative, which is exploring how digital media has changed the way young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life.

A team of 28 researchers and collaborators incorporated the following methods: interviewed over 800 young people and their parents, both one-on-one and in focus groups; spent over 5,000 hours observing teens on sites such as MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, and other networked communities; and documented (through the use of diaries/journaling) how, and to what extent, young people utilize digital media.

The researchers identified two distinctive categories of teen engagement with digital media: friendship-driven and interest-driven. While friendship-driven participation centered on “hanging out” with existing friends, interest-driven participation involved accessing online information and communities that may not be present in the local peer group. The following findings were reported:

- There is a generation gap in how youth and adults view the value of online activity.
- Youth understand the social value of online activity and are generally highly motivated to participate.
- Youth are navigating complex social and technical worlds by participating online.
- The social worlds where youth interact have new kinds of dynamics, as online socializing involves managing elaborate networks of friends and acquaintances.
- The Internet provides new kinds of public spaces for youth to interact and receive feedback from one another.
- Most youth are not taking full advantage of the learning opportunities of the Internet. Most youth use the Internet socially, but other learning opportunities exist.
- Youth can connect with people in different locations and of different ages who share their interests, making it possible to pursue interests that might not be popular or valued among their local peer groups.

This report acknowledges that learning today is more centered on peer-based networking, which can redefine education in the years to come. The research demonstrates that, although many young people developing a broad range of sophisticated new literacy and technical skills, they are also facing new challenges in how to manage their social relationships online. Hence, such a rate of change presents obstacles for both adults and youth to remain at pace with technological advances. More information about the study and the MacArthur Foundation’s digital media and learning initiative can be found online at http://digitallearning.macfound.org or at http://www.macfound.org/site/c.IkLXj8MQKrH/b.4773437/.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

-John Quincy Adams
that is also a teacher. She said that this is definitely a step in the right direction for expansion of the 4-H program. She was also excited as this is something that she and many other teachers are already actively engaged in their classrooms and schools. I share her thoughts with you as they provide a sense that things are definitely headed in the right direction. Youth membership aside I see the possibility of some new skilled volunteers.

Another project that I see expanding into more and more county programs, although not all that new, is the dog project. I am guilty of not really giving serious thought to this one here in Brazos County as we have such an active 4-H livestock program. Well, it’s here and not just one or two but a whole pack equipped with skilled volunteers and plans for my county’s first dog show! There is even a validation/certification process. This will be a learning opportunity for me! These are just a few of the many new opportunities in the Texas 4-H program, but all combined with our traditional contests and activities should make for an exciting year and State 4-H Roundup.

Speaking of State 4-H Roundup, I am excited about the new feel it seems to have. This is of course due to the new contests and activities and especially the new twist on how everything is carried out. I have always been a State 4-H Roundup fan and always will be, but I really think these changes are going to give our culminating event a new look and feel to our participants as well. Two thumbs up to the staff and committees involved!

On a different note, what time is it? It’s Stock Show Time! For many of us this is an exciting time of year. This is when the rubber hits the road, intensity builds in the stomachs of our families and ourselves, and we as agents get another unique opportunity to be real hands on educators. It allows us the chance to build relationships with our families, but most importantly it gives us that truly interactive classroom to teach our families the value of Sportsmanship vs. Gamesmanship. From the time the projects are purchased we all have hopes and dreams that this is the one that gets that final slap or gets to set foot on the floor of that Champion drive. In the back of our minds reality tells us that they all won’t be wearing a purple banner, so that is why it is most important for us to make sure that those families head back home knowing that even though they may not have any hardware to place on their mantle, that young person might as well be solid purple or sterling silver (take your pick) because just their involvement sets them apart from the ordinary. This isn’t just in livestock events but in any 4-H event. I gave a program over stock show etiquette the other night so this is obviously all still very fresh on my mind. I encouraged them to and I quote, “Show Like A Pro or Why Even Go?” At that point their project is what it is. Be it a “Barn Burner” or not so much, that is for one man to decide now, not us. What they do have control over is what they personally are bringing to experience. Be it in the ring or out, the power of the presentation is constant and truly speaks to the quality of the exhibitor. I left them with a few quotes that night, but one I will leave you with as we think of the months to come is as follows:

**It Is Your Response To Winning And Losing That Makes You A Winner Or A Loser!**

Texas 4-H, I hope you are as excited as I am about the year ahead. Many changes... but also many opportunities! Best wishes to you all as we move forward in 2010!

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**Resource Corner**
Submitted by Tracie Jackson, CEA—4-H & YD, Wood County

It’s not always easy to find all the insect samples you need for an entomology id practice session. Although, Texas A&M has great study materials for this project at insects.tamu.edu/youth/4H/index.html. There are other resources your project group can use. District 10 has picture samples that are not in nature but pinned as the samples will be at the contest available on their website. You can find these at d104h.blogspot.com. Other resources to help your members with this project are listed below. You never know what 4-Hers might be interested in. They may want to give the entomology project a try!!

**Other Entomology Resources:**
- www.cals.ncsu.edu
- entoplp.okstate.edu
- www.bijlmakers.com/entomology/begin.html

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P A G E 4
Behind the Clover
Sarah Hindman, CEA 4-H & YD, Smith County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
High School: Comanche, Texas
College: Tarleton State University—BS in Animal Science Minor in Biology 2005, MS in Agriculture 2008

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
Secretary of my FFA Chapter as a Senior in HS. Otherwise a member. I competed in Horse Judging and Dairy Judging and Showed a lamb my senior year.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension? Counties you have worked in? Have you have other jobs/careers?
I have been in Extension for a year and 5 months. A friend of mine convinced to apply for the job. Prior to this job I worked as a Breeding Manager for a couple of different horse farms and then as an Assistant Horse Trainer for a Cutting horse Trainer.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
Rimrock Cowboy Church, Stock Horse of Texas, American Stock Horse Association

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages? Their activities, that seem to take up all of your spare time.
Single, ever hopeful of finding Mr. Right
3 Dogs, 3 Horses, 2 Cats, 2 Turtles,
2 younger Brothers and One older sister
Horses and Books take up most of my spare time.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
Sometimes the best vacations are just staying home and working around the house with my mom and animals. My all-time favorite vacation...hmmm That was probably a trip to Fredericksburg and Luckenbach with a group of my favorite college buddies.

What are your hobbies?
Reading, Riding and Training horses, and working in the yard.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town’ would be?
A steak dinner at Saltgrass steak house and then a night of dancing with somebody fun to be with.

What you like best about your job?
I love being able to work with the kids and make a difference in their lives. Oh and having the best co-workers in the world!

Don’t tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results.

-George S. Patton
Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I was born and raised in Riley, Kansas. I attended the Riley County High School, which was the home of the mighty Falcons. Of course from there my college travels took me to the far west side of Kansas to Colby Community College then back again to the GREAT Kansas State University.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
4-H and FFA was an integral part of my life. It was one of the changing factors that brought out an extremely shy kid to the person I am today. (and yes I was the extremely shy for those of you that know me today). Through camps and judging contests to horse shows and the county fair food show I got to see and do most anything that 4-H had to offer. Spending time with my family, and friends always somehow revolved around 4-H and FFA.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension? Counties you have worked in? Have you have other jobs/careers?
It was the experiences in both 4-H and FFA that formed the desire for extension and the eventual career path that I have chosen. My parents were on the extension board in the county and helping through that really connected me to the position. I have been in Kaufman County for 13 years and have loved every moment (well almost every moment). But before that I worked on horse farms as the breeding manager and the trainer and giving riding lessons to youth.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
Down/Personal Time? Um do we have that : ) I love to show my horse in SHOT where this last year I was a director but at home I have my bible study group (we are called the Ragamuffins – you just have to read the book.), and I get involved with several civic groups. I am not a member because I am gone so much and they have “penalties” when you miss their meetings.

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages? Their activities, that seem to take up all of your spare time.
Married! Not a chance : ) I have about 386 kids … that does me just fine right now. And they are the best kind, fill them up with sugar and send ‘em home!! But at home my children are my two dogs (border collie and a very independent blue heeler) and two and half horses (the half is the Shetland pony which is the live “chew toy” for the two bigger boys). Their ages are Blue heeler 13 years, Border Collie 3 years, Duke (Solid Paint gelding) 7 years, Twist my new working cowhorse prospect is 3 years and Chewy is 9 years old (his main activity is eating and causing me stress).

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
My personal vacations are usually in the truck with the two dogs and we just drive and see where it takes us. Mostly to the coast to watch the waves come in. My mom and I go on a “Mother/Daughter” trip every other year and we have been from North Dakota to Corpus Christi to over in Lousianna somewhere I am really not for sure… I just know they had alligators and lots of water. The best vacation was to Honolulu for the Farm Bureau Convention….way cool. Can’t tell you what I did, it would take too much time : )

Continued p. 7
Behind the Clover
Zach Davis, CEA 4-H & YD, Coryell County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I was born and raised in the small town of Slidell, TX. We only had one high school with about 100 kids in it. I went to college at Texas A&M University in College Station. Gig Em.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I grew up in the 4-H program showing steers and heifers, and was active in our local and county 4-H leadership. In FFA I was active on the livestock judging team and showing pigs.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension? Counties you have worked in?
I guess familiarity and a family connection brought me to Extension. After I graduated my mom encouraged me to look into Extension. She is an FCS agent in Wise County. I have been in extension for one year now, all in Coryell County. I have had a couple other jobs during college but that’s it.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
Right now I am real active in our local A&M Club, and I also attend a local church here when I am around on Sundays.

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids?
Ages?
I am single, so luckily I don’t have to worry about kids and all their activities just yet. My commissioners are always trying to get me hitched so if there’s any good looking female 4-H agents out there tell them to give me a call.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
I didn’t get to go on a full blown vacation this year, but like to spend most of my vacation time at the beach or on the slopes. My favorite vacation ever was in Pagosa Spring, Colorado. It’s not the place, but the company you keep.

What are your hobbies?
My hobbies include playing basketball, watching football, and working with show cattle. I do some reading from time to time as well.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town” would be?
My perfect big night would include some high class Mexican food from Joe T Garcia’s and some live Texas Country music.

What you like best about your job?
I like the smile you can put on a kids face. When you have kids out their having fun, and learning something new, it makes you realize why you are doing what you do.

Behind the Clover—Carrie Sharp (continued)

What are your hobbies?
My horses are the main hobby, but I do like to shoot on the range when I can, and . Oh, mother and I collect the states quarters. Looking for 2000 to present Philadelphia mint coins…if you have any please contact me…..mother is winning so far.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town” would be?
After a work with our horses on cattle a really good steak with garlic mash potatoes and good bread with sweet butter and a “special” beverage …. add good friends and lots of time to just talk and have fun and relax and that would be a good night.

What you like best about your job?
Watching the kids grow, the people I meet along the way, flexible hours.
Recently, two of my co-workers, Rusty Hohlt and Sarah Brandes, made a presentation to our colleagues at the South Region University titled “Winning Style.”

They focused on the following topics:

- Why Apply for Awards
- General Guidelines
- Service Awards
- Specialty Awards
- Communicator Awards
- Professional Development Scholarships
- What to Do

In the presentation they gave some good tips on how you can start preparing now to apply for awards even though the guidelines have not been released.

- Select award categories you have programs/materials ready for
- Start gathering necessary support materials, letters of support, etc.

Once the 2010 Member Recognition Guidelines have been released we will forward it to you immediately. In the meantime decide which program(s) you would like to have recognized, review your years of service to see what service award you might be eligible for and try to have a district meeting to encourage your membership to apply. Contact Rusty if you are interested in using her presentation. I am certain she would not mind sharing.

In closing here is a re-cap of the 2009 categories so you can begin preparing to submit awards once the 2010 guidelines are announced.

**Service awards:**
- NAE4-HA 25 Years of Service Award
- NAE4-HA Achievement in Service Award (3-7 years)
- NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award (7+ years)
- NAE4-HA Meritorious Service Award (15+ years)
- TAE4-HA Golden Clover

**Specialty Awards:**
- Military Youth, Beyond Youth Leadership Grant, Diversity, Educational Technology, Support for 4-H Clubs, Outstanding programs conducted by teams, Excellence in Camping, Excellence in 4-H Afterschool programming, Natural Resource/Environmental Stewardship programs, Power of Youth Award to recognize partnership between youth/adults

**Communicator Awards:**
- Media Presentation, News Story, Periodical Publication, Personal Column, Promotional Package, Promotional Piece, Published photo, Radio Program, Video program

**Professional Development Scholarships:**
Data and research show students involved in youth activities develop interpersonally, learn about themselves, and increase physical and emotional skills. In Coryell County, the Boys and Girls Club promotes youth activity to increase leadership in an effort to offset the negative environments youth can get involved in.

To help the Boys and Girls Club get kids involved in activities they like, a survey was conducted on youth to determine how many students knew or wanted to learn about fishing. 12 of 90 students indicated interest.

Davis worked with Extension Wildlife Specialist, Larry Hysmith, to adapt four lessons and facilitate the program as a Texas Parks & Wildlife Junior Angler certification. The lessons—three in the classroom setting and one field trip—were geared toward increasing knowledge and skills of the youth.

♦ Lesson #1: Information presented on the reasons behind fishing and the basics of where fish are located. Students were exposed to diagrams of different fish in order to identify them. During a hands on activity, students learned how to tie a basic fishing knot.

♦ Lesson #2: Students presented with information over different fish habitats, exposed to different ways to set up rigs and lures and found which could be successful in different situations. In the hands on activity, participants developed casting skills outside by aiming a target fish.

♦ Lesson #3: Safety information was presented, diagrams were shown on different techniques to fillet fish. Students practiced handling model fish, and during an outside session they practiced setting their hook after a fish bites.

♦ Lesson #4: Students traveled to a local pond to test their skills and knowledge over the material.

Visual and oral evaluations were conducted on the group. 9 of 11 students on the field trip caught at least one fish. All 11 present displayed skill by tying their own fishing knots and handling their fish.

Students displayed increased communication as they worked with other youth to handle a fish after it was caught. Students also displayed intrapersonal development as they exhibited determination and initiative. One child fish the entire two hours and caught his only fish as the group was packing up to leave.
Spotlight on Quality Programs

Program 212

Chris Schraeder
CEA 4-H & YD, Collin County

Character education plays a huge part in developing youth into positive citizens and quality leaders. When youth fail to develop a positive character, they often find themselves making poor decisions. Some of these decisions may lead to the youth being placed in juvenile detention centers. However, given a second chance, these youth have the potential to develop positive character and become productive citizens in our communities. This issue was identified by the Collin County Leadership Advisory Board, so Chris Schraeder developed Program 212 to target teenagers that were currently in the Collin County Juvenile Detention Center.

The youth first went through a character education class that was designed to introduce the six pillars of positive character to help bring to light negative characteristics they might have and to learn how to apply their energies in a positive way. This part of the program was set up for 12 (one hour) classes conducted at the detention center. A total of 22 youth participated and responded in the survey. The youth then attended a leadership class to learn life skills associated with leadership and teamwork. This part of the program was set up for 25 (one hour) classes conducted at the detention center. A total of 19 youth participated and responded to the survey.

Character Education Survey (Retrospective Post):
♦ 100% feel this program would benefit others
♦ 100% responded that the program will positively affect the way they think and act.
♦ 95% now understand the importance of good communication.
♦ 95% think they can communicate more effectively with others now.
♦ 91% felt they are more trustworthy.
♦ 91% felt they are able to care more.
♦ 91% felt they are better citizens.
♦ 86% felt they are more respectful.
♦ 86% said they would use the 6 pillars of character to become a better person.
♦ 82% believe they are more fair to people.
♦ 81% said they will now know they make a difference in today’s world.
♦ 77% said they fully know the 6 pillars of character.
♦ 77% felt they are more responsible.
♦ 64% said they know what it means to be ethical.
♦ 64% said they understand the need to make ethical decisions.

Leadership & Teambuilding Survey (Pre/Post):
♦ 89% responded that they knew the importance of good communication.
♦ 84% said they would let other people voice their opinions and thoughts when in a group.
♦ 84% said they would use leadership skills in dealing with others.
♦ 79% said they now have the ability to lead anytime, anywhere.
♦ 79% said they understand the different learning styles.
♦ 74% said they are willing to accept the primary leadership role in a group.
♦ 74% said they welcome feedback from others.
♦ 68% said they now tend to lead instead of follow.
♦ 68% said they are less likely to stereotype others.
♦ 63% said they can better manage conflict.
♦ 63% said they are less likely to remain silent during team discussions.
♦ 63% said they are more likely to voice their opinions and ideas in a group.
Spotlight on Quality Programs

4-H Afterschool: Junior Master Gardener

Chad Arbuckle
CEA 4-H & YD
Polk County

Across Polk County, more than 6,000 youth have limited access to high quality afterschool programming. Working parents are faced with dilemmas for care of their school-aged children during 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, a critical time when youth may be home alone. Experts agree that children home alone are at greater risk of involvement in dangerous situations. Not only is it critical to provide opportunities for positive out of school time for youth, but it is important to provide support to afterschool providers of positive youth development toward the goal of safe afterschool environments and positive experiences. This issue was identified by a county committee in Polk County composed of teachers, principals, afterschool coordinators and 4-H adult leaders.

In order to achieve this goal, Polk County 4-H has implemented the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) curriculum in three 4-H Afterschool locations. The target audience for the club included 99 youth ages 8-12 that showed interest in the JMG program at the 4-H Afterschool clubs. Chad Arbuckle developed the following activities to address this issue:

♦ Marketing & Promotion of JMG Program (January 2009—November 2009)
♦ Afterschool Site Recruitment (January 2009)
♦ Afterschool Staff Training (January 2009)
♦ JMG Training (January 2009)
♦ JMG Curriculum (Monthly)
♦ Radio Broadcasts (Monthly)
♦ 4-H Afterschool Programs (Monthly)

Partnerships for this program included the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation, Boys and Girls Club, Livingston Montessori School, 4-H Volunteer Leaders, Polk County Enterprise, Polk County Today and the Commissioners Court of Polk County.

89 of 99 participants responded to the retrospective survey given to measure programmatic impact. The statements and percent increases in before and after responses on the Likert scale (1=Poor thru 4=Excellent) are below.

♦ I know that plants give off oxygen during photosynthesis. (188%)
♦ I know that evaporation is the part of the water cycle and that water changes from a liquid to a gas. (171%)
♦ I know that plants are the beginning of all food chains. (193%)
♦ I know that egg, larvae, pupa, adult is the correct order, from start to finish, of metamorphosis of an insect. (161%)
♦ I know that trees save energy and money because they provide shade. (189%)
♦ I know that an annual plant is a plant that must be planted each year. (211%)
♦ I know that butter is NOT made from a fruit or nut. (153%)
♦ I know that a garden should receive at least 6 hours of sunlight every day. (199%)

Polk County 4-H will continue to implement this after-school program in 2010 with the addition of YEA! 4-H, and Arbuckle hopes to increase his outreach with these programs to 175 youth.
Agents and other educators are constantly learning - seeking new information that can be used to improve our programs and ultimately provide better opportunities for the youth that we serve. The true value of Professional Development includes not only the benefit to the educator, but also the ultimate impact that it has on the audience served. For this reason, the TAE4-HA supports members in their pursuit of PD endeavors by providing encouragement and financial assistance. Annually, the TAE4-HA Professional Development Committee awards approximately $1,200 in grants and scholarships to Association members.

**New Member Scholarships:** To promote new member participation in the TAE4-HA Annual Conference, up to 5 scholarships are awarded in the amount of the registration fee. Members with less than two years of experience, as of July 1, 2010, who have not previously attended the annual state conference, are encouraged to apply.

**Professional Development Grants:** TAE4-HA also awards grants for graduate study, applied research, interstate or intrastate travel, educational conference/seminars, workshops and other worthy projects. Grants up to $550 may be awarded to individuals or groups based on the merit of their proposal.

The applications for each of the above opportunities are attached and must be received by July 1. Mark your calendars now to make plans to submit an application! If you have questions concerning the application information, please contact the Professional Development Committee Chair, Cindy Bryant (CPBryant@ag.tamu.edu).