President’s Address

Kelli Lehman
TAE4-HA
President

As you may know, I recently had the opportunity to relocate within Extension. I think we can all agree that packing and moving is stressful. However, it does give you a chance to take stock of all the things you hold dear. Or, rather all the things you are not willing to let go of. What is that old saying? “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” Well, let’s just say I had a lot of treasurers to move!

But among the files, pictures and mementos in my ‘office treasures,’ I came across a book that I have been toting around with me since I was a child. Goose Goofs Off. It is a part of the Sweet Pickles Series.

Have you ever visited the town of Sweet Pickles? If you have, you know all about the animals that live in the town of Sweet Pickles. And you know that each of the animals gets themselves into a pickle because of an all too human personality trait. Each of the stories taught me lessons about kindness, sharing, and acceptance. The citizens of Sweet Pickles also warned readers of the failings of our basic nature and how often we refuse to see in ourselves what is so easily recognizable in others.

So, in celebration of re-locating my favorite children’s book, I thought I would share some of Goose’s trials and tribulations with you. I think you will agree that we all have some personality traits that mirror those of Goose. If we look inside of ourselves, we can learn from Goose how to improve our work and personal lives.

Upon arriving in the town of Sweet Pickles we find everyone in the neighborhood working, except for Goose. Goose was still sound asleep. (This is what I am guilty of most. I do my best work late afternoon.) Goose was awoken by Elephant hanging the wash, Camel banging on the roof, Lion typing a letter, Zebra painting stripes on his house and Rabbit hopping in his garden. “All this hanging and banging and typing and stripping and hopping is stopping my beautiful dream!”

Are you like Goose and wasting more time dreaming than doing? Think about your personal goals and dreams. Are they realistic? What or who do you think is in the way of them? Someone once told me that you have to have patience when working with others. And that it is better to have patience and help, rather than doing things all by yourself. What can you let others do for you in your area of work? How much more could be accomplished if you would let go of some things and allow volunteers to help?

Goose jumped back in bed only to be woken by the telephone. It was Elephant calling. “Yesterday you promised me that you’d help me hang the wash today.”

“I’m awfully sorry,” said Goose, “but I am taking it easy today. I’ll do it tomorrow.”

“That is what you said yesterday!” snorted Elephant. “Goodbye.”

Henry Ford said “You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do.” A positive one anyway. Do you know someone that is all talk and no follow through? Are you that person? How do people with these personality types affect committees? Programs? Communities?

Goose decided that if she could not sleep, she’d watch some TV when she realized that the TV was still broken. “I’ll have to get that fixed. But not today. I’m taking it easy today. I’ll do it tomorrow.”

“I bet we can all identify some area of our lives that needs some attention. If we allow the troubled areas of our programs or relationships to just sit in the corner and collect dust like Gooses TV, we will never really see a clear picture. I say either fix what needs fixing or get rid of what is broken. All those “broken TVs” will only weigh you down and take up space.

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Several new studies point to a growing commitment to social responsibility on the part of young adults, with youth volunteering on the rise and students going to the polls. Foundations and nonprofit organizations should seize this moment to welcome young people as partners and valued peers in philanthropy and social change.

In spite of clear signs that young people want to make a contribution, many adults persist in think of them as problems. Try saying the word "teenager" to someone and ask what it conjures up. Chances are people will think "lazy", "irresponsible", or a host of other unflattering words.

Well-intentioned foundations and organizations that seek to involve young people in advisory boards or other positions often discuss the challenges of these endeavors.

Many young people are ready and willing to work hard on social issues. Often, the roadblocks are placed by adults who lack skills and training in youth adult partnerships. By recognizing this -- and by learning how to work effectively with young people -- adults can build partnerships that strengthen nonprofit organizations and philanthropies.

Organizations and foundations can follow several principles to build successful youth-adult partnerships:

- Don't expect more from a youth than you would from another adult. If a young person shows up for a meeting 15 minutes late, an adult might think, "Aha, a slacker." When a fellow adult shows up 15 minutes late, the same person might think, "That's understandable. They've got deadlines and pressures." So do young people.

- Treat young people as individuals; don't make one youth represent all youth. Young people understand that adults may carry negative images of youth and may generalize from the behavior of a few. Assure young people that you are interested in their individual opinions, and don't expect them to embody an entire population.

- Be careful about interruptions. For the partnership to work, young people must feel they are valued and respected. When interrupted by an adult, young people tend to stop talking. Both parties need to respect each other's right to voice opinions without criticism or censure.

By investing time and leadership to make these partnerships thrive, we can benefit from the creativity, energy and enthusiasm that young people offer.

Wendy Wheeler is president and CEO of the Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development in Takoma Park, Md.

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Diversity Resources

American Translators Association

The ATA website might be of use to you if you need to locate an interpreter or a translator. There is also a publication that you can print called "Translation: Getting it Right" that may provide some helpful tips as you work with clientele. The website is:

http://www.atanet.org

Urban Programs Resource Network — University of Illinois Extension

This website is designed in English and Spanish and provides a variety of resources for all ages. Check out this website to find resources that you can share with clientele! The website is:

http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/espanol/index_eng.html

Grants Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Issues

This website provides some grant opportunities that support programming and resources to support immigrant and refugees. Review the information on this website and use the search feature to look for grants to support your programming in this area. The website is:

http://www.gcir.org/resources/funding_directory/index.htm

PALMS: College Within Their Grasp

The PALMS Website is a resource to help Latino families to encourage and support middle school youth toward post-secondary college. Resources are provided that might help Extension employees who work with this audience. Parents may not have the knowledge or experience to encourage and support their children toward higher education. These tools can help you provide education for these parents and their children. The website is:

http://www.palmsproject.net/reach/strategies.html

Cross Cultural Activities for Children

This book is one resource available on the Diversity Resources website that can be ordered. This book provides 25 activities designed to help students gain a greater awareness, sensitivity, and positive appreciation of cultural, religious, and other differences. Each activity has instructions for how it is to be done. Most can be finished in 5-15 minutes. They are intended for middle elementary school grades, although they can be adapted for any grade level. Check out the other resources on this website at:


Animal Industries Report

The major livestock show season is over! The Animal Industries Committee will be meeting in April to discuss the commendations and recommendations that will be sent to these major livestock shows. As your TAE4-HA AI Committee representatives, we would like to have your input. Please take a moment to think back to each of the shows in which your 4-H members participated. We would like to have your suggestions (and solutions) on any issues that may have come up during one of the shows.

Please send your comments to Laura Real or Dustin Coufal ASAP!!!

Laura Real: lareal@ag.tamu.edu
Dustin Coufal: dwcoufal@ag.tamu.edu
The end of the school year is fast approaching, TAKS will be behind us soon, and in front lies an opportunity to provide school-aged children throughout Texas with some valuable learning opportunities. In addition to the spring bringing warmer weather, it also brings with it the possibilities of weather-related disasters like floods and wildfires. Early summer also opens hurricane season which is important to all coastal counties as well as counties bordering coastal areas. In the midst of all this, can help youth and families be prepared for weather or other disasters and help them show their patriotism and “Take a Stand” by being prepared.

So what resources are available to support programming in this area? Here is what you can find on the Texas EDEN website for clientele to access at http://texashelp.tamu.edu:

- Six-lesson curriculum with corresponding TEKS
- In-class and take-home activities for youth and families
- Spanish-language support materials
- Certificates of completion

You can also find additional resources on the Extension Employee Login site, such as:

- Program Ideas for County Agents
- PowerPoint presentations
- Links to additional Resources

The TExAS system also hosts a model plan that can be adopted, modified, and implemented to support these programmatic efforts.

Keep in mind that for many Texas counties, April showers brings more than May flowers. It brings great opportunities for Extension to demonstrate and highlight the quality educational programs that county agents deliver on a daily basis, all year long.

Bringing Ag to YOUth — Lubbock County

“Bringing Ag to YOUth” is a youth agriculture awareness program whose intent is to educate urban youth about agriculture on the South Plains and its importance to them. Students rotate through the following sessions: cotton, wool and sheep production, entomology, basic food groups and the food pyramid, poultry and Texas Agriculture. The program is brought directly to the school and conducted in a series of six, twenty-minute sessions. Pre and Post tests are utilized to determine student knowledge increase. Students in grades 1st through 5th are welcomed to participate. Results of this program included the following impact:

- 438 Casey Elementary and Bennett Intermediate School students in grades 3rd - 5th were reached
- 93% related that they understood how dependent we are on Agriculture for food and clothing
- 89% are aware that the food that we eat is grown or produced by farmers or ranchers

Operation WATER: Dr. Thistle Goes Underground

Using Operation W.A.T.E.R.: Dr. Thistle Goes Underground, students in grades six through eight can investigate a new mystery while they learn important concepts about soil and water. Topics include: soil texture, aquifers, watersheds, wetlands, soil nutrients, the water cycle, soil improvement, soil structure, and water & soil conservation. Students will learn about important concepts of soils and water, as they work together on a mission to foil the newest plans of the evil Dr. Thistle.

As in the first module of the JMG Level 2 series, Operation Thistle, the Operation W.A.T.E.R. (Water and the Earth’s Resources) curriculum offers group and individual activities to help students learn the eight teaching concepts presented. Each teaching concept includes hands-on lessons and activities that allow the students to cooperate and learn as a team.

Counties will have an opportunity to order a copy of this new resource free of charge. Watch for the information from the JMG office!

http://jmgkids.us
Email: programinfo@jmgkids.us
Phone: (979) 845-8565
Fax: (979) 845-8906
Join us August 1-3, in Corpus Christi, at the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn! A new-feature to the Conference will be the unique learning opportunities through the **Workshops On-the-Go**

**Photography**: Explore the beauty and nature of the South Texas Gulf Coast through the lens of a camera. You will learn the ten things that make everyone a successful photographer and be part of a scavenger hunt that you can recreate for your 4-H members and leaders.

**Coastal Ecology**: Head up the coast on the RV Wetland Explorer, a unique 36-foot shallow water vessel, that will take you throughout the shallow bays and estuaries of South Texas. The vessel has proven itself an effective tool for educating the public about the local bays and estuaries. On the trip, learn about Texas coastal ecology, coast history, coastal geology, and comparisons of upper, mid and lower coasts. Lunch will be provided on-board during the tour.

**Project Learning Tree**: Head off to the South Texas Botanical Gardens and have fun in an interactive workshop, featuring Project Learning Tree. PLT is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary, hands-on environmental educational curriculum that teaches kids how to think about the environment and not what to think. The workshop will also include lunch on-site and a tour of the South Texas Botanical Gardens.

**Port of Corpus Christi**: The Port of Corpus Christi is mid-way along the Texas Coast on the Gulf of Mexico (approximately 150 miles North of the Texas/Mexico border) with a 45-foot channel depth and over 125 acres of open storage and fabrication sites. After enjoying a great lunch with a view of the Port, take a tour of the Port and learn about international trade and relations, the top commodities, and homeland security. All workshop participants must provide their full name and drivers license number ahead of time in order to participate in the tour. Tour is limited to 20 people (assigned on first-come, first-serve basis).

**Food and Fun**: Head up the coast to Rockport for a day of food and fun. Start off by learning about the shrimping industry along the Texas Gulf Coast, followed by a scrumptious seafood lunch. Then, see how it all happens on a tour of a shrimp boat. The workshop will be wrapped up by fine-tuning your cooking skills by learning about and participating in the 4-H Food Challenge! Some BLT time will be included.
Well, Goose thought as long as she was up she’d go downstairs for breakfast. But the floor in the kitchen was all gooey and slippery and wet. “It seems I forgot to put the ice cream back in the freezer last night,” said Goose. “I’ll guess I’ll have to mop the floor. But not today. I’m taking it easy today. I’ll do it tomorrow.”

In our field of work we wear many hats. Often times we could be perceived to be in the custodial service business rather than youth development. And how many times have you looked around after an event and realized that you were the only one still there cleaning? Involve your 4-H members (and co-workers) in picking up after events and activities. It instills pride and teaches responsibility while building character. If we all work to teach youth to leave things better than they found it, we just might have our old earth a few more years.

Goose decided to take a nap in her hammock. Goose rolled to one side. Then the other. She tossed. She turned. She counted to ten backwards. She counted to ten forwards. But she couldn’t fall asleep. Something felt strange. It was too quiet. Goose looked up and down the street. It was empty. Where is everybody?” she wondered.

I would dare to say that many of us in Extension enjoy the pressures put on our daily schedules. Sure, we grumble at times, but for some reason we still show up and take on more. Why? Because we love what we do, that’s why. We know that somewhere between the meetings and reports and trainings, we are making a difference in peoples’ lives. And, we know that when it gets too quiet, we don’t have jobs.

I hope you have enjoyed your trip to the Town of Sweet Pickles. Remember, that the things that you think can be put off until tomorrow are important to someone. They are important to a child...a volunteer...a significant other. Go ahead and do it today. Then, you can take it easy tomorrow...

Improving Our Image: Business Casual Basics

According to Wikipedia, “Business casual, also known as smart casual, is a popular dress that emerged in white-collar workplaces in Western countries in the 1990’s. Many information technology businesses in Silicon Valley were early adopters of this style of dress.”

Business casual is crisp, neat, and should look appropriate even for a chance meeting with a CEO. It should not look like cocktail or party or picnic attire. Avoid tight or baggy clothing; business casual is classic rather than trendy.

Basics:
- Khaki pants, neatly pressed, and a pressed long-sleeved, buttoned solid shirt are safe for both men and women.
- Polo/golf shirts, unwrinkled, are an appropriate choice if you know the environment will be quite casual, outdoors or in a very hot location.
- This may not seem like terribly exciting attire, but you are not trying to stand out for your cutting edge look, but for your good judgment in a business environment.

Shoes / belt:
- Wear a leather belt and leather shoes.
- Athletic shoes are inappropriate.

Cost / quality:
- You are not expected to be able to afford the same clothing as a corporate CEO. However, do invest in quality that will look appropriate during your first two or three years on the job for a business casual environment or occasions.

Details:
- Everything should be clean, well pressed, and not show wear. Even the nicest khakis after 100 washings may not be your best choice for a reception.
- Carefully inspect new clothes for tags, and all clothes for dangling threads, etc. (as with interview attire).

Use common sense.
- If there are six inches of snow on the ground and/or you are rushing to get to a meeting and you left home 12 hours earlier, no one will expect you to show up looking ready for a photo shoot — they’ll just be happy you made it. Just avoid wearing your worst gym clothes and jeans.
- If you show up at an event and realize you’re not as well dressed as you should be, make a quick, pleasant apology and make a good impression with your interpersonal skills and intelligent questions.
programs offered that quarter, and the
impact statements of previous program
success. I have had a great response
to this method, as we are not inundating
these elected officials with all that we
do. This method may not work for all,
but for those with multiple agents or
newsletters, this can be more effective
than sending a newsletter from each
program area to the elected official.

To take this a step further, I have tried
to tailor what programs we discuss in
the newsletter to match with the inter-
est of the elected official. You can look
at Texas Legislature Online@
www.capitol.state.tx.us/ and find your
elected official to see what his/her inter-
est are. Simply look up your elected
official and see what committees that
they serve. In addition, read the short
biography for your official to see what
interests they may have separate of
what committee they serve. For exam-
ple, if an elected official has health and
health care identified as an area of
importance for them, be sure to include
all nutritional programming efforts and
impacts of previous programs.

All this does is showcase what the
elected official is interested in. This will
allow them to attend events in their
interest areas. Furthermore, this will
ensure that we are programming toward
their needs.

The last factor to consider is to distrib-
ute legislative duties among all agents.
Try to work out ways in your county
which you can share in the interpreta-
tion responsibilities with your fellow
agents. If these efforts are shared, then
you can ensure that elected officials are
hearing at least some part of the Exten-
sion story.

It is up to all of us to do our part in ex-
plaining the programming we provide on
the county level. With some shared
effort on our part, we can go a long way
in explaining all the incredible programs
that we have been providing in our
counties for years.

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Member Spotlight

Amy Erwin Baugh
Crosby/Lynn CEA—FCS

Where are you from? Amarillo (0-6 years); Lub-
bock (7-8 years); San Antonio (9-18 years, par-
ents are still there), so I guess I am from a lot of
places!!!

What was your New Years resolution? Did you keep it? Don't
really make them.

What is the best book you've ever read? Call of the Wild

What are your plans for 4-H members this summer? 4-H project
tours and workshops, 4-H camps, Safety Day, community youth day
camps in 4 communities

What would you be if you weren't an Extension Agent? Rich!!! No
really, probably something that had to do with animals, but not a vet:
zoookeeper, own an animal shelter, operate a wildlife center, rescue
abused animals, etc.

What was the best 4-H program you've ever done? Leadership/life
skills program series for the Sunlight Girls in Calhoun County.

Angela Fiedler
Kendall CEA—FCS

What high school did you go to? Merkel
High School

Are you a 4-H alumnus? If so, what pro-
jects did you participate in? Yes, I participated in Foods & Nutri-
tion, Clothing & Textiles, Horse, Swine, Lambs. Also did Arts &
Crafts and made a ceramic horse.

Tell us about your last 4-H Program. The most recent 4-H pro-
gram would be the Clothing & Textiles where 4-H youth made
aprons for our judges with 4-H patches.

Do you collect anything? I love to collect vintage junk-toys, buck-
ets, garden things and anything unusual. The latest thing I found
was an old crawfish net that I plan to hang in my home.

What is your favorite quote or inspirational passage? “Good
things come to those who wait.” I waited 31 years and found a
wonderful man, who is now my husband. He loves junk as much
as I do and loves to shop with me!

Where are you going on vacation this summer? Fredericksburg
hospital delivering my first baby-we can’t wait!

FACT OR FICTION: Kids are ingesting hand sanitizer to get a high from the alcohol in
the product. Sadly, it is FACT. Hand sanitizer has 62% alcohol content. Check out
TAE4-HA OBJECTIVES

- To advance the professional status of Extension personnel involved in 4-H youth work.
- To encourage professional improvement and improve professionalism among its members.
- To promote Extension 4-H youth work as a career.
- To provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, methods and techniques.
- To strengthen communications with Extension administration.
- To promote cooperation among all Extension personnel.

We’re on the Web!
Click Us Out At….

http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/tae4ha/index.html

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

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