Welcome to Spring everyone. This has to be one of the most energizing times of year for me personally, even when the plate is so full at work. In my conversations with others it sounds like that same enthusiasm is shared going into the summer and all it has to offer. That is refreshing because it will be here soon and we will be charging forward, event after event.

I also want to take this time to say thanks to those nominees for elected positions. It is a big decision to make and a great responsibility, but those who agreed to step up to these roles will do a great job if elected. This is something I encourage you all to consider in the future. It is great to serve with this team of agents. It is also a great way to stay “up to speed” on what is current in our organization. The traveling associated with some of these positions offers amazing opportunities to those representatives. The connections made are unbelievable. It has been interesting for me personally

TAE4-HA Website
Submitted by Derrick Bruton, 4-H & YD Specialist, District 4 & TAE4-HA Website Manager

The site has recently been updated to include this year’s award winners. To see a list of winners and their applications, visit http://tae4ha.tamu.edu and click on the Awards link on the left side of the page.

If your committee would like something to be posted on the website, please e-mail it to: d-bruton@tamu.edu

Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents
Making a World of Difference
President’s Address...Continued

to hear the struggles of the Extension programs in the other states. It truly has made me thankful. It is also great to hear that agents in other states face some of the same challenges we do in our programs. The information shared about programs that are similar and the different ones too sure make the networking well worth it.

We just returned from Washington D.C. where we had the opportunity to meet with our Senators and Congressmen to discuss the impacts Texas AgriLife Extension Service is making on the people of Texas. It is interesting how connections can be made there too. The representative we spoke with in Senator Cornyn’s office is actually from my home town. Another official we met graduated from the same high school that I did. Anyway, to sum it up it is a great opportunity for professional development and I know we have some very talented agents out there to lead us in the future.

In closing I will leave you with a quote that I think speaks to moving forward with a positive frame of mind. As the work load may wear on us from time to time and the schedules stay tight, it is important to keep moving forward and not let it wear you down: “Our attitude toward life determines life’s attitude towards us.” I know I for one want to keep life smiling back at me!

2010 TAE4-HA Conference

S.E.T. Your Sites on West Texas

August 4-6, 2010

MCM Eleganté Hotel, Odessa, TX

The 2010 TAE4-HA annual conference will have an emphasis on Science, Engineering, and Technology (4-H SET). Come join us to inspire yourself as a 4-H and Youth Development professional to adopt the 4-H SET as an integral part of all 4-H project work. This (4-H SET) is a National Initiative to foster interest in science, engineering and technology by the youth of America. Tentatively, sessions topics will be weather, astronomy, rocketry, alternative energy sources, wind energy, animal behavior, culinary arts and forensic science. The TAE4-HA Annual meeting will be a forum to launch the 4-H SET projects state-wide.

Look for registration information in the July Pipeline!
Sports-Only Focus May Hinder Youth Development Process

Submitted by Laura Huebinger, Research & Evaluation Committee Chairman

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

Approximately 60% of American youth engage in some organized sport activity, which makes sports the single most common extracurricular activity for youth, according to a recent report from Tufts University. However, those youth who only engage in sports tend to have lower positive development and higher risky behaviors than those youth who have a combination of sports participation and other youth development activities.

A recent study, led by Richard Lerner, reported that youth who participate exclusively in sports have among the lowest scores on competence, confidence, character, connection, compassion, and levels of contribution (all characteristics of Lerner’s “C’s” of positive development framework). They also tend to display negative behaviors, such as bullying, substance use and depression more frequently.

In turn, the study (based on a sample of 1,357 youth) found that youth who combine sports with participation in a youth development program have the highest scores for positive development and the lowest scores for risk and problem behaviors. The study classified youth development programs as those out-of-school-time activities that involve adult mentorship, life skills training, and opportunities for youth leadership (e.g., 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs).

Although scholars have previously noted that participation in sports can promote psychological well-being, social competence, academic achievement and other benefits, this report offers insight on the importance of youth having a balance in various activities to promote positive development.


For a summary of the findings, you can also visit the following website:
http://news.tufts.edu/releases/release.php?id=118

Practices to Avoid in Out-Of-School Time Programs

- Constantly using scare (“scared straight”) tactics in hopes of shocking youth into better behavior
- Lecturing – Less of this may indeed be best, given the fact that youth experience this throughout a significant portion of their day (at school); Research has shown that although lecturing may increase knowledge, it may have little effect on behavior
Sports-Only Focus May Hinder Youth Development Process...continued

- Emphasis only on saving youth from risk factors; Programs that focus mainly on addressing negative behaviors may struggle in other areas, such as recruitment, attendance and retention
- Always putting the problem kids together; Children in such settings understand their association and will often encourage more undesirable behavior among one another
- Ridiculing youth participants; Offer constructive suggestions and positive reinforcement instead
- Not taking into consideration an appropriate youth-adult ratio; Not only does a situation where one (1) adult is supervising 30 youth negate the chance to foster strong youth-adult relationship, but it also raises safety concerns
- Not welcoming/embracing change; The most effective programs are adjusted, enhanced, and evaluated over time and on a continual basis

Source:

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

Geocaching has become a hot new activity that 4-H members of all ages can enjoy. Whether with a group of 4-Hers or with their families, 4-H members can locate cache boxes or design their own 4-H geocache. Of course a GPS unit is necessary but a beginner unit is relatively inexpensive. Geocaching gives nature lovers another way to enjoy the outdoors while learning a valuable skill along the way.

Here are a few resources that will help you guide 4-H members in this activity:
- Guide to creating a 4-H geocache - oklahoma4h.okstate.edu
- Step by step guide to hiding your first geocache – crn4h.org
- geocaching.com
- GPSeducationresource.com
- gpsy.com
Behind the Clover
Susie Bishop, CEA - FCS, Crockett County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I grew up and graduated high school in Comstock, Texas! Graduated with nine in my class. I then graduated from College at Angelo State University.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I was a member of the Comstock 4-H club in Val Verde County from third grade on until I graduated. I participated in the Food & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, and Sheep projects. I also was a member of the Wool & Mohair Judging teams. We won state in both Wool & Mohair and then won second at nationals in wool judging.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension?
Once we moved to my husbands home town to start a family, I very soon realized that there are not many job opportunities in Ozona. I then found out that there was an opening for the County Extension Agent for FCS and I decided to apply. I knew that this job would be right up my alley, being a former 4-H member and growing up on a ranch. I have been in Extension for three years now and I am loving every minute of it.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
I am on the board of directors for the Ozona Community Center and any other down time I spend with my family!

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages?
I have been happily married for six years to my husband Rusty, and we have one son named Levi Garrett who is 5. Levi will be starting Kindergarten in August and, I think that I am going to have a break down. I might have to take a vacation day that day, because I don’t think I will be able to focus at work. Haha! Times goes by so fast, I try to cherish every moment. This is Levi’s first year football, and boy has that been an adventure. They are so darn funny to watch. Levi is also involved in participating in Rodeo Playdays.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
Every year we go to Durango Colorado for our family vacation. We haul the horses and load the fishing poles. We camp out (well we stay in the horse trailer-so we are not really roughing it-haha) at Hermosa Creek. Every morning we saddle up and head down the trail and fish for trout on our way down. It is just absolutely beautiful, and so peaceful.

What are your hobbies?
Growing up on a ranch, I am kind of a “Tom Boy” my hobbies include fishing for catfish on the Rio Grande and Pecos. I also enjoy deer and varmint hunting and riding horses. This year I killed a 33lb bobcat. I was EXCITED to say the least.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town’ would be?
Hmmm let’s see……it would have to be something with my family. Dinner and bowling with my two boys!

What do you like best about your job?
My most absolute favorite thing I enjoy most about my job is getting to work with all of the kids. It just makes my day when they see me somewhere around town and they are like “Hi Mrs. Bishop” just makes me feel really good. I try so hard to remember all of their names so when I do see them out and about I am prepared.
Behind the Clover
Kit Horne, CEA 4-H & YD, Taylor County

Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I grew up in Coleman County. I graduated from Coleman High School, BS - Tarleton State University and MEd - Texas A&M University.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I was very active in 4-H. My major projects included horse, beef and leadership. I was Gold Star Boy. Does anyone remember when it used to be a Gold Star Boy and a Gold Star Girl from each county? I was an International 4-H Youth Exchange representative to Norway.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension?
I first worked for Extension in Brown and Burleson Counties. I left Extension to work for West Texas Utilities Company. For 20 years, I worked in a public relations position where I managed the youth programs sponsored by the company, as well as many other responsibilities. In 2002, I returned to Extension as the Taylor County 4-H & YD agent. In all, I have been a county extension agent for about 13 years.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
I am a member of Beltway Park Baptist Church.

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages?
I have been married to my beautiful wife Mindy for over 33 years. We have two grown children, Adam and Tova, whom were both in 4-H. They showed heifers & steers. Adam was more involved in 4-H being a member of the Texas State 4-H Council. Tova is currently a junior at Texas Tech University and is a talented gymnast. As a level 10 gymnast she has advanced to National competitions.

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
Vacations are few and far between. I have enjoyed vacations to Santa Fe, New Mexico and New York City.

What are your hobbies?
Life has been so busy for so many years that I have not had time to pursue any hobbies. I do enjoy antiquing with my wife, gardening, horseback riding and working cattle.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town” would be?
A night on the town! What a novel idea. LOL I would have to say a night of dancing with the best dance partner in the world, my wife of course.

What you like best about your job?
The best part of this job is the people that I meet.
Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
Originally from Karnes City, TX. Graduated from Karnes City High School ‘04
Member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 08

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
7 years of 4-H & 5 years FFA filled with meeting many different people including good friends.
Very actively involved in the livestock projects, cattle, hogs and goats. Livestock judging.
President of both 4-H & FFA, while holding numerous other positions throughout

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension?
The opportunity to work with both youth and adults through many different sectors of the community is what brought me to Extension. Been in Extension since October 1, 2008.
No previous full-time employment.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
Little League & TAMU Association of Former Students

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages?
Single

When you go on vacation, where do you like to go? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
Love to travel, where ever it maybe with a group of friends.

What are your hobbies?
Anything competitive, especially sports. Love trying new things, especially anything adventurous.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town’ would be?
Nothing to special just a good time with good friends, when those are combined something interesting seems to always happen.

What you like best about your job?
Interaction with people and our county office environment.

Behind the Clover
Dustin Biela, CEA 4-H & YD, Wise County

The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it.

-Elaine Agather
The Taylor County Youth Board identified youth leadership development as an important issue to develop more confident leaders for youth organizations as well as future leadership opportunities. The goal of Taylor County’s Best Youth Leadership Program (TCBY) is to provide information and education about the diversity of the community, its strengths, resources and challenges. The program, sponsored by the Taylor County Youth Board and funded by a 4-H Friends and Alumni grant, targets 15-18 year old freshman, sophomores and juniors in Taylor County and is limited to 15 participants.

TCBY develops leadership skills and community knowledge of participants through the following series of informative sessions:

- **May** - Overview of Leadership and Why it is Important - Guest Speaker
- **June** - Team Building - Participate in Ropes Course at Texas 4-H Conference Center
- **July** - Media Relations Emphasis - Tour local television station, public radio station and daily newspaper
- **August** - State Government – Overnight travel to Austin to observe State Government
- **September** – True Colors Personality Testing
- **October** – Formal Dinner Table Etiquette – Guest Speaker
- **November** - Project Graduation

Collaborators included guest speakers, local businesses that provided tours and State Representative Susan King whose office staff assisted with arrangements for the State Government tours in Austin. Representative King provided photos of the group while at the State Capitol and sent each participant a congratulatory letter for completion of the leadership program.

A Retrospective Post Test was utilized as an evaluation instrument. Questions covered the entire seven month experience. Participants provided personal testimony and statements concerning the effectiveness of the TCBY Leadership Program.

Participants indicated an overall growth of 39.4 percent in knowledge gained through the many experiences during TCBY. Each participant gave testimonial remarks at the graduation in November. Some comments included: “TCBY was an amazing program.” “TCBY was able to teach us how to work with others in every situation.” “This program allows you to make mistakes and learn from them.” “TCBY is the best program to enable you to expand your leadership abilities and also extend your relationship and communication skills it is also tremendously fun!” “TCBY presents a new perspective on leadership and teamwork.”
As 4-H groups continue to face challenges with changes in demographics, there is a need to expand the volunteer base. 4-H parents and other adults need understanding and training so that they are able to provide leadership and expand the 4-H program. While many state 4-H programs offer large-scale volunteer conference-type workshops, Texas has not thus far. Training of volunteers will improve volunteer recruitment, involvement and retention, and will enrich the overall 4-H program. It will empower the 4-H volunteers to take more ownership of the overall 4-H program.

Issues regarding the quality of youth activities were identified in both Guadalupe and Hays Counties during both the 1999 and 2004 Texas Community Futures Forum. Training of 4-H volunteers has long been a component of effective 4-H programming. In order to justify bringing in big name speakers, a larger conference-type training was identified rather than doing a series of smaller, agent-led trainings. This program was geared towards adult 4-H volunteers in District 10 and District 7. A total of 39 4-H volunteers participated in the 4-H Volunteer Conference.

Parrish and Petty developed two surveys to identify the needs of 4-H volunteers. The first helped to identify planning committee members, the second focused on date and topics. The five-member planning committee developed the agenda for the conference as well as secured speakers for the various workshops and obtained funding and resources to help keep participant costs down. This committee met on eight occasions to plan and prepare the 4-H Volunteer Conference. The 4-H Volunteer Conference was held on October 23-24, 2009 at Genesis Ranch Conference Center in Canyon Lake. A Share Fair was set up, highlighting resources available for use by the 4-H volunteers. Each conference participant received a resource CD with all of the materials and resources that was provided during the workshop sessions at the 4-H Volunteer Conference.

Results indicate that the participants of the 4-H Volunteer Conference left with a renewed enthusiasm for the 4-H program. This enthusiasm was reflected in their excitement to go home and implement what they had learned as a result of this weekend. The participants also indicated that they wished that more volunteers would have taken advantage of this opportunity. Furthermore, many of the participants realized that 4-H participation should be focused more on the life-skills development rather than on success in the show ring. Finally, this 4-H Volunteer Conference helped to remove some of the mystery and confusion that new volunteers have regarding the Texas 4-H Program.

Members of the planning committee gained a better understanding of the overall 4-H program. They became more aware of the opportunities available to club members and volunteers. They also became more aware of the roles and duties of a county Extension agent. It was also clear that planning committee members gained confidence in their own abilities to plan and organize educational events.
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 (CPBry-ant@ag.tamu.edu).