I hope everyone’s summer is going well. It has been an active one so far. State 4-H Roundup finished up with a bang. I have to say I was really impressed and had a great time. My kids and parents that attended did as well. 4-H has talent was a great addition this year. It was really interesting and a little funny to be sitting up in the balcony looking down on the lights from everyone’s cell phones as they texted in their vote. There seemed to be a great deal of enthusiasm about the new contests. The silent auction and trade show added a nice flare to the atmosphere as a whole. I for one enjoyed the opportunity to go down there and walk through the booths. The items in the silent auction were great. Some of the bidding got a little fierce, and some of our colleagues (me included) were right in the middle of the bidding war. The last night’s events are always impressive and this year did not disappoint. It truly amazes me how much talent is out there. Being in attendance serves as a great motivator for someone in this profession. It did for me anyway. I would say all in all, this years State 4-H Roundup was a great one.

Next up for us would be our State Conference in Odessa, Texas. I am ashamed to say that this will be the first time I have ever been to Odessa. However, I am happy to get the opportunity. There will be a lot of windshield time between Brazos County and Odessa. I hope I can stand myself for that long. I know they have worked hard to bring us a great professional development opportunity, and have planned a little fun in there as well. I can’t wait; it ought to be a great one! There will also be a little TAE4-HA business to conduct while we are there. For example, the election of new officers will be very important, so I hope everyone takes advantage of the business portion of the conference.

I usually look long and hard to find a quote to share that I think fits for whatever reason. However, with Father’s Day having just happened I am going to throw out one that my dad always liked. “Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway,” John Wayne. If I don’t see you before, I’ll see you in August…way out west!
Is it really summer already? I know this is an extremely busy time for everyone! It is times like these where I just want to take a minute and thank ALL OF YOU for what you do for the youth of Texas. Between county camps, Leadership Labs, Horse Shows, Record Books, and Roundup, I know there is hardly time to even come up for air. However, your commitment to the 4-H and Youth Development Program and the youth of Texas is worth it! Our youth need us and they need positive role models to help them be better people!

As we look toward 2011, I hope you will take a moment to review some of the new programs you can implement as an outcome program in your county. The faculty are putting finishing touches on a 4-H and Youth Development Program Planning Guide that is aimed to help YOU implement the most effective program with the youth you serve. We are also highlighting new programs like our County Government Initiative, Global & Cultural Awareness, and Winning with Nutrition.

Finally, we just completed our first ever Golf Challenge in Lubbock. Nearly 50 golfers signed up to play at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Lubbock for this inaugural event. Enthusiasm was high as intermediate and senior aged 4-Hers took to the course for a fun filled day of golf and learning opportunities related to sports nutrition, golf rules and etiquette, and turf grass/golf course management.

I think this is a perfect example of new and exciting programs we can offer youth! They had fun while learning!

Thanks again for all you do!
Keeping Physical & Mental Activity Levels High During the Summer
Submitted by Laura Huebinger, Research & Evaluation Committee Chairman

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

Summer is here and you may be wondering how you will deal with the challenge of keeping young people active this year. Research from the Center for Summer Learning at The Johns Hopkins University shows that teachers spend a substantial amount of time re-teaching skills at the beginning of each school year that were lost during the summer. Over the course of this 2-3 month period, students can quickly fall behind in all subjects, but particularly in math and reading.

Despite their age, it's developmentally appropriate and critical for all youth to continue reading throughout the summer. Limit TV time and encourage them to pick out a book of interest, a magazine or a newspaper. In order to encourage reading comprehension and critical thinking, be sure to ask them questions about their reading. Ask them to explain their opinions on certain issues and their thoughts on varying ideas of the author(s).

Math is a subject that most people either “use or lose.” The summer months are often guilty of robbing students of what was learned in the previous year. For this reason, it is necessary to find interesting ways to keep the Math skills sharp. Parents can make it more fun by stating problems while driving along on a trip or use computer software so that young people have access to educational math games. A simple trip to the grocery store can serve as a “functioning classroom,” as kids can be challenged to test their math skills by adding the cost of several items, for example. In some cases, parents may be able to talk to teachers or check out the school website to see what their child's curriculum will entail for the next school year. The summer is an ideal time to peruse these materials. This will allow one to be proactive in making sure students have a chance to pick up where they left off at the end of the year.

If one or more trips are planned, be sure to make time for a number of educational outings. These can be incorporated at little to no cost. Visits to parks, museums, and zoos are just a few of the places parents should be encouraged to take their children. Ask kids to keep a journal of what sparked the most interest and take time to reflect on what they learned from the experience. If there are no plans for summer travel, parents should take every opportunity to involve their child in some form of structured time within their community. High quality summer camps and programs available through schools, youth centers and organizations present a number of enrichment activities. Although some may not be as academically-rigorous as others, encourage parents to note any particular relevance. At best, if a program fosters positive interaction with peers, this offers a chance for social skill development, which is equally important to the youth development process.

Lastly, with so many children not engaging in regular exercise, remember to get them outside for frequent physical activity. Research shows that physical activity has a direct link to academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading, and writing test scores, and; reduced disruptive behavior. Parents should consider sending their child to camp or partaking in daily activities hosted by a community-based organization (e.g., 4-H sponsored events, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club). Make sure there is time for family walks and sports. If children are resistant to exercise, it must be disguised or portrayed in a way that appears acceptable to them. The average young person may gripe at having to wake up in the morning to run 3 miles, but most would be eager to take regularly scheduled trips to the local swimming pool. What may only be a cool wade in the water to them can turn into an easy session of water aerobics!
Public Relations & Information
Submitted by Kayla Krebs, PR & I Committee Chairman

We are looking forward to a great time in Odessa in August. The PR&I committee will be hosting its Annual First Timer’s Orientation/Meeting. We hope that all conference first timers will attend. District Directors do not forget to email me a picture or description of the silent auction items your District will be donating to the Silent Auction. For all attending, please stop by and check out the silent auction items. Proceeds benefit the Annual TAE4-HA 4-H Opportunity Scholarship at the Texas 4-H Roundup. We can not wait to see you all in Odessa and we hope that you check out the PR&I Committee.

Just a reminder, 4-H polos, button-ups, windshirts and zip up jackets are still available for purchase through the PR&I Committee. For more information and to download the order form for apparel, look under “Forms & Logos” on the TAE4-HA website.

(Logo design found on upper left chest of apparel.)

Member Recognition
Submitted by Sarah Womble & Rusty Hohlt, Member Recognition Committee Co-Chairs

Dear TAE4-HA Members,

We have the plaques and awards program ready to go! Although we will not be able to attend the conference in Odessa we want to express our congratulations to each award recipient. (Ironically we are both expecting an August baby!) The quality of the award entries can be described as excellent. Each of you should be proud and pleased with your programming efforts.

Hopefully letters will go out from the Southern Region Awards Committee soon so you know if your award was selected for a Southern Region Award. Hopefully we will have a few of those and then a few National winners. Wouldn’t that be great? All of our Service Award winners will be recognized in Arizona in the fall so make plans to attend that conference if you are receiving a service award in Odessa!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing each of you soon and organizing the award applications submitted next year!

Sincerely,
Sarah Womble and Rusty Hohlt
Nomination Committee Report
Submitted by: Dustin Coufal, TAE4-HA Past President & Nomination Committee Chairman

Hello TAE4-HA! This past Spring the Nominating Committee has been hard at work searching for an outstanding set of officer candidates to present to the membership at the State Meeting. Through a long search process, we have identified candidates to run for office:

President Elect: Kodie Hoover, CEA - 4-H, Midland County
Secretary : Sheryl Nolen, CEA - Urban Youth Development, Harris County
Laura Huebinger, Extension Program Specialist - 4-H

I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the nominating Committee for working diligently on selecting this slate of officers. Members of the committee were Jodi McManus, Kristy Synatschk, Cory Talley, Kit Horne and Erica Evans. See you in Odessa!

Resource Corner - Livestock Judging
Submitted by: Kristen Greer, CEA 4-H & Youth Development, Anderson County

When recently asked by some of my 4-Hers to help them start a Livestock Judging team, began my search for high quality up-to-date resources to share with them on this topic. The following are some of the best resources I found in the search.

♦ Mississippi 4-H Livestock Judging Manual or South Dakota State University Livestock Judging Manual
♦ www.Judging101.com—includes free Showmaster Feeds Judging Lessons; you can pay a $45 yearly fee for site access; also linked to www.animalscience101.com which includes resources to purchase
♦ www.TheJudgingConnection.com—the best all inclusive site; follow the education link for resources
♦ Powerpoint presentations by Celina Johnson of Colorado State—Evaluating Beef, Evaluating Pigs or Evaluating Lambs (can be found on The Judging Connection)
♦ For goats: http://bedford.extension.psu.edu/agriculture/goat/Meat%20Goat%20Selection.htm
♦ CEV Multimedia—www.cevmultimedia.com or contact Jim Missildine at 210-862-3672
♦ For contests with questions: http://www.texasffa.org/Competitions/CDE/Livestock.aspx—example Q’s

Although these are great resources, don’t forget to use people. Ask around among Extension Agents that you know have good teams or knowledge in the subject area. Talk to our 4-H specialists or other Extension personnel, especially Kevin Chilek or Dr. Jason Cleere. And, most of all, use your adult leaders and volunteers. They all have a wealth of knowledge and often will set up livestock classes for practice sessions. Good luck!
Ways & Means—Proposed Bylaw Changes

Submitted by: Amber Parkinson, TAE4-HA Treasurer

The Ways & Means committee upon recommendation of the TAE4-HA board at Spring Board meeting will request a by-law change to add a line item in the budget. Item # 201 will be Executive President Policy and Leadership (PILD) in the amount of $500.00. The purpose of this is to financially support the executive president at this conference.

Hopefully you all have heard from your district associations about the plans for the TAE4-HA investment policy. The recommendation is to take $40,000 of the $67,000 that is currently in the money market account and place in an annuity. The reason is because the money market account is no longer producing the interest money needed to help balance the annual TAE4-HA budget. The annuity would give the association a safe predicted interest amount each year to balance the annual budget and the remaining $27,000 would stay in a money market account and be available if/whenever needed. The annuity would be tied to an individual’s name who is 65-75 years of age and the association would be able to regain the entire amount placed in the annuity when the individual is deceased.

Here is a little bit more information as prepared by Jason McDonald, Wells Fargo Investment advisor:

♦ The annuity company is Jackson National and they are highly rated.
♦ Our current money market fund is paying .01%.
♦ If we put in $40,000 we can draw out 5% per year as long as the annuitant is alive.
♦ When money is deposited into an annuity, it is invested into sub accounts. They are like mutual funds, and there is a long list of funds to choose from and we can change the asset allocation any time we choose.
♦ When the annuitant passes away we can take out the greater of the value of the sub accounts or $40,000, as long as the sub accounts have not gone to zero.
♦ The annuitant has no control over the policy and has no claim to the money.
♦ The annuitant does not have to report anything to the IRS.

If anyone has any questions or ideas regarding the proposal you can talk to a member of the investment committee consisting of Amber Parkinson, Cory Talley or Starla Garlick. I also encourage you to speak with your district representatives. The TAE4-HA board will vote on this proposal at the August pre-board meeting held in conjunction with the state conference in Odessa.
The Fort Bend County Youth Board identified, as an emerging issue, the need to assist students in both identifying and preparing for their education and employment beyond high school. Lamar Consolidated Independent School District’s CTE Advisory Council members also identified a need for students to be exposed to this information. As a result of these identified issues, the Fort Bend County Youth Board partnered with the Harris County Youth Board and Ambassador program and sponsored the multi-county Career Quest Program.

The 4H & Urban Youth Development programs in Ft. Bend and Harris Counties collaborated for the second annual joint Extension educational program, Career Quest, on May 18, 2010 at the University of Houston Downtown. The goal of Career Quest is to provide students information on careers that will be available to them when they enter the workforce. They will also be exposed to educational opportunities that will help them prepare for their chosen career path. Our hope is that students will be exposed to up and coming careers, careers in demand, careers requiring unique or specialized training, and those predicted to be in need in the future. The 16 broad career clusters adopted in Texas as part of the Achieve Texas initiative were used in identifying exhibitors and career representatives to participate. Students from school districts in both Fort Bend and Harris Counties were invited to attend.

The uniqueness of Career Quest goes beyond the typical College Career Day in several ways. First, not only are the admission’s departments from participating colleges, universities, junior colleges, and technical schools invited to attend, but also specific departments within those schools. This allows students to see beyond simply getting into the school of their choice, but provides them with information on their options once they’re admitted.

Second, business and industry representatives from the community along with business partners unique to the educational institutions attending are also in attendance. The purpose here is to have the businesses representatives at the event in order for students to make a clear connection between completing their degrees in a chosen field and the companies who will be hiring them.

Finally, students attended 2 break-out sessions on topics outlining the preparation process for education after high school and another explaining the difference between the various degrees, certificates, and schooling options available to them. For example; Associate’s Degree vs. Bachelor Degree and Junior College vs. University are explained in the sessions. These sessions offer the students a road map for planning for their future.

A total of 283 students in grades 8-9 attended Career Quest 2010. Students in attendance were from Lamar Consolidated ISD in Fort Bend County and Spring ISD in Harris County as well as a Home School program in Harris County.
Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I am from the coolest little small town in Texas, Goliad. I was a proud member of the Goliad High School graduation class of 2002. I attended college at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin where I studied Theology/Youth Ministry and then received my Master’s Degree this past December from the University of Houston-Victoria, studying Interdisciplinary Studies.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I participated in both 4-H and FFA. I loved to cook and show goats but my favorite memories were from participating in any and every leadership camp available to me. My club manager and Ag teacher are still very involved in my life and I will always look up to them and turn to them for advice.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension?
Rusty Hohlt, Nueces County FCS Agent, is the one who actually brought me to Extension. She knew I was looking for a job in Victoria and suggested I apply for the 4-H position. She told me that I would love the position and she was right- I don’t think I could have found a better fit! I just finished up my 3rd year in Extension and am looking forward to many more. Prior to working for Extension I served as the Youth Ministry Director of Faith Lutheran Church in Seguin and Youth and Family Minister at Salem Lutheran Church in Brenham.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
Agents are allowed to have down/personal time!!!! Just kidding! I like to spend my extra time helping out with the youth and family ministry activities at my church. I love to play guitar and keyboard so providing leadership to the music ministry team is probably what I am most involved with.

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages?
I am married to a super fantastic guy named Carl and have been living in what feels like a 2½ year honeymoon. Every day is an adventure and I couldn’t ask for a better partner in crime! At the moment we only have two Cocker Spaniel kids, Rigley and Bella, but are very much eager to add to our little family. I would like 5 kids but Carl thinks we only need two; I guess we will have to wait and see but I tend to win any disagreements in our household!

Where do you like to go on vacation? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
I love the outdoors so my favorite vacations tend to come in the form of hunting or fishing trips. In the winter I love to vacation down to the deer lease in Freer to find my own Muy Grande, but in the summer you can find me down in Port A. My all-time favorite vacation happens every year when my family travels to the condo in Port A to celebrate my parent’s wedding anniversary. All of our family and friends come and we spend the week lounging around the pool, taking the boat out and just enjoying each other’s company.

What are your hobbies?
Currently my favorite hobbies are playing guitar, sewing and cooking. I am pretty shy about playing my guitar in front of people but my dogs often enjoy evening shows at the house. Sewing has recently become an obsession of mine and I love to create my own sun dresses. Cooking has been a passion of mine since the age of four when I dreamed of nothing more than being a chef. I love attending parties for the mere fact of trying new recipes out on unsuspecting people.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town” would be?
I am a fairly simple girl but for a night out on the town to be considered perfect it would have to include three things: Carl, Mexican Food, and dancing to Texas Country music.

What you like best about your job?
I love so many things about my job but what I like best is the kids. They are such an amazing promise for our future and they inspire me every day to do the best I can to help them conquer whatever comes their way. Each age group has unique characteristics that make me smile and I love getting to be a small part of their world, be it through 4-H project work or curriculum enrichment programs.
Where are you from? Where did you go to High School? College?
I was born and raised in Edinburg Texas. I attended Edinburg High School and went on to college at Texas A&M University – Kingsville for both my Bachelors and Masters degrees.

Describe your years in 4-H and or FFA, as a member?
I was in FFA during my years in high school. I showed Simbrah heifers, participated in livestock judging, Ag. mechanics, and was an officer for my local chapter.

What brought you to Extension? How many years have you been in Extension?
I can thank the late Doyle Warren for me being in Extension. He came over to A&M Kingsville conducting preliminary interviews one day and the rest is history. I’ve been in Extension for a little over 12 years now and have been lucky to be in Cameron County all of my career.

What organizations are you involved with during your down/personal time?
I am a board member of the Cameron County Farm Bureau and I coach my daughters t-ball and soccer teams.

Let’s get personal: Married, for how long or single? Kids? Grandkids? Ages?
I have been married for 8 years to my loving wife Cindy. We have two wonderful kids which are my daughter Mia age 5 and my son Wes age 1. Mia is involved in t-ball, soccer, cheerleading, and she is a 4-H clover kid. Wes is definitely on his way to following in his sisters footsteps.

Where do you like to go on vacation? Where were you on your all-time favorite vacation?
We are very lucky to live pretty close to South Padre Island. That is definitely one of our favorite vacation spots. My all time favorite vacation spot has to be when we went on a cruise to the Bahamas and Key West. Those were both incredibly beautiful places and it was definitely hard to leave.

What are your hobbies?
I really don’t have a lot of time for hobbies. Like any good Extension Agent, I like to hunt and fish whenever possible. I love to Bar-B-Q and spend time with my family outdoors. I’m really kind of boring as I like to listen to talk radio a lot, I love sports especially football, and I enjoy watching shows on the discovery channel.

Describe what your perfect ‘big night out on the town’ would be?
A steak dinner or Bar-B-Q at a nice restaurant followed by going to a professional football or baseball game.

What you like best about your job?
The thing I like best about my job is the differences that I see in youth as they progress through the years in 4-H. I’ve seen countless youth start the 4-H program as quiet, shy individuals and then progress to being wonderful leaders and excellent public speakers. Knowing the 4-H program helped them develop these quality life skills gives me great satisfaction.
2010 TAE4-HA Annual Conference

S.E.T. Your Sites on West Texas
August 4-6, 2010

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Early Bird Registration: Due July 2   Late Registration: July 3—July 23

Wednesday Educational Sessions:  Weather, Social Media, Rocketry and Water
Thursday Seminars on Wheels:  Wind Energy, Animal Behavior, Culinary Arts and Medical Technology
Other Highlights:  Guest Speakers, Silent Auction, Annual Business Meeting, and Awards Banquet

Don’t miss the fun! Registration is enclosed with this Pipeline!