Dear Toby,

Welcome to the October Edition of the Pipeline, the official newsletter of the Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

**President's Address**

Happy New 4-H Year! This is an exciting time as we as 4-H & Youth Development professionals begin another 4-H year with new kids, new volunteers, new ideas and new goals. One thing that I think is important to remember is that in everything we do, we are forming relationships. Whether it be with our co-workers, volunteers, 4-H kids or in our personal lives, strong relationships are essential for overall health and happiness. As new families join 4-H and you start to build relationships with them or continue to foster the ones you already have established, I hope you will take note of the following list. Here are 20 things we can start doing in our relationships:

1. Free yourself from negative people.
2. Let go of those who are already gone.
3. Give people you don't know a fair chance.
4. Show everyone kindness and respect.
5. Accept people just the way they are.
6. Encourage others and cheer for them.
7. Be your imperfectly perfect self.
8. Forgive people and move forward.
9. Do little things every day for others.
10. Always be loyal.
11. Stay in better touch with people who matter to you.
12. Keep your promises and tell the truth.
15. Allow others to make their own decisions.
16. Talk a little less, and listen more.
17. Leave petty arguments alone.
18. Pay attention to your relationship with yourself.
19. Pay attention to who your real friends are.
20. Ignore unconstructive, hurtful commentary.

Words of wisdom to leave you with, "One day, you will be just a memory for some people. Do your best to be a good one." I wish you success, and look forward to an awesome 4-H year. Please let me know if I can help or support you in any way.

Kim Miles
Extension Agent, Brown County
Family & Consumer Sciences
TAE4-HA President

TAE4-HA State Conference Awards

We had a great turn out of applications for TAE4-HA Awards this past spring and a few winners picking up awards at the Galaxy conference this fall! If you would like your application returned, please let Chrissy know and we will mail those to you.

2013 Award Recipient photos are available here: Click here to retrieve photos

2013 Winning Award Applications are available here:
Specialty Awards
Communicator Awards

In the spring of 2014 all award applications will be submitted electronically. We have not determined if we will still request a paper copy, this will be announced in December with the award application. From what we understand, award requirements will be the same so you can start now on filling out awards with last year's application.
If you have feedback to give our committee please let us know! We are looking for ways to improve what we are doing and we want to make sure as many folks get recognized as possible!

Chrissy Karrer
County Extension Agent - 4-H & Youth Development
Wise County
Membership & Recognition Committee

TAE4-HA and LAE4-HA Receive Bid to Host 2016 National Conference

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents has officially awarded the bid for the 2016 National Conference to the states of Texas and Louisiana.

Bayous and Byways, 4-H Navigating the Future will be the theme of the 2016 conference to be held October 9-12 in New Orleans, LA at the Hyatt Regency. During the formal presentation at the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburg, PA, the two states were applauded for their partnership in hosting the conference jointly, and proclaimed that our states model maybe the future for all NAE4-HA Conferences.
Drs. Steele and Boleman, represented Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service administration and pledged their support to the conference and the agents of TAE4-HA in helping host a premiere conference.

Currently some additional revisions are being made to committee structure based on additional information received during the bid process and presentation. The goal is to announce committee leadership by mid-November as well as providing detailed committee descriptions, so meeting planning can move forward.

Toby Lepley & Courtney Dodd

A Word from Dr. Boleman

How I Choose to SPIN It (with Chicken)

I have had some very good and thought provoking questions about SPIN Clubs over the past couple of weeks. The good thing is that for the most part, the questions have been all positive and the questions deal more with the logistics and how these clubs will function.

So, this is my best analogy as I have tried to think through it.

Like many folks, I visit the grocery store quite frequently. Sometimes it is on a Saturday to purchase food and necessities for the entire week. Of course, there are other times when I make a quick visit after 5 pm to pick up something for dinner because it is my scheduled night to cook.

On this early evening, I entered on a mission. I have one thing on my mind (other then the hope that there might be some good samples out ready for me to try). My one thought is what can I find that is quick, affordable, high quality, and nutritious? I grab my carrying basket (no need for a push basket), turn the corner and hit the jackpot! There it is!

You know it too. This product seems to be in every case in every grocery store these days. You guessed it, a ready to eat rotisserie chicken! I can get mesquite flavored, garlic flavored, or traditional (whatever that is). I selected garlic. It seemed to be the flavor most enticing to me.

I then quickly wondered through the meat section to see if there were any samples before turning left, heading up the frozen dinner section and on to checkout.

And that is when it hit me!

Chicken choices at the grocery store are kind of like 4-H clubs. There are plenty of options. Like me, someone can purchase a ready to go rotisserie
chicken or they can choose chicken nuggets, chicken potpies, a fresh thigh, frozen grilled chicken, or a big, whole frozen chicken. And yes, the list could go on and on.

All these chicken choices will provide nutrition, protein, various ways to season, choices on how to cook (grilled, roasted, and even fried), and can include different sides that can go with it. The point is that it is up to the customer and what they want.

And we need to remember that. Today's customers want choices. They want flexibility. They want convenience. Well, 4-H clubs need to look that way too. If youth (and families) want a year-long experience, we have it. If they want it project focused or community focused, we have that. If they want it through an after school program, yes, we have that too. And if they want a two month experience so they can move on to the next thing in their lives, well, they have that too.

Plus, who knows? Maybe if they have a GREAT two-month experience, they will ask about all the opportunities they could have with 4-H. In other words, if that rotisserie chicken is great, maybe they will come back to buy a frozen chicken, fresh chicken, or chicken in sushi. Okay...maybe sushi goes to far. ;-) The point is our job is to make sure that 4-H youth want to come back regardless of what type of chicken, or in this example, club experience they receive.

Just something to think about as we GO AND GROW IN 2013!

Oh, by the way, check the price on some of these chicken items too. You will notice the more convenient, the higher the price.

Now, if they will just put some beef in that ready to go section. How about some ribs?

Christopher T. Boleman, PhD
Assistant Director for 4-H and Youth Development

TAE4-HA Agent Spotlight

District 3- Kayla Neill
Title: CEA 4-H & Youth Development
County: Parker

Kayla Neill began her career as a County Extension Agent almost 6 years ago. She attended Texas A&M University to become a veterinarian. After the wonderful frustrations of chemistry, she decided to look into the Agricultural Education Department. She attended grad school and took a class with Dr. Boleman. It's no surprise that he sparked her passion for the Texas 4-H. Neill specializes in the Take a Stand Program and she is most proud of her Character Education Program where she partners with the Parker County Juvenile Program. Kayla loves her job because she loves to see the faces of smiling kids. Neill describes herself as a hobbyist,
compassionate and determined. If she won the lottery, the first purchase she would make would be a really awesome Reining horse. With Kayla's big heart and passion for helping youth, if she were an animal she would be a dolphin. If we were to open her refrigerator, we would find: grapes, cheese, veggies and beer.

District 2- Mandi Seaton  
Title: CEA- FCS  
County: Lamb

Mandi Seaton began her career with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 9 years ago when an agent retired in Bailey County. Someone asked her if she could think of a good person for the job and she said "ME!" Seaton specializes in Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles, Healthy Lifestyles, Youth Leadership and Diabetes Education. She is most proud of her Leaders of Littlefield and Friend to Friend programs. Mandi loves her job because she is able to work with people on real-life issues. If she won the lottery, she would take her whole family on a trip to Disney World. If we opened her refrigerator, Mandi says we would find a mess, mainly of garden produce. Mandi is a dedicated, compassionate and FUN County Extension Agent!

District 1- Shelby Campbell  
Title: CEA 4-H & Youth Development  
County: Dallam & Hartley

Shelby Campbell would describe herself as a gazelle; she began her intense career as a 4-H Agent 17 months ago. She always admired 4-H agents and when the position in her county opened, she was excited to apply. Campbell describes herself as humorous, spontaneous and responsible; these attributes have helped her build an extensive livestock program and a top notch Take a Stand program. She loves working with kids and helping them develop life skills. If she won the lottery, Shelby says the first thing she would do is pay off her loans! This dedicated 4-H Agent's fridge is full of gummy bears, water and yogurt.

4-H is Going to the Dogs

From the one stop-light town to the huge metropolis, kids have dogs. Big dogs, little dogs, ugly dogs, pretty dogs, smart dogs, friendly dogs, purebred dogs and mixed breed dogs, 4-H has a place for all kinds. The foundation of the 4-H dog project is basic obedience. We all know most dogs are a family member. Obedience is the stepping stone to the wide world of dogs. Depending on the
The Texas 4-H Dog Project is growing, with over 1,500 members in 169 counties in 2013. With over a million households in Texas that have children under 18 and own at least one dog, we have a huge potential to increase 4-H membership and reach children we would never have access to otherwise. The dog project has the potential to be the largest project in Texas with just a little help from the County Extension Agent.

This year we have been given the perfect avenue to deliver the dog project. The SPIN club seems tailor made for the dog project. Beginner Obedience is a 6 week course perfect for the Special Interest 4-H Club. Run it at a county level. Find an instructor in the yellow pages or local Kennel Club. Put flyers in vet clinics, feed stores and animal shelters and watch your membership grow. Montgomery County dog project went from 8 at the first obedience training to 56 members in just 2 years.

Michelle Mihalek, County Extension Agent - 4-H and Youth Development, Montgomery County will be glad to answer any questions and provide whatever support possible.

(936) 539 - 7823 mmmihalek@ag.tamu.edu

Taylor County's (TCBY) Leadership Program

Taylor County's Best Youth (TCBY) Leadership Program is conducted every other year and is designed to develop community knowledge and leadership skills in students participating. Monthly sessions focus on different aspects of leadership and the challenges associated. The program consists of fun, hands-on, educational opportunities that help participants grow into future leaders of Taylor County.

Beginning in May, a guest speaker presents a program on Defining Leadership. In June the subject is Team Building. The group participates in the high and low ROPES Course at the Texas 4-H Conference Center. July is devoted to Media and members tour a local radio station, newspaper and television stations. They learn the behind-the-scenes preparation for each of these sources of news. State Government is the focus of our August meeting and includes an overnight trip to the State Capitol in Austin. The group gets a special tour of the state capitol, has a photo taken on the floor of the House of Representatives, meets with Governor Rick Perry, tours the Texas State Cemetery, the Texas History Museum and treated to watching the bats fly from under the Congress Street Bridge. Also, during August the group attends a Taylor County Commissioners Court meeting to help prepare them for the next
meeting, County Government. Then in September, the Taylor County Judge presents a program on County Government. October's meeting is on Banquet Etiquette. A guest speaker has a hands-on activity to help the youth learn how to handle themselves at banquets, from manners to silverware placement. November is graduation, participants are treated to a served banquet meal with guest speaker Representative Susan King.

**Third Annual Texas Military 4-H Fishing Camp**

On Tuesday, July 30th Texas Military 4-H hosted the 3rd annual fishing camp in Round Rock, Texas. There was excitement in the air as 79 military youth from the National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Army, and Air Force came to the camp for an exciting day of educational programs and fishing. With the help of 54 outstanding volunteers from organizations such as: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Austin White Lime, Robertson Cattle Company, 4-H, Master Naturalist, Soldiers Kids Involved in Having Fun, Boy Scouts, City of Round Rock, University of Texas at Austin, Military Family Life Counselor, Living Waters, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. The day would not have been possible without the generous support and donation from HEB, Austin White Lime, The Robertson Cattle Company, and Living Waters Fly Fishing.

The day started with kids going through a series of rotations and programs led by volunteers. The kids had the opportunity to construct their very own fishing pole, learn casting techniques, knot tying, learn about different species of fish, and importance of conserving our environment. After the rotations, everyone was treated to hamburger and hot dogs prepared by a host of volunteers. At lunch it was very rewarding to hear all the kids and volunteers interact with each other, sharing stories and experiences with each other.

Following lunch the kids went fishing on a 20 acre lake that was stocked with catfish and bass. The excitement filled the air each time a fish was caught. The experienced volunteers would be there to help the kids as they unhooked their catch, even encouraging them to kiss their very first catch as many of the veteran fishermen do. The Round Rock 4-H Club sponsored a few of the day's contests: biggest fish caught, smallest fish caught, and most fish caught. However, no one left empty handed. Each child left that day with their very own fishing pole and all the tools necessary to continue their fishing fun.

**4-H Citizenship Washington Focus**

*OJJDP and the National 4-H Council gave four Military Youth from*
Fort Hood, Texas the experience of a lifetime!

Four youth, from Fort Hood, Texas, got the week of a lifetime as they were given the opportunity to participate in 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus. The youth were able to participate in the 4-H National Mentoring Capstone through funds provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National 4-H Council. The four youth participated in the National Mentoring Program - Tech Wizards at the Fort Hood Army Installation. The program is funded by OJJDP and provides at-risk and underserved youth to work with a mentor in coordination with 4-H STEM related programs. Throughout the week at CWF, the youth were able to participate in workshops on mentoring, meet professionals and government employees who have benefited from positive mentoring relationships, as well as tour the beautiful city of Washington D.C.

During the week, the four youth had the opportunity to participate in various workshops on topics such as congressional issues, bill writing, action planning, as well as peer mentoring. The youth also had the opportunity to participate in committees throughout the week. The week was jam packed with history, government issues, and fun! One of the most rewarding experiences of the week was seeing the youth grow as individuals and American citizens throughout the week. The youth were able to open up and see new things they had never seen before. They made new friends and took on leadership roles they had never taken before.

2014 TAE4-HA Membership Drive

It's time to start thinking about your TAE4-HA membership for the 2014 year. Texas of course has the largest association in the country, and it's because of you! Encourage your co-workers and new agents to join TAE4-HA. Great news - the dues will remain the same for 2014. Active Membership (renewal) is $90 and New Membership is $45.00. Please keep in mind that your District Association may also have District dues that roll into your total dues payment (usually $10.00, making your annual membership $100). Please verify this with your District Membership Chair. Please have your membership forms and payment to your District Membership Chair by December 1st. The membership forms will be e-mailed out in October.
"NEW step for 2014 Membership" In addition to your regular Membership form and check for your dues, there is one new and important part of the process to complete your association membership. Members will complete a quick Online Membership Form (found under Membership at www.nae4ha.com). Once you have completed this step, please let Caroline Cruz know that you have updated your NAE4-HA membership information or created a new member profile. Once you have completed this part of the process, you will be an official member of TAE4-HA and NAE4-HA!

Caroline Cruz
TAE4-HA Vice President

Charlene Belew Elected NAE4-HA Southern Region Junior Director

Mrs. Charlene Belew was elected as NAE4-HA Southern Region Junior Director at the Galaxy Conference held in Pittsburgh on September 16-20. Congratulations to Charlene as she assumes this leadership role. Charlene has been a TAE4-HA member for 12 years. She has served as secretary, president-elect, president and is currently serving as past president for the association. Charlene will do a great job representing our association and thanks to those who submitted their online vote.

Newly Elected TAE4-HA Officers

At the TAE4-HA State Conference three wonderful candidates were elected into leadership.

Phyllis Griffin, Cooke County 4-H Agent was elected President-Elect. Phyllis has served as CEA 4-H&YD in Cooke County for 12 years. She has served as D4 TAE4-HA Director and currently serves as Treasurer. Phyllis is also a member of the TX/LA Planning Committee for the NAE4-HA 2016 Conference.

Caroline Cruz, Montgomery County Urban Youth Development Agent was elected Vice-President. Caroline has served as CEA-UYD in Montgomery County for six years. She has been a TAE4-HA member for five years and recently completed service as the D9 TAE4-HA Director.
Maranda Revell, Wichita County 4-H & Youth Development Agent was elected Treasurer. Maranda has served as CEA 4-H&YD in Wichita County for five years. Maranda has been a TAE4-HA member for five years and served as President for D3 TAE4-HA in 2010-2011.

How to Effectively Use Doodle

Doodle is a great resource to use when you need it all in one place or you are a visual person that needs to see a graph of what everyone has chosen. It also allows others to see those choices or you can make it anonymous where no one can see it! Doodle also allows you to limit the number of responses for each choice or limit the person to as little as 1 choice. It is also available on your phones as an app (may cost depending on your phone but worth the cost). Doodle is a fantastic way to poll 4-H families about selecting different dates for activities or even make a choice about something. Hope this will be helpful for you!

Scheduling Events: Do you always have families email you dates of when they can come and meet, then you lose the email or do not get it? Doodle is fabulous for this because you can put all the responses in one place and keep track of the answers.

Step 1: Fill out the Title of the Event, Location (not required), Description (not required), Your name and email, then click next.
Step 2-Part A: Pick the dates that you want them to choose!

Step 2-Part B: Pick the times (not required if you just need to pick days to choose from)
Step 3: Settings: Pick from the additional settings if need be, if not just click next in the basic poll. If you want to guide their answers such as anonymous, only one choice, or limit number of choices you would check the boxes. On the limit of choices, if clicked, it will give you a choice of how many choices to limit them on.

Step 4: Invite others to see your doodle. This is where you send out the link. I HIGHLY recommend you send the invite yourself. See below for this option. This allows you to copy the link in your email and send it to your people how you want to send it out.
Make a Choice: Need to have 4-H members make a choice or pick a size for the County Council t-shirts, this is a great place to poll those members in one place.

Here are some examples on what you can use "Make a Choice" for:

- T-shirt sizes
- Sign up for responsibilities/items to bring for event
- Pick a time for award interviews
- Booths for Open Houses
- Yes or No option
- Voting

This is much like above but you can make choices!
Step 1, 3, and 4: Same as above
Step 2: Options- This is where you can choose whatever you want to put in the boxes for them to choose from.

Micah Holcombe
CEA 4-H>Youth Development, Bell County
Do you have information to share with the members of the Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents? If so, please submit to Jackie Cole at jdcole@ag.tamu.edu

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