DURING THE PAST YEAR as I prepared a presentation for 4-H agents in Georgia, I looked for a picture of Floyd Yelton, my county Extension agent. I found plenty of pictures of me at camp, me presenting my 4-H demonstration, me participating in judging events, and me showing hogs. But I could not find a photograph of Mr. Yelton. I so wanted my audience to know what great value I placed on this man for the positive influence he had on my life. As I looked through the images of my 4-H career, I came to realize that Mr. Yelton was on the other side of the camera. He was there helping me, encouraging me, and supporting me as I tried to accomplish my 4-H goals. It reminded me that we need to take time to thank the 4-H professionals in our communities—whether they are volunteers or are paid—who are helping young people achieve their goals.

The success of 4-H is found at the local level in county Extension offices in Georgia. We are fortunate to have strong public and private support for 4-H, and we also have the best-trained paid and volunteer staff members who provide educational programs, encouragement, and support to 4-H members in their endeavors to develop life skills that enable them to become productive citizens.

The core programs offered by Georgia 4-H are in school club meetings, Project Achievement, summer camp, and State 4-H Council. The foundation of a successful in-school meeting is the curriculum that is used by...
Extension staff members in that meeting. In this issue of the Georgia Cloverleaf, we have featured Georgia 4-H Friends publications that are used in school meetings. All of our curricula, as well as all other 4-H program offerings, correlate to the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards.

Also in this issue, we highlight the work of the 4-H military programs and showcase the work of several local 4-H programs. I invite you to take a close look at the friends of 4-H, such as Regena Whitaker, who have supported us through the years. Mrs. Whitaker was a master 4-H member who spent most of her life volunteering and developing Fortson 4-H Center.

We are appreciative of Governor Nathan Deal and the State of Georgia for supporting the continued improvements at our facilities. This support insures that our 4-H centers will continue to be the centerpiece of our success. During the Georgia 4-H Gala, Georgia First Lady Sandra Deal served as honorary chair as we raised more than $250,000 in support of our summer camping program. The Georgia 4-H Gala was the backdrop to honor Associate State 4-H Leader Emeritus Harold Darden with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the development of the summer camping program at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

The Georgia Cloverleaf also pays recognition to those 4-H professionals who have excelled during their career. It takes many people to keep Georgia 4-H living up to the 4-H Motto “To Make the Best Better.” We have the “best” support from our public funders at the state and local levels, from our private donors, and from our exceptional staff of Extension professionals and volunteers—including retired State 4-H Leader Dr. Roger C. “Bo” Ryles who became the 14th Georgian to be inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame—who are committed to making Georgia 4-H even “better.”

I am glad Mr. Yelton was there taking the pictures and supporting me in my 4-H career. We hope that you continue to support your local paid 4-H staff and the many 4-H volunteers and parents who help young people achieve their goals and develop life skills through Georgia 4-H.

Arch D. Smith
— Arch D. Smith, State 4-H Leader/Director of 4-H
From the State 4-H Leader/Director of 4-H .......................................................... 2
Governor Nathan Deal Receives the Green Jacket Award ................................. 5
Georgia 4-H Enrollment—171,693 ................................................................ 6
Harold Darden Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award .......................... 8
4-H Does That? You Can Do That In 4-H? ..................................................... 10
Andrews Family Foundation Cabin ................................................................ 13
Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test ............................... 14
Fortson 4-H Center, the Legacy of Regena Whitaker ................................. 17
Bullying/Cyber Bullying Prevention ............................................................... 18
Ryles Named to National 4-H Hall of Fame ................................................ 20
2014 Ryle Rising Star Award Presented to Fortson 4-H Center Director Allen Nasworthy ................................................................. 21
Helicopters, Humvees, Hoo-ahs & Heroes ..................................................... 22
Georgia 4-H Friends Curricula Series: Fostering Partnerships, Fulfilling Curricula Needs, and Furthering our Work with Georgia Schools .......... 26
Weekend in the Classic City .......................................................................... 28
Georgia 4-H: Growing Tomorrow's Leaders Exhibit .................................... 29
Clovers and Company Alumni Celebrate 32 Years ....................................... 30
2013 State 4-H Board of Directors ............................................................... 33
2013 District 4-H Senior Boards of Directors ............................................... 34
2013 4-H State Winners ................................................................................ 35
2013 Georgia 4-H Achievement Scholarship Winners .................................. 38
2013 Georgia 4-H Organizations ................................................................. 39
4-H Foundation Report ............................................................................... 40
Georgia 4-H Foundation Financial Statement ............................................ 41
Georgia 4-H Foundation Donors: Individuals ............................................ 42
Georgia 4-H Foundation Donors: Companies & Organizations ................. 46
Check into Reality ..................................................................................... 48

Georgia 4-H, as a unit of University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Extension is education and positive youth development. The focus areas of 4-H are Science, Engineering and Technology, Healthy Living, and Citizenship. The work we do in and with schools enhances the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. Research validates that youth in 4-H succeed, they stay in school and they become contributing citizens and leaders in our state. After 110 years, Georgia 4-H is still living up to the motto “To Make the Best Better”.

The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished, through “hands on” learning experiences, focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship.
Governor Nathan Deal is the recipient of the 2013 Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award. Governor Deal was born in Millen, Georgia and joined Washington County 4-H where he competed in 4-H livestock shows. His 4-H career continued when he and First Lady Sandra Deal served as 4-H parents and volunteers in Hall County 4-H.

Governor Deal’s political career includes service as a judge, a senator, and U.S. Congressman where he chaired the Health Subcommittee for Energy and Commerce. In 2011, Deal took the oath of governor and serves as Georgia’s 82nd governor.

We honor Governor Deal for his support of education, agriculture, and young people. During his term as governor, the State of Georgia has appropriated $12.5 million for the construction of new cottages at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, and this year, because of the governor’s leadership, $12 million was made available for the construction of new facilities for the Jekyll Island Youth Center, which we know as the Jekyll Island 4-H Center.

The Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award is sponsored by Georgia EMC and presented on behalf of Georgia 4-H to public officials who have made outstanding contributions to 4-H. Past recipients include Chancellor Hank Huckaby, Governor Sonny Purdue, Representative David Ralston, Randy Nuckolls, and Commissioner Mike Beatty. – Jenny Jordan

2013 District and State Officers honor Governor Deal with the Green Jacket Award.

State 4-H Officer, Kirsten Morris, and State 4-H Leader, Arch Smith congratulate Governor Deal on his award.
Georgia Cloverleaf 18 USC 707

4-H Annual Report 2013

Members reflect enrollment from August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013.

**GEORGIA 4-H ENROLLMENT—171,693**

*Members reflect enrollment from August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013.*
Participants:
- 4-H Center Users: 110,655
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Program: 4,037
- Environmental Education: 44,548
- Home Schooled: 1,568
- Military Dependent: 7,634
- Residential Summer Camp: 8,763

4-H Club Meetings – 4,942
- 4-H club meetings:
  - held during school instruction periods: 81%
  - held at school facility: 90%
  - held after 5 p.m. or on weekends: 10%

4-H members received instruction from county Extension 4-H staff during in school club meetings or other 4-H educational programs in the following areas:
- Citizenship: 46,183
- Financial Literacy: 11,462
- Healthy Living: 61,701
- Language Arts: 84,092
- Project Achievement: 73,915
- Agricultural Science: 53,621
- SET (Science, Engineering & Technology): 79,684

4-H members participated in programs and projects outside of school club meetings. 4-H members participating in these programs and projects as follows:
- Citizenship: 30,234
- Healthy Living: 32,406
- Project Achievement: 28,348
- Agricultural Science: 21,899
- SET (Science, Engineering & Technology): 37,696

Residence:
- Rural Non-Farm: 45%
- Towns & Small Cities: 26%
- Urban/Suburban: 18%
- Farm: 3%
- Central City: 8%

Diversity:
- White: 57%
- Black: 28%
- Asian: 2%
- American Indian: 1%
- Pacific Island: .24%
- Unknown: 12%
Harold Darden has never met a stranger, and he never forgets a name. Harold makes everyone he meets feel important; at the 2013 Georgia 4-H Gala in Atlanta, Mr. Harold said receiving the 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award made him feel that he had finally “become somebody.” Harold Darden became somebody many years ago when he took a job with Georgia 4-H. The Lifetime Achievement Award perfectly describes Mr. Darden’s life as his is a lifetime of making Georgia 4-H better.

Harold Darden used 4-H as the vehicle to influence thousands of Georgia youth. His legacy of giving continues through his endowment of scholarships that are awarded each year to two deserving college students.

Harold’s journey began in 1947 when, shortly after graduation from Auburn University, he became assistant county agent in DeKalb County. “Walter Brown was director of Extension at the time, and Luke Watson was director for northwest Georgia, and they saw fit to hire me. DeKalb County was still pretty much cotton country, and where all the expressways are now, me and the county agent ran terrace lines. We saw it change from cotton to livestock.”

As DeKalb County grew, so did their 4-H program. During his seven years in DeKalb County, Mr. Darden saw...
the 4-H program grow from about 300 members to 3,000 members.

He later became county Extension agent in Carroll County before joining the Georgia 4-H state staff in 1956. State 4-H Club Leader Bill Sutton shared with Harold his dream to build Rock Eagle as a camp to accommodate 4-H summer campers. Thus, Harold Darden and Martha Harrison began working together to develop the camping program—one that is still going strong today. “Martha Harrison and I started working on ideas for camping at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, and we developed a program and hired college students with 4-H experience,” he said. Not only did he and Miss Harrison develop a selection process and training program for the 4-H alumni who served as counselors, Harold Darden became known as the first chief of the Rock Eagle nation.

In addition to the development of the Georgia 4-H camping program, Darden established a communications camp (which later became District 4-H Leadership Camp), the citizenship ceremony at State Council, the Community Pride Program, and assisted in the creation of the Southern 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum. He was awarded honorary master 4-H’er and honorary counselor.

After earning his master’s degree from the University of Georgia, Darden was offered the titles of associate professor and associate state 4-H leader, positions he held until he retired in 1975, having worked 28 years for the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. Upon his retirement, Mr. Darden became associate state 4-H leader emeritus.

On August 10, 2013, Georgia First Lady Sandra Deal served as honorary chair for the Georgia 4-H Gala. Governor Nathan Deal and University of Georgia President Jere Morehead joined Mrs. Deal as Georgia 4-H honored Harold Darden by presenting him with the Lifetime Achievement Award. It was an especially fitting tribute since all of the funds raised at the gala were used to benefit the Georgia 4-H camping program. A record was set that evening as more than $250,000 was raised in support of the camping program—a program that grew from a dream to a premiere camping program that annually draws about 10,000 young people to one of Georgia’s five 4-H centers.

What a treat it was to listen to the soft-spoken gentleman regale the large audience of 4-H supporters with remembrances about his life with Georgia 4-H. Harold Darden’s acceptance speech was humble, yet inspirational, “4-H gave me the opportunity to touch the lives of thousands of young people and, in return, they touched my soul.” –Andrea Burruss

GEORGIA’S FIRST LADY Sandra Deal, honorary chair of the 2013 Georgia 4-H Gala, and Governor Nathan Deal welcomed more than 420 guests on August 10, 2013 for a benefit gala to support 4-H. The gala was held at the Loews Atlanta Hotel. The gala raised more than $250,000 to support the Georgia 4-H camping program where about 10,000 young people participated at one of the Georgia 4-H centers last summer.

Georgia’s five summer camping programs provide youth with experiences in understanding and navigating group dynamics, self-discovery, relationship building, practicing healthy personal habits, and appreciation of the environment. Two of the four 4-H essential elements—Independence and Belonging—are interwoven in the program design for summer camp.

Chair and co-chair of the 4-H Gala were 4-H alumni Brandie Park and Tino Johnson. University of Georgia President Jere Morehead greeted the crowd and commented on the strength of the 4-H program in Georgia and its strong connection to the university. The 4-H Environmental Education Program was also spotlighted as it was preparing to reach its one millionth participant in October.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of Harold Darden as the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. In his response, Mr. Darden captivated the crowd with stories and humor as he reflected on his 4-H career.

At the conclusion of the gala many 4-H alumni and supporters enjoyed entertainment provided by Yacht Rock Revue. The evening was filled with many positive remarks. It reunited and reinvigorated 4-H alumni from years past, and introduced many new supporters to the program.

Georgia 4-H is fortunate to have the support of so many who see the value of 4-H and the positive difference that it is making in the lives of young people. The 2015 Gala will be on August 8, 2015.
I enjoy being able to learn about new things through the different clubs and workshops of 4-H. I have discovered my ability to lead no matter the circumstances. The project that I have enjoyed most is the Beekeeping Club. I started the club in my county because of my interest in Beekeeping. The club allowed me to share the importance of bees. Beekeeping is not only a great hobby but also an essential part of our ecosystem.

—Joseph Suarez
4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Things have changed dramatically since the days of film, light meters, and dark rooms. With advances in technology, almost everyone has access to a camera that can take a decent photograph. A new, online submission system eliminates the cost of participating in this popular 4-H event. This year, more than 150 youth and adults submitted 400+ photos in: General Photography, Focus on 4-H Youth, Focus on 4-H Adults, Focus on Agriculture, and the new Focus on Service category. Winning photos are displayed around the state. Prize money is provided by the Georgia National Fair and the National Environmentally Sound Production Agriculture Laboratory (NESPAL) University of Georgia Tifton campus.

4-H PUMPKIN AND WATERMELON GROWING CONTESTS

A 342-pound dairy heifer won’t win many ribbons, but a 342-pound pumpkin won White County 4-H’er Trey Thomas first prize in the 4-H Pumpkin Growing Contest. While most people are familiar with 4-H livestock events, fewer people know about programs recognizing youth efforts in plant-based agriculture. Sponsored by the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Grower’s Association, the 4-H Watermelon and Pumpkin Growing contests encourage youth with an interest in gardening to get their hands dirty. Lauren Wheeler, Laurens County 4-H’er, won first prize in last year’s Watermelon Growing Contest with her 121-pound fruit.

4-H ROBOTICS PROGRAM

One of the greatest strengths of the 4-H program is its ability to grow and adapt to meet the interests of today’s youth. The Georgia 4-H Robotics Program started in 2011 with a $50,000 grant from the J.C. Penny

“I never thought of myself as a serious photographer, but since winning this contest I’ve entered others and even won first prize in the 2013 Georgia 4-H State Horse Show Photo Contest.

—Aspen Dibbins
Corporation. These funds helped county 4-H programs purchase kits and curricula for use in club meetings and for a national network of robotics competitions. Since then, more than 30 counties have started robotics programs that are open to youth from elementary school to high school. In 2013, the Morgan County 4-H Robotics Team made it to the finals of the Peachtree Regional Competition. They designed, built, and programmed a robot which moved around, threw Frisbees®, and climbed a ladder.

Steve Walker, 4-H staff member and parent of a team member, stated that the process was a great collaborative effort. “Team members learn how to manage a project and get things done. They also learn how to cooperate with both their own team members and other teams at the completion. This is all in addition to the hands-on technical learning required for the design and construction of the robot.”

**ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**ENVIROTHON**

4-H Youth who are interested in ecology and the environment can participate in the Georgia Envirothon. This fun and competitive outdoor experience is a collaborative effort by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Forestry Commission, the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and others. It’s a great way for high school youth to participate in hands-on, science-based training in natural resources and ecology. Several county 4-H teams participate in this annual event. In 2013, the Coweta County 4-H team placed first in the Western Region.

**4-H FOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CONTEST**

In collaboration with the Department of Food Science & Technology, 4-H offers youth the opportunity to get creative in the kitchen and also to apply their communication skills. Teams have to dream up a new food product, develop a recipe, prepare samples, and present a marketing strategy. Past products have included Frui-Gurt, Candy Bar Cake, MegaBites, Sweet Georgia Nuttins, Stuff Ems, Tacones, Stuffin’ Muffins, Go Go Java Joe, Prezis, and Italian Bubbles Almond Soda.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE**

January is a busy time for 4-H’ers and the adults who work with them as there’s always a mad dash to complete 4-H Project Achievement Portfolios. Nevertheless, Georgia 4-H recognizes this national day of service with the 4-H Dream Big, Dream Great Essay Contest and the 4-H Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK Jr.) Day of Service Food Drive. In addition, counties are encouraged to coordinate or participate in other related service events.

While we don’t know what activities 4-H’ers will participate in 50 years from now, we do know that they’ll be based on sound research on positive youth development. The activities and content may change, but the Essential Elements of 4-H—Mastery, Belonging, Generosity, and Independence—will continue to be the foundation of all 4-H programs.

—Jeff Buckley
During 4-H Junior Conference this fall, a number of 4-H youth, agents and leaders, and supporters gathered for the dedication of the Andrews Family foundation cabin. Andrews Family Foundation Trustees Mike Bunn and Mike Wright were instrumental in the funding of the cabin at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

During the dedication ceremony, both trustees shared stories of the Andrews family, why the foundation was started, and stories of how they know the Andrews family would have been proud to have seen the cabin built at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. As is true for many alumni, both Bunn and Wright commented that it was the first time in a number of years that they had returned to Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Bunn noted that he was pleased to see the changes that had taken place to accommodate the needs of the youth from the addition of the Georgia EMC Building and Senior Pavillion to the dining hall and rebuilding of the original cabins. Bunn and Wright shared how they feel projects of this scale are important to support as they provide future opportunities for youth to learn and grow in a positive environment.

The cabin outlay plan is over 60 percent funded through a combination of state and private funds from alumni and supporters. Georgia 4-H is fortunate to have many supporters who have helped make the vision of new cabins at Rock Eagle 4-H Center a reality. —Mary Ann Parsons
Test anxiety is one of the most common forms of stress faced by young people. The Georgia Department of Education uses a Criterion Referenced Test to measure annual academic gains for students in third through eighth grade. This yearly measurement has high value and emphasis from school faculty and administrators during much of the academic year. To equip students to respond appropriately to the expectations for excelling on the tests, Georgia 4-H partnered with the National Health Rocks curriculum team to develop, design, and produce Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test.

Georgia 4-H and the school systems of Georgia have been partners in education for 109 years. University of Georgia Extension agents and staff deliver more than 76% of their club meetings during instructional time in Georgia’s schools. With our long-standing partnership and collaborative work, University of Georgia Extension state and county faculty recognize the emphasis placed on high-stakes testing both at the federal and state level and the need to equip students to respond positively to the expectations to perform at optimum levels. Often these expectations create “stress” for youth and can lead to anxiety and/or can manifest in health problems for young people.

In January 2012, Georgia 4-H took action and used the strength of the National 4-H program Health Rocks—a curriculum designed to teach decision-making and reduction of risky behaviors—and capitalized on the stress portions of this curriculum. Combining the strengths of this national efficacy-based program and resources garnered by state 4-H specialists, a pilot program called Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test was developed. This program offers key messages, training, stress reducing experiential learning, and an eight-page magazine designed for youth.

Georgia 4-H has had tremendous success as 4-H’ers learn how to juggle their stress. 

“I know how to reduce my stress more.”

“Eat healthy to reduce your stress!”

“Daydreaming and listening to music are two strategies I can use to reduce stress.”

“Talk about it and drugs don’t help reduce stress.”

“Tobacco and drugs don’t help reduce stress.”

“I think it was a great program for kids my age about stress.”

4-H’ers learn how to juggle their stress.
Health Rocks participants learn how breathing is affected by smoking.

Impact through program delivery of Health Rocks! This evidence-based impact yielded funding of $10,000 for implementation of Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test. This new innovative program gave high-dosage and high-impact programming prior to the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test with the “expected” outcomes of reducing test anxiety and equipping youth and parents to learn test-taking preparations and strategies.

Program design was led by Cheryl Varnadoe and Mandy B. Marable with graphic design work by Sam Pittard of University Printing. County Extension faculty who contributed to the “pilot” of this program included Jeremy Cheney, Douglas County; Lee Anna Deal, Bulloch County; Kandi Edwards, Whitfield County; Greg Hickey, McIntosh County; Terri Kimble, Newton County; Zona Medley, Colquitt County; Dinah Rowe, Heard County; Susan

**Rockdale 4-H Member Awarded for Service to Community**

**Rockdale County 4-H member, Tiffani Alexander,** is one of the recipients of the 2013 WXIA Channel 11 TV Kids Who Care Award. This honor is given to students who have unselfishly made many contributions and dedicate themselves to making their community a better place. Tiffani has numerous hours of volunteer work through Rockdale 4-H but has also taken on a mentoring role with Prevent Child Abuse Rockdale. Tiffani uses her 4-H project area and love for entomology to teach younger children the differences among people and how to deal with stress.

A documentary showcasing Tiffani’s great work will be aired in the coming months on Channel 11. Rockdale 4-H is proud to have wonderful young people like Tiffani as part of its program.

(L to R) 11Alive Reporter Donna Lowry, 4-H’er Tiffani Alexander and Rockdale County 4-H Agent Brittany Johnson
In January of 2012, Georgia 4-H took action and utilized the strength of the national 4-H program, Health Rocks, a curriculum designed to teach decision-making and reduction of risky behaviors, and capitalized on the stress portions of this curriculum. Combining the strengths of this national efficacy-based program and resources garnered by state 4-H specialists, a pilot program was developed. This Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test program offered key messages, training, stress-reducing experiential learning and an eight-page magazine designed for youth.

County Extension agents and staff secured pilot sites, adhered to implementation guidelines for the curricula packet, implemented the experiential learning, and collected pilot data.

A total of 1,135 youth participated in the Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test pilot program. Rural and urban counties were reached in this pilot. More than 50,000 copies of the Friends: Less Stress on the Test publication were ordered for use in Georgia schools; more than 10,000 were completed for the required ten hours of instruction. The additional 40,000 copies were used in classrooms for five hours of stress-reduction instruction. In Georgia, a total of 18,416 youth completed at least ten hours of training in Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test!

Teachers, students, and county faculty members participating in the delivery of this program gave the following testimonials about the Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test curriculum:

- I know how to reduce my stress more.
- I didn’t know how stress could affect your body.
- I learned about how doing things I like to do and being prepared reduces stress.
- Eat healthy to reduce your stress!
- Daydreaming and listening to music are two strategies I can use to reduce stress.
- Tobacco and drugs don’t help reduce stress.
- I think it was a great program for kids my age about stress.

The curriculum has been expanded to feature a take-home component to allow additional youth to complete ten hours of instruction. More on-line stress-reduction lessons have been tested with agent audiences for inclusion in the online teacher and agent educational packets.

Working together, Georgia 4-H and Georgia schools truly can achieve Less Stress on the Test!

—Mandy Marable, Cheryl Varnadoe

State 4-H Extension specialists Cheryl R. Varnadoe and Mandy B. Marable led the design work for the Friends: Less Stress on the Test curriculum package. The following counties and individuals filled the implementation county role:

Jeremy Cheney, Douglas County
Lee Anna Deal, Bulloch County
Kandi Edwards, Whitfield County
Greg Hickey, McIntosh County
Terri Kimble, Newton County
Zona Medley, Colquitt County
Dinah Rowe, Heard County
Susan Yearwood, Stephens County
Cheryl Poppell, Toombs County

Other contributors were:
Laura Waters, Fund Development
Jenna B. Daniel, Editor
Marilyn Poole, Program Implementation Coordinator

Sonya Fears, Friends Distribution Manager
Max Harrell, UGA Print Manager
Sam Pittard, UGA Graphic Designer

Georgia 4-H and Health Rocks—Less Stress on the Test impacted 7,135 youth.
Before it was Fortson 4-H Center, it was “Camp Fortson.” Fortson has a rich history of serving youth and providing a safe environment for outdoor education and recreation. Several people, especially Mrs. Regena Whitaker, lie at the heart of the success of this great facility.

Mrs. Regena was born March 22, 1922, in Henry County. She was an active 4-H'er in her grade-school days as well as an active volunteer and donor in her adult years. She believed in the four characteristics of the 4-H emblem: HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH. Her own children and the children who would come to Fortson were challenged to live the “4-H way.”

Mrs. Regena met Robert Whitaker in 1939. After their marriage, they pursued their passion for positive youth development in the great outdoors. In 1960, the Whitakers offered a program that would serve as the pre-cursor to the community summer camping program at Fortson. It began for local children, quite literally, in the Whitaker’s backyard. They were concerned that some children could not afford other residential camping experiences, so they created a slightly different opportunity. No more than 25 children would come to the Whitaker home, toting a pillow, blanket, and dishware. Under the leadership of Mrs. Regena and Mr. Robert, the youth would participate in activities, take their meals provided by the Whitakers, and sleep overnight at their home. The Whitakers were creative in their abilities to supervise the youth, as they divided the living room in half. The girls slept on one side of the living room while the other side served as the main gathering place for camp activities. The boys slept on porches. Several children returned for multiple camping experiences. It was evident that the Whitakers were fulfilling a local need.

That need was recognized in 1962 when Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fortson donated 77 acres of their farmland for the development of a bigger camp that could serve more youth. Camp Fortson was born. Work began almost immediately, and the summer camp was moved to the new land. That first year, youth and adult leaders camped in the woods. They used tarps to cover their make-shift kitchen and slept in tents and campers. Mrs. Regena had the vision to see that the first building on-site should be a dining hall. The youth contributed to her vision and to the development of the actual camping facilities, as they dug the footing for the dining hall that first summer.

In 1963 a group of founders, now known as the Fortson Board of Directors, came together to help manage Fortson and to help grow the facility. And, grow it did! After the first building was established, fundraising began, and additional buildings were added including dorms, pavilions, and a chapel. One group in particular, the “Kitchen Kuties,” played a significant role in fundraising. The “Kitchen Kuties” were a band, comprised solely of women. They traveled and played shows to raise money—more than $500,000—in support of Camp Fortson. Mrs. Regena had an active role in the band, playing the washtub!

In 2004, Camp Fortson was leased to the University of Georgia and became Fortson 4-H Center. It continues to be operated by UGA’s 4-H program. This 4-H center, one of Georgia’s five 4-H centers, now serves approximately 6,000 people annually through 4-H Environmental Education programs, 4-H summer camp, conferences, and other meetings. An active Fortson Board of Directors meets quarterly at the center to provide support to the facility that has had a positive impact on so many.

The current and future successes of Fortson 4-H Center are all made possible by the legacy of Mrs. Regena Whitaker and the others who worked tirelessly to establish and promote the facility. She was involved from the very beginning and maintained her involvement at Fortson until her death in 2012. Her passion, dedication, and enthusiasm for positive experiences for youth live on and will continue to impact the great work at Fortson 4-H Center.

—Melanie Biersmith, Allen Nasworthy
WHAT EXACTLY IS BULLYING?

Bullying behavior is a series of unwanted, aggressive behaviors that include an imbalance of power. Bullying is not the same as conflict; conflict is struggle or disagreement and is a natural part of youth development.

WHAT DOES BULLYING LOOK LIKE?

Unlike conflict, bullying behaviors include an imbalance of power between at least two people and repeated, unwelcome, or negative behaviors. Conflict is a natural element of human behavior. Children regularly experience disagreements with their friends and tease each other in fun. Conflict, play-fighting, and everyday disagreements are not bullying behaviors.

Across the country, bullying and its consequences are becoming a topics of interest and action. More is known about bullying prevention than ever before. There are effective programs, training, and resources available to help create and maintain inclusive, supportive environments.

- Parents are teaching children about bullying prevention and talking with them about the consequences of bullying
- Youth development professionals are creating bullying prevention programs
- Schools, both public and private, are implementing bullying policies and procedures
- State and federal government organizations are passing laws and creating resources to address the issue of bullying

Still, there is work to be done. Each day, thousands of youth experience bullying, and the time is right for youth-serving organizations such as Georgia 4-H to take a stand and work to stop bullying.

Georgia 4-H, 4-H agents, program assistants, and 4-H’ers themselves are working to prevent bullying and cyber bullying. Extension 4-H Specialist Cheryl Varnadoe has been working on this issue for the past

Anna Holcombe, Hart County, represented 4-H at the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Conference.
several years and recently served as a co-writer of the National 4-H Guide to Bullying Prevention programs. In addition, she presents programs and advises 4-H personnel on curriculum and programming in this area. She has advised numerous counties on bullying and cyber bullying prevention curricula that are used in the classroom to fill the needs of communities, school systems, and the youth they serve.

Georgia 4-H’ers are answering the call as well. Anna Holcombe from Hart County and Oakley Perry from Jeff Davis County serve as members of the National No Bull Challenge Youth Advisory Committee. Holcombe also represented National 4-H at the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Conference in Washington D.C., and spoke on her bullying prevention efforts. Holcombe, in conjunction with the Georgia 4-H Communications and Technology Team, directed a film, “Be an Upstander—Not a Bystander,” that placed third in the Great American No Bull Challenge Video Competition.

Holcombe, Bryan County 4-H’er, Allison Waters Albert, and Camden County 4-H’er, Ben Powell were recently featured on www.stopbullying.gov. Earning respect and admiration from peers for her willingness to share her own story as a bullying victim, Waters has inspired several teens across her school district to take a stand against bullying. Waters says she became involved with anti-bullying through her 4-H membership. Powell wrote a drama, based on his own experiences and observations, that focused on four teenagers who were targets of bullying at school. The performances were attended by more than 900 students and 100 parents.

Oakley Perry, State 4-H President from Jeff Davis County, drawing from his personal experiences as a past bullying victim, uses his communication skills and opportunities in 4-H to speak out against bullying.

Twenty-three Georgia 4-H’ers were recently trained as 4-H Bully Buster Ambassadors where they learned ways to start Bully Busters group in their counties, 4-H clubs, or schools as well as effective ways to combat bullying and cyber bullying.

4-H inspires us to take the necessary steps to educate others, implement needed changes, and make differences that can free lives from bullying. —Cheryl Varnadoe
Ryles Named to NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

Retired Georgia 4-H Leader Roger “Bo” Ryles was one of 16 individuals named to the National 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony held October 11 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md.

Ryles was selected for the National 4-H Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to 4-H which serves more than 6.5 million youth across the U.S. The honorees received a National 4-H Hall of Fame medallion, plaque and a memory book.

With his induction into the hall of fame, Ryles joins numerous honorees from Georgia 4-H, including Tom Rodgers, Bill Sutton, and Tommy Walton.

“During his tenure, Dr. Bo took a truly outstanding 4-H program to the next level, and Georgia 4-H became one of the most admired youth development programs in the nation, if not the world,” said Beverly Sparks, Associate Dean of University of Georgia Extension. “Thousands of our youth have benefited from his leadership and passion for youth development.”

Ryles led the Georgia 4-H program from 1994 to 2009, but his connection with 4-H began when he was a 10-year-old boy attending 4-H meetings in Dodge County. He stayed active in 4-H, became a 4-H district officer and a 4-H camp counselor. He was a state 4-H winner and earned Master 4-H status in recreation talent, crop production (national winner), and leadership scholarship.

While working toward an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics at the University of Georgia, Ryles served as a 4-H program assistant in the Clarke County Extension office. After graduation, he became the 4-H agent in McDuffie County and later the Clarke County 4-H agent.

He earned his master’s degree in Extension education in 1987 and later that year joined the Georgia 4-H state staff as an animal science specialist. In 1988 he was named the central district 4-H agent. He received a doctorate in adult education from UGA in 1994 and was appointed Georgia’s seventh state 4-H leader the same year.

“No matter how long I live, I can never give back all 4-H has given to me, but I surely can keep working at it,” Ryles said. “4-H gave me a forum to gain confidence, gain knowledge, learn to communicate, and a safe place to fall down and get back up. This recognition is huge in my mind and even bigger in my heart.”

While leading the Georgia 4-H program, Ryles established the Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award to recognize an outstanding public servant for significant support of 4-H. He also helped develop the volunteer-led Legacy Ball, a black-tie fundraising event that also recognizes the Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

During his 15 years of leading the program, Georgia 4-H centers received more than $20 million in public and...
private funds for improvements. He was instrumental in acquiring what is now Fortson 4-H Center to replace the aging Fulton 4-H Center. He also co-founded and led the biennial Georgia Youth Summit, a program designed to increase youth awareness of state and local issues.

Internationally, Ryles led a team of youth and adults to Tunisia to initiate a 4-H-type program in partnership with university systems in northern Africa. He also implemented a partnership in Puerto Rico, so students there can participate in an intensive program studying the environment and practicing citizenship.

In addition to the National 4-H Hall of Fame recognition, Ryles has received numerous 4-H honors, including the NAE4-HA Achievement in Service Award, NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, GAE4-HA Outstanding New Agent Award, and the GAE4-HA 4-H Volunteer Program of the Year. He was inducted as an honorary member of the UGA AGHON Society and received the 4-H/Air Force Aim High Award.

Through his leadership, he influenced many Georgia children like Terri Kimble Fullerton, who first met Ryles when she was a 4-H’er in Newton County.

“Dr. Bo was larger than life to me while I was a Junior and Senior 4-H’er. Maybe it was the height of the Rock Eagle stage, but he seemed 10 feet tall,” said Fullerton, now a 4-H agent in Newton County. “Even kids who never joined 4-H remark on what an inspiration he is when they meet him, especially when he sings for them. I guess you could say he’s still 10 feet tall to me.”

Now retired, Ryles continues to support Georgia 4-H as a 4-H volunteer, coach of the Oconee County 4-H Poultry Judging Team, and co-director of the Georgia 4-H performing arts group Clovers and Company, a group he co-founded in 1980 with then Associate State 4-H Leader Bill Edwards. An avid runner, he established the Clover Glove Race Series to raise private funds for the Georgia 4-H Foundation, where he is a member of the board of trustees.

“While Bo’s achievements are many and his successes can be highlighted in facts, figures, and numbers, what cannot be quantified are the personal and individual triumphs that so many youth attribute to Dr. Bo’s leadership,” said Georgia State 4-H Leader Arch Smith who nominated Ryles for the hall of fame honor. “Bo has dedicated his life to assisting 4-H members realize their goals and cultivating individual talents. The fact that he challenged others to pass the 4-H legacy to children is still developing leaders today.” —Jenny Jordan

Allen Nasworthy, Fortson 4-H Center Director, was named the 2014 Ryles 4-H Rising Star Award honoree. Since joining the 4-H staff two years ago, Nasworthy has worked to expand the programming and participation offerings at Fortson 4-H Center. Whether school group, community camp, 4-H program, or family reunion, Allen’s attention to detail, his ability to meet the needs of audiences, and his work ethic have made Fortson a place people want to visit. Allen is a former Emanuel County 4-H’er and worked as a high school teacher and 4-H camp counselor prior to coming to Fortson 4-H Center.

“This award was such a pleasant surprise and validates that hard work and sincere pride in your work leads to recognition by your peers. I say it’s easy to make people happy in this position, all it takes is a smile—it truly is the small things that mean the most!” —Allen Nasworthy

The Ryles 4-H Rising Star Award was established by retired State 4-H Leader Dr. Bo Ryles, and commends new staff members for excellence in 4-H programming. Nominations are made each spring and are selected for the support of the 4-H program, their commitment to the foundations of 4-H, and the outstanding work achieved. Past award winners include Jackson County Agent, Keri Hobbs; Elbert County Agent Lauren Macias-Dye; and Johnson County Agent, Sondra Fortner.
Joe shares, “This program gives teens an amazing opportunity to do things they would otherwise never do in their lifetimes. It levels the playing field, no matter what background you come from, you still get the same chance as everyone else.”

Joe is a military teen from outside the state of Georgia but has found a home through Georgia 4-H programming; he is as comfortable at Wahsega 4-H Center as he is at Joint Base Andrews outside of Washington, D.C.

The 4-H Military Partnership continues to mature through the support of county Extension offices and military partners both on military installations and in the civilian community.

From what began as a camp serving 50 military youth in 2006, this past year Georgia 4-H served more than 500 military youth and teens in weeks of camp aimed at giving them an opportunity to be with others similar to themselves.

Camping is but one component of the 4-H Military Partnership. For more than ten years, 4-H has received a limited amount of grant funding to support 4-H clubs on military installations. Military youth programs staff members serve as the 4-H volunteers, leading the club programming. County and district 4-H staff train these military civilians in the basics of 4-H
Chattooga County 4-H led a “Cupcakes for Military Kids” campaign designed to increase awareness of military families in Northwest Georgia. Community members were encouraged to write a letter of support to local service members and their families. In return, they received a cupcake with purple icing (as this color represents all branches of the military). Many local students were excited for the opportunity to say thank you. The letters were distributed by county 4-H youth to deployed service members and their families.

In Metro Atlanta, a pep rally was held to honor military kids during the Month of the Military Child in April. The event was a sea of purple. Donations were received to help put together Hero Packs—backpacks for children of deployed military members. The guest speaker, a retired military commissioner, praised the kids for the sacrifices their families make. Donna Buzzard, 4-H program assistant for Operation: Military Kids remarked: “It was a wonderful experience watching the community, kids and teachers come out in support of our military children.”
programming such as 4-H Project Achievement.

“It was a positive experience, which gave him exposure to public speaking and for him to interact with other children outside of his usual realm,” stated Mrs. Clayton, a staff member at Fort Stewart who supported youth in 4-H Project Achievement.

Approximately 9,000 military children and youth enrolled in Georgia 4-H this past year, making Georgia the largest military 4-H population in the country. While the impact through direct 4-H programming with these 4-H’ers is important, the partnership indirectly supports hundreds of thousands.

For the military, the partnership strengthens military youth programs. 4-H brings its research base, its curriculum, and its training to military service members. The partnership expands the network of support for military families; this support is especially important as more families choose to live in local communities instead of on military installations, thus also making it an economic development issue for Georgia. As happy families tend to lead to happy service members, these service members may remain longer in military service and return to Georgia after they retire from service.

For Georgia 4-H, the partnership supports an expanded volunteer base and an underserved audience. The partnership also provides an entryway for 4-H’ers to learn more accurately about the military in our country.

The Operation: Military Kids (OMK) initiative, a part of Georgia 4-H military programs, provides high quality youth programming to youth

“...It gives some people that extra little push they need to realize they can succeed despite life’s obstacles. It is an amazing experience.” —Joe, military teen
who lack access and availability to a military installation youth center. Led by Brian Stone, OMK Coordinator, the State OMK Team includes military and civilian partners who support thousands of youth through short-term activities, camps, and activities with the goal that youth find a permanent home through 4-H or other state youth development organizations.

Georgia 4-H military programs grew from a small, grant-funded project of $30,000 yearly about a decade ago to today’s $900,000 investment through grants and donations to support military audiences. The funding, however, is insignificant in the impact on the program participants. Just like all 4-H’ers, military youth experience the same qualities in their experience.

As Joe concludes, “It gives some people that extra little push they need to realize they can succeed despite life’s obstacles. It is an amazing experience.” —Casey Mull, Brian Stone

**Operation: Military Kids** sponsors the Georgia Military Youth Advisory Council annually. This year’s council consists of 14 military youth from across the state and from different military branches. They serve as the voice of the military child in Georgia and are actively working on several programs to improve the lives of Georgia’s military youth. From providing an information packet to school counselors to volunteering at military family events to helping new military youth arriving in the state, these dedicated young men and women are working hard for our military children.

Georgia 4-H offers several unique camping experiences for military youth—summit camps for high school youth, Operation: Military Kids middle school camps, and Camp Corral at Wahsega 4-H Center. In fact, a camp experience was offered to more than 600 Georgia military youth. These low-cost camps provide military youth with valuable opportunities to build their resiliency and understanding by sharing with peers facing similar situations. This, in turn, strengthens the entire family.

Who’s your hero? Military youth honor their parents and siblings by sharing photos of their family’s military job.
Georgia 4-H Friends Curricula Series: Fostering Partnerships, Fulfilling Curricula Needs, and Furthering our Work with Georgia Schools

The Friends series is a long-standing feature of Georgia 4-H’s In School 4-H Club meeting efforts. For more than twenty years, Georgia 4-H has developed, designed, printed, and distributed a magazine to the 4-H audience through In School 4-H Club meetings. In the earliest days of the Friends magazine, the publication actually came in the form of a newsletter; it has evolved to an eight-page color printed magazine that is aligned to Georgia Performance Standards and the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. It includes Spotlight on Careers to complement the Georgia Department of Education’s move toward a more career-focused educational path for Georgia’s youth.

Peggy Adkins and Doris Nevells Hall, former Extension 4-H Specialists responsible for curriculum development, were instrumental in launching and sustaining the series. Both Adkins and Hall worked alongside other 4-H specialists and county Extension agents to collaboratively write and produce the magazines. The collaborative model that Adkins and Hall established is still in use as 4-H state Extension specialists continue to work alongside county Extension agents and other professionals through innovative partnerships to generate the material to include in the Friends series.

Today the Friends series appear in full color and feature Arch the Dawg as a main character throughout the publications. The magazines were transitioned to full-color over a two-year period. Leading the change to full-color were Gail Hanula, former Extension Specialist and Expanded Food and Nutrition State Coordinator, and Marilyn Poole, former Northeast 4-H Program Development Coordinator. A proposal was made to the state 4-H faculty and, with funds from the Childhood Overweight Prevention Project, a transformation of the Friends series began. The Childhood Overweight Prevention Project afforded access with the University of Georgia Printing Department and graphic designers—fortunately ground work had already been laid by Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Specialist Judy Harrison in the creation of a “dawg character” with a Family and Consumer Science logo for her work with educational programs. Soon Arch the Dawg came to life and the full Friends series transitioned to color. The series continues to expand to include subjects that enhance the Georgia Performance Standards and the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards.

The Friends series is a valued component of our focus to deliver 4-H club meetings through an In School delivery model. The Friends series provide a youth-friendly resource for educating our fourth through sixth grade 4-H youth on the programs we consider to be “core” to 4-H in Georgia: In School Club Meetings, Project Achievement, and summer camp. The series also provides resource tools where issues relative to youth and society can be addressed: Childhood Obesity through Friends Eat Healthy, Georgia; Water Conservation through Friends: Water; Stress Management...
through the *Friends: Health Rocks Less Stress on the Test*; and awareness of Zoonosis and Disease Transfer through the *Friends: Be a “Zoonotic” Disease Detective* magazine. Melanie Biersmith, Extension 4-H Specialist for Environmental Education developed an addition *Friends* magazine for use at the Georgia 4-H Centers. Each participant who receives *Friends: 4-H Environmental Education* magazine which serves two purposes: 1) extends the 4-H Environmental Education experience and offers an opportunity for reflection and 2) to bring awareness to additional 4-H opportunities available to youth in their home counties.

The value of promoting Georgia 4-H and issues related to youth and families through a hands-on resource of this nature is one of the many aspects of Georgia 4-H that has sustained and expanded our outreach in the state for more than one hundred years. The printing request for the series reached an all-time high for the 2012 4-H programming year with a total request of 350,000 magazines.

The series includes three magazines that support the Core areas of 4-H:

- *Friends: Introduction to 4-H*
- *Friends: Finding Your Way to 4-H Project Achievement*
- *Friends—Finding the Fun at 4-H Summer Camp*

There are five issue editions:

- *Friends: Eat Healthy, Georgia*
- *Friends: Water*
- *Friends: Environmental Education*
- *Friends: Less Stress on the Test*
- *Friends: Be a “Zoonotic” Disease Detective*

The current funding sources for this vital curricula series are:

- Georgia 4-H Foundation
- Georgia 4-H centers
- 40 Gallon Challenge grant
- State of Georgia—Ag Tag fund
- Georgia 4-H Health Rocks grant
- Expanded Food and Nutrition grant and Childhood Overweight Prevention project
- Animal Plant and Health Inspection Agency through collaboration with The Centers for Disease Control

Through the redesign of this project we have received valuable feedback from participants. This feedback has been shared in person, via emails, and through phone communications with the writers and managing editor:

“Thank you for this redesign of *Friends!* The 4-H’ers love the color and our fifth grade teachers are very impressed with the new format.”

“The pictures of real kids help connect my 4-H’ers to real 4-H opportunities.”

“We love the Persuasive Letter in the *Friends: Summer Camp* magazine. Our teachers have shared that this is how they will teach writing a persuasive letter.”

“From the initial design work of the *Friends: Eat Healthy, Georgia*, Arch the Dawg has really built a branding opportunity for us and for our marketing efforts.”

The *Friends* series has received state and Southern Region awards for best communication package by a team for the entire series update and for innovative work in school relations for the *Friends: Health Rocks Less Stress on the Test* magazine. —Mandy Marable Cheryl Varnadoe
Weekend in the Classic City (WICC) is a higher education awareness program for high school-aged 4-H’ers across the state. The conference began in 2001 as the idea of the UGA collegiate 4-H Club and has been actively engaging 4-H’ers throughout the state for more than ten years. What began as an overnight conference has developed into a full weekend of fun and learning for students from across Georgia—many of whom have never had the opportunity to visit Athens. Conference participation continues to grow, with more than 170 4-H’ers attending the conference over the past two years.

At the conference, students meet with representatives from the UGA Office of Undergraduate Admissions, who provide instruction on the college application process with particular emphasis on UGA first-year and transfer admissions. The Office of Student Financial Aid provides a general overview of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), along with other types of need- and merit-based financial aid. The UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Ambassadors and Collegiate 4-H members provide workshops on content ranging from UGA CAES recruitment, social media, etiquette, and networking. Students also have the opportunity to take a driving and walking tour of campus, eat in a UGA dining hall, and visit a UGA residence hall.

Collegiate 4-H’ers from across the state participate in the weekend as committee chairs and group leaders, giving senior 4-H’ers an opportunity to learn about student life at many different campuses. During the conference college fair, admissions representatives from campuses across Georgia meet with senior 4-H’ers and answer their admissions and financial-aid questions.

In 2012, conference participants were evaluated on changes in their knowledge, attitudes, and
preparation for college life. According to conference evaluations:

- 86% of participants agreed that they were confident in their abilities to successfully complete a college application
- 90% of participants agreed that they were confident in their abilities to seek out and successfully apply for financial aid
- 86% of participants agreed that they were prepared to manage their time successfully while in college
- 94% of participants understood various aspects of campus life including transportation, dining halls, and residence halls
- 94% of participants are prepared to participate in college student organizations
- 98% of participants agreed that they were confident in their ability to be successful college students after high school graduation

Weekend in the Classic City continues to be a fun and exciting opportunity for students to experience a taste of real “college life” while learning valuable lessons on college preparation, admissions requirements, financial aid, and campus life.

Many former WICC participants choose to remain active in 4-H, and many opportunities exist for them on college campuses throughout the state.

Collegiate 4-H is an organization that allows former 4-H’ers to continue involvement with 4-H at the collegiate level by volunteering with local 4-H programs, giving back to their university communities, and actively pursuing leadership and professional development opportunities. Currently, active Collegiate 4-H clubs have been chartered at UGA, Valdosta State University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Middle Georgia College, Georgia College, Georgia Southern University, and North Georgia College and State University. The North Georgia College and State University, Valdosta State University, and Georgia Southern University chapters have become active within the last three years.

These chapters contribute to their campus environments and their local 4-H programs as volunteers in countless service projects and 4-H events. Recently, the Valdosta State University Collegiate 4-H Club was recognized as one of the top student organizations on VSU’s campus. In 2011, Collegiate 4-H chapters from across Georgia united to host the National Collegiate 4-H Conference in Atlanta, with the theme of increasing financial literacy among college-aged youth. This conference was highly successful, with more than 160 Collegiate 4-H’ers from 30 states in attendance. Clearly, students involved in Collegiate 4-H have never stopped “Making the Best Better.” —Laura Waters

Georgia 4-H: Growing Tomorrow’s Leaders Exhibit

The Georgia 4-H: Growing Tomorrow’s Leaders exhibit has received state, regional, and national recognition as an outstanding exhibit and communication tool by the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. The exhibit was developed by a team of Georgia 4-H faculty and staff in an effort to provide an exhibit that communicates the mission and vision of Georgia 4-H with emphasis on our efforts to grow the leaders of tomorrow. This exhibit has drawn in thousands of conference attendees, and many accolades have been received on the attractive components of the exhibit and the positive messaging the exhibit conveys.

The design team consisted of: Judy Ashley, Melanie Biersmith, Mandy B. Marable, Casey Mull, Tina M. Owen, Johnny Parker, and Arch D. Smith.
CLOVERS AND COMPANY, the Georgia 4-H performing arts group celebrated its 32nd anniversary March 2013. The groups’ longevity and continued popularity are true Georgia 4-H success stories.

From the humblest of beginnings the group has grown into an entertainment triumph. In 1981 State 4-H Specialist Bill Edwards organized a group of agents and volunteers to host a 4-H performing arts weekend as an outgrowth of the existing 4-H performing arts projects. The first Clovers and Company cast of performers was selected from 4-H’ers who attended.

The show is still run by a dedicated staff of volunteers and 4-H faculty members who manage details such as try-outs, song selection, show development, instrumentation, vocal coaching, casting, costume and set design, choreography, lighting, sound, and more.

The performing arts projects have long been the most popular projects among Georgia 4-H Club members as nearly 1000 4-H’ers annually compete in district and state 4-H competitions. More than 200 4-H’ers audition each year for coveted positions in Georgia 4-H Clovers and Company.
Competition to join the group is intense since only the most talented and outstanding are selected.

More than 900 4-H’ers have now been part of Georgia 4-H Clovers and Company. Many have pursued successful careers in the entertainment industry; two former Clovers and Company members have earned Grammy Awards while others have been nominated for Oscar Awards. More than 1500 parent-volunteers have contributed to the group through fund-raising, chaperoning, set-building, and—most importantly—support of their Clovers and Company cast members.

Clovers alumni John Glosson and Jennifer Nettles of ABC’s “Duets” share a laugh while performing on stage.
The highlight of the 32nd anniversary show and alumni reunion was the alumni showcase featuring Trey Smagur, first-place winner of the Music Teacher’s National Association Young Artist voice competition; Reverend Craig Moore; Carole J. Bufford of the Metropolitan Room and Birdland in New York City; John Glosson of the ABC television show "Duets"; and Jennifer Nettles, superstar lead singer of the country duo, Sugarland, who just released her first solo single. The current cast joined Ms. Nettles on stage for "Stand Up", followed by alumni joining the group to perform with Georgia 4-H Clovers and Company for an evening finale.

Clovers and Company has been, and continues to be, an exceptional public relations tool for Georgia 4-H. Because of their stellar reputation, they are in high demand to perform and thus promote 4-H across the state and nation. Clovers and Company is recognized as the premiere 4-H performing arts group in the nation, reaching an average of 7,000 Georgians yearly. Out-of-state performances entertain another 1,000–1,200 people. Audiences range from National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees, Georgia State 4-H Council, and State 4-H Congress in several Southern states to state, civic, and community service groups including the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and Leadership Georgia.

4-H’ers claim they join Clovers and Company for the experience, the honor of representing Georgia 4-H, and the excitement of performing. Along the way they develop life skills such as poise, public speaking, teamwork, and responsibility that help them become productive citizens. Their hard work pays off as they become singing ambassadors for 4-H—what better way to demonstrate the effect that 4-H has on young people!

—Cheryl Varnadoe

Jennifer Nettles greets former Clovers and Company staff members Bill Edwards and Diane Smathers.

Jennifer asks the audience to acknowledge the members of the Clovers and Company cast at the 32 Year Alumni Reunion and Showcase.
2013 STATE 4-H BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tifara Brown, Ben Hill County, President
Alec Joiner, Crisp County, Vice President
Zack Smagur, Habersham County, State Representative
Gracie Rowie, Heard County, State Representative
Candicee Childs, Bibb County, State Representative
Bailey Dickinson, Habersham County, Northeast Representative
Aubrey Fowler, Spalding County, Northwest Representative
Kirsten Morris, Chatham County, Southeast Representative
Ashton Black, Crisp County, Southwest Representative
2013 DISTRICT 4-H SENIOR BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

NORTHEAST SENIOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maya Mapp, President, Baldwin County
Michael Woods, Vice President, Hancock County
Will Porter, Vice President, Morgan County
Drew Bodney, Board Member, Lumpkin County
Katie Rittenhouse, Board Member, Union County
Savannah Lockman, Board Member, Oconee County
Elizabeth Savage, Board Member, Baldwin County
CJ Rodrigues, Board Member, Madison County

NORTHWEST SENIOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Whitney Kirkpatrick, President, Coweta County
Gabi Wall, Vice President, Harris County
Austin Mashburn, Board Member, Douglas County
Abraham Carrillo, Board Member, Chattooga County
Hannah Brown, Board Member, Henry County
Reginald Sams, Board Member, Bibb County
Trey Ables, Board Member, Henry County
Kaitlyn Drexler, Board Member, Bartow County

SOUTHEAST SENIOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rachael Allen, President, Johnson County
Brett Allen, Vice-President, Johnson County
Jackie Jarvis, Board Member, Candler County
Hawkeye Lynn, Board Member, Long County
Oakley Perry, Board Member, Jeff Davis County
Allison Womack, Board Member, Evans County
Allison Guthrie, Board Member, Coffee County
Seth Anders, Board Member, Emanuel County

SOUTHWEST SENIOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Blake Allen, President, Lowndes County
Christian Anna Coker, Vice President, Turner County
Courtney Blackwell, Crisp County
Kevin Braski, Houston County
Caroline Dunn Houston, Tift County
Matthew Howard, Lee County
Ame J Mehta, Crisp County
Mallorie Talvan, Houston County
2013 4-H STATE WINNERS

4-H PROJECT WINNERS

Arts & Crafts
Rosie Reeves, Forsyth County
Donors: Marian Fisher, Georgia 4-H Foundation, Ted & Gerrye Jenkins

Beef
Claire Woodard, Morgan County
Donors: Jim & Renee’ Williamson

Communications
Laura Huff, Oconee County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association

Companion Animal Science
Madison Carter, Bacon County
Donors: William & Edna Sell, Representative and Mrs. Terry England

Computers
Dowdy White, Crisp County
Georgia Power, Georgia 4-H Foundation, AT&T

Conservation of Natural Resources
Candicee Childs, Chatham County
Donor: Sara Godwin

Dairy & Milk Science
Melissa Maynard, Chattooga County
Donors: Angela Broder Nemeth, Henry & Judy Hibbs, The Family of Frances McKissick in memory of Bobby Gene McKissick

Dairy Foods
Darius Johnson, Tattnall County
Donors: Earl & Wanda Barrs, Georgia 4-H Foundation, Georgia Ag Tag

Dog Care & Training
Samaria Spencer, Bibb County
Donor: Georgia Veterinary Medical Association

Entomology
Tiffani Alexander, Rockdale County
Donors: Entomology Department, Georgia Pest Control Association

Environmental Science
Camilla Summerford, Lowndes County
Donor: Georgia Cooperative Council

Family Resource Management
Christopher Rios, Emanuel County
Donor: Sarah L. Huff Fund

Fashion Revue
Emily Barnes, Butts County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

Festive Foods for Health
Brett Allen, Johnson County
Donor: Publix Super Market Charities, Inc.

Flowers, Shrubs & Lawns
Lizz Dennis, Paulding County
Donor: Georgia Development Authority

Food Fare
Kayla Jenkins, Long County
Donor: Georgia Development Authority

Food Fast & Fit
Sarah Allen, Fannin County
Donor: M.K. “Curly” Cook Family in memory of Sandra B. Cook

Food Safety & Preservation
Karissa Peachey, Randolph County
Donor: Gary & Rhonda Keve

Forestry & Wood Science
Hanna Dunnavant, Crisp County
Donors: Bill Lott, Georgia 4-H Foundation, Paulding Timber Products, Inc.

Fruits, Vegetables & Nuts
Oakley Perry, Jeff Davis County
Donor: Meadows-Knox Family Fund

General Recreation
Ashley Thigpen, Charlton County
Donor: Georgia Recreation & Parks Association, Inc.

Health
Rachel Luoma, Columbia County
Donor: Greg L. Jones

History
Brooks Saye, Oconee County
Donors: Beth Scott-Brown (in honor of John Darius Miller Scott & in memory of Darius Miller), Georgia 4-H Foundation, 2012 Ryles Rising Star (in honor of Keri Hobbs)

Housing, Equipment & Environment
Hayley Schofill, Turner County
Donors: Bucky & Shelley Cook

Horse
Lana Goitia, Walton County
Donors: Georgia Ag Tag, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Human Development
Donnie Pulliam, Liberty County
Donor: Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents

International
Sara Johnson, Tift County
Donors: Eleanor I. Smith, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Outdoor Recreation
Robbie Sheppard, Hall County
Donor: The Athens Six

Performing Arts—Dance
Veronika Rzucidlo, Clarke County
Donors: Burley & Connie Page

Performing Arts—General
Thomas Gilbert, Bartow County
Donor: Six Flags Over Georgia

Performing Arts—Other Instrumental
Bryce Shackleford, Rabun County
Donors: Greg & Becky Price

Performing Arts—Piano
Jacob Mappes, Walton County
Donor: 4-H Piano Players

Performing Arts—Vocal
Madison Smith, Gordon County
Donor: Frank Carter

Photography
Peyton West, Chatham County
Donor: GEORGIA Magazine

Physical, Biological & Earth Sciences
Wesley Jackson, Johnson County
Donor: Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

Plant & Soil Sciences
Brandon Page, Emanuel County
Donor: Georgia Plant Food Educational Society, Inc.

Liberty County 4-H’ers at Land Judging Contest
4-H SPECIAL EVENTS WINNERS

Chicken Barbecue Contest
Hannah Moseley, Bleckley County
Donors: CAES Poultry Science Department, Johnnie & Patricia Dekle, Ken & Christine Jones

Cotton Boll Consumer Jamboree High Individual
Ryan Rose, Columbia County
Donors: Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Cotton

Cotton Boll Consumer Jamboree Team
Ethan Barnes, Megan Beckett, Savannah Lockman, Nanki Udhwani, Oconee County
Donors: Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Cotton

Dairy Judging High Individual
Claire Woodard, Morgan County
Donors: Southeast Milk, Inc, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Dairy Judging Team
Victoria Cagle, Jay Moon, Will Porter, Claire Woodard, Morgan County
Donors: Southeast Milk, Inc, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Dairy Quiz Bowl Team
Jared Daniel, Godfrey Hendrix, Colton Lowder, Meghan Mitchell, Oconee County
Donors: Southeast Milk, Inc, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Deans Award—Family & Consumer Sciences
Hannah Rull, Paulding County
Donors: Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, Inc, Blaine & Denise Eversen

Deans Award—Leadership
Ryan Rose, Columbia County
Donor: James Harris Leadership Endowment

Egg Preparation Contest
Claire Woodard, Morgan County
Donors: Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Eggs

Food Product Development Team
Elizabeth Evans, Erin Kelley, Aaron Trimble, Spalding County
Donors: Georgia Agribusiness Council, CAES Food Science Department, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Forestry Field Day High Individual
Levi Adkins, Decatur County
Donor: The Langdale Company

Forestry Field Day
Robert Harrison, Lucas Holcombe, Will Maxwell, David Rice, Hart County
Donor: The Langdale Company

Hippology High Individual
Leah Pendleton, Coweta County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation, Georgia Ag Tag

Hippology Team
Ben Dennis, Courtney Lummus, Adam Pendleton, Leah Pendleton, Caroline Hinton, Nathaniel Hinton, Mallory Huff, Mary Cate Marchert
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

Horse Judging High Individual
Amy Goddard, Coweta County
Donors: Georgia 4-H Foundation, Georgia Quarter Horse Youth Association

Horse Judging Team
Caroline Hinton, Nathaniel Hinton, Mallory Huff, Mary Cate Marchert, Gwinnett County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

Horse Quiz Bowl Team
Ben Dennis, Courtney Lummus, Adam Pendleton, Leah Pendleton, Coweta County
Donors: Georgia Quarter Horse Youth Association, Georgia Ag Tag
HORSE SHOW
Donor: Georgia Ag Tag

Horse Show—Contest
Courtney Woodard, Hall County

Horse Show—Hunt Seat
Trent Fowler, Newton County

Horse Show—Ranch Seat
Sunny Wynn, Thomas County

Horse Show—Saddle Seat
Elizabeth Conti, Wayne County

Horse Show—Stock Seat
Jarrett Carte, Bulloch County

Land Judging High Individual
Addison James, Liberty County
Donor: Georgia Farm Credit Associations of Georgia

Livestock Judging High Individual
Erin Burnett, Mitchell County
Donors: Georgia Cattlemen’s Association, The Daniel Ashley & Irene Houston Jewell Memorial Foundation, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Livestock Judging Team
Austin Barnes, Mattison Barnes, Erin Burnett, Merritt Daniels, Mitchell County
Donor: Georgia Cattlemen’s Association

Poultry Judging High Individual
Jacob Hillebrand, Coweta County
Donors: Clover Coffee, CAES Poultry Science Department, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Poultry Judging Team
Ben Branch, Carolina Carter, Michaela Lubbers, Miles McDonald, Tift County
Donors: Clover Coffee, CAES Poultry Science Department, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Wildlife Judging High Individual
Kira Pollack, Clarke County
Donor: Georgia Farm Credit Associations of Georgia

Wildlife Judging Team
Holly Harkins, Daniel Kumler, Brooks Patterson, Union County
Donor: Georgia Farm Credit Associations of Georgia

S.A.F.E.—Archery Compound High Individual
Ty Ewing, Banks County

S.A.F.E.—Archery Compound Team
Jonathan Clark, Ty Ewing, Massey Langford, Alex Wiley, Banks County

S.A.F.E.—Archery Recurve High Individual
Caleb Crosby, Wayne County

S.A.F.E.—Archery Recurve Team
Caleb Crosby, Derrick Herrin, Sarah Herrin, Bethany Phillips, Wayne County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

S.A.F.E.—Modified Trap High Individual
Levi Baker, Walton County

S.A.F.E.—Modified Trap Team
Eli Belflower, Clay Foskey, Wesley Hobbs, Cole Knight, Cody Little, Luke Mosley, Tommy Royal, Bleckley County

S.A.F.E.—Precision Air Rifle High Individual
Susanna Kimbell, Spalding County

S.A.F.E.—Precision Air Rifle Team
Erin Kelly, Rachel Kimbell, Glen Lauzon, Mary Simonton, Spalding County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

S.A.F.E.—Rimfire Team
Nikki Smith, Danielle Walls, Jonathan Walls, Crisp County

S.A.F.E.—Sporter Air Rifle High Individual
Nicole Sprinkle, Coffee County

S.A.F.E.—Sporter Air Rifle Team
Patricia Cook, Carleigh Peters, Hannah Peters, Walton County

S.A.F.E.—Trap & Skeet High Individual
Brice Grantham, Coffee County

S.A.F.E.—Trap & Skeet Team
Logan Hendrix, Austin Hutchinson, Brock Mixon, Jake Whitaker, Bulloch County

STATE SHOW—CHAMPIONS
Donors: Georgia Farm Bureau, Georgia Junior Livestock Foundation, Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter, Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority

Commercial Dairy Heifer
Lawton Harris, Jasper County

Market Barrow
Taylor Barber, Decatur County

Market Goat
Chanleigh Underwood, Jeff Davis County

STATE SHOW—MASTER SHOWMAN
Donors: The Griffeth Family, Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter, Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority

Breeding Ewe
Ty McDermitt, Carroll County

Cattle
John Reasor, Dade County

Commercial Dairy Heifer
Ruben Schaapman, Wilcox County

Market Goat
Jamie Webb, Elbert County

Market Hog
Jessica Page, Webster County

Market Lamb
Ty McDermitt, Carroll County

Athens-Clarke County 4-H’er judging live birds during poultry judging
2013 GEORGIA 4-H ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

4-H DOLLARS FOR 4-H SCHOLARS
Gracie Rowe, Heard County
Donor: State 4-H Board of Directors

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
Zachary Wood, Emanuel County
Donor: ABAC Foundation

ART AND HELEN HARGROVE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
John-Tyler Exum, Berrien County
Donor: The Hargrove Family

ATLANTA FARMERS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Michael Woods, Hancock County
Donor: Atlanta Farmers Club

BESS CABANNIS MEMORIAL MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Conor Dunn, Tift County
Donor: Master 4-H Club

DON MASSEY SCHOLARSHIP
Mary Latham, Newton County
Donor: The Massey Family

EDDYE ROSS FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP
Ansley Jordan, Clarke County
Donor: Georgia Homemakers Council

GAINES ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Ellie Baldwin, Bleckley County
Donor: Greg and Karol Gaines

GEORGIA 4-H ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Savannah Lockman, Oconee County
Donor: UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

GACAA AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP
Tifara Brown, Ben Hill County
Donor: Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents

GEORGIA MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Will Walker, Turner County
Donor: Master 4-H Club

GEORGIA PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP
Kirsten Morris, Chatham County
Donor: Georgia Propane Gas Association

HUGH MOSS COMER SCHOLARSHIP
Donnie Pulliam, Liberty County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

IRVIN 4-H SCHOLARSHIP
Matthew Pace, Chattooga County
Donor: Commissioner Tommy Irvin

JERRY PATRIARCA 4-H MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Meghan Mitchell, Oconee County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

JOHN STRICKLAND SCHOLARSHIP
Whitney Kirpatrick, Coweta County
Donor: Dr. and Mrs. Frank Carter

JULIUS BENTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Ryan Rose, Columbia County
Donor: GAE4-HA

KITZINGER SCHOLARSHIP
Candicee Childs, Chatham County
Donor: Mrs. Joyce Poitevint

LOYD POITEVINT SCHOLARSHIP
Erin Burnett, Mitchell County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

MARTHA HARRISON JONES MEMORIAL MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Katlyn Lavelle, Spalding County
Donor: Master 4-H Club

MARTHA JONES FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP
Kathy Carpenter, Johnson County
Donor: Georgia Homemakers Council

PROJECT S.A.F.E.—ARCHERY
Derrik Herrin, Wayne County
Donor: Project S.A.F.E. Committee

PROJECT S.A.F.E.—SHOTGUN
Brandon Page, Emanuel County
Donor: Project S.A.F.E. Committee

ROBERT AND KATHLEEN PINCKNEY MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Jenna Gilleland, Ben Hill County
Donor: Master 4-H Club

STATE 4-H STAFF SCHOLARSHIP
Tess Hammock, Monroe County
Donor: State 4-H Office

WAYNE SHACKELFORD SCHOLARSHIP
Hugh Slaton, Lee County
Donor: Anna Shackelford

WAYNE SHACKELFORD SCHOLARSHIP
Hugh Slaton, Lee County
Donor: Anna Shackelford

ROBERT WHITAKER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Aubrey Fowler, Spalding County
Donor: The Robert Whitaker Family

UGA COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP
Morgan Wurst, Clarke County
Donor: UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences

WOOTEN SCHOLARSHIP
Rachael Allen, Johnson County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Volunteer Advisory Council

Walton County 4-Hers with 4-H garden
2013 GEORGIA 4-H ORGANIZATIONS

GEORGIA 4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Nicole Batten
Hal Beaver
Carter Black
Jenna Black
Lydia Black
John Callaway
Terri Camp
Allie Chambers
Dot Cofer
Paul Coote
Mary Crowder
Gale Cutler, Chair
Elyse Daniel
Diane Davies
Caroline Davis
Lee Anna Deal
Priscilla Doster, Past Chair
Sharon Dowdy
Dennis Duncan
Sheri Dom
Tracy Elder
Jed Evans
Dan Fesperman
Julie Fields
Jim Floyd
Adrienne Gill
Joe Greg
Charles Hall
Melanie Harris
Gary Heusner
Myra Hufstetler
Woodie Hughes, Jr.
Juawn Jackson
Ted Jenkins
Denny Kuhr
Michael Lowder
Mandy Marable, Liaison
Kaleb McMicheen
Melinda Miller
Jim Moore
Debbie Murray
Mary Ann Parsons, Liaison
Michael Reeves
Stephanie Schuspka
Lisa Williams Shirreffs
Heather Shultz, Liaison
Franklin Shumake
David Skinner
Arch Smith, Ex-Officio
Rhonda Smith
Susan Stewart
Rich Thompson
Jenn Townsend
Jerry Whitaker
Beth Williams
Janet Woodard

GEORGIA 4-H COUNSELOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Jenna Black, President
Scott Westbrook, Vice President
Kaycie Rogers, Secretary
Nan Jenkins, Treasurer

GEORGIA 4-H COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION
Katlyn LaVelle, President
Will Walker, Vice President
Shakia Hollis, Secretary
LaVonte Lovette, Treasurer
Erine-Fay Dennis, Small Camp Representative
Maia Price, Rock Eagle Representative

GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Kathy S. Palmer, Chair
Jay Morgan, Vice-Chair
Anne Sapp, Secretary
Kirby A. Thompson, Immediate Past Chair
Mary Ann Parsons, Executive Director
Board of Trustees:
Kathy Baldwin
Lonice Barrett
Wanda T. Barrs
Mike Beatty
Joseph G. Burns
Bob Burton
Frank L. Carter
April Crow
Zippy Duvall
Guy Eberhardt
Mike Giles
Jerry Griffin
Karen Garrett
Dot Knox
Randy Nuckolls
Brandie Park
Sharon Reeves
Bo Ryles
Raj Shah
Rebecca Thomas

Diane Vaughan
Paul W. Williams
Paul Wood
Ex Officio:
Scott Angle
Gary Black
Arch Smith
Beverly Sparks
Emeritus:
Fred Greer
Tommy Irvin
Tom Rodgers

GEORGIA MASTER 4-H CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Karol Gaines, President
Bo Ryles, President Elect
Ted Jenkins, Vice President
Sherry Carlson, Vice President
Terrri Kimble, Secretary
Stewart Thigpen, Treasurer
Jennifer Clark, Parliamentarian
Jim Davis, Past President
Elizabeth Mitchell, District One
Marcia Haymans, District Two
Julia Lucas, District Three
George Lee, District Four
Ashley Cobbs, District Five
Johnna Bussett, District Six
Amy Hicks, District Seven
Cindy Wynn, District Eight
June Hagin, Out of State
Arch Smith, State 4-H Leader
Andrea Burress, 4-H Liaison
Georgia 4-H experienced another successful year full of growth and opportunities thanks to the support of so many individuals, corporations, and foundations that believe in the future of 4-H youth in this state and want to make a difference in the lives of young people. The many activities, scholarships, facilities, and programs that are available to our youth impact lives and influence their future direction in life.

This past year, after many months of planning, we held a highly successful gala at the Loews Hotel in Atlanta on August 10. Chair Brandie Rucks Park and Co-Chair Tino Johnson and their committees led an event that raised over $250,000 to support the 4-H camping program. Mr. Harold Darden was honored as our lifetime achievement award recipient and inspired the crowd with his touching remarks. We were very fortunate that Georgia’s First Lady, Sandra Deal, served as our honorary chair and spoke of her 4-H experiences with Governor Nathan Deal by her side. President Jere Morehead also delivered remarks as we welcomed nearly 440 guests to the event. Plans are already in place for the 2015 Gala as well as Twilight on the Lake to be held at Rock Eagle on August 9, 2014.

We continue to see great support as we build new cabins at Rock Eagle 4-H Center and are nearly 60 percent completely funded due to support from public and private sources. We are thankful to the many that have stepped forward and pledged their support to this vital campaign. We thank Kathy Palmer for her leadership to our 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees after two dedicated years of service and we welcome Jay Morgan, Anne Sapp and Wanda Barrs who will lead our efforts in the coming term.

After a successful year we look to the future and what it will bring for the 4-H program. We celebrated the 1,000,000 Environmental Education student as well as named the Diane Davies Museum of Natural History honoring her commitment to the development of this important program. We will build and dedicate more cabins at Rock Eagle and utilize annual funding which is vital as we move forward to offer 4-H project achievement and other 4-H programs. We hope you will visit our website at www.georgia4hfoundation.org to stay up to date on activities and priorities of the Foundation and to make a gift to support one of the many programs, events, and facilities if you have not done so in this fiscal year. Annual gifts of all amounts assist us in our work. Support from our alumni and friends allow us to continue to expand and grow the many opportunities available to 4-H youth. Thank you for your investment in the future of 4-H youth programming and facilities.

Appreciatively,

Mary Ann Parsons
Executive Director
GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

INCOME

Grants 624,994
Contributions 1,605,983
Program Activities 2,261,144
Realized/Unrealized* 128,194
Interest & Dividend 115,822

Total Income 4,736,137

*Gain on Marketable Securities

EXPENSES

Construction & Repairs 162,920
Program Services 3,725,982
Scholarships 74,789
Foundation Operating 285,033

Total Expenses 4,248,724

Beginning Net Assets 3,300,542
Ending Net Assets 3,787,955

Change in Net Assets 487,413
Georgia Cloverleaf lists your gifts to the Georgia 4-H Foundation or the University of Georgia Foundation designated for 4-H that were processed through the Georgia 4-H Foundation between July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. If your name is not included and you think it should be, there may be several reasons:

1. You made your gift either before July 1, 2012, or after June 30, 2013.
2. You made a pledge instead of an outright gift. This listing includes only gifts received. If you made a pledge during this time period but elected not to begin paying it until after June 30, 2013, your name will not be listed.
3. You made a gift to another 4-H entity such as National 4-H Council, IFYE Alumni, Georgia Master 4-H Club, Campaign for Charities, etc. These gifts are not reflected in the Georgia 4-H Foundation Report.
4. We omitted your name in error. If we’ve made a mistake, we’d like to hear from you.

If you have questions, please contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation, Hoke Smith Annex, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-4536. Or call us at 706-542-8914.
Bob Conner
Bucky and Shelley Cook
Curly Cook
Jimmy and Mary Cook
Rob and Linda Cooper
Tori Cooper
Dan and Cynthia Coppage
Liz Cornelius
Mac and Jody Corry
Joshua and Wendy Cox
Seth Cox
Johnny and Yvonne Crawford
Brian and April Crow
Michael and Susan Culpepper
James and Amy Cunningham
David and Debra Curry
Cade Curtis
Emily Dailey
Nicholas Dale
Peter Dale
Dan Daniel
Eleanor Daniel
Matthew Daniel
Jody Darby
Buddy and Lillian Darden
Cindy A. Darden
Harold Darden
Diane Davies and Sara Thompson
Charlie Davis
Linda Davis
Thomas and Melanie Davis
Michael DeLisle
Justin Deal
Johnnie and Patricia Dekle
Eve Dennis
Neil and Joanne Derrick
Lisa DiFiore
Alexandria Dismuke
Mary Lou Dixon
Tyler Dominey
Danny Dorminy
Debbie Doyle
Donna Dravis
Trey Drawdy
Danielle Drexler
Kaitlyn Drexler
Jayson Dukes
Murray and Sara Dukes
Anna Dunn
Anthony and Elizabeth Durel
Tal DuVall
Mark Dzikowski
David Eckles
J.T. Edgar
Bill and Pat Edwards
Logan Edwards
Raymond and Amelia Edwards
David and Mindy Egan
Greg Eley
Jo Ann Elliott
Sally Ellis
Regina Emery
Jennifer Engle
Brittany Evans
Blaine and Denise Everson
Mort Ewing
Dale and Johnna Exum
Tiffany Faircloth
Clark and Georgia Famuliner
Justin Fellenbaum
Courtney Fields
Marian Fisher
Mary Frances Fitch
Kelsey and Joellen Flannery
John and Jeanette Fleming
Kate Fletcher
Alexis Floyd
Caroline Flynn
William Foster
Aubrey Fowler
Rob and Jean Fowler
Jonathan Fox
Wayne and Linda Fox
Michelle Francis
Christopher Frederick
Anda Gadidov
Jimmy Gailey
Greg and Karol Gaines
Holman Garland
Grace Garnier
Donald Garrett
Mike and Karen Garrett
Virginia Garrison
Jack and Nadine Gary
Gary and Nancy Gaskill
George and Lola Gazda
Kim Geddes
James and Kathleen Gerts
Janett Gibbs
Mary Clayton Gilbert
Terry Gill
Geoffrey and Tammy Gilland
William and Martha Givan
Sara Godwin
Anupam Goel
Romney and Lois Gornto
Beth Gowsack
Nancy Grace
Flora Graham
Kaden Graham
Linton Graham
Cynthia Grande
Mike Grebel
David Green
Marcelene Green
Jason and Jennifer Griffeth
Jo Griffeth
Laura Griffeth
Jerry and Janie Griffin
Keith and Sally Griffith
Rachel Grimsley
Steven Guily
Bennett Guthrie
Rae Guthrie
Howard and Patricia Hackney
Buddy and Kelly Hale
Charles and Jan Hall
Ed and Kasey Hall
Emmett and Doris Nevells Hall
Katlynn Hall
Victoria Hall
Richard Hambric
Eloise Hancock
Brenda Hankinson
Kurt and Sharon Hansen
James and Gail Hanula
James and Elizabeth Harn
Karen Harrell
Paige Harris
Wesley Harris
Birdie Harrison
Sharon Harter
Emilie Harvey
Sam and Loucy Hay
Chris Hayes
Kellie Hebblethwaite
The Estate of Katie Lee Helton
Sherrie Hendricks
Garrett Hibbs
Henry and Judy Hibbs
Greg and Heather Hickey
Louise Hill
Wally Hinesley
Ashley Hollinshead
Irene Holt
Jim and Ina Hopkins
Chase Horne
Scott Houston
Gene and Alice Howard
Robert and Claudette Howell
Mitch Hubbard
Ronnie and Ginger Hubbard
Will Hudson
Dianne Hughes
Randy Hutcheson
Thomas and Debra Hutchinson
Thomas and Tracey Huyck
Tommy and Bernice Irvin
Bob and Brenda Isaac
David and Cindy Jackson
Michael and Ann Jahl
Beth Jarrett
Harold and Beth Jarrett
Jeff and Nan Jenkins
Jean Jordan
Wayne and Bettye Jordan
Damian and Wendy Kavanagh
Roger Keel
Erin Kelley
Yasmin Kelley
Gary and Rhonda Keve
Regina Kiewat
William Kiker
Doug and Elaine Kimble
Terri Kimble
David and Mary Kissel
George and Carolyn Knapp
Larry and Dennier Knight
Eddie and Sandra Knowlton
Bob and Dot Knox
August Kroken
Michael and Linda Lacy
Ron Landen
Shirley Landers
Paulding County 4-H’er Kyndal Benn daughter of Elle’ta Benn; receiving an award at Cloverleaf Project Achievement in Rome, Ga.

Jim and Shirley Jenkins
Julie Jenkins
Kayla Jenkins
Ted and Gerrye Jenkins
Laurel Johns
Scott and Laura Johnson
Ty and Joy Johnson
Deborah Johnston
Alec Joiner
Bob and Gaynell Jones
David and Stacy Jones
Greg Jones
Jessica Jones
Ken and Christine Jones
Mary Jones
William and Mary Jane Jones
Ansley Jordan
Gavin and Jenny Jordan
Gregg and Lori Jordan
Dianna Lane
Buncie Lanners
Jim and Leslie Lathem
Jim and Diana Latimer
Les and Nancy Lawhorn
Alexandra LeCave
George and Lynn Lee
Raymond and Dorothy Lee
David Lock
Savannah Lockman
John Long
Bill Lott
Becky Lovett
Johnny Lovett
Linda Lowery
Darrell and Rebekah Lowrey
Julia Lucas
Jordan Lunsford
Dana Lynch
marketing meat goats. 

The Sheep and Meat Goats project allows this Walton County 4-H’er to develop an understanding of selecting, breeding, feeding, caring, producing, managing and marketing meat goats.
IN HONOR OF
Katie Adams
Rachael Allen
Alton and Sara Ayers
Family
Johnathan Barrett
Vanny Barrie
Melanie Biersmith
Lydia Beavers Black
Marvin Bohannon
Melissa Clarice Boland
Luc Boulet
Matthew T. Bowen
Clifford Bowers
Margo Braski
Malorie Broach
Catherine Ruby Brown
Tifara Brown
Ian Bruening
Colton Bryant
Savannah Burrell
Bob and Maxine Burton
Jeremy Burton
Morgan Calloway
Charlene Carpenter
Kathi Carpenter
Jessie W. Chambers, Jr.
Candicee Childs
Andy Chow
Ray and Emily Chow
Ariel Chumley
Lindsey Cline
Clover Glove Race Series
Becky Collins
Jimmy and Mary Cook
Tori Cooper
Rick Corral
Emily Dailey
Diane Davies
Bobby Deal
Justin E. Deal
Eve Caroline Dennis
Alexandria Nicole Dismuke
Danny Dorminy
Danielle Drexler
Kaitlyn Drexler
J.T. Edgar
Logan Edwards
Brittany Evans
John Everett
John Tyler Exum
Justin Fellebaum
Courtney Fields
Kate Fletcher
Alexis K. Floyd
Caroline Flynn
Aubrey Fowler
Jonathan William Fox III
Jimmy Gailey
Brittany Garcia
Janet Garner
Mike and Karen Garrett
Family
Jack and Nadine Gary
Savana Gerrells
Sandra Gilley
Kaden Graham
Rachel Grimsley
Allison Gulley
Bennett Guthrie
Larry Jr. and Rae Guthrie
Family
David Hall
Katlyn A. Hall
Victoria Hall
Emilie B. Harvey
Chris Hayes
Hannah Hicks
Louise Hill
Ashley Hollinshead
Brianna Holt
Ina Cook Hopkins
Chase Horne
Mitchell Ellis Hubbard
Kayla Jenkins
Alex Joiner
Jessica Jones
Ansley Jordan
Erin Lear Kelley
Jenny Kiewat
William Kiker
Whitney Kirkpatrick
Kiwanis Club
NoVaya LaSane
Mary Latham
Alexandra R. LeCave
Savannah Lockman
Courtney Lummus
Jordan Lunsford
Melissa Maynard
Jamie McClung
Sara McCorkle
James Miller
Sierra Milligan
Mary Smith Mills
Samantha Mits
Ben Morris
Kirsten DeAnna Morris
Philip Mouzon
Destan Musgrove
Carley Nichols
Ellinore Nicholson
Brandon E. Odom
Brandon Burley Page
Brandie Rucks Park
Johnny Parker
Jed Matthew Paz
Megan Powel
Victoria Elise Powell
Jerry Pullen
Rachel Rice
Jesse Robertson
Tamnya Ashley Robinson
Tom Rodgers
C.J. Rodriguez
Amanda Rogers
Hannah Rogers
Kursti Ropp
Ryan Rose
Gracie Rowe
Reginald Sams
Lilian Sanchez
Kit Sander
Rhonda Sanderson
Heidi Ann Schroeder
Ariel Scott
John Daris Miller Scott
Benjamin Tab Sheffield
Destini Shelton
Clay Sims
Hugh Slaton, III
Sarah Smagur
Arch Smith
Dave Smith
Katie Spell
Sean Sphar
Devyn Springer
Natalie Catherine Starling
Ben Stenger
Donna Stewart
Mallorie Talvan
Carrie Tatum
Xaysana "Billy" Thamavongsa
Demetrius James "Dj" Thomas
Deshaun Thomas
Isaiah Tomlin

IN MEMORY
Claire Adkerson
Jake Banta
Merle Beards
Lydia Louise Kemp Beavers
Roland Brooks
Carolyn Warnell Bryan
Milbre Burch
T.O. Couey
Senator Nathan Delano Dean
Edna Ellison
Michael Evanick
Outley Faulk
Frank W. Fitch, Jr.
Hugh Gasque
Clara Belle Holland
Mary Jackson
Emily Jarrett
Gwen Johnson
Martha Harrison Jones
Stockton Jones
Matthew Kohler
Julian Marsh
Don Massey
Barbara McCarthy
Bobby Gene McKissick
Darius Miller
Elizabeth Miller
Ricky Moore
Neta Peppers
Kathleen Pinckney
Milton Reed
Margaret Rodgers
Marguerite Christine Shurling
Theo Elliott Taylor
Ed Tomberlin
Regina Whitaker

GIFTS IN KIND
Ronald L. Brethauer
burton+Burton
Tyler Dominey
Mark Dzikowski
Mike and Karen Garrett
Karen Harrell
Paige Harris
Sherrie J. Hendricks
George B. Knapp
August Kroken
Dianna Lane
Johnny Lovett
Judith K. Marshall
Casey D. Mull
Debbie S. Mumford
James Prebble
Donna Reynolds
Tom Scholl
Virginia M. Steele
Lydia C. Thompson
Hugh Wayne

Westbrook
Logan Edwards
J.T. Edgar
Kaitlyn Drexler
Aubrey Fowler
Mary Steela
John Everett
Samantha Mits
Ben Morris
Kirsten DeAnna Morris
Philip Mouzon
Destan Musgrove
Carley Nichols
Ellinore Nicholson
Brandon E. Odom
Brandon Burley Page
Brandie Rucks Park
Johnny Parker
Jed Matthew Paz
Megan Powel
Victoria Elise Powell
Jerry Pullen
Rachel Rice
Jesse Robertson
Tamarya Ashley Robinson
Tom Rodgers
C.J. Rodriguez
Amanda Rogers
Hannah Rogers
Kursti Ropp
Ryan Rose
Gracie Rowe
Reginald Sams
Lilian Sanchez
Kit Sander
Rhonda Sanderson
Heidi Ann Schroeder
Ariel Scott
John Daris Miller Scott
Benjamin Tab Sheffield
Destini Shelton
Clay Sims
Hugh Slaton, III
Sarah Smagur
Arch Smith
Dave Smith
Katie Spell
Sean Sphar
Devyn Springer
Natalie Catherine Starling
Ben Stenger
Donna Stewart
Mallorie Talvan
Carrie Tatum
Xaysana "Billy" Thamavongsa
Demetrius James "Dj" Thomas
Deshaun Thomas
Isaiah Tomlin

Zenaida Torres
Tyra Turner
Ross E. Vacekonis
Holly Verdone
Hannah Walker
Natalie Rose Walker
Gabi Wall
Kim Wallace
Will Wallace
Cera Weaver
The Wheeler Family
Michelle White
Isaac Lee Williams
Zachary Wood
Morgan Leigh Wurst
Kelsey Yearwood
Victoria G. Yrizarry

Georgia Cloverleaf
Fortson 4-H Center provides young children the opportunity to see farm animals up close.

AgGeorgia Farm Credit
AGI Atlanta
AgraQuest, Inc.
Agri-Gro Marketing, Inc.
Agr-Tech Services, LLC
Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Inc.
Alltech Georgia
American Legion Auxiliary Post 135
Amvac Chemical Corporation
AON Foundation
Aquatrols
Arysta LifeScience
AT&T Foundation
Balchem Corporation
Bank of America Foundation
BASF Corporation
Bayer CropScience
Bayer Environmental Sciences
Becker Underwood
Bejo Seeds, Inc.
Best Buy Children’s Foundation
Biagra Western Sales, LLC
Big Dutchman
Board of Georgia Association of A.P. Math Teachers
burton & BURTON
Calcium Silicate Corporation
Camp Fortson
Center for Applied Nursery Research
Centurion Poultry, Inc.
Certis USA
Chapple Corporation
Cheminova, Inc.
Cherokee County 4-H Club
Classic Groundcovers, Inc.
Clover Glove Race Series
Color Burst
Coweta County Extension
Creekview High School
Cyndcor USA, Inc.
Disney EARS To You Fund
Dow AgroSciences LLC
Down To Earth Foundation, Inc.
DP Seeds
DuPont Crop Protection
Earthly Expressions
EarthShare
Elizabeth and Avola W. Callaway Foundation, Inc.
Emerald Seed Co.
Emerson Climate Technologies
Entertainment Industry Foundation
Envision Business Management Group
Enza Zaden USA, Inc.
Epsilon Sigma Phi – Alpha Beta Chapter
Erick Thompson Financial Strategies, LLC
Federal Premium Ammunition
FFR Cooperative
Fire, Inc.
FMC Agricultural Products
FMC Corporation
FMC Corporation APG
Forest Landowners Association
Gazda Cattle Company
GE Foundation
Georgia 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council Foundation
Georgia Agricultural Aviation Association
Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Cotton
Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Eggs
Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Equine
Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Milk
Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority
Georgia Association of Agricultural Fairs
Georgia Association of County Ag Agents
Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents
Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, Inc.
Georgia Association of Professional Agricultural Consultants
Georgia Blueberry Growers Association
Georgia Cattlemen’s Association
Georgia Club Lamb Producers Association
Georgia Coastal Service DBA Lazaretto Creek Marina
I would like to create an opportunity for a Georgia 4-H'er!

Enclosed is my gift of:  

☐ $1,000  ☐ $500  ☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ Other $_________  

Payable as one of the following:  

☐ Check (payable to Georgia 4-H Foundation)  

☐ Credit Card  

☐ Card Number:  

☐ Name as it appears on card:  

☐ Expiration Date: _____ /_____  

☐ 3 or 4-digit CS Code: _______  

☐ Signature:  

☐ I want to make an ongoing pledge to support Georgia 4-H. Please charge my credit card at $___________ per month for _______ month(s).  

☐ Please contact me about planned giving opportunities.  

☐ I have included Georgia 4-H in my will.  

☐ I have enclosed my company’s matching gift form.  

☐ I am interested in establishing a monthly transfer.  

☐ I would like to make an ongoing pledge to support Georgia 4-H. 

Name(s):  

Address:  

City:  

State:  

Zip:  

Email:  

Phone:  

Birth Date(s):  

I would like to designate my gift to:  

GIFFTS IN KIND  

Aurora Fused Glass Jewelry  
Blane Marable Photography  
Clover Coffee Company, LLC  
Earthly Expressions  
Georgia Power  
Hunt Country Iron  
Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia  
Seachem Laboratories  
Southern States Cooperative, Inc.  
Ted’s Montana Grill  

Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.  
Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc.  
The Alliance Group – (KMEG), Inc.  
The Coca-Cola Company  
The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.  
The Daniel Ashley and Irene Houston Jewell Memorial Foundation  
The Fowler Family Foundation, Inc.  
The Homeport Farm Mart  
The Knox Foundation  
The Langdale Company  
The Michael D. and Karen W. Garrett Family Legacy Endowment  
The Plantation Ladies Club  
The Quinton Group  
The Scotts Company LLC and Subsidiaries  
The Spearman Agency PR/Marketing  
The Thomas T. & Bernice F. Irvin Foundation, Inc.  
Triangle Chemical Co.  
UGA Extension Retiree Association  
United Phosphorus, Inc.  
United States Air Force Services  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia Foundation  
Valent USA Corporation  
Wannamaker Seeds, Inc.  
Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.  
Watson Brown Foundation, Inc.  
White Water  
Wooten Farms  
Youth Service America  

M&M Mars  
Makhteshim-Agan of North America  
Marrone Bio Innovations, Inc.  
Miller Chemical & Fertilizer Corporation  
Mission Fish  
Moblery Plant Company, Inc.  
Moghu Research Center  
Molly Willis Pecan, LLC  
Monsanto Company  
Moye’s Pharmacy, Inc.  
National 4-H Council  
NIPAN LLC  
North Carolina Blueberry Council, Inc.  
North Carolina State University  
Novozymes Bio AG, Inc.  
Nunhems USA, Inc.  
Optimist Club of Tybee Island  
Paudlin Timber Products, Inc.  
Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Pierce County 4-H Council  
Pike Seeds, LLC  
Pitts Pulpwood Company  
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.  
Reeves Design Services  
S.J. Gorowitz Accounting and Tax Services, P.C.  
Sacata Seed America, Inc.  
Seminis Vegetable Seeds  
SeCorporation  
Sequoyah High School  
Sharnrock Seed Company, Inc.  
Six Flags Over Georgia  
Solar Holdings, Inc.  
Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc.  
Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium  
Southern Regional Biennial Conference  
Southern States Cooperative, Inc.  
Stephens County 4-H Club  
Still Water Farm  
Stoney Fork Products  
Students for Organic Agriculture  
SunTrust  
SunTrust Bank Trusteed Foundation, Florence and Harry English  
Sweet Green Fields  

Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation  
Georgia Dept. of Revenue – Motor Vehicle Division  
Georgia Development Authority  
Georgia Electric Membership Corporation  
Georgia Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences  
Georgia Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Georgia Forestry Association  
Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Green Industry Association, Inc.  
Georgia Homemakers Council, Inc.  
Georgia Master 4-H Club  
Georgia Master Gardener Association, Inc.  
Georgia Organic Solutions, LLC  
Georgia Peanut Commission  
Georgia Pest Control Association  
Georgia Plant Food Educational Society, Inc.  
Georgia Pomegranate Association  
Georgia Pork Producers Association, Inc.  
Georgia Power  
Georgia Quarter Horse Association, Inc.  
Georgia Recreation and Park Association, Inc.  
Georgia State Charitable Contributions Program  
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association  
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary  
Georgia Watermelon Association, Inc.  

georgia4h.org Georgia Cloverleaf 47
Think back to when you were in 7th grade. Did you know what all your parents had to pay each month to live as an adult? Did you know how to write a check or balance a checkbook? Over the past six years, 2,315 7th grade students in Harris County have learned this through the 4-H program.

Adrianne Cox, Harris County 4-H Agent, facilitates a program called Reality Check each May in the school. Students spend time prior to the program learning the basics of finance. They learn how to write a check, how a debit card works, and how to maintain their account balance. Then, they are able to put their skills to the test in this two hour interactive program. The students work as a two person team to keep them on task. They are given an “identity” of a personal status, family status, and job with the amount of income to use for the month. They have to visit 11 booths that represent monthly living expenses. Booth examples are: housing, transportation, medical insurance, and even entertainment. The students must try to live on their income. It is very hard to accomplish. Many students believe they should make enough money to breeze through the month with plenty left over. It doesn’t work that way in the Reality Check for most students. Life is harder than they imagined. The program is a real eye-opener for the majority of the students.

Every year it is fun to watch the students go to the booths. They don’t like how much things cost; especially when they are spending their own money and not their parents. Most of the students choose to buy store brand food and clothing, but in everyday life they want their parents to purchase name brand clothing.

Before the program begins students fill out a form to envision what their life will be like. They choose an education level, what car they will have and where they will go on vacation. Most of the students have big plans for themselves. They plan to go on Hawaiian vacations and drive a Hummer. After the program, they have a better understanding of what things cost. A countless number of students have gained a greater respect for what their parents must spend money on for bills. One student said, “I feel bad for always wanting name brand clothes. I see now why my Mom has a hard time.” Another student was quoted saying, “I don’t want to have to be an adult any time soon!” The program gives the students such a wake-up call for what life is like as an adult.

The Reality Check program helps the 7th grade Social Studies teachers meet the Georgia Performance Standards for finance. Test scores on the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) have increased 6% since 2010 in the area of finance. The principal at HCCMS, Stacey Carlisle, stated about the program, “The effectiveness of Reality Check is so engaging, the program is regularly scheduled for each incoming 7th grade class. Both teachers and parents provide positive reviews of the program and its relevance in today’s competitive economy.” It is a great way 4-H can be an asset to the schools. —Adrianne Cox