

Minnesota Association of



**Extension 4-H
Youth Development
Professionals**

Section Slants

President's Pen



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Don't Miss the Gift

Last summer a 4-H friend and mentor was killed in a car accident. Don was the 4-H Livestock Committee chair when I first began working in Extension in Anoka Co. 18 years ago. Although I had been in 4-H as a kid, I didn't grow up on a farm nor ever raise animals, so I was clearly out of my element as I went to my first Livestock Committee meeting. A gregarious man with a huge laugh and an easy-going personality, Don took me under his wing (literally) and promised me they'd "turn me into a livestock person in two years." Which he did—year after year answering my questions, making suggestions, offering insights, paving the way. He was a gift, one of so many I've been given in this job.

This issue of section slants finds you very busy with fairs, camps and a multitude of summer programs—either

preparing for, in the exhausted middle of, or in the (more exhausted!) follow up phase. "Down time" is rare in this job and the demands are enormous. Yet in the middle of it all, my wish and advice is: Don't miss the gift.

Don't miss the gift of relationships with young people and volunteers and colleagues. In the challenge of answering one more question about state fair in an exhausted state of mind, take time to sit and visit and make a connection with people. Take a moment to find out a little more about how their summer or year has gone, reconnect with those former leaders who stroll through the building reminiscing about the fairs they remember, join your young people in making a memory they'll talk about in years to come. These moments are where you'll find the GIFT-- the relationships that will sustain you in your work and make you more effective in the long run.

Happy unwrapping!

Member Updates

New Arrivals:

Congratulations to:
Jennifer Skuza on the birth of
her daughter: Eva Sofia

And

Becky Meyer for the birth of:
Isaac River and Nolan Sky.

Condolences to:

Barb Sorenson for the loss of her husband
Paul.

And

Anne Stevenson for the loss of her mother
in law.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Editors notes: I
apologize for missing
anyone. If you are
missed I will put you
in the next issue.*

National Conference

The 4-H Educators of the Northeast wish to invite everyone to reserve the dates of October 25 - 29, 2009 to come visit the Northeast in Rochester. So come to Rochester, NY in the fall of 2009 and "Imagine the Possibilities!"



**Imagine
the Possibilities 2009**
Come to the Northeast!
October 25 - 29, 2009
Rochester, NY

We have fabulous speakers planned for the conference: keynote Geoffrey Canada, a much sought-after speaker, who enjoys a national reputation as both an advocate for and an expert on issues concerning violence, children, and community redevelopment, and capnote Judson Laipply, whose presentations are highly motivational, humorous, and thought provoking while focusing on change in life.

We are anticipating over 200 workshops, seminars, poster sessions, and commercial exhibits that are the best the Northeast has to offer! Pre-conference tours are being planned including visits to the Finger Lakes, Wine Country, Niagara Falls & Toronto. Evening events promise to be exciting as well: highlights include Seasons in the Northeast Opening Night and even a possible Theatre Night.

See you in the Northeast in 2009!

Web Site

As you are surfing the web take time to visit the MAE4hYDP website! It is filled with a variety of items of interest related to MAE4HYDP such as pictures, minutes from meetings, bylaws and much, Much, MORE!

4-H Staff-only website, look near the top of this page - under Featured Links <http://www.fourh.umn.edu/staffonly/>

YD Capacity Area page - on the left navigation bar <http://www.fourh.umn.edu/ydca/>

Direct Link: www.extension.umn.edu/maee/4hydp

If you have a link you think should be shared please send it on to add it to the link section!

MAE4HYDP Mission

Our Mission

- To Advance the professional status of the Extension 4-H professional.
 - To Promote cooperation among all Extension personnel.
 - To Encourage professional improvement of all Extension personnel.
 - To Promote Extension 4-H work as a professional career.
 - To Provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, methods, and techniques.
 - To Strengthen communications with Extension Administrators.
- To Promote the educational programs of the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Extension.

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD)

Submitted by Becky Harrington
President Elect

PILD provides a close up look at the issues that impact Extension and the communities we serve. It also provides Extension professionals and volunteers the unique opportunity to interact with decision-makers in Congress, with our federal agency partners, and with others "inside the Beltway" who support our work.

A group of ten (Association leaders, administrators, and Citizen's Advisory Council) joined 250 Extension people from across the country in Washington, D.C., April 27-29. As president-elect, I represented MAE4-HYDP. More than one speaker commented on the new energy that was in Washington, D.C.

The first two days of the conference were spent in large group sessions, Association meetings, and workshops. I attended sessions on SET and Conducting Crucial Conversations. On Wednesday Minnesota's delegation went to Capitol Hill and met with Senator Amy Klobuchar's legislative assistant to share Extension programs in our capacity areas. We also met with our local Congressional delegation, providing me with the opportunity to meet with two of Congressman Collin Peterson's staff, again sharing the 4-H youth development message. We were fortunate to have a brief conversation and photo opportunity with Congressman Peterson before we left.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent MAE4-HYDP, and I'd highly recommend taking advantage of the opportunity to attend when given the chance.

Marketing Committee Update

Submitted by Aaron Rongen

The Marketing committee is looking at putting together a few fun and useful products that will get the "Clover" out and about in your communities for 4-H promotion and slight fund raising! Sweatshirts, button-up shirts, clover fans, and possibly more, for your owning/selling enjoyment. Stay tuned for more...

Friend of 4-H Award

MAE4HYPD member Amber Runke (Right) presenting the Friend of 4-H award to Bob Hursh.



Extra Mile Award



Program Leaders (left to right) Brenda Shafer, Nancy Hegland and Tamie Bremseth being recognized for the *Extra Mile Award*.

Youth and U Highlights

