**Ohio 4-H News and Notes**

**January 20, 2013**

*Hi,*

*For a long time I have realized the importance of communication, but only recently have I realized true appreciation for communication.  Even though I had my flu shot early, I contracted something that involved a fever between Christmas and New Years. Then on the 3rd of January, I started to lose my voice. I have never had true laryngitis before, but for over two weeks now I have not been able to do much more than squeak and whisper.*

*The lack of verbal communication makes everything else harder. I cannot scold the dog, meals are quiet, and I am sure that I seem aloof when people walk by the door or I meet them in the hall, and I do not utter a sound. And these are the little things. I have to ask someone else (in writing) to call the doctor’s office to make an appointment. When I open my mouth in my many administrative meetings and appointments, the first thing that comes out – well, that is part of the problem – nothing comes out.*

*I appreciate more that communication should be brief and to the point. The situation has been that when I have strained and talked for a while, later that same day my ability to even whisper is diminished or evaporates. So, if one is limited by the ability or time allowed to speak, one should make every spoken word count. You think about what is important, you choose your words carefully, and you strive for clarity. Any ambiguity creates questions, which forces more conversation. It becomes a vicious circle.*

*Finally, lack of, or diminished communication is frustrating. When you know that things can be better with more information, but fail to do that, for whatever reason, then it eventually wears on you. Also, if you have an immediate, impulse reaction to some issue or situation, but do not or cannot share that reaction, a creative solution may be lost, or at minimum, time and effort may be unnecessarily increased.*

*I have been informed that the best treatment for laryngitis is resting the voice and the body. I admit that I have not done either very well, so that has probably extended this bout. The silver lining is that I once again learn more about a dimension of my work – and I appreciate verbal communication even more.*

*Talk to you later (I hope).*

*Tom*

**Quality Assurance Test-Out Option Information and Tests Now Posted**

Information and the 2013 QA tests for the test-out option is now posted at[**http://4hansci.osu.edu**](http://4hansci.osu.edu/) on the educator's password protected page. Remember you can only access it through the website's home page. [**FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE**](http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/d6-ohio4h.web/files/Quality%20Assurance%20Test.pdf)**.**

Please contact either Paul (614.292.8305) or Lucinda Miller (614.292.7453) or [**miller.78@osu.edu**](mailto:miller.78@osu.edu) if you have any questions or comments, or need the username and password to log on.

**Invite Collegiate 4-H to Your County**

Collegiate 4-H at the Ohio State University can provide educational programs to your county and would like to share their resources with 4-H clubs, officers, and Junior Leaders at the local level.  They can assist counties with officer training, how to effectively fulfill officer duties and how to execute parliamentary procedure.  Collegiate 4-H members can also teach teambuilding activities to aspiring leaders at the club level.  Check out the officer resources created by collegiate 4H which can be found on the Ohio 4-H website**:**[**http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-youth/club-members/officer-resources**](http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-youth/club-members/officer-resources) .

Collegiate 4-H strives to increase interest in 4-H while developing leadership skills and participating in community activities. Each year they host Carving New Ideas which is a weekend long leadership workshop for high school students at Camp Ohio.  Plowboy Prom, to be held on March 9, 2012, is a square dance at the Ohio Farm Bureau and Nationwide 4-H Center.  Join friends and meet Ohio State students for dance, food, and fun for all ages.  [**CLICK HERE FOR A FLYER.**](http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/d6-ohio4h.web/files/Plowboy%20Prom%202013.pdf)

If you would like more information about having Collegiate 4-H at OSU help in your county, please contact Elizabeth Fischbach, Education Chair at[**fischbach.27@osu.edu**](mailto:fischbach.27@osu.edu) or Steph Verhoff, Club President at [**verhoff.79@osu.edu**](mailto:verhoff.79@osu.edu).

**Bioenergy Education for Kids (K-5): Be Part of it Now**

A new curriculum has been created to strengthen our 4-H STEM effort. This new web-based resource will help our next generation of leaders develop an awareness and appreciation for a sustainable energy future. It is leader-directed curriculum, targeting 4-H Cloverbuds and youth through 5th grade. Some of the activities include: “Our Sun: The Ultimate Bioenergy Generator,” “Don’t Pass Gas: Convert that Biomass,” and “Fueling the Future.”  The webinar will review the curriculum, objectives, strategies for use, and resource material kit ideas. You can access the curriculum through this web link: [**www.ohio4h.org/BioenergyEducation**](http://www.ohio4h.org/BioenergyEducation)The one hour webinar is scheduled for January 31th from 10:00 – 11:00 AM. If you are interested and would like to sign up for the webinar or have any questions contact at Scott Scheer, [**scheer.9@osu.edu**](mailto:scheer.9@osu.edu). This effort was funded by a Northeast Regional Sun Grant Initiative, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation: US DOT Assistance #DTOS59-07-G-00052.

**Feeding a Hungry Planet – Youth Ag-Summit**

In August 2013, 120 young leaders, ages 18-25, from around the world will gather in Calgary, Canada to find solutions to sustainable food issues as the global population approaches 9,000,000,000 people. Through the Feeding a Hungry Planet – Youth Ag-Summit, the hope is to attract, inspire and support youth to make a difference. Apply and you may be selected to represent your country as a delegate, expenses paid. Those interested must submit an essay or video by **February 15** - [**http://youthagsummit.com**](http://youthagsummit.com/)

The Summit program will include keynote speakers, group discussions and collaborations, educational tours and celebrations. Delegates will be tasked with identifying actionable agriculturally sustainable solutions to feeding a growing world.

**Mini Grant Opportunity**

GenerationOn is a national and global youth service organization whose mission is to inspire, equip and mobilize young people to take action that changes the world and themselves through service.  They are offering a [**current $250 mini-grant opportunity**](http://www.generationon.org/global/big-happenings/grants-hunger-2013).  The mini-grant is part of the [***What Will You Bring to the Table?***](http://www.generationon.org/global/big-happenings/grants-hunger-2013) initiative, which will be launched this spring (March 18th-April 30th). This mini-grant provides support for groups of young people who implement community service projects to tackle child hunger.

**National 4-H History Preservation Program**

Enjoy the [**January 2013 issue**](http://n4h.convio.net/site/R?i=nX_X_W5dTjmCD4Bby8Ax5A) and send your suggestions and questions: [**info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com**](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com).