

Ohio 4-H News & Notes

May 5, 2013

Hi,

I enjoy spring. But I do not think it is because of the warm weather, birds singing, flowers blooming, the smell of freshly mown grass, longer daylight or not looking for a coat every time I go outside. I do not think it is because I know there are at least eight months ahead that I do not have to worry about driving on snow or ice covered roads.

If I think about my time growing up on a farm, spring meant more work – so why should I enjoy that season more? Since we had beef cattle and sheep, there was much to do. First, we always spent about a week hauling manure; then there was plowing. Those of you who know what it is like to work ground with an eight foot disk and a 40 horsepower tractor without power steering, bouncing across dry ground that may have been plowed just a little wet, know that is not real pleasant either. (Come to think about it, there are probably not many of you who can relate to this – but trust me – it was difficult.)

I enjoy spring because I can actually be more active with the product of my work more readily identified. It is much different to note the progress of mowing grass or plowing a field than it is to note the daily grind of feeding livestock in a barn, usually when it is dark. In the 4-H profession, it is more enjoyable to actually conduct an officers' training or camp counselor weekend than it is to make the arrangements for the site, confirm the resource people, develop the agendas and arrange whatever teaching aids that are required. And in our profession, we know the activity and events continue to increase in the late spring and summer months.

We know that much of our time is spent planning and preparing, and if we do not plan and prepare well enough, then things will not go as smoothly or as productively as they should. The real enjoyment is the programming as it is delivered, and the engagement of youth and adults. We can see the results of our efforts after the engagement. Most of us enjoy activity and interacting with others more than sitting at a desk, staring at a computer.

But do not forget to build into the activity some collection of data that can be used to illustrate and support the impact of your programming efforts. After all, you will need something to do when the skies are gray, the temperature is dropping, and the days are shorter late next fall and winter.

Enjoy your spring.

Thanks,

Tom

2013 Project Interview Questions

The 2013 version of Project Interview Questions for judges is now posted on the 4-H for Staff/Resources page of the Ohio 4-H website. Look under Publications. Questions are based on the content of each project book and when possible include page references where answers can be found. In many counties, these questions are shared with judges to be used as is or as models for their own questions. Be sure to share the cover page and, if appropriate, the general 4-H questions too! Because self-determined and master projects are so individual, questions for those projects are not included.

Please do not make this document generally available on your website, to your volunteers, or to your 4-H members! It is intended to be distributed a project at a time to your judges as appropriate. Share questions, comments, or corrections with Jane Wright, 614-292-0909, wright.646@osu.edu or Susie Young, 614-292-6944, young.171@osu.edu.

Your judges also may benefit from having 4-H 963 Interviewing Tips for Judges, available online at www.ohio4h.org/publications. Look under Publications Available for Download/4-H Volunteer and Other Resources.

May Healthy Living Webinar on "Courage to Care" Program

May 22, 2013, 2:00 – 3:30pm Eastern Time

URL: <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/ctoc/>

Conference line: 888-858-2144

Access code: 1564913

The Courage to Care: A new evidence-based Extension Program to combat bullying and peer victimization by teaching compassion, kindness and empathy.

The Courage to Care program was developed by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension with assistance from the NIFA Rural Health Initiative Funding in 2011. Since that time the program has shown very promising results in reducing bullying and increasing empathy in schools across the nation.

Learn about this Extension program and how you can bring it to your 4-H, afterschool, youth development and family programs and how you can collaborate with school districts. Learn how to team with educators in your state to promote positive youth development in the area of civility and leadership! Learn about the exciting new research that indicates a new approach to changing school and community cultures and climates for young people.

Learn more about the project at: www.courage2care.com