

Cloverleaf Magazine

GEORGIA 4-H ANNUAL REPORT



GEORGIA 4-H



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



2021

Head
Heart
Hands
Health



Agriculture & STEM
Civic Engagement
Healthy Living

Cloverleaf Magazine

AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION BY GEORGIA 4-H

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Dlane Davies is recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Georgia 4-H program throughout many decades



Georgia4H



@Georgia4H



Greetings From Arch Smith

Georgia 4-H State Leader

We continue to be grateful for the efforts of 4-H leaders, volunteers, donors, and friends who support our commitment to enable young people to be the best that they can be.

One day during the past 4-H Year, a Babe Ruth quote appeared on social media:

"Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games."

I have shared this quote with many 4-H staff across Georgia in recent months, because our past success did not guarantee that we would be successful during the pandemic. County 4-H staff were challenged by not having their usual access to in school programming. They rose to the challenge, and this year we saw counties utilizing totally virtual meetings, hybrid models that included traditional and virtual elements, and business-as-usual classroom meetings.

Georgia 4-H staff continued to find ways to reach youth through varied delivery methods, as well as many of our traditional programming opportunities. New home runs are being hit by 4-H as we embrace technology to prepare for project achievement, judging events, quiz bowls, officer elections, and in-school programming. By late winter of 2020, we began to see a return to face-to-face programming with livestock judging, poultry judging, shooting sports, and many other events. Overnight Junior/Senior District Project Achievements were moved to early June. Summer camp was held at Rock Eagle at 50% capacity, utilizing additional health and safety protocols to ensure a safe experience. In late July, we gathered in Atlanta for State 4-H Congress and it was a wonderful return to near-normalcy. We honored new Master 4-H members, thanked our donors, and recognized the outstanding service of our 4-H agents and supporters.

Home runs from yesterday do help to form a successful foundation for the future team. During this year's Georgia 4-H Gala, we honored Diane Davies, retired Extension 4-H Specialist, for her contributions to the development of the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education (EE) Program. Diane's passion to use the natural environment for experiential instruction and her ability to build relationships with partners were keys to her success. Her work in environmental education became a model that has been replicated across the United States and is still the standard for today. Since 1979, over 1.2 million students have participated in the EE program at one of the Georgia 4-H facilities.

As you review the 2021 Cloverleaf Magazine, it will be evident that Georgia 4-H found a way to hit new home runs during the past year. We continue to be grateful for the efforts of 4-H leaders, volunteers, donors, and friends who support our commitment to enable young people to be the best that they can be.

The 2021 Georgia 4-H year was summed up for me on the Friday morning of State 4-H Congress. As we prepared to leave Atlanta, a 4-H leader stopped me as I walked through the lobby of the hotel and said, "Thank You." I expressed to her that I had not done anything worthy of being thanked; she responded with a tear in her eye and said, "but we have been here for State 4-H Congress." I realized a return to normal is a new home run. Let's hope we have many more!

Arch D. Smith
Georgia 4-H State Leader

GEORGIA

4-H

97,124 *

TOTAL PARTICIPATION



2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

*LIMITED DUE TO COVID-19

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL 4-H ENROLLMENT: **71,205**

HOME SCHOOL 4-H ENROLLMENT: **1,734**

FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY 4-H ENROLLMENT: **7,349**

PARTICIPANTS IN 4-H ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS: **12,880**

4-H ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS: **3,956**

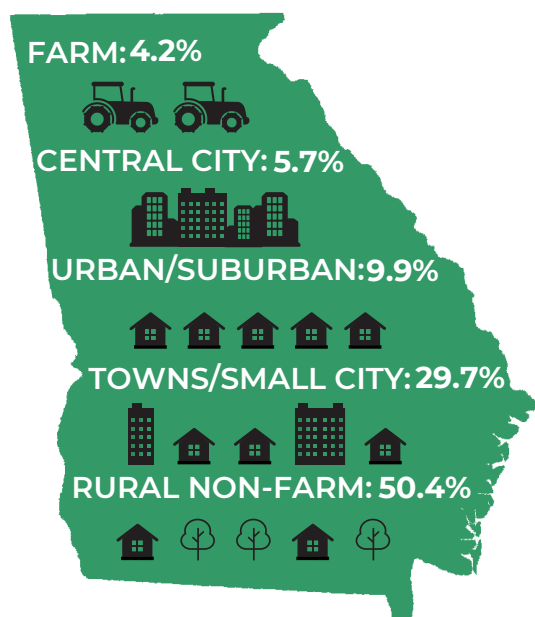


51% FEMALE **49%** MALE

ETHNICITY

6.6% LATINO 94.4% NON-LATINO

RESIDENCE



DIVERSITY

WHITE: 53.9%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN: 26.6%
ASIAN: 1.1%
AMERICAN INDIAN/
ALASKA NATIVE: 0.4%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/
OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER: .01%
MORE THAN ONE RACE: 3.0%
UNDETERMINED: 17.6%



GRADES

ELEMENTARY

65%

MIDDLE

25%

HIGH

9%

COLLEGE

1%

4,008

MILITARY
DEPENDENTS
SERVED BY 4-H

VOLUNTEERS

4,109 ADULTS

CONTRIBUTED

64,256 HOURS

1,335 TEENS

CONTRIBUTED

39,679 HOURS



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
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Georgia 4-H provides experiences for youth to learn by doing. Georgia 4-H'ers participate in hands-on learning in the focus areas of Agriculture and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Civic Engagement, and Healthy Living. The 4-H mission is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing citizens.

GEORGIA 4-H PREPARES YOUTH FOR LIFE.

AGRICULTURE & STEM

Youth focus on agricultural sciences, natural resources, environmental sciences, plant and animal sciences, agribusiness, rocketry, robotics, renewable energy, computer science, technology, engineering, and more.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PROJECTS



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY



COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Youth learn to be well-informed and engaged citizens through experiences and activities focused on leadership, communication, performing arts, public speaking, organization, the importance of giving back to improve communities, and more.



LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY SERVICE



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATION



HEALTHY LIVING

Youth focus on nutrition, obesity prevention, drug awareness, bullying prevention, health and fitness, financial literacy, clothing and textiles, safety, stress management, social and emotional wellness, food science, and more.

FOODS AND NUTRITION



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

HEALTH AND FITNESS



FINANCIAL WELL BEING

21,805*



4-H FACILITY USERS



3,956*

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS



2,824*

RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMPERS

*LIMITED DUE TO COVID-19



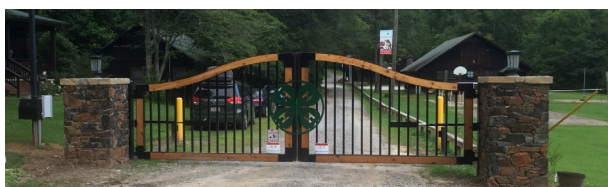
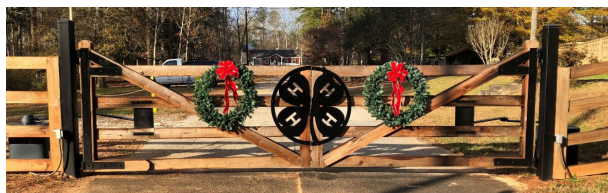
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Georgia 4-H Facilities Update

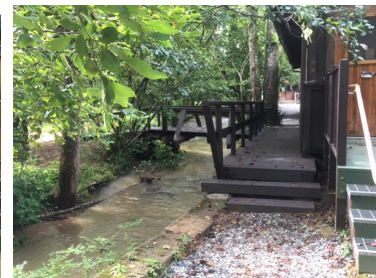
WRITTEN BY MELANIE BIERSMITH

Available across the state from the mountains to the sea, Georgia 4-H facilities provide lodging accommodations, meeting spaces, dining halls, and programs for a variety of youth and adult groups. These facilities serve over 100,000 guests in a typical year. Many groups are still not able to fully return to in-person meetings, field studies, or conferences as usual because of the continued impacts of COVID-19. In spite of these challenges, the 4-H centers collectively served over 21,000 for the 2020-2021 year. While this number is down significantly from normal operations, the ability to host some groups and maintain the positive relationships that have been established over many years was a great sign of recovery.



Both Wahsega 4-H Center and Fortson 4-H Center installed new gates and fencing, and cameras were added at a variety of locations on the 4-H centers as well.

Wahsega 4-H Center sustained significant flood damage from a storm in March 2021. Damage was widespread as the water left the banks of Ward Creek and flooded several buildings and pavilions, damaged foot bridges, left piles of debris, and removed gravel and topsoil from the walking areas. It took several months of work, but the center has been restored to its original beauty. These images show the damage and repair in two areas of Wahsega's beautiful campus.



4-H Day at the Capitol Goes Virtual

WRITTEN BY JASON ESTEP

4-H Day at the Capitol is typically held in Atlanta during each regular session of the General Assembly to provide 4-H members a hands-on civic engagement learning experience. However, this year's program went entirely virtual due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. Though unable to physically gather under the gold dome this year, 4-H'ers were still able to learn about the structure and function of our state legislature, gain understanding of the lawmaking process, develop skills for interacting with elected officials, and even virtually tour the Georgia State Capitol.

More than twice as many youth were able to participate in 2021 than in previous years, with 1,223 youth from across the state joining in the virtual experience.

Virtual 4-H Day at the Capitol was made possible through partnership with the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement and the generous contributions of Gulfstream Aerospace. Thanks to these stakeholders' unwavering support, the

State 4-H Office was able to assemble and mail civic engagement toolkits to every 4-H office in the state. Interactive online resources were developed and shared with 4-H professionals, empowering them to host a Virtual 4-H Day at the Capitol within their local programs. Plus, every legislator in Georgia's General Assembly received an informational packet containing 4-H infographics, the annual Georgia 4-H Cloverleaf Report, and handwritten thank you notes from 4-H'ers. These packets helped to tell the 4-H story to our legislators, and 4-H youth were encouraged to contact their legislators to share their own 4-H stories, as well.

The success of Virtual 4-H Day at the Capitol was dependent on the facilitation provided by local 4-H leaders. This year's program also eliminated the challenges of travel, particularly for Georgia's southernmost counties.

One of the most popular components of Virtual 4-H Day at the Capitol was the virtual capitol tour - hosted by

Georgia Virtual Tours, Georgia Center for Civic Engagement, University of Georgia Libraries, et al. - accompanied by a virtual scavenger hunt designed by Toni Hunlen, a Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps VISTA. Another notable resource is an interactive simulation that follows a bill through the Georgia legislative process from initial concept to the Governor signing it into law, designed by Jason Estep, Extension 4-H Specialist.

Through civic engagement programs like 4-H Day at the Capitol, 4-H empowers youth to become well-informed citizens who actively engage as leaders in their communities, government, and civic organizations.

GEORGIA
4-H DAY AT THE CAPITOL

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From the Mountains to the
Sea to the Classrooms and
Living Rooms in Between:

4-H Environmental Education in a Pandemic

WRITTEN BY MELANIE BIERSMITH

The ability to adapt and remain flexible has led to over 40 years of success for the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program. The 2020-2021 school year presented a unique set of challenges that resulted in an effective hybrid of in-person and virtual engagement for Georgia's youth.



While many schools were unable to participate in their planned Georgia 4-H Environmental Education field studies for the 2020-2021 school year, almost 4,000 participants did take advantage of this great outdoor classroom. Teachers and administrators worked hard to provide safe and meaningful experiences for their students and visited 4-H facilities from the mountains to the sea. Participants enjoyed programs such as stream ecology, herpetology, salt marsh studies, night hikes, and canoeing. After a year in which adventure was limited for much of the world, the students who enjoyed the privilege of visiting a 4-H center were even more excited than ever before.

Maintaining relationships with the schools who were unable to bring students was key for sustaining the program through to recovery. The 4-H Centers quickly adapted to changing needs and offered virtual programs for those schools who weren't yet able to attend in-person. Educators at the centers worked with teachers to provide sessions that were relevant, engaging, and rich with content for their students. These experiences allowed the centers and schools to stay in close contact, provided students with a positive learning experience, and bridged the gap until the schools

A Year In Photos: An Environmental Educator teaches a virtual session about wildlife at Rock Eagle 4-H Center (opposite page); Youth learn about ocean ecology in a socially-distanced outdoor classroom at Burton 4-H Center (above); Students study orienteering at Rock Eagle with plenty of space to enjoy the great outdoors (above, right).



are able to come back for experiential on-site and in-person field studies.

The virtual series known as From the Mountains to the Sea took place on a daily rotation beginning in March 2020 and continued each week until May. These fun and informative videos were so well received that the centers decided to continue with another fall, winter, spring, and summer series during the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. The graphic below shows the breakdown of how the centers divided their content.

In the last year, thirty new virtual sessions have been added to the archives on a wide array of topics from sea turtles to shrimp, weather to marine debris, and botany to birds. These sessions range from five to 15 minutes in length and are initially broadcast on the 4-H centers' Facebook pages and are later archived to YouTube and the Georgia 4-H website.

Environmental Education has been an essential part of Georgia 4-H since 1979 and continues to be a foundational element of the impact that 4-H makes on youth every day.





Camping During COVID-19

Reflections on Making the Magic

WRITTEN BY CHARLIE WURST

***“Every Who down in Who-ville,
The tall and the small,
Was singing!
Without any presents at all!
He HADN’T stopped Christmas
From coming! IT CAME!
Somehow or other,
It came just the same!”
-The Grinch***

The Grinch had a plan. If he could take away the trappings of Christmas and the visible cheer that everyone recognized and associated with Christmas, he could take away that magical holiday. The Grinch knew his plan had failed when he heard the familiar sound of Christmas singing.

The Grinch’s story was the only thing I could think of during counselor training week when I needed to deliver more disappointing news to 54 of the hardest-working, most flexible, 4-H camp counselors Georgia 4-H has ever employed. We had determined we could not perform the Pageant at the Pageant Grounds and meet COVID restrictions. I reminded the counselors that we knew coming in camp was going to be different. The extremely difficult decision had already been made not to camp at Georgia’s 4-H Centers other than Rock Eagle. Some of the things everyone recognized and associated with 4-H camp in Georgia would not be possible. But the 4-H camp magic was still possible, and their attitudes and enthusiasm were key to making it happen.

It was a belief in the importance of the 4-H camping experience to positive youth development that led many people, not only counselors, to work together with great attitudes and enthusiasm to make sure we did not spend another summer in Georgia without 4-H camp as we had in 2020. Agents served on task forces to explore the best camping options and state staff followed the latest guidance from state and federal agencies and the University of Georgia in making and reviewing plans, especially related to camper and staff safety. County offices made plans to ration a limited number of camping spaces to parents and children who were ready to move back in the direction of normal.

The camping schedule was built around cohorts – campers in cabins at about half capacity doing all activities together all week and maintaining physical distance between themselves and other cabins/cohorts. Swimming pools were divided into zones with cabins rotating from one zone to the next. Tribes had their own designated dining areas and cabins had assigned seating in the dining hall. Counselors had to stay outdoors with campers at night for milk cottage. Counties were given the option of providing parent-driven transportation to address transportation concerns. COVID testing was established on site at the Health Cottage, if needed.

4-H camp certainly required a different approach in 2021. But most of my concerns that centered on the question, "Will it really feel like camp?" began to evaporate the very first day. The Leadership counselors, stationed on Rock Eagle Road to help direct buses through an alternate entrance, caught the eye of the campers on a Coffee Co. bus as it crested the hill, and the very familiar sound of screaming, yelling, and cheering emanating from that bus provided a great relief.



4-H CAMP CAME!
Somehow or other, it came
Just the same!



Zoom Into Science

Sea turtle necropsies, dolphin prosthesis, and anesthetized chickens: these are some of the many presentation topics more than 1,200 youth heard as part of the Georgia 4-H Zoom into Science program.

What started as a few virtual sessions during the summer of 2020 grew into twenty youth outreach presentations offered during the 2020-21 school year. Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, sessions continued to be offered twice a month.

Each one-hour class focuses on a particular science concept. Presenters share their real-world experiences often through photos and videos and allow youth to ask questions. Some presenters even featured live animals, plants, rocks, and demonstrations.

Speakers included graduate students, professors, researchers, scientists, and practitioners who wanted to get the next generation of scientists excited about future possibilities. University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences professors Dr. Andrew Benson from Poultry Science, Dr. Wayne Parrott from Crop and Soil Science, Dr. Manpreet Singh from Food Science, and Dr. Ester van der Knaap from Horticulture all provided sessions. Anne Lindsay, Nina Sassano, and Katie Higgins with the University of Georgia Marine Extension were presenters as well.

After the sea turtles session, a parent shared her gratitude: *"Thank you so much for giving everyone the opportunity to participate in the Sea Turtle zoom! My homeschooler absolutely loved it! He was on my phone taking photos of the babies to show his dad when he comes home. I appreciated the educating hour we had with y'all!"*

Georgia 4-H is proud to offer science programming for 4-H youth, and certainly used an innovative model to continue to serve young people during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Google + 4-H = Robots!



What is more fun than learning to program a robot during the summer?!? For nearly 60 youth across Georgia, their summer days were filled with communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, using computers, wires, and golfball-looking robots.

Through a partnership between National 4-H Council and Google, Georgia 4-H was awarded a \$10,000 grant as part of the Growing a Computer Science Pathways for America's Youth project. Current college students that were 4-H'ers just a few years ago volunteered to mentor youth in Baldwin, Cobb, Oconee, and Taylor Counties this summer. Additionally, 4-H faculty in Camden County provided computer science programming as part of the 4-H/military partnership with Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base.

Christian Albritton, UGA student and former 4-H'er from Taylor County, provided short day camps for youth in Taylor and Oconee Counties. "The grant was beneficial because it brought computer and coding education to youth populations and rural communities that aren't able to receive the same computer education as larger schools," says Albritton. "The project makes computer education more equitable for all kids." Equipment and supplies purchased with the funding will become available for any county 4-H program across the state to use in future activities and events.



STEM Ambassador Fellows

For nearly a decade, high school 4-H youth have had the opportunity to serve as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Ambassador. Coordinated by a team of Extension Specialists and Agents, these youth participate in a dynamic training and then complete learning and sharing experiences throughout the year. But what happens when the program grows exponentially, and the adult leaders need more assistance? Recruit volunteers!

The STEM Ambassador Fellow program recruited inaugural group members for the 2020-21 year. Current college students who were STEM Ambassadors as part of their 4-H experience were asked to be near-peer mentors with the current high school STEM Ambassadors. Christian Albritton from Talyor County, Kennedy Deveaux from Cobb County, Riley Elwood from Morgan County, David Han from Oconee County, Kelly Lachowsky from Liberty County, and Becca Velasquez from Effingham County volunteered in this new capacity with Georgia 4-H.

Kennedy Deveaux told STEM Ambassadors last fall to "not be discouraged. I know we are living during some pretty odd times as of right now, but that doesn't mean that we cannot have a successful program this year! I believe in you all, and together we will navigate through this STEM Ambassador experience to the best of our ability."



4-H'er Kennedy Gross from Columbia County used her passion for animals to impact her STEM Ambassador activities. She put up turtle crossing signs in her community, led activities about lizards with younger 4-H youth, and hosted educational learning opportunities with black bears.

Plant Biotechnology Kits



Engineering a greenhouse prototype is one of the activities from the Plant Biotechnology curriculum.

Plants are the key to a healthy and sustainable food system. Plant breeding and biotechnology assist in the developing of new varieties and traits, leading to higher-yielding crops and food with improved nutrition, taste, and storage life. While 4-H is certainly rooted in agriculture production, there were no curriculum sets about plant breeding and biotechnology offered at the national level - until now.

Georgia 4-H was awarded \$15,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to develop a 6-part lesson plan series about plant breeding and biotechnology for middle school students. From learning how to engineer a greenhouse to playing a board game about the wild mustard plant, youth learned science content through fun and engaging activities.

A new cohort model during 4-H Summer Camp provided the opportunity for each cabin at Rock Eagle 4-H Center to receive a STEM kit that adults could use with their campers. "These are great lessons for any time, but it's always a plus when outstanding curriculum can meet a very practical need," said Georgia 4-H camping specialist Charlie Wurst. "COVID restrictions made us restructure our plans for rainy day activities, and it was great to have top-notch programming available to our leaders in each of our 45 cabins in the event inclement weather disrupted the regular camp schedule."

Gypsy Tart, 4-H Program Assistant in Liberty County shared, "The STEM kits were great! At first, I was a little reluctant because I didn't want them to feel like they were doing school work, but the activities were so much fun that the kids asked to do one every day! I look forward to using the resources with my county program."

The lesson plans will be shared nationally on the 4-H at Home website, a free platform hosted by National 4-H Council that allows youth, families, and 4-H'ers access to research-based resources and materials.

Connecting for Our Health: Master Volunteer Program

WRITTEN BY DR. COURTNEY BROWN AND KERI HOBBS

Well Connected Communities is an effort to create a culture of health across the country. In partnership with National 4-H Council, Colquitt, Calhoun, and Washington counties are working to remove barriers and create communities where healthy choices are easy and available to all. The Well Connected Communities Initiative is supported by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy dedicated solely to health. Across the state, UGA Extension professionals work every day to provide research based knowledge to community members and connect their community partners. Through this partnership, Georgia 4-H is working to ensure communities have access to local data that helps identify gaps and challenges to health and wellness, local policies that encourage healthy living, engagement from all sectors of public and private industry and government to help solve pressing issues, and networks of adults and youth that want to make a difference. Since January of 2018, Colquitt, Calhoun, and Washington counties have worked to establish, expand, and engage members of their community in a health coalition. These coalitions are comprised of individuals from multiple sectors and collaborate to provide perspective, assess needs, and expand resources in the communities in which they serve.

New in 2020 and 2021, the UGA Well Connected Communities team planned and launched the UGA Extension Well Connected Community (WCC) Master Volunteer program. These volunteers are comprised of youth and adults serving together for the betterment of health in their communities. The goal of the UGA Extension Well Connected Community Master Volunteer program is to prepare youth and adult volunteers to serve in the area of health, extend the community's capacity for equitable health-related initiatives, and enhance overall community health. WCC Master Volunteers were selected by local Extension office staff through a competitive application and interview process. Youth over the age of 18 and adults, alike, were encouraged to apply. Washington County served as the pilot county for the Master Volunteer program and successfully recruited six volunteers (four youth and two adults) for this intensive training.

These volunteers are an extension of the University of Georgia and their local Extension office and can represent

UGA Extension in health initiatives, under the direction of local Extension Agents, following their successful completion of 40-hours of volunteer training and successfully completing a class project. The training course was offered through a hybrid framework that included asynchronous, synchronous, print, and face-to-face learning environments in their county as well as a state training at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Following the successful completion of the volunteer training course, including class project and exams, volunteers are committed to taking action in their communities by returning 40 hours of volunteer service hours under the direction of their local

Extension faculty.

Alyssa Maze, Allison McAfee, Virginia Pittman, Dymear Poole, Geena Rubiera, and I'anna Watson are the six volunteers from Washington County who successfully completed the Well Connected Communities Master Volunteer training. This industrious group is supported at the county level by Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Agent Georgeanne Cook and 4-H Agent Cindy Sheram.

Georgeanne Cook, Washington County FACS Agent, says "I am excited to see the adult and youth partnerships come together. The youth are very much leaders within our group and enjoy our adult volunteers and vice versa. The Well Connected Communities Master Volunteers are on a path to create meaningful and lasting change in their communities."

The UGA Well Connected Communities team includes Dr. Courtney Brown, Lisa Jordan, Keri Hobbs, Dr. Jenna Daniel, Dr. Maria Bowie, Dr. Virginia Brown, Cindy Sheram, Georgeanne Cook, Shanda Ashley, Luke Crosson, and Rachel Hubbard.





Better Together:

Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps VISTA and State Members Receive CAES Diversity Award

The AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and State Members serving Georgia 4-H were collectively awarded the 2020 UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Diversity Award. This honor recognizes the impact of the Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps programs to bring greater diversity, inclusivity, and global perspective to 4-H programming and participation while also expanding 4-H's statewide reach. Over the course of more than a decade, 75 VISTA and more than 339 State AmeriCorps members have helped 4-H equip young people with the life skills needed to be successful and to break the cycle of persistent poverty that affect many areas around our state.

The Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps VISTA and State Programs are made possible by grants from AmeriCorps (formerly known as The Corporation for National and Community Service). AmeriCorps is similar in concept to the Peace Corps but with a focus on domestic service, rather than international. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering, which aligns well with the mission and values of 4-H (AmeriCorps, 2020). AmeriCorps has awarded Georgia 4-H the AmeriCorps VISTA grant since 2010 and the AmeriCorps State grant since 2012. VISTA and State Members have served Georgia 4-H in full-time, part-time, and summer positions in locations such as local and district Extension offices, 4-H centers, and the Georgia 4-H state office. While local recruitments have added diversity to Extension's corps of leaders, the two programs have also

expanded the capacity of Extension to reach new audiences, improving outcomes for 4-H'ers, families, and communities.

Nine out of ten supervisor surveys indicate that AmeriCorps State Members were able to use focused programming to reach underserved target audiences that had been lacking in 4-H participation. Seventy percent of service sites increased youth programming, and 93% of supervisors reported that members enabled them to increase their capacity to serve the community. All supervisor respondents noted that having a member in their community made a positive impact on their county 4-H programs.

Over the course of more than a decade, 75 VISTA and more than 339 State AmeriCorps members have helped 4-H equip young people with the life skills needed to be successful and to break the cycle of persistent poverty that affect many areas around our state.

VISTA members have built capacity within the 4-H program to reach marginalized and vulnerable youth via positive youth development experiences, reversing

negative statistical trends. Since 2010, the equivalent of more than 75 full-time members have raised in excess of \$690,000 in cash and noncash resources, produced more than 1,500 marketing pieces, and recruited and/or coordinated more than 3,600 volunteers to expand the reach of 4-H's positive youth development programming.

The Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps State Program is the second largest in the state. During the ten years of the AmeriCorps State Grant, 218 full-time, 125 half-time, and two minimum-time members have served more than 393,853 hours, reached over 170,394 students through in-school programming, assisted 124,729 students through 4-H Project Achievement, and recruited more than 2,020 volunteers who contributed over 22,440 hours of volunteer service.

Meeting Needs:

AmeriCorps VISTAs Provide COVID-19 Relief Through Food Security Efforts and Healthy Living Efforts

WRITTEN BY KERI HOBBS

For the past two summers, Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America) Summer Associates have supported food security and improved healthy habits of youth through summer programming. Associates Phoebe Milledge and Chester McLocklin served eight weeks last summer in Fulton and Jackson Counties, respectively. Through partnerships with community organizations, they led Summer Health Squads (youth cohorts focused on healthy education) to raise awareness of educational health needs through hands-on programming and supported food security initiatives.

VISTA Summer Associates provided healthy living programming for youth in their communities with a focus on nutrition and food access. They also covered proper handwashing techniques and created belonging for youth through health-focused cohorts. Collectively, VISTA Summer Associates reached 50 youth in the summer of 2021, bringing the total to 279 participants who have been impacted with the six-lesson program and the 4-H Youth Summer Health Squad. This summer initiative further strengthened regular-term VISTA service goals while also striving to meet the National Service priority of combating hunger and food insecurity.

With previous formal educator experience, Chester thrived in the informal 4-H classrooms during the summer where he led 15 hours of health education lessons in Jackson County. In reflection, Chester recalls a student at a cooking day camp who mentioned mostly eating macaroni and cheese with limited variety in his diet. Chester taught about healthy foods and showed youth how to cook eggs, meat, and vegetables. Following the session, the young person noted that he had never known that cooking and eating healthy foods could be so much fun and planned to incorporate additional foods into his diet in the future.



Youth in both counties were surveyed after the Summer Health Squad graduation, and 93% of them self-reported that being a part of the Summer Health Squad helped them learn about food, nutrition, and helping others. Additionally, more than 80% of survey respondents reported that because of what they learned in the Summer Health Squads, they know more about how food security and hunger affects their community. Eighty-nine percent of respondents reported that they know how and when they should wash their hands - an important skill during a pandemic!

VISTAs also supported UGA Extension and their local community efforts with food insecurity initiatives by supporting local food drives, extending services of local food pantries, and assisting local school systems with food delivery efforts. While Chester held a local food drive and donated 650 pounds of foods to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Phoebe was serving with Fulton County's "Fulton Fresh" efforts. Phoebe reflects on her first four weeks of service as a showcase of the meaning of passionate and thoughtful service. She remembers the experience of delivering healthy produce to those in need and noted that "talking with and recognizing faces over these weeks made the heat, sweat, and time worth it." During her eight weeks of service, 911 households completed educational lessons, 1,535 family kits were delivered containing fresh produce and science kits, and 20,233 pounds of food were distributed in Fulton County. This was made possible through the support of partnerships and volunteers at the Fulton County Extension office.

"Serving as a VISTA for Fulton County's Extension program really built my skills in teaching, data analysis, and planning. Not only was I surrounded by a welcoming and talented group of people in the office, but they also offered me mentorship in multiple specialties," Phoebe recalls. "My volunteer service as the healthy living squad educator really deepened my passion in working with youth, so much so that I was able to find a full-time educator position within the same office. I am so grateful for my AmeriCorps experience, and I highly recommend others to invest themselves in the program who share a passion for youth education, family advocacy, and community development." Associates gained professional experience through their service and supported efforts to alleviate poverty through education. They also supported a reduction in summer learning loss while increasing healthy habits, educating youth about enhancing food security, and building capacity and sustainability of the organizations. They provided for local communities through a focus on education and health. Throughout the summer, VISTAs built capacity in local organizations and recruited additional volunteers to further strengthen their efforts. Phoebe has now joined the Extension staff in Fulton County where she serves as a 4-H Educator. Chester now serves as a teacher for Barrow County Schools.





Leadership in Action

WRITTEN BY DR. SUE CHAPMAN AND JASON ESTEP

The 4-H Leadership in Action program recognizes the work of Junior 4-H'ers in 7th and 8th grades and Senior 4-H'ers in 9th-12th grades as leaders in their communities. The program inspires youth to take an active role in identifying and addressing local issues and spearheading local initiatives to improve the communities in which they live.

4-H'ers begin this process by identifying a need in their community or a pressing issue related to agriculture or the environment. Once an opportunity has been selected, youth brainstorm ways to make a positive difference and then put their plan in action. Participants can then apply to receive recognition at the county, district, and state levels. In 2021, thirty 4-H youth led service projects and applied for recognition through Leadership in Action - each of them had profound positive impacts on their communities.

Youth volunteerism is a growing trend. These students provide enthusiasm, energy, and excitement when asked to provide leadership for community endeavors. In turn, they are able to develop valuable life skills including how to plan, implement, and evaluate projects; how to work with diverse audiences and rally support; and how to think critically about issues affecting their communities. In some instances, youth may discover future career avenues and gain experience in these fields through their service learning efforts.

Leadership in Action is made possible through the support of sponsors like 4-H alumnus Mr. Jayson Dukes, The Hoop and Eleanor Baily Eberhardt Fund, and Epsilon Sigma Phi - the professional honor society for Extension. Through Leadership in Action, 4-H'ers have a choice of applying for local recognition and state recognition. Both levels require the same application; however, state recognition requires additional documentation.

Senior 4-H'ers who opt to participate in the competitive interview process will first compete with fellow applicants

from their district. The two Senior 4-H'ers who place highest in each of the four district contests will be invited to attend State 4-H Congress. At Congress, finalists compete in our State Leadership in Action Interview Contest.

Additionally, state finalists who still have at least one year of high school left are eligible to apply for a \$500 grant to expand and continue their service projects, with up to four grants being awarded each year. The eight state finalists are honored during the Annual Leadership Banquet, followed by the announcement of the two state winners. The two state winners receive Master 4-H status, are honored during 4-H Day at the Capitol, and have the option of either representing Georgia at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC, or receiving a \$500 scholarship.

The positive impacts of these efforts are limitless when considering the diversity and depths of the service projects, the geographic reach of the many participants, and the innumerable ways that the youth themselves have benefited from their community engagement. The following summary of the 2021 state finalists' projects illuminates the power of passionate youth leaders who are supported by caring adults.



Caroline Phillips, Jackson County

Caroline created a donation drive to collect school supplies for youth in foster care after learning of this significant need in her community. She reached out to local DFCS offices to find out what specific supplies were needed before utilizing her local 4-H office and network of personal contacts to create a donation hub and seek donations from the community. Thanks to the public's generosity and Caroline's efforts, much-needed school supplies were delivered to area youth in foster care. In fact, enough school supplies were donated to fully equip 10 youth for the entire school year!

Lily Thomas, Putnam County

After learning about teen dating violence through volunteering with the Putnam County Family Domestic Task Force, Lily wanted her community to be better informed about these issues. She created programming to raise awareness and educate both classmates and area residents about teen dating violence. With help from her peers, Lily distributed orange awareness ribbons, led supply drives to support local domestic and family violence shelters, and planned and led "Love Shouldn't Hurt" - a teen domestic violence awareness program with educational workshops.

Gus Federico, Bartow County

Gus saw the potential to turn a blighted area on the grounds of a historic area church into a beautiful oasis for the entire community. After getting approval, Gus sprang into action to recruit volunteers and sought donations of materials that would be needed for the beautification project. By cleaning up trash and debris, prepping soil, washing walls, installing plants, and adding finishing details such as benches, solar lights, and walkways, Gus and the volunteers were able to create a prayer garden at the historic Sam Jones United Methodist Church. The new garden has not only benefited church members, but is open to and has helped beautify the neighborhood, as well.

Juliette McKinley, Paulding County – State Winner

Juliette recognized the emotional toll the COVID-19 pandemic was having on youth as it caused increased feelings of loneliness and anxiety. In response to this issue in her community, Juliette offered art classes to youth of all ages that encouraged creativity and inclusion and helped alleviate some stress and anxiety. Juliette spent over 1,000 hours preparing and leading art programs and projects, promoting art for mental health on social media, and creating and sharing an art booklet called ARTEMISOL.

Chanthony Andrews Jr., Glynn County

The Brunswick area has a considerable homeless population that is vulnerable to exposure to the elements throughout the year. Chanthony wanted to help these individuals to be better prepared for the weather while raising awareness about the challenges they face and sharing ideas for how the community could better assist the homeless. He started a service project called "Socktober" to help supply much needed socks to area shelters. With the support of his 4-H agent, his school, and local partners, Chanthony collected and distributed 929 pairs of socks to help local homeless people stay warm and comfortable.



Jesse Tyre, Bacon County

Jesse always loved visiting local Head Start programs and schools to conduct read-alouds for the Farm Bureau and local library, but his visits came to a complete halt with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Determined to continue promoting literacy while exposing young kids to topics such as agriculture, STEM, and 4-H, Jesse created a Facebook read-aloud video series that he later expanded into a YouTube channel. The channel featured engaging read-alouds that were often filmed on sites that were tied to the stories, such as blueberry farms or hay fields. He also collaborated with local partners to develop fun and interactive activities to accompany the readings. So far, more than 500 students have taken advantage of these resources.

Shazia Alam, Sumter County – State Winner

Growing up in an area with a high rate of poverty and an abundance of fast-food restaurants, Shazia realized that many community members lacked access to healthy food. In response, Shazia created "Healthy Heroes," a club that helps fellow 4-H'ers and other youth learn about gardening, maintaining a healthy diet, and proper exercise. She developed and led a variety of activities, including helping to supply participants with the knowledge, skills, and items needed to grow their own salsa garden, publishing a monthly healthy living newsletter, and involving participants in creating a healthy cookbook for Sumter County. Over 3,000 community members have benefited from these efforts.

Omarion Smart, Decatur County

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on the physical and mental health of many communities. Omarion wanted to take action to raise awareness about mental health and to provide support and encouragement to help community members, especially the elderly and youth, combat feelings of loneliness, fear, and grief. He called his project "Campaign for Positive Thinking and Encouragement," and it involved creating and posting inspirational flyers, presenting a series of youth sermons at his church, and writing a children's book that a fellow 4-H'er illustrated. Through the power of social media, Omarion's messages of positivity and inspiration have reached tens of thousands of people within his community and around the world.

National Champions: Morgan County Recurve Archers

WRITTEN BY CRAVEN HUDSON

Who knows where the journey may lead when a fourth grader picks up a bow at that first 4-H Archery Team meeting? Certified Coaches are there to make sure the youngster safely sends arrows down range. Once that happens, most youth are hooked and want to shoot more arrows and get better doing it.

Four Morgan County 4-H Archers followed that journey all the way to Grand Island, Nebraska for the 2021 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships. Over the course of three events - FITA, Field, and 3-D - Tim Smith, Daniel Lott, Dawson Martin and Thomas Smith put everything they had learned and worked on into practice. The result was a national championship in recurve archery.

Their hard work resulted in a major win; however, the steps in the journey are as important as the end goal. We are delighted when youth win championships, and we are also delighted when we see youth graduate from our Georgia 4-H Shooting Sports programs as productive and engaged citizens. When volunteers are in training to become certified shooting sports instructors, they learn two main messages: safety and positive youth development.

The Morgan County "Mullet Men" have been fortunate to have 2020 Georgia 4-H Volunteer of the Year Danny Pincus as their coach. The boys grew out some impressive mullets prior to the match. Coach Danny promised he would wear a mullet wig on stage and all over the campus if the boys won the championship. Danny gladly kept his promise when his team won.

Coach Danny Pincus has worked hard to sharpen his skills and has earned USA Archery Level 4 coaching certification. As a national 4-H trainer he trains volunteers to become state 4-H instructors in their states. Danny generously shares his knowledge and time as the lead coach for a large Morgan County 4-H Archery Team. Over the years, he has taken multiple teams to the national championship matches, yet Danny fully understands that his main role is mentoring youth.

Winning is wonderful. Building youth with character who exhibit good sportsmanship and help each other is more important. Danny and all the Morgan County coaches are youth builders.

Sometimes those youth win national championships!





Before Willie Spence shared his talent with the world on American Idol, he shared it with us as an active Georgia 4-H'er from Coffee County and a member of the Clovers & Co. cast

Friends of Clovers & Co.

For four decades, Clovers & Co. has been a signature part of Georgia 4-H. This year, as we celebrate the group's 40th anniversary, we kicked off a new Georgia 4-H affinity group called "Friends of Clovers & Co." The goal of this ongoing campaign is to pull together alumni, Clovers' families, and community supporters to ensure that the program flourishes for another forty years.

This group consists of donors and patrons rallying around the efforts of these incredibly talented 4-H'ers. All donations made to the Friends fund are specifically earmarked to underwrite the activities, programs, and performances of Clovers.

The Georgia 4-H Foundation would like to thank the inaugural group of 'Friends of Clovers & Co.' donors that are providing opportunities for the next generation of performers. If you would like to join Friends of Clovers & Co., contact Adam Hammond at adam.hammond@uga.edu.

2021 Friends of Clovers & Co. Donors

Albany Concert
Association
Fred & Janet
Bland
Beau & Katharine
Bryan
William & Kaye
Bufford
Robert & Joanne
Cavis

Michael Cebulski
Clover Glove Race
Series
Elaine Cranford
Greg & Lisa Eley
Darrell & Lisa Huckaby
David & Stacy Jones
Mickey & Judy Morris
William & Susan
Mullis

Ken & Linda Parris
Gregory & Becky
Price
Walter Reeves
Bo & Becky Ryles
Webb & Diane
Smathers
Seth Turner
Don and Maxanne
Woolf

Life with Livestock

WRITTEN BY HEATHER SHULTZ

It may have been different from past years, but Georgia 4-H succeeded in offering programming for youth livestock enthusiasts through the pandemic. With the support of the State Events Team, alterations were made to offer safe and coordinated events to ensure that the competitions could still happen. With these changes, contests were run more efficiently and effectively. As we look forward to Livestock programming in the 2021-2022 4-H year, we will permanently adopt many of the lessons we learned.

Georgia 4-H Specialists worked hard to provide effective and engaging experiences for those that enjoy participating in youth livestock educational contests and exhibitions. Throughout 2020-2021, all traditional livestock competitions were held with tremendous participation.

Livestock programs are central to the mission of Georgia 4-H. Mastery, generosity, belonging, and independence all come to life when a 4-H'er learns to care for the well-being of an animal. We are thrilled to continue the rich traditions and legacy of responsibility that these programs bring to the students who take part in them.



Month of the Military Child



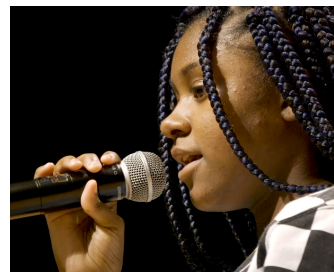
Through unique partnerships, Georgia 4-H empowers youth with important life and leadership skills. Since the early 1990s, the Georgia National Guard and Air Guard have been strong partners and supporters of the mission of Georgia 4-H. Throughout the partnership, programs have been created and resources shared to support military-dependent children through the Georgia 4-H Military Partnership.

On July 12th, 2021, Rock Eagle 4-H Center and Georgia 4-H staff accepted a Month of the Military Child mural completed by the Georgia National Guard Youth Program. The mural is a result of a partnership with the Foundation for Hospital Art. The Foundation for Hospital Art designed the mural for the Georgia National Guard Youth Program. The mural highlights that military-dependent youth are "future history makers." Recent high school graduates Noah Sherman and Ethan Johnson emphasized the strength of the partnership through stories of volunteering, leading, and teaching. Major Clay (MFSB Chief), Chaplain Chandler (SFPD), Mark Richards (Youth Director) highlighted the resiliency of the Guard families and the strength of partnerships. The mural proudly hangs in the entryway to the dining hall at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

GEORGIA

4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

OVER
48K RECEIVED INSTRUCTION
.....
2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR



Students choose a project area of interest, research the topic and write and present a presentation. Youth develop leadership, creativity, public speaking and other skills. As students become older, a record-keeping component is added that promotes independent thinking and research.

CLOVERLEAF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

2,166 GRADES 4-6 COMPETED **62** PROJECT CATEGORIES **13** AREA CONTESTS

JUNIOR AND SENIOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

1,413 GRADES 7-12 COMPETED **104** PROJECT CATEGORIES **4** DISTRICT CONTESTS



244 GRADES 7-8 WINNERS **215** GRADES 9-12 WINNERS

STATE 4-H CONGRESS

209 GRADES 9-12 COMPETED **50** PROJECT WINNERS

WINNERS RECEIVED GEORGIA MASTER 4-H'ER STATUS

*9 Area Contest were offered virtually in response to the pandemic.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

GEORGIA 4-H THRIVES



WRITTEN BY DR. SUE CHAPMAN

In late Spring 2021, COVID numbers declined to their lowest levels since the pandemic began, and activities were returning to normal. Georgia 4-H received approval to proceed with summer camp and other large gatherings, while continuing to follow CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health, and University of Georgia best practices for preventing the spread of infection. State and county Extension/4-H personnel quickly responded. Georgia 4-H scheduled all four of the District Project Achievement (DPA) competitions in a 2-week period, bringing judges and competitors to Rock Eagle 4-H Center for an overnight event. Project winners were announced and immediately invited to 4-H State Congress held in Atlanta in late July. District and state officers were elected, trained, and began their terms of service. During this time, Georgia 4-H provided 6 weeks of camp and a modified version of Georgia 4-H State Council at Rock Eagle. A few summer activities were continued in a virtual or hybrid format, but Georgia 4-H was operating as close to normal conditions as possible.

Like everyone, Georgia 4-H personnel were coping with their own COVID-related challenges at home, at work, at school, and in their community.





However, they continued to focus on maintaining positive relationships with their 4-H youth and reaching out to them in whatever format was available. Some counties even noted that their program grew during this time as young people sought face-to-face interactions. Others were able to reach more youth because the virtual format alleviated their inability to secure transportation for attending live events. In spite of the many challenges, Georgia 4-H continued the process of providing positive youth development through high quality programming that leads to youth thriving.

Research has shown that youth who experience high quality developmental settings in 4-H with an emphasis on key social-emotional skills achieve key positive youth development outcomes. This includes academic motivation and success, social competence, high personal standards, connection with others, personal responsibility, and contribution to others through leadership and civic engagement. Youth who achieve positive developmental outcomes are more likely to also achieve long-term outcomes marked by vocational or academic success, civic engagement, employability, economic stability, happiness, and well being (4-H Thriving Model of PYD; <https://helping-youth-thrive.extension.org>).

In essence, 4-H'ers THRIVE! Thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff of Georgia 4-H who worked tirelessly and unselfishly during the pandemic, 4-H programs and activities continued, and the youth of Georgia were served. Because of their commitment, Georgia 4-H THRIVES!



2020 - 2021

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Northeast District Representative

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Tirth Patel, Randolph County, Board Member
Hinano Tomlinson, Sumter County, Board Member



GEORGIA

4-H VOLUNTEERS

OVER
103.9K TOTAL HOURS
..... 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR



1,335 + 4,109 = A P X \$3M

TEENS SERVED

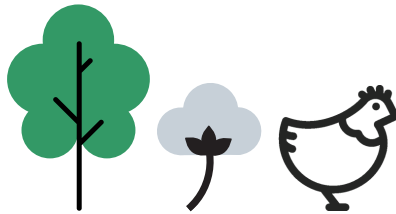
ADULTS SERVED

VOLUNTEER TIME-WORTH

1,140 VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES
..... DISTRICT/STATE EVENTS



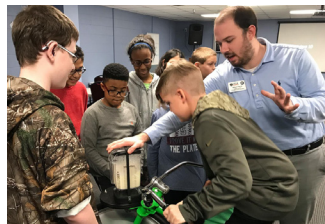
940 CERTIFIED SAFE COACHES
• ARCHERY, PISTOL, RIFLE & SHOTGUN



142 CERTIFIED JUDGING COACHES
..... FORESTRY, COTTON BOLL & CONSUMER JUDGING, POULTRY, LAND AND WILDLIFE JUDGING



682 CERTIFIED JUDGES
..... PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT



312 VOLUNTEER-LED CLUBS
..... STATEWIDE



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



First Class!

WASHINGTON COUNTY YOUTH AND ADULTS COMPRISED THE FIRST UGA EXTENSION WELL CONNECTED COMMUNITIES MASTER VOLUNTEER ACADEMY!

The Year of the Volunteer

WRITTEN BY KERI HOBBS



The 2020-2021 volunteer spotlight is on all of the 4,109 adults and 1,335 teens who served in 2021. Volunteering in the wake of the COVID-19 response was perhaps more important than ever! We're grateful to all who continued to make a positive impact on young people, despite the world outlook.

Volunteers are mission-centric to our work with young people. They chaperone 4-H events and camps, lead 4-H programs, judge projects, coach teams, and much more. These loyal services are not unnoticed! This year and every year, our hats are off to the 1,140 volunteers who served as chaperones at one of the 228 district or state events last year; to the 940 certified SAFE Coaches who continued positive youth development through coaching archery, air pistol, rifle, or shotgun; to the 142 volunteers who coached a judging team; to the 682 who supported Project Achievement judging; to the volunteers who enabled 312 youth clubs to happen; and to all who supported in the numerous ways we needed to get back to what we do best: impacting the lives of young people!

A Lifetime of Service

WRITTEN BY KERI HOBBS

A bright spotlight from the 2020-2021 year shines on Melvina Carlan, Pickens County 4-H volunteer who served for over 50 years! Mrs. Carlan was named one of only four National 4-H Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime Volunteers this year. Her honor included a \$500 award that she gave to the Pickens County 4-H Program.

From her involvement as a 4-H youth to her adult volunteer work, her service and impact have spanned generations of young people! With kindness and grace, she has served as coach for Forestry Judging, Poultry Judging, and Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging teams over the years. Melvina also mentors youth in civic engagement and 4-H Project Achievement. Pickens County 4-H finds her an invaluable asset to their programs and appreciates the legacy she has made on young people throughout the years. The community is also extremely appreciative of her work as attested in the praise she receives from 4-H family members:

"Invaluable ...Hundreds of Pickens County 4-H'ers have reached their potential due to the investment in their lives by Melvina Carlan." -- Rick Jasperse, State Representative House District 11

"Her service has spanned generations! I'm the adult I am today because of the 4-H'er that she helped to make me as a young person." -- Allen Wigington, former Chief Magistrate Judge of Pickens County





Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award: Ellis and Aletha Black

Since 2008, the Georgia 4-H Program has been recognizing outstanding public servants who have been stellar supporters of the 4-H program during their careers with the coveted Green Jacket Award. The 2021 Green Jacket Award recipients are Senator Ellis Black and his wife, Aletha Black.

Ellis started his professional career as an Extension Agent in Ware County immediately following his college graduation. His 4-H career began many years before that as a Lowndes County 4-H'er and the course of his life was permanently impacted by his experiences as a club member. He went on to be a state champion sheep shearer and a counselor at Rock Eagle - and the rest is history.

Aletha became a member of the 4-H family when she and Ellis were married in 1968. Since then, she has been at the helm of their family's efforts to support the Georgia 4-H Program. Each of their three children grew up in 4-H and became Master 4-H'ers. Both Ellis and Aletha have continued to provide leadership to Georgia 4-H for more than five decades.

Ellis served in the Georgia House of Representatives for 14 years and was elected in 2015 to serve Senate District 8. He has advocated for the success of 4-H at the highest levels of our state government, championing funding for essential programs and ensuring representation at every opportunity.

The Blacks have also served as volunteers in Lowndes County 4-H for decades. They maintain a community barn that provides free access to resources for local families to raise and learn about livestock. Ellis can still be found pulling livestock trailers to fairgrounds and barns all over Georgia. He has served for 17 years on the Oversight Committee for the Georgia National Fair and plays an instrumental role in securing funding for the rich 4-H programming that occurs there each year.

Georgia 4-H is empowered to continue making the best better because of a lifetime of support from Ellis and Aletha.

The Green Jacket Award, established in 2008, recognizes individuals for their outstanding statewide support of Georgia 4-H. It is presented annually at State Congress on behalf of Georgia 4-H alumni, donors, volunteers and friends.

2020

Gale Cutler, Senior Public Relations Coordinator
Georgia EMC

2019

Francis "Abit" Massey, President Emeritus
Georgia Poultry Federation

2018

Jack Hill, State Senator

2017

Gary Black
Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture

2016

Tom McCall, State Representative

2015

Paul Wood
President/CEO of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

2014

Terry England, State Senator

2013

Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia

2012

Hank Huckaby, Board of Regents Chancellor

2011

David Ralston, Speaker of the House

2010

Randy Nuckolls, Georgia 4-H Foundation Trustee

2009

Mike Beatty, Georgia Department of Community
Affairs Commissioner

2008

Sonny Perdue, Governor of Georgia

Positions at time of award

William H. Booth Award: Kevin Tatum

The William H. Booth Award recognizes an Extension agent with more than seven years of experience from each of the four districts for outstanding 4-H professional achievement, 4-H educational development, professional and university service, and philosophy. This honor acknowledges both peer recognition and career achievement and is sponsored by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation. The 2021 state winner of the William H. Booth Award is Kevin Tatum, Coffee County 4-H Agent and County Extension Coordinator from the Southeast District.

Kevin has been making a difference in the lives of youth and their families for more than 32 years. During his expansive career, Kevin has mentored fifty-six State Congress delegates, sent twelve poultry judging teams to state level competition, coached 50 Master 4-H'ers in various program areas, produced four Georgia 4-H scholarship recipients, and guided numerous livestock show champions. His robust local program has yielded large results and created opportunities for mastery for countless young people. He has also demonstrated leadership in several professional organizations, serving as President of Epsilon Sigma Phi and as Chair of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals.

Kevin and his team have recruited and trained over 350 volunteers, expanding the reach and depth of the local program. His leadership has also included improving the fiscal health of his program, increasing 4-H assets from \$1,000 in 1988 to over \$50,000 in 2021. Throughout his tenure, Coffee County has offered over \$75,000 in camp scholarships. Kevin likens his 4-H philosophy to lyrics from "The Greatest Love of All" by Whitney Houston. "The opening lyrics of her song resound with me and provide the framework which I work daily: 'I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way,'" he says. "I believe it's important that we spend time teaching them how to read, write, and do arithmetic, but it's also very important that we teach them how to be valuable, contributing, productive members of society."



Friend of 4-H Award: Doris Belcher, 1934-2021



For the last 46 years, the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents has recognized individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding support of Georgia 4-H with the Friend of 4-H Award. This important award highlights exemplary contributions towards the Georgia 4-H vision and mission. Doris Belcher received this distinguished award posthumously in 2021.

Doris served as the Columbia County 4-H Agent from her college graduation in 1957 to her retirement in 1989. During those 32 years, she touched the lives of thousands of students who found a home in her 4-H program. Doris coached countless 4-H'ers to bring home state and national championship titles – so many that she was recognized by the Georgia Master 4-H Club as an honorary member.

Project Achievement held a special place in Doris' heart and she often spoke fondly of the way that students were permanently and positively impacted by that experience. "The project titles have changed a little in the last 30 years, but the importance of the program stays the same," Doris recalls in a 2015 interview with a Georgia 4-H'er.

The Georgia 4-H program also made a lasting impact on Doris herself. She continued her involvement with the initiatives of 4-H long after her retirement, serving as a lifetime member of the National and Georgia Associations of Extension 4-H Agents and traveling the country to contribute to national meetings. She also graciously held a position on the Georgia 4-H Advisory Council for years after her retirement.

Doris was recognized by the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences with their notable D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Public Service Extension. Her commitment to public service was evident in all that she did throughout her career.

Doris was known for her encouraging attitude and continual kindness towards everyone with whom she interacted. Her dedication to the Georgia 4-H Program will be felt for generations to come.

Ryles Rising Star Award: Leah Wooddall

The Ryles Rising Star Award was established upon the retirement of former State 4-H Leader Dr. Roger C. (Bo) Ryles to recognize an outstanding 4-H staff member in the first five years of employment. These individuals make significant and outstanding contributions to the success of 4-H, either in a county program, at a 4-H center, or in the State 4-H Office. The 2021 recipient is Spalding County 4-H Agent Leah Wooddall.

Leah has championed the 4-H program in two counties in her four and a half years as an Extension agent. After serving as a 4-H volunteer for many years, she began her extension career as the Bacon County 4-H Agent. Her quality programming and community dedication positioned her as an emerging leader among agents and educators across Georgia. Lee Anna Deal, Southeast 4-H Program Development Coordinator, applauded Leah as a dynamic member of the 4-H family: "One of the things I admire most about Leah is her passion to continually find innovative ways to meet the needs of young people. She embraces their unique qualities and helps them identify their strengths and develop their skills."

Spalding County welcomed Leah in 2019 and she embraced the challenges of a large program as she built on the success of the previous leadership. She manages a five-person 4-H team and together they maintain at least 60 in-school clubs with more than 1,000 members. Leah has reestablished the Horse Club, established an Art Club, and maintains a rich variety of teams and clubs led by both staff and volunteers.

Leah navigated the COVID-19 pandemic with thoughtful programming and successful changes. She conducted virtual meetings in every Spalding County school and had 55 4-H'ers compete in virtual Cloverleaf DPA. She produced 8 Master



4-H'ers during the 2020 program year including State Congress winners, judging team winners, and cooking contest winners.

During her short career, Leah has mentored two presidents of the State 4-H Board of Directors and numerous district officers. She has received awards for the most Cloverleaf DPA competitors for three consecutive years. She currently serves as the Senior Director for the Northwest District branch of GAE4-HYDP. Her impact is felt throughout the state and she is excited to continue making a difference for the future of Georgia's youth.

Special Project: Georgia's First Flock



A dozen hens have found a home at the Georgia Governor's Mansion in Atlanta and make up Georgia's First Flock. This special project was formed through a new partnership with the Governor's Mansion, Georgia 4-H, and FFA that challenged youth to submit plans to help Marty Kemp's dream of a chicken coop on the 18-acre mansion grounds become a reality.

The winners of the First Flock competition include 4-H and FFA members from Warren County. Thomas Wilkerson, Randy Olive, Faith McNair, Caleb Griffith, Ayden Hill, Nathan Coffman, and Tayvion Robertson created a plan that included a site map, concept, and landscaping proposal for the installation of the project. These team members studied the site and created measurements and specifications to allow for optimal hen health. The First Flock enjoys ample space with nesting boxes, roosting areas, and a large fenced enclosure for scratching.

The Georgia Building Authority worked with 4-H and FFA to develop the site for the coop, while Carroll Daniel Construction took the winning design and created working construction plans to meet all building codes. Partnership with The Georgia Poultry Federation and the UGA Department of Poultry Science made this exciting project possible.



Outstanding Leadership: Charles Hall



Georgia 4-H relies on the service and dedication of the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee to support and guide our statewide program. From the committee's beginnings in 1946, the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee has played a vital role in communicating the value, accomplishments, and potential of 4-H.

Over time, the committee has been led by outstanding leaders who devote a great deal of time and effort to lead this exceptional group of volunteers. Previous chairs have included Priscilla Doster, former Monroe County Assistant Superintendent; Gale Cutler, recently retired Public Relations Coordinator for Georgia Electric Membership Corporation; Dennis Duncan, Director of the School of Agriculture at Tennessee Tech; and Jenna Williams Black, Director of City Schools of Decatur Frasier Center.

Charles Hall joins the group of distinguished past chairs as he completes his term of service as Chair. Hall is the founder and president of the Association Services Group, an organization that provides professional management services possible to small and mid-size membership organizations. As the Chair of our Advisory Committee, Hall has led our group to adapt to online meetings due to the pandemic, chaired the recent review and update of our bylaws, and stewarded the appointment of new members. He will continue in his past chair role through fall of 2023. Georgia 4-H is deeply indebted to Charles Hall for sharing his knowledge and talent.

State 4-H Advisory Liaison Mandy Marable says, "Charles has been a tower of strength for the committee through the challenge of leading during a pandemic. Throughout these last two years he has demonstrated the continuity and commitment needed to move our committee's work forward. His gift of organization and bylaw knowledge will continue to impact our committee work for years to come."

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Hal Beaver	Jenna Saxon
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Joshua Akins- NW District Director	

National Champions



Bartow County: National Winning Forestry Judging Team

Coach:
Paul Pugliese

Team Members:
Shasa Morgan, Bethany Craven,
Gabriel Craven, and Gus Federico

Special Project Winners

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Owen Mercer, Effingham County
Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chapple

BEEF

Bryson Smith, Gordon County
Donors: Dr. Jim Williamson, Williamson Beef Project Fund

COMMUNICATIONS

Adam Walters, Hart County
Donor: Mr. Scott Shell

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Geena Rubiera, Washington County
Donors: Mrs. Diane Vaughan and Mr. Lynn Rainey

COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ben Tellano, Hart County
Donors: Mrs. Jennifer Clark, Georgia Master 4-H Club

DAIRY

Abby Joyner, Burke County
Donors: Mr. Paul Snyder, Tillamook County Creamery Association

DOG CARE AND TRAINING

Dana Wells, Tift County
Donor: Ms. Joy Sherlock

ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS

Liam Jay, Ben Hill County
Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Mike Garrett

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

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Haley Kendrick, Turner County
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Jhaycee Barnes, Spalding County
Donors: Ms. Katrina Bowers, Sarah L. Huff Fund

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Henry Corbitt, Houston County
Donors: Mr. Thomas Carter, Georgia Development Authority

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Marlaisia Wilson, Crisp County
Donors: Dr. and Mrs. Curly Cook, M.K. Curly Cook Family Fund in Memory of Sandra B. Cook

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Lily Thomas, Putnam County
Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Thigpen

FOOD SAFETY AND PRESERVATION

Sydney Pridgon, Tift County
Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Jody Usry

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FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

Shazia Alam, Sumter County
Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Knox, Meadows-Knox Family Fund

GENERAL RECREATION

Kalani Washington, Oconee County
Donors: Ms. Sharda Williams, Six Flags Over Georgia

HEALTH

Bethany Samuel, Tift County
Donors: Mrs. Tammy Gilland, Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation

HISTORY

Savannah Reynolds, Emanuel County
Donors: Mrs. Ina Hopkins, The Ina Cook Hopkins History Fund, Ms. Beth Scott-Brown, In Memory of Darius and Betty Jo Miller

HORSE

Kate Muldrew, Bulloch County
Donors: Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Lucas

HOUSING

Jackson Moore, Stephens County
Donors: Ms. Shondrika Monique Kennedy and Mr. Troy Vigilance, CoStar Group

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Nicholas McKinley, Paulding County
Donors: Mrs. Dinah Rowe, Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals

INTERNATIONAL

Swami Kajale, Cobb County
Donor: Mr. Seth Turner

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Leah Wall, Morgan County
Donor: Athens Six

PERFORMING ARTS: DANCE

Madeline Skojac, Murray County
Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Burley Page, Page Performing Arts-Dance Fund

PERFORMING ARTS: DRAMA

Lilly Kate Farrar, Habersham County
Donors: Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Woody

PERFORMING ARTS: GENERAL

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Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Brad Hardy

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Etain Campbell, Pulaski County
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PERFORMING ARTS: PIANO

Whitley Gatch, Bulloch County
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PERFORMING ARTS: VOCAL

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Donors: Dr. Bo Ryles, Clover Glove Race Series Fund

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Donors: Mr. Scott Shell, Georgia 4-H Foundation

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Donors: Mr. Speer Burdette, Callaway Foundation; Mrs. Catherine Boddie Linz, Family of Col. James Jim Boddie

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Kylie Hurd, Gordon County
Donor: Dr. Laura Perry Johnson

WILDLIFE AND MARINE SCIENCE

Sara Pawlik, Forsyth County
Donors: Mrs. Jane McDaniel, The McDaniel Family

WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Jack Durham Marable, Oconee County
Donors: Mr. Bob Anderson, Emerson Climate Technologies Fund

Special Event Winners

COTTON BOLL AND CONSUMER JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Liam Jay, Ben Hill County

Donors: Mr. Taylor Sills, Georgia Cotton Commission

COTTON BOLL AND CONSUMER JUDGING TEAM

Ashley Braddy, Ben Hill County

Liam Jay, Ben Hill County

Timothy Lord, Ben Hill County

Lauren Wixson, Ben Hill County

Donors: Mr. Taylor Sills, Georgia Cotton Commission

DAIRY JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Jazmine Ralston, Gordon County

Donors: Mrs. Ina Cook, John W. Cook Memorial Fund;

Mrs. Carol Williams, Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation; Southeast Dairy Farmer's Milk Check-Off Program

DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

Joshua Carr, Gordon County

Breana Manning, Gordon County

Jazmine Ralston, Gordon County

Katie Reynolds, Gordon County

Donors: Mrs. Ina Hopkins, John W. Cook Memorial Fund; Mrs. Carol Williams, Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation; Southeast Dairy Farmer's Milk Check-Off Program

DAIRY QUIZ BOWL TEAM

Alicia Carnes, Oconee County

Alyssa Haag, Oconee County

Robie Lucas, Oconee County

Kalani Washington, Oconee County

Donors: Mrs. Carol Williams, Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation; Southeast Dairy Farmer's Milk Check-Off Program

DEAN'S AWARD - AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Bryson Smith, Gordon County

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reeves, Reeves Design Services, LLC.

DEAN'S AWARD - CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Ben Tellano, Hart County

Donors: Mr. Dennis Chastain, Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

DEAN'S AWARD - WILLIAM "BILL" EDWARDS COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS

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Donor: Mrs. Pat Edwards

DEAN'S AWARD - FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Malachi Young, Gwinnett County

Donors: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Everson; Dr. Cara Simmons, Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

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Gracie Grimes, Candler County

Donor: James Harris Leadership Fund

DEAN'S AWARD - STEM

Nicholas McKinley, Paulding County

Donors: Mr. Scott Shell, Georgia 4-H Foundation

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Laura Harriss, Cobb County

Quadriyah Williams, Cobb County

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Donor: Mr. Bill Lott

FORESTRY FIELD DAY TEAM

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Gabriel Craven, Bartow County

Gus Federico, Bartow County

Sasha Morgan, Bartow County

Donor: Mr. Bill Lott

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David and Sandra Todd

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GEORGIA JUNIOR NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW CHAMPION BREEDING DOE

Carlie Christian, Franklin County
Donors: Mr. Tom McCall, Georgia Farm Bureau; Mr. Foster Rhodes, Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority; Mr. Stephen Shimp, Georgia Agricultural Exposition for Agriculture; Mr. Phil Page, Georgia Junior Livestock Foundation

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Gabrielle Ralston, Gordon County
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GEORGIA JUNIOR NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW CHAMPION MARKET GOAT - DOE

Lily Norton, Grady County
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GEORGIA JUNIOR NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW CHAMPION MARKET GOAT - WETHER

Lily Norton, Grady County
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GEORGIA JUNIOR NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW SHOWMANSHIP MARKET LAMB

Rachel Hayes, Decatur County
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Noel Pickel, Morgan County
Donor: Georgia Ag Tag

HIPPOLOGY TEAM

Noel Pickel, Morgan County
Emma Rhoades, Morgan County
Natalie Ross, Morgan County
Donor: Georgia Ag Tag

HORSE JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Noel Pickel, Morgan County
Donors: Georgia Ag Tag; Kenny Rogers Endowment Fund

HORSE JUDGING TEAM

Noel Pickel, Morgan County
Emma Rhoades, Morgan County
Natalie Ross, Morgan County
Donors: Georgia Ag Tag; Kenny Rogers Endowment Fund

HORSE QUIZ BOWL TEAM

Raven Cooper, Oglethorpe County
Katie Embry, Oglethorpe County
Ashley Spearing, Oglethorpe County
Kate Spearing, Oglethorpe County
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HORSE SHOW: SENIOR DIVISION GAITED/SADDLE SEAT

Savannah Conner, Fulton County
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HORSE SHOW: SENIOR DIVISION HUNT SEAT

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HORSE SHOW: SENIOR DIVISION RANCH HORSE

Emma Watson, Bulloch County
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HORSE SHOW: SENIOR DIVISION STOCK SEAT

Noel Pickel, Morgan County
Donor: Georgia Agricultural Commodity for Equine

LAND JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Parker Arrington, Coweta County
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LAND JUDGING TEAM

Alicia Carnes, Oconee County
Alyssa Haag, Oconee County
Robie Lucas, Oconee County
Kalani Washington, Oconee County
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LIVESTOCK JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Jazmine Ralston, Gordon County
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Hannah McElrath, Gordon County
Jazmine Ralston, Gordon County
Gabrielle Ralston, Gordon County
Donors: Mr. Dale Sandlin, Georgia Cattlemen's Association; Mrs. Wilma Minix

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PROJECT SAFE 22 RIMFIRE T CLASS HIGH INDIVIDUAL

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Joel Ford, Lowndes County
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PROJECT SAFE ARCHERY RECURVE HIGH INDIVIDUAL

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Thomas Smith, Morgan County
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Haley Brannen, Tift County
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Michaela Hampl, Walton County
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Sydney Harper, Walton County

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Dayne Cadwell, Dodge County
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Asher Childs, Grady County
Zakary Elkins, Grady County
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Cole Thacker, Walton County
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Mac Sellers, Columbia County
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Jacob Hayes, Spalding County
Elyce Wages, Spalding County
 Donors: Ms. Jessica Bassett, Farm Credit Associations of Georgia

The following Georgia 4-H Special Events were unable to be held in the 2021 program year due to preventative measures set forth to limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus. We greatly appreciate the continued support of these donors!

CHICKEN BARBECUE CONTEST

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Ken Jones

EGG PREPARATION CONTEST

Donors: Mr. Scott Shell, Georgia 4-H Foundation

FOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CONTEST

Donors: Mr. Karl Zimmer; Premium Peanut

TURKEY BARBECUE CONTEST

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Graham

Achievement Scholarship Winners

4-H DOLLARS FOR 4-H SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP

Jazmine Ralston, Gordon County
Donors: State 4-H Board of Directors

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Kalani Washington, Oconee County
Donor: The Hargrove Family

ATLANTA FARMERS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Payton Mercer, Effingham County
Donor: Atlanta Farmers Club

BESS CABANISS MEMORIAL MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Lauren Pike, Walker County
Donors: Georgia Master 4-H Club

BOBBY GENE MCKISSICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Bryson Smith, Gordon County
Donor: The Family of Bobby Gene McKissick

CARYN CURRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Beth Massey, Tift County
Donor: The Curry Family

DON MASSEY SCHOLARSHIP

Benjamin Tellano, Hart County
Donor: The Massey Family

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GACAA AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

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GAINES ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

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GEORGIA 4-H ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

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GEORGIA MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

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HAMIL 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Carter, Burke County
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4 - H FOUNDATION

When addressing both 4-H youth and staff, State 4-H Leader Arch Smith often quotes from the book of Luke - "to whom much is given, much is required" - and it seems that our alumni and supporters took this adage to heart in 2021. The outpouring of financial investment has been heartfelt and generous throughout the year, and especially at our biennial Gala. What an incredible celebration on so many wonderful levels: it was a 'family' reunion like no other; the joy and celebrations that filled the Georgia Aquarium ballroom were nothing short of memorable. And we raised more than half a million dollars in the process.

I firmly believe that a silver lining of the Covid cloud - particularly for 4-H alum - is that it made us realize what an extraordinary gift 4-H has been in each of our lives. My journey, like many of you reading this note, started in 5th grade learning from my local county agents. It grew and continued on through college, providing me with lifelong skills, friends, and a career trajectory that I would not have experienced if not for 4-H. Thank you for your continued, and expanded, assistance, as you gift back to the organization that gives so very, very much to our youth.

And, as 2022 progresses, I appreciate your consideration of continuing your largesse. There are dozens of ways to support our programs and facilities, many of which are featured here in the 'Cloverleaf.' Please feel free to reach out to me, Adam, or Libby with any interests or questions. We'd be happy to meet with you and strategize about how you'd best like to be a part of our efforts.



With gratitude,

Johnathon S. Barrett

Executive Director



For those of us who grew up in Georgia 4-H, we intuitively know the positive impact that 4-H has made upon our lives. The skills, knowledge, and friends we have taken with us from 4-H continue to show up and enrich our lives every day. I have extended my involvement Georgia 4-H well into my adult years, and this year, I am truly honored to become Chairperson for the Georgia 4-H Foundation. The role of the Foundation is plain and simple: to support the programs and facilities of Georgia 4-H.

I have friends regularly ask me about 4-H, particularly when they learn of my new role on the Foundation. Candidly, many of them will quickly reveal their own preconceived notions of 4-H by declaring 4-H is about "chickens and pigs." They say it with a bit of humor, but I know that many of them truly don't know. While I acknowledge that agriculture and livestock programs remain a vibrant part of our programs, I simply say that 4-H is really a vibrant youth leadership development organization that prepares Georgia youth for life. That's it - that is Georgia 4-H. For those of us that experienced 4-H as young people, we know its true.

Another way I like to describe Georgia 4-H to my friends is that we are in the business of creating "firsts" for young people. I have had many firsts with 4-H, perhaps too many to count! My 4-H firsts include an airline flight to Washington D.C. from Atlanta on Piedmont airlines when I was in the 10th grade. And yes, it was my first airline flight and my first trip to DC. For

a kid from small town Georgia, it was an awesome experience, and I won't ever forget it.

I am so proud of Georgia 4-H and all the dedicated individuals within the Foundation and the Extension service that show up everyday to make the best better. The connection of Georgia 4-H and its programs to our communities through school based meetings and activities allows Georgia 4-H to enrich the lives of young people throughout the state, from the largest metropolitan areas like Atlanta, all the way to small towns like Pitts, where I grew up. Bonus points go to those of you who know where Pitts is.

Please join me in continuing to support 4-H with your time, talents, and financial resources. Your active support and involvement will ensure that this great organization continues preparing our young people for life and creating more 4-H firsts.

All the best,

Scott Shell

Chairman

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LEADERSHIP & OFFICERS CIRCLE

Leadership skills are a cornerstone of the training and development that Georgia children and teens experience as they move through 4-H programs. These workforce development skills are essential in all career fields. Leadership experiences are finely tuned even further for students who serve as a Georgia 4-H district or state officer. After developing a campaign strategy and competing with hundreds of other 4-H'ers, these officers represent their districts and state at conferences, meetings, and 4-H Day at the Capitol. These young leaders learn valuable public speaking and personal interaction skills while gaining real life experiences connecting with government and business leaders. State and district officers are coached on decision making, team building, and critical thinking.

The multitude of workshops, training programs, and other activities are funded through the Georgia 4-H Foundation's

Leadership & Officers Circle. The group consists of former officers, 4-H alumni, and other donors who have benefited from leadership experiences in Georgia 4-H. Funding through the Leadership & Officers Circle is anchored by the Nathan and Sandra Deal Leadership Endowment. Earnings from this endowment, named in honor of the former Governor and First Lady, are grouped with donations made to the Circle and invested directly into the state and district officer programs.

In order to expand this program and deepen its impact, the Foundation invites all former officers and other supporters of leadership and professional development programs to be a part of the Leadership & Officers Circle. By donating you can continue your legacy with Georgia 4-H while investing in programs that will grow the next generation of leaders.

Leadership & Officers Circle Donors from FY2021:

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GEORGIA

\$4 FOR 4-H

On April 4, 2021, Georgia 4-H hosted the third \$4 for 4-H giving day. The fundraising event raised over \$31,000 from 498 donors in a 24-hour period.

\$4 for 4-H is designed to encourage supporters to celebrate the day by giving in increments of \$4. Donors can choose a county to designate their gift – and half of all gifts designated go directly to the county programs. In 2021, over \$15,000 went back to county 4-H programming. Of the 159 counties in Georgia, Oconee, Morgan, Candler, and Turner Counties received the top funding.

The 2021 goal was for all Georgia counties to receive participation. This progress was tracked throughout the day with a virtual map. Once designations came in for a particular county, it turned green on the map. Updates to the map were shared throughout the day via social media. Having met the goal, an all-green state map was shared at the conclusion of the day!

In celebration of the 4th anniversary of this event in 2022, help us reach our goal of not only having 100% county participation, but reach a new goal of raising \$40,000! We hope you'll support Georgia 4-H and encourage others to participate on April 4th. Your involvement on that day will make a lasting impact on Georgia 4-H programming around the state.

2021 Top Counties

1. Oconee

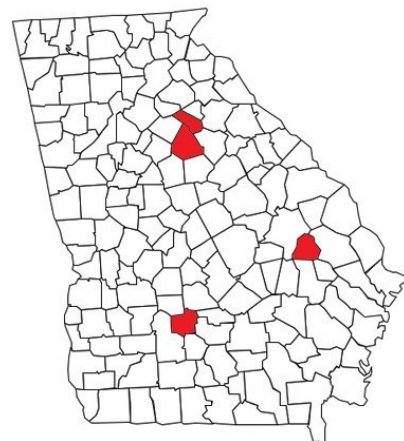
\$848

2. Morgan

\$654

3. Candler &
Turner

\$584



GEORGIA

\$4 FOR 4-H

Give **\$4** on the
4th day of the
4th Month

Monday , April 4th, 2022

save the date!



This year's biennial Georgia 4-H Foundation Gala was held at the Georgia Aquarium on August 14, 2021, and a capacity crowd of more than 550 people attended the black tie event. Highlights from the evening included a live and silent auction featuring seven trips to Italy, a 1980s championship era football signed by Coach Vince Dooley and the 'Junkyard Dawgs,' President Jimmy Carter's favorite caramel cake made by his niece Marle Carter Usry, and almost 100 other special items.

The gorgeous backdrop of aquarium tanks and marine life was met with the incredible sounds of Clovers & Co., and an action packed program emceed by Georgia 4-H alum Justine Norman Boyd.

Dignitaries in attendance included Governor Brian Kemp, who spoke from the stage about the importance of Georgia 4-H, Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, and several state senators and representatives.

The Georgia 4-H Foundation would like to thank co-chairs Katrina Bowers and Lisa Shirreffs for the tireless energy and attention to detail they put into the event. The Foundation would also like to thank the talented gala committee members for their effort. Because of the generosity of our donor base, alumni family, and community of business sponsors, a record **\$570,000** was raised to benefit Georgia 4-H.

Please mark your calendar for the next gala which will be held August 19, 2023. Full details will be announced in the coming year!



Diane Davies: A Lifetime of Achievement

WRITTEN BY MELANIE BIERSMITH

Diane Davies, retired University of Georgia Cooperative Extension 4-H Specialist and Senior Public Service Associate, was presented the Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2021 Georgia 4-H Gala on August 14.

She received the award for her "vision, leadership and sustained support of Georgia 4-H."

The award was established to recognize individuals who have dedicated time, energy and resources to Georgia 4-H and is considered the highest honor Georgia 4-H can bestow. The contributions of Diane Davies — her many years of outstanding service, the foundation she created, the legacy she developed and the impact her work has had on Georgia 4-H — make it easy to understand why she is this year's recipient. Not only is her work a series of considerable achievements, her work for Georgia 4-H actually represents achievements of a lifetime.

Diane was hired by UGA Extension in 1979 to launch the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program to serve youth while increasing revenue at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Georgia. Despite limited funds and time, she developed relationships with local schools and youth groups to personally deliver curriculum to more than 2,000 participants in the first year.

More than 1.2 million participants have enjoyed the program since its inception, using the outdoors as a "classroom without walls" to engage K-12 students in experiences that highlight the science, natural resources and natural history of local ecosystems. This innovative and award-winning program

began with a \$300 budget, a six-month timeframe and Davies' determination.

After years of success, Diane was able to hire additional staff and expand the program to the other Georgia 4-H centers: Camp Jekyll (formerly Jekyll Island 4-H Center) and 4-H Tidelands Center on Jekyll Island, Burton 4-H Center (formerly Tybee Island 4-H Center) on Tybee Island, Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega and Fortson 4-H Center in Hampton. By the mid-1990s, more than 40,000 youth from all over the state were participating in the program each year.

"The importance of having children connect to the natural environment and learn from it all that it has to teach them is so vitally important today in their education," Diane said.

"To be given the chance to start the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program has been the mission of my life's work and I am truly honored to be the recipient of the 2021 Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award. It is certainly the capstone of my professional career."

After the program was well established, she focused on soliciting donations and resources to develop additional

educational spaces, including the Rock Eagle 4-H Center Museum of Natural History, Wildlife Ecology Building and Woodruff Aquatic buildings.

Diane remained directly involved in programming until her retirement in 2002, continuing to support the program through philanthropic contributions and service in advisory groups and committees.

She continues to be an advocate for the program she founded and tout its impact to all those with whom she comes in contact. Her work was a strong foundation on which Georgia 4-H continues to grow today.

In 2013, the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program celebrated its 1 millionth participant. In 2019, Georgia 4-H celebrated the program's 40th anniversary. During that time, the program has served more than a million participants and generated more than \$77 million in revenue to support the overall operation of the state's 4-H centers.

State 4-H Leader Arch Smith stated, "Diane Davies' contributions to 4-H inspired others across America to enhance outdoor learning opportunities. Much of the continued success of the Georgia 4-H facilities is a result of Diane's efforts to develop the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program."



Spotlight on Supporters

Janice Mays

Janice Mays' experience as a Georgia 4-H'er transcends her time as a Rock Eagle Counselor in the 1970s to the halls of Congress. She grew up a Ware County 4-H'er and was initially inspired by her sister Sharon, a national winner in Leadership and Public Speaking, to join the club. She visited Sharon when she was a counselor at Rock Eagle and fell in love.



She faithfully attended camp as a young 4-H'er and went on to serve as a counselor for three summers and was a Hembolian Princess. She recalls this as a very special time in her life and a unique opportunity to grow with other young people who had common interests.

To this day, many of her best friends are the counselors she served with at Rock Eagle, and they call themselves the "Clover Girls."

Janice's journey as a loyal donor to Georgia 4-H began when she made a commitment to herself to give to a select group of organizations she knew were making the biggest difference in the lives of others. She believes Georgia 4-H provides consistent quality programming that has become more important than ever because it establishes continuity for many children.

Janice works as the Managing Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers Washington National Tax Services in Washington, DC. Prior to that, she spent more than 40 years working as counsel for the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. In this role, she was responsible for tax, health reform, and international trade legislation.

She encourages others to support Georgia 4-H because she believes the only way to make a positive change is to get behind something meaningful and support it. The Georgia 4-H Foundation appreciates Janice's longtime philanthropy and assistance.

Stewart and Karen Thigpen

Georgia 4-H is a family affair for Stewart and Karen Thigpen of Statesboro, GA. The Thigpens support Georgia 4-H financially and as volunteers; for years, Stewart and Karen have coached several 4-H teams including Forestry Judging, Cotton Boll & Consumer Judging, and Archery.

Stewart, a CPA with Steve H. Powell & Company, grew up as a 4-H'er in Bleckley County. He was drawn to 4-H because of the variety of options including judging events, food competitions, and Project Achievement. Stewart believes 4-H provided a multitude of opportunities for him as a youngster in a small town, and credits his former agent Kathy Baldwin for keeping him involved in the program. He believes 4-H instills lifelong leadership and public speaking skills.

Stewart became a Master 4-H'er in several judging competitions and the Egg Preparation Food Competition in the early 1990s. As an adult, he served on the Georgia 4-H Master Club Board for more than a decade.

Karen is a frequent volunteer as an adult leader for Rock



Eagle Summer Camp. She and Stewart have two children, Jackson and Harrison. The couple says they are grateful their children have the opportunity to experience many of the same life-changing programs Stewart experienced as a young 4-H'er.

As ardent donors for more than a decade, Stewart and Karen say they believe it's important to give back and support the consequential and proven programs that have brought them success in life.

Georgia 4-H is fortunate to have this generous couple's selfless and ongoing support.

GEORGIA

4 - H FOUNDATION

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Creating Your 4-H Legacy

Two wonderful ways to create a lasting legacy for you and your family in Georgia 4-H include endowment funding and estate gift planning. Both of these investments within the Foundation allow for perpetual support, giving 4-H'ers in our state lasting opportunities for generations to come. Your gift can be very specific in terms of implementation - such as designing your donation solely to sponsor a particular project or program - or the funding can be for general needs that arise as our organization strives to serve more than 225,000 students each year.

To learn more about how to establish an endowment or make a bequest in your will, please contact Foundation Executive Director Johnathon Barrett at Johnathon.barrett@uga.edu.

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1. You made your gift either before July 1, 2019 or after June 30, 2020.
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, 2021, your name will not be listed.
3. You made gifts to another 4-H entity, such as National 4-H Council, IFYE Alumni, Georgia Master 4-H Club, Campaign for Charities, other UGA Departments, etc. These gifts are not reflected in the Georgia 4-H Foundation Annual Report.
4. You donated item(s) for the purpose of silent or live auctions. These items are not recognized in the Georgia 4-H Foundation Annual Report.
5. We omitted your name in error. If we've made a mistake, we would like to hear from you.

If you have any questions, please contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation, Hoke Smith Annex, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-4536 or call us at 706-542-8914.

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Georgia 4-H Foundation Financial Statement

July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

INCOME

GRANTS	\$255,816
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,483,487
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	\$567,177
REALIZED/UNREALIZED	\$1,730,378
INTEREST & DIVIDEND	\$45,496
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,082,354

EXPENSES

CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS	\$211,896
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$1,295,902
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$58,376
FOUNDATION OPERATING	\$488,850

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,004,173
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BEGINNING NET ASSETS	\$5,538,953
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$7,566,284
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$2,027,331



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