Title: 4-H Program Delivery and Administration

Project Leader: Sherrie Guyott

Project Overview:

More than 22% of the population of Massachusetts is under age 18. These young people are the future workforce and leaders of our state and our nation. The healthy development of these youth cannot be left to chance. Since 1919, the Massachusetts 4-H Program has provided support, resources and educational opportunities to Massachusetts youth. The mission of Massachusetts 4-H is to prepare youth to become independent and contributing members of society by providing them with the tools they need to be successful.

A statewide network of hundreds of dedicated volunteers and leaders serve as mentors and role models to 4-H youth throughout the state. Volunteers lead a variety of clubs, school enrichment activities and special interest programs that emphasize experiential learning and help youth build valuable life skills. 4-H Educators collaborate with volunteers to plan and deliver local programs, such as animal science, visual presentation programs, and community service projects that have a lasting effect on youth and a positive impact on the future success and vitality of Massachusetts.

Activity Summary – 2014

- 4-H Club Community Service Projects (40)
- 4-H Club Youth leadership Program (11) Citizenship/Leadership development programs
- 4-H Records(1)
- 4-H volunteer mentoring system(11)
- Citizenship/Leadership development programs(11)
- Massachusetts statewide 4-H club program(233)
- Produce 4-H newsletter to communicate information to all 4-H families(28)
- Promotional exhibits/recruitment events(188)
- Promotional press releases(194)
- School enrichment programs: plant science and embryology(560)
- Science Camps(12)
- Science Education & Technology youth programs(25)
- Short term programs in babysitting, plant science, general science and nutrition(491)
- Support local 4-H advisory and program councils(90)
- Volunteer and member recognition programs(11)
- Volunteer training sessions(30)
Total Educational contacts

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<th>Youth Contacts</th>
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Narrative Summary and Impact

The Massachusetts 4-H Youth Development Program has continued to focus on helping youth develop life and work skills through work on projects of interest. This speaks to the national 4-H tag line, "Ready for Life, Ready for Work." 912 youth participated in the 4-H Visual Presentation program which enables them to develop and practice public speaking skills. These are skills that young people use at school and in other places in their lives. One member says, "While improving my skills through visual presentations every year for the past 8 years my Envirothon Team and I placed 2nd out of the 32 teams in our presentation at the Envirothon." 4-H members develop other important life skills such as decision making, team work and cooperation just to name a few. An 8 year old member states, "4-H helped me to build confidence and improve my study habits. This year I will use the study habits I developed (through 4-H) in school. This year I feel that I have more confidence and I can speak to my teachers better."

4-H conducted a statewide community service project again this year, the food drive. 4-H groups collected 46,807 pounds of food and donated the food along with cash donations to 96 pantries and shelters across the state. 4-H clubs conducted many other community service activities in their local communities. The Tufts Study of Positive Youth Development found that 4-H members are three times as likely as non 4-H members to contribute to their communities. Massachusetts 4-H is helping to develop the community leaders of tomorrow.

This year 4-H reached 7388 youth through short term programs. The hope is to take advantage of more episodic volunteers by delivering more short term programs. One short term program that we are focusing on is the 4-H Babysitters' Training. There is a need for prepared babysitters and 4-H is helping to address this need. We recently updated our materials by revising the Military Babysitters manual that was based on the Massachusetts 4-H Babysitting manual. Recently a 16 year old, Kendall, who took the course 4 years ago contacted us and asked us to replace her 4-H Babysitters card which she had lost. This demonstrates the significance of this training to young people. Kendall stated, "Taking the 4-H course taught me everything I needed to know about babysitting and to be the best possible caretaker of young children."

To enable us to be able to offer more short term programs we are working on a grant proposal to fund 4-H Program Assistants to deliver short term programs to underserved youth. Our ability to reach more youth with these programs depends on our ability to develop funding sources.

Collaborating Organizations

- (4-H) FFA (Formerly Future Farmers of America)
- (4-H) Massachusetts 4-H Foundation
- (4-H) Massachusetts Envirothon Committee