

Title: 4-H Program Delivery and Volunteer Management

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 4-H is to assist youth in developing life and work skills that will prepare them to be capable, caring and competent citizens.

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 – 2015

- 4-H Club Community Service Projects (180)
- 4-H Club Youth Leadership program (11)
- 4-H Records (595)
- 4-H volunteer mentoring system (40)
- Citizenship/Leadership development programs (11)
- Massachusetts statewide 4-H club programs (233)
- Produce 4-H newsletter to communicate information to all 4-H families (28)
- Promotional press releases (194)
- Promotional exhibits/recruitment events (188)
- 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

<u>Youth Contacts</u>	<u>Adult Contacts</u>
25883	14523

Narrative Summary and Impact

The focus of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to teach youth life and work skills through a project of interest to them. These skills include communication, decision making, goal setting, teamwork, leadership and more. The 4-H club delivery system has a variety of events and activities that focus on life skill development. These activities allow members to develop and practice these life skills. 36% of enrolled club members participated in the Visual Presentation Program. This involves the 4-H member planning and presenting a 3-10 minute presentation at the club, county or state level. 23% of enrolled club members completed written 4-H records and turned them into the local county office for evaluation. These records document the knowledge and skills the member has gained throughout his/her 4-H career. 22% of 4-H members served in leadership roles in the 4-H program including serving as club officers and on Advisory and Program Councils. 78% of club members participated in at least one community service project. By helping youth develop these important life skills 4-H is helping to develop our community leaders and workforce of tomorrow.

2158 adults served as 4-H volunteers. 215 of these volunteers were new to 4-H last year. Training, orienting and mentoring these volunteers is important. 40 seasoned volunteers served as volunteer mentors to 113 new volunteers. 503 volunteers attended training sessions offered in their own regions. The MA 4-H Foundation provides partial scholarships for volunteers to receive needed training and certification, such as ServSafe training/certification.

5134 youth participated in 4-H IMPACT, short term special interest programs. The 4-H Babysitters' Training Course is especially in demand and we are actively recruiting more instructors to meet the demand for this course. 4-H works collaboratively with schools and community programs to deliver IMPACT programs.

One of our program goals is to reach more underserved youth. Our plan is to hire Program Assistants to deliver programs. The MA 4-H Foundation has had some success raising money to hire Program Assistants to work in underserved areas and we are in the process of hiring a part time Program Assistant to work in Holyoke and Springfield. We hope to do the same in other locations.

Collaborating Organizations

- **(4-H) FFA (Formerly Future Farmers of America)**
- **(4-H) Massachusetts 4-H Foundation**
- **(4-H) Massachusetts Envirothon Committee**
- **Whitman-Hanson Public Schools**
- **North Adams Public Schools**
- **Pittsfield Public Schools**
- **Northampton Mayor's Council**
- **Joint Base Cape Cod**
- **Independence House for Domestic Violence**

- **Greenfield YMCA**
- **Hardwick YMCA**
- **Citizens for Citizens of Fall River**
- **Wood Housing Development in Wareham**
- **WPI**
- **Southwick Public Library**
- **Rowe Public Library**
- **Northfield Public Library**
- **Rochester Public Library**
- **Medway Public Library**
- **Bellingham Public Library**
- **Rehoboth Public Library**
- **Truro Public Library**
- **Orleans Public Library**
- **Bourne Public Library**
- **Athol Public Library**
- **Berlin Public Library**
- **Lancaster Public Library**
- **Sterling Public Library**