

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 – 2016

- 4-H Club Community Service Projects (11)
- 4-H Club Youth leadership Program (11)
- 4-H Records (11)
- 4-H volunteer mentoring system (11)
- Citizenship/Leadership development programs (11)
- Massachusetts statewide 4-H club program (219)
- Produce 4-H newsletter to communicate information to all 4-H families (20)
- Promotional exhibits/recruitment events (158)
- School enrichment programs: plant science and embryology (600)
- Science Camps (8)
- Science Education & Technology youth programs (6)
- Short term programs in babysitting, plant science, general science and nutrition (640)
- Support local 4-H advisory and program councils (50)
- Visual Presentation Programs (8)
- Volunteer and member recognition programs (11)
- Volunteer training sessions (28)
- Volunteer screening, orientation and placement (126)
- Youth project exhibitions at fairs (10)

Total Educational Contacts

	<u>Youth Contacts</u>	<u>Adult Contacts</u>
Direct	31253	2744
Indirect	10515	1000

Narrative Summary and Impact

The mission of the 4-H program is to assist youth in developing life and work skills that will prepare them to be capable, caring and competent citizens of a democratic society. Youth work in partnership with caring adults on projects of interest in a 4-H club, special interest program or school enrichment program. This year the MA 4-H program reached 25,463 youth through 2744 volunteers. The volunteers were supported by 14 FTE Educators, 4.5 FTE Administrative Assistants and 2 FTE Program Assistants. An additional 3560 youth attended 4-H camps.

We launched some new efforts this year. One was a volunteer orientation manual for staff, completed after several years of work. Our Animal Science Specialist worked with the 4-H Foundation to submit a grant and began the Dairy Milk Ambassador Program. In addition, we launched the 4-H Grows and 4-H Engagement campaigns working closely with the 4-H Foundation and National 4-H Council to market the 4-H program. 4-H Foundation grants enabled us to add a part time Program Assistant to work in the underserved area of Springfield. We will work with the 4-H Foundation to attempt to fund this position permanently as well as explore options for grants for staff positions in other underserved areas.

The MA Grange provided funding for our teen leadership program. With this funding we offered a two day teen leadership retreat and a citizenship program as part of the 4-H Mass Ag Day participation. After the Ag Day program at the statehouse legislators attended a luncheon at the UMass Club with teen members from their districts followed by a legislative presentation and panel discussion facilitated by two 4-H teen Ambassadors.

In MA 4-H our focus areas are science, leadership development and communication skills. We offer workshops, competitions and overnight conferences in these areas to enhance the work members do in their local clubs. 42% of our club members participated in the 4-H Visual Presentation Program and 19% turned 4-H records into their local office for evaluation. 81% of club members participated in community service and 9% served in a leadership role in their club or county program.

We continue to reach out and work with hundreds of partners across the state to deliver short term programs such as Babysitter's training and embryology. Partnering organizations include public and private schools, libraries, public housing development centers, and other youth development programs.

Collaborating Organizations

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

