

University of Connecticut 4-H Program

4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

Fall 2021



Keeping Youth Engaged During the COVID 19 Pandemic

By Nancy Wilhelm, State 4-H Program Coordinator



Serving communities is one of the things that 4-H does best. Operation Community Impact provided over 200,000 lbs. of fresh dairy products to food-insecure families in local communities. This initiative was started by Litchfield County 4-H members in March of 2020 and spread throughout Connecticut, even gaining national recognition at the National 4-H Youth Summit on Agriculture. Operation Community Impact provided youth with the opportunity to follow the words of the 4-H pledge to serve the community.

It was the first time in history that 4-H fairs went virtual and it was a true learning experience for all as youth fair board members were tasked with a list of project management questions focused on health and safety protocols and requirements. The Hartford County 4-H Fair used Flipgrid software and members submitted an array of videography and photography entries which represented most of the classes recognized during an in-person fair.

Contents

Keeping Youth Engaged	1
Meet the UConn 4-H Teen Council	2
2020 Donor Contributions	3
2021 Salute to Excellence	4

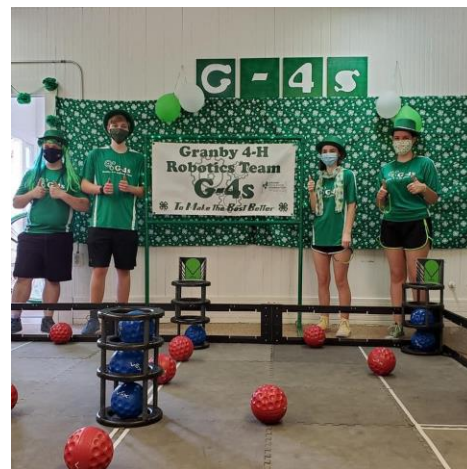
Donors Needed

While 2020 and 2021 have turned out a little differently than we all anticipated, one thing that remains constant is 4-H members and volunteers reaching out to help those in need and pledging their hands to larger service. We look forward to more in-person programming and helping our 4-Hers to make the best better.

We need your help to continue to support youth in their efforts to connect with others, make a difference in their communities, take on leadership roles and create their individual paths to success. Help us to support the leaders of tomorrow by supporting the 4-H Centennial Fund.

2020 was a year of immense change and uncertainty due to the Covid 19 pandemic. While it seemed so many things were cancelled, UConn 4-H was able to create some unique programming and respond to a critical need to provide social and educational opportunities for our 4-H members. When the world shut down in the spring of 2020 everyone learned pretty quickly that meeting virtually was the new way to connect and provide learning opportunities. One of the first virtual activities that was provided statewide was an 8-week trivia challenge for three separate age groups. While many clubs decided to do their business meetings virtually, some also included outside activities, weather permitting. With social distancing protocols in place, they went on birdwatching tours or created a club hike with activities along the way. One 4-H member who is a gifted photographer lead an outdoor photography lesson while another club divided into junior and senior sections so they could safely continue their dog training activities.

The UConn 4-H Military Partnership was challenged to reach out to the geographically dispersed youth in Connecticut. Coordinators started mailing 4-H activity kits to Air Guard and National Guard youth. Over 500 kits have been mailed out so far.



A number of 4-H clubs in Hartford County held in-person exhibition opportunities for members. The Litchfield County 4-H program offered modified, in-person shows as well for the dairy cattle, dog, goat and rabbit departments providing youth with a fair-type experience. Youth loved being able to go to the fairgrounds with their projects and show off their hard work. The Working Wheels 4-H Tractor Club also hosted a successful tractor pull event consisting of an antique tractor pull and a garden tractor pull. Over 90 participants came from all over the state to support this event.

STEM programming opportunities continued with the Granby 4-H VEX Robotics teams meeting in a hybrid model throughout the year. They submitted numerous recordings to competitions, qualifying for the VEX World Competition and winning three awards. The Mars Base Camp club in Windham County ran for seven weeks and was a combination of hands-on unplugged activities that club members completed at home while also meeting once per week to share accomplishments and do virtual group work. The State 4-H Horse program hosted virtual hippology and horse judging activities in both 2020 and 2021 and will be sending a hippology team consisting of four youth and two coaches to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in November, 2021.

Another first for the UConn 4-H Program was the introduction of virtual public presentations. Three levels of participation were developed consisting of county qualifying rounds, state qualifying rounds and state finals. For the state finals the top four presenters in each division of the state qualifying rounds were invited to compete. An in-person awards ceremony was held in early July and gave the winning presenters a chance to give their in-person presentation.

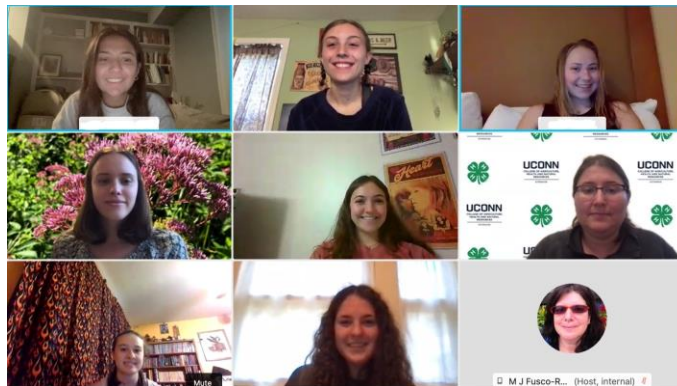
As we move through 2021 the 4-H program looks forward to more in-person activities and will continue to meet the needs of our 4-H members and volunteers around the state.

Meet the UConn 4-H Teen Council

By Harper Treschuk, Fairfield County 4-H Member

For many clubs and counties in 4-H, leadership is a part of their day-to-day action. For the UConn 4-H Teen Council, leadership was also a part of its creation.

When teen leaders Olivia H. and Chelsea W. attended Citizenship Washington Focus, a national 4-H trip, in 2019, they noticed that other states had a teen leadership council and they were inspired to create one for Connecticut. Along with the support of UConn 4-H Teen Council advisors Jen Cushman and Maryann Fusco-Rollins, their action plan became a reality in early 2020, with the formation of the UConn 4-H Teen Council. The mission of the Teen Council is to educate and enhance 4-H in Connecticut through leadership and citizenship activities and other aspects of 4-H.



The Council consists of active members in UConn 4-H between the ages of 14 and 18, who not only represent different counties, but also a diverse range of experiences in 4-H, spanning animal science, leadership, citizenship, horticulture, astronomy, healthy living, livestock, dogs, and textile arts.

This year, the Council was composed of 7 representatives from 4 counties in UConn 4-H, who have served as a liaison between the county and state level. With teamwork and creativity, Council members have convened virtually over the past 14 months to build the Council from the ground up--writing operational guidelines and electing an inaugural slate of officers--but also to plan a variety of leadership and citizenship events for UConn 4-H members.

In a year when many traditionally in-person events were altered, the Council provided UConn 4-H members with many ways to interact and engage in learning virtually. To encourage 4-Hers to pledge their hands to larger service, we held a series of food drives in the fall of 2020, collecting over 700 pounds of food for pantries across Connecticut.

In February, the Council held a virtual leadership event which included presentations from UConn collegiate volunteers and 4-H alumni. In the post-event reflection, attendees shared that they acknowledged “the importance of understanding your leadership style” and “how to take and maintain control of the room.” One attendee commented, “I felt that the people in attendance really grasped onto the content well. I’d like to see some more workshops like this in the future that expand the ideas set forth in this one!”

The Council also organized two fundraisers this year, a trivia night and a paint night, to raise money for future in-person events. Looking ahead, our next goal is to hold an in-person leadership conference for the state.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the Teen Council in September, after the application and interview process is complete. Join us on our social media pages, @uconn4hteencouncil on Facebook and Instagram.

2020 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

A special thank you to the following donors who helped support the UConn Extension 4-H Youth Development Program last year through The University of Connecticut Foundation 4-H Centennial Fund.

Bronze Clover Club (\$99 and under)

William A. Aho
 Beaver Brook Farm
 Bridgewood Fieldwater Foundation
 Morris L. Burr, Jr.
 Ann T. Combs
 John & Barbara Domski
 Diane Farnham
 David & Joan Ferrero
 First Town Veterinary Science Club
 William & Ingrid Fraize
 Christopher & Jenny Frombach
 Roger K. Hayes
 Herbert & JoAnne Hickey
 Gerald & Janet Jarvis
 David & Susan Krampitz
 Quannah Leonard
 Barbara M. Leroux
 Helen P. Loomis
 Allan & Patricia Maines
 Avian R. Marggraff
 C. Gail McCarthy
 Mountain Ash Farm
 Dr. Jenifer A. Nadeau
 Ellen A. Paine
 Jane R. Pallokat
 Vicky Pelletier
 Ross & Rebecca Person
 Allison K. Platt
 John & Barbara Resino
 Michael Sciortino
 Dennis & Deborah Sheridan
 Charlotte J. Allen-Smith and Arthur P. Smith
 Stacey F. Stearns
 Nancy Strong
 Paul & Marilyn Tarasuk
 Roger D. Tellefsen
 Robert M. Visny
 Terrence Towers & Mary Ellen Welch
 Tim & Sandra Wentz
 Kris & Bonnie Wetherell
 Ralph & Lorraine Wetherell
 Scott P. & Ellen Wetherell
 Edwin & Marjorie Whitehead
 Frances C. Whitehead
 Nancy L. Wilhelm
 Winchester Grange #74
 Marjorie T. Winokur
 Frances T. Woody
 Elsie P. Woolam
 Roger & Shirley Young
 David & Aimee Zagaja
 Linda G. Zimmel
 Michael & June Zoppa

Silver Clover Club (\$100-\$499)

Emily R. Dickinson-Adams & Roger G. Adams, Jr.
 Lucille A. Baver
 Norman & Sally Bender
 Matthew Brooks
 Peter & Elizabeth Brzezicki
 Dr. Nancy H. and Colonel David E. Bull
 Bonnie E. Burr
 Merrilyn N. Cummings, Ph.D.
 Wesley & Jennifer Cushman
 Cheryl E. Czuba
 Edward & Renee Ellis
 Rudy & Joy Favretti
 Edward & Stephanie Fians
 Donald S. Francis
 Jay & Carole Fromer
 Alexander R. Gavitt, Jr.
 Gordon F. Gibson
 A.J. Robert Guttay
 Hall Implement Co.
 Dirk & Joyce Hansen
 Elaine Harwood
 Hemlock Hill Farms
 Kenneth & Prudence Holton
 Patricia J. Jepson
 Natalie B. Jurkovics
 Mary P. Kegler
 Russell J. Kelly, Jr. & Judith N. Kelly
 Barbara A. Ladabouche
 Diane C. Lis
 Lois F. Lyle
 Dr. M. Elizabeth Mahan
 Ronald Masters
 Brian & Patricia McCormick
 Louise F. Melling
 Edward H. Merritt
 Len & Mary Michalski
 Carol S. Nelson
 Dr. Liam & Mrs. Josephine O'Leary
 Michael P. O'Neill & Deborah Sheely
 Robert & Judith Peck
 James Przypek
 Elizabeth Robertson
 Peter & Carolyn Sepe
 Nancy P. Smith
 Anne G. Willard & John Swingen, Jr.
 William & Jennifer Syme
 Donald & Carol Tuller
 Nancy & Jim Weiss Fund
 W. B. Young, Jr. & Mrs. Terrie L. Young
 Linda Zanelli

Pearl Clover Club (\$1,000-\$9,999)

Dr. Lynn R. & Mrs. Marjorie S. Brown
 Carole L. Eller
 Scott & Pamela Sutcliffe

Diamond Clover Club (\$10,000-\$49,000)

Dudley G. & Honoria H. Diebold

You can make your donation to the 4-H Centennial Fund at:

<https://www.foundation.uconn.edu/fund/4-h-centennial-account/>

Donors giving \$100 or more to the 4-H Centennial Fund will receive a UConn 4-H Calendar.

If you would like to receive email updates from UConn Extension and the 4-H Program please complete the form included at this link:
s.uconn.edu/4-hdonor



*News for the
4-H Program*



www.4-h.uconn.edu



Rachael Manzer

Hartford County 4-H Volunteers Selected as 2021 Northeast Salute to Excellence Honorees

The National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award recognizes 4-H volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to 4-H while promoting service through volunteerism as both an opportunity and a privilege. Eight honorees are selected as the regional winners in two categories – outstanding lifetime volunteer and volunteer of the year.

UConn 4-H is proud to announce that Hartford County 4-H volunteer June Zoppa was selected as the Northeast honoree for the Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award, and Rachael Manzer, also a Hartford County 4-H Volunteer, was selected as the Northeast honoree for the Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year Award.



June Zoppa

June is an integral part of the 4-H community in Hartford County having served over 45 years as a 4-H volunteer. She has served simultaneously on the Hartford County 4-H Advisory Committee, Fair Association and Camp Board of Trustees as well as being a club leader. Rachael exemplifies STEM learning in 4-H. She has increased STEM learning by establishing the only 4-H VEX Robotics program in New England. Through her mentorship and the several hundred hours she volunteers each year, she is growing future leaders in 4-H, STEM and agriculture. Congratulations to both volunteers for this well-deserved recognition.