

The Power Of Youth

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2009

New York State Fair
4-H Press Corps
Rotation 3



The 4-H Fashion Review

By Sharleen Dunn

One of the best ways to see 4-Hers in action, doing what they do best, is to check out the 4-H fashion review. The fashion review is when a group of 4-H youth, selected from their county shows, participate in a fashion show, mannequin modeling, and a community service project.

The fashion show is held at the youth building stage, usually twice a day at 11:00 and 2:00. In the show, the youth model what they have made. It gives them a chance to show the spectators what they are capable of creating themselves. If you take a look at one of the shows you'll be amazed by some of the things these kids have made. The outfits range from skirts to pants and gorgeous dresses and even some period costumes. Even some boys get

involved in all the activities.

Have you taken any double takes recently while walking through the youth



4-H members working on community service project for homeless shelters.

building? We'll if you have you know what I'm talking about. The mannequin models! The same 4-Hers from the fashion shows also mannequin model. They're so good you'll almost think they aren't alive!

The last thing the participants of the fashion review

do is the community service project. This year they're sewing pillow cases, for the Ronald McDonald House charity. If you didn't already know, the Ronald McDonald House gives children, suffering from cancer and their families a place to stay and be comfortable near by a hospital or treatment center. The 4-Hers are making colorful pillowcases to brighten up their hospital rooms, and hopefully make them feel a little more at home. Along with the pillowcases, they're making bean bag animals to donate to homeless shelters. As you can see 4-H youth are always willing to help.

The fashion review is a great program. It gives youth a chance to show others what they can make with their own two hands, while giving them a great opportunity to help others.



4-H fashion models receive participation certificates.



Mannequin models pose for the camera.



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Straight To The Source

By Kathryn Casella

The 4-H Youth Building is full of wonderful, and sometimes one-of-a-kind, pieces of art. One entry in particular caught my eye as I was walking through the building. I had to get closer and take another look. My curiosity piqued, I had to find out how pieces like it were evaluated. I went straight to the source and asked the judges.

The process of judging Fine Arts and Crafts may seem complicated, but here in the 4-H Youth Building, evaluations are based on a Danish system of judging. Each exhibit is compared to guidelines based on the exhibitor's experience and age. They are not placed in a "ranking," but are judged on their own value. Judges may hand out a blue ribbon, signifying an excellent exhibit; a red ribbon, signifying a good exhibit; or a white ribbon, which signifies a worthy exhibit. Someone walking through the Youth Building may see green ribbons, which are placed on items only on display and are not entered for judging. Signs

placed around the judging area explain the system and point out the main goal: "The emphasis is placed on learning, not the product."

Although the process is simple, the evaluators for art this week take it very seriously. For one of them, art has been a part of life since



Artwork by Greta Hempel, Dutchess county.

she was a child. Another wants to help the youth succeed by offering her advice. Each understands art as though it is a reflection of its creator, a model of perception and creativity.

As I watch the judges work, I am instantly tapped into their combined sense of mind. They know

what they are looking for.

"Statement cards completely filled out! We want answers!" Vanda Mae Trutt requests. She has been a judge in the 4-H building for eight or nine years, presented with exhibits that cover a large spectrum of artistic styles. "They're all interesting; there are so many different things that blow your mind. Each year and each session are different."

Aleksandra Vesosky, also a judge, agrees that a work should be finished when presented to her. She wants to see work that is age appropriate. Her desire to help the exhibitors reach their full potential is genuine and unwavering. She explains, "[In our evaluations] we are giving them ideas on how to prepare for next year."

There are several essential components that should be included in an entry: completed entry cards, finished work, and an age appropriate project. Learn from your mistakes, in order to prepare a better entry for next year. When these simple guidelines are followed, the chances of a blue ribbon become much, much higher.

Human Interest: What Are 4-Hers Doing When They're Not Working?

By Kathryn Casella

The New York State Fair offers more than animals, food, and a midway. Its 4-H building and programs provide something stronger than those three: friendship. Counties across the state come together to make the 4-H Youth Building colorful and fun, reflecting the power of each county's youth. Each 4-H member works hard to assist judges, set up games for children, and take care of animals. When their shifts are over, however, a whole new experience begins ...

What *do* 4-H members do when they're not working? I interviewed five of my friends and found

that the majority of them enjoyed seeing the sights and sounds of the Fair with a group of friends. When asked about their favorite parts of the Fair, however, their answers were more varied. Jeni Wilson from Ontario County, for example, exuberantly answered, "FOOD!" while Katie Mason, also from Ontario County, enjoys shopping. Both girls work hard as teen evaluators all day, and understand the importance of going out with friends to unwind.

4-H provides a stable environment for making friends and having fun, while teaching responsibility and diligence. Members work alongside people from other counties in a close-knit community, and by the end

of the fair, they are like family.

The rides, shopping, and other events at the fair are fun, but without a friend, they can be boring. Regardless of where they go—be it the structured events of the Youth Building or the free atmosphere of the fair—all 4-Hers know that when their shift is complete, with their friends is where they'll be.



4-Hers Kathryn, Adrielle, and Courtney having fun at the fair in their matching, hot pink shorts.

Through A Horses Eyes

By Shawn Sicchio

Just like humans, horses all have individual personality quirks that make them special. When traveling somewhere as loud, busy and energetic as the Great New York State Fair, it is expected for these large animals to have different reactions.

Taryn Livingston of Cayuga County, tried to delve into her gelding Smokey's mind to explain his skittish behavior. She thinks that the changed atmosphere and competitive

attitude fused to make him exceedingly jumpy which resulted in her low placing Saturday afternoon. She also knows he is not a big fan of the helicopters which Smokey thinks are, "Huge, flying insects that want to eat him!", says Livingston.

Emily Court's horse Joe had similar feelings about the beef cows from the barn next door. "Everytime they moo he startles!" says Emily, but is overall very proud of her horse and how he has handled the mahem of the fair.

"I think I freak her out more than anything," stated Laura Palmer,

commenting on her horses behavior in the show ring, "If I'm nervous then she's nervous."

Yet whether its helicopters, cows or humans, 4-H horses rose to the occasion and pulled off a successful show!



Courtney Stein, 17, from Livingston County showing her horse Jag.

Helping to save the Environment

By Megan Rosko

Not a lot of people in the world know that when they use a paper towel to dry their hands, they are destroying the environment. Loggers cut down trees and rainforests in order to make the paper towels and other products we use everyday in our homes.

On average each American produces 1,609 pounds of waste each year, but by recycling, composting and reusing the waste, this number can be reduced by up to 75%. Each year we will send 500 million tons of solid hazardous waste to the landfills and add 3 million tons of toxic chemicals into the water we drink

Where Does It All Go?

By Shawn Sicchio

Milking a cow seems to be a high point of interest for fairgoers visiting the dairy barn. While youth exhibitors tend to their animals it is not uncommon to be bombarded by questions about the milking process from the public. "It is great to see that people are so interested in what we do." Says Carolyn Dudden a member of Oswego County 4-H, who has milked two cows at the fair this year. She also points out that many visitors don't realize the numerous breeds of cows that contribute to the milk production at the fair. Although milk from the six types of dairy cows differ slightly in volume and butter fat content, it is all added inclusively to the fairs system. In previous years milk extracted from 4-H's cows was utilized In the famously popular Rainbow Milk Bar after its processing. However this year all of the milk produced is shipped daily to a cheese plant in Rome, explained Erin Jones, who runs the milking parlor. *(continued on back)*

and the air we breathe everyday. If everyone in the U.S. recycles one glass bottle, this will power a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. If they recycle one aluminum can this will power a television for three hours and will help to save energy.

Each day more than fifty species of plants and animals go extinct due to human influence. Eventually these species could become extinct forever if we don't try to preserve them.

There are many different ways that people around the world can help the environment. In the 4-H building, there is an exhibit where 4-Hers and the visitors are able to write down their suggestions on how to save the environment. Some of the suggestions were reusing water bottles, every time someone cuts down a tree they should plant a new tree and when people go for walks, they should bring a trash bag and a pair of gloves to pick up trash

that could be lying on the ground.

Other ideas that can help the environment are instead using the paper towels in the restroom use the hand dryer. Another way is, while people are brushing their teeth, by turning the water when they aren't using it. If people shorten their showers by two minutes, they will save more water. A fourth way to help the environment is to put up wind turn bines which can power homes with energy produced by the wind.

The next time you use a paper towel to dry your hands think about this: "A healthy planet means a healthy you". This means that if the planet is healthy, you will live a healthy life. What ideas do you have on helping to save the environment?

The 4-H Pledge

By Sharleen Dunn

What you've just read is the 4-H pledge. Known by every 4-H'er, it really sums up what 4-H means, what it is, and what we as 4-H youth set out to do.

4-H is a way for kids to have a chance to make a difference, and learn a lot while doing so. There are many different aspects of the 4-H program.

One of the major parts of 4-H is the animals and horticulture. Those active with animals and horticulture learn responsibility, and compassion towards other living things. Other parts of 4-H include sewing and cooking which are basic skills everyone should learn. Another large part of 4-H includes the many community service projects we do. 4-H is all about helping others, a main goal for many 4-H youth.

While at the fair 4-H'ers get to apply what the pledge means in everything they do. The 4 H's of 4-H are in the pledge, head heart hands and health. The first **H**, head goes along with independence. 4-H helps to teach independ-

I Pledge...

My Head to Clearer Thinking

My Heart to Greater Loyalty

My Hands to Larger Service

My Health to Better Living For My Club

My Community

My Country and My World!



ence by showing youth how to do a task, and then letting them complete it themselves. The second **H**, heart goes with belonging. Just about everyone in 4-H, especially at the fair are very accepting of each other. Hands, the third **H** of the pledge refers to generosity. Through community service projects, 4-H'ers learn to be very generous and caring towards each other. The very last **H** of the pledge is Health, which is a component to mastery. 4-H helps youth master basic skills and go beyond that. Once you master a skill it helps you make healthy choices to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Each **H** of 4-H connects to another in some way. Mastery and independence go along together, once you master a skill and can do it well, you're all set to be independent with it. Belonging and generosity go hand in hand, to feel like you belong people should be generous and caring towards you. They all run into each other almost creating a puzzle. Every piece is important, without one part, it would be incomplete.

Dogs and 4-H

By Megan Rosko

When a 4-Her trains a dog, they learn from the dog just like they would learn from their 4-H leaders. Developing trust and cooperation with each other is a very important part of the learning process. 4-Hers learn responsibility when working with their dogs. This responsibility involves making sure the dog's teeth are cleaned, nails are clipped and coat is combed out, and that it has food and water. It should have its check ups at the veterinary office.

There are many different types of training a 4-Her can do with their dog. Some of the trainings are agility, obedience and behavior trainings. A 4-Her may train their dog to help people who are under going therapy, to become a service dog or to become a photography dog.

4-Her's who are training their dogs are most likely going to

run into many obstacles along the way. Their dog may not want to listen and when this happens the 4-Her will have to be patient. Another obstacle would be that the dog won't want to work with their owner and the 4-Her would probably have to find something that their dog would work with like giving the dog a treat after doing something good. The treats can also be used as rewards.

Training a dog may seem difficult but everyone who has worked with a dog says that the time and effort are worth it.



According to Jones (Continued from page 3) the cows residing at the fair are producing an average of 73,000 pounds of milk daily.

The job of milking is considered relatively simple by 4-H'ers, many of whom milk several more cows at home than they do at the fair. It is highly probable though that at their own farms they aren't stopped on the way to milk and asked "where does it all go?"

Meet The Press

Left to Right: **Kathryn Casella** is 17 years old and is from Ontario County. **Connie Potter** is 16 years old and is from Onondaga County. **Sharleen Dunn** is 14 years old and is from Erie County. **Megan Rosko** is 17 and is from Steuben County. (not pictured) **Shawn Sicchio**, is 16 and is from Oswego County.