I hope everyone has taken some time to enjoy the terrific weather we’ve had recently! This issue of News and Views is focused on Mentoring—your peers provide an essential foundation when you are planning for the busy (and often stressful) months ahead. NYSACCE4-HE provides a great support system for each of us so why not pick up the phone and take a few minutes to reconnect with a mentor of yours—someone who has made a difference in your life!

The purpose of the mentoring program is to provide a network of support and guidance to new 4-H Educators in helping them meet the objectives of their job description. The Mentoring Committee has been diligently working on ways to provide colleagues help in establishing and cultivating mentoring partnerships. The 2010 committee goals are:

1) Improving the process for matching new 4-H Educators with experienced mentors.
2) Creating and maintaining an evaluation program to track mentor partnerships and document impact.
3) Partnering with the NYSACCE4-HE Professional Development Committee to help support new 4-H Educators.

We are currently working on an informal Association Mentor Program Guide to provide new 4-H Educators and potential mentors with information about the mentoring program. It will include how to find a mentor, what a mentoring partnership is and entails, benefits of a mentoring partnership, tools to identify mentee’s needs and how to address them, and suggestions for a positive mentoring relationship. Look for this at your district meetings in the upcoming months. For information on the mentoring program and/or help to find a mentor please contact your Mentoring Committee district representative.

Have you met?

**Mark Wittmeyer,**
Co-Chair Mentoring Committee

**What is a benefit of having a mentor?**
Knowing someone who has “been there, done that” has some best practices, someone who can give you encouragement and support.

**4-H memory?** First year showing a steer, passed ribbon table, saw ribbons fly, realized his steer had knocked over the table! Still got 1st place in class!

**Hobbies?** Volleyball, hobby farming, spending time with friends and family

**TV Show?** Two and a Half Men

**Food?** Lasagna

**Contact?** mjwi16@cornell.edu or CCE Livingston 585-655-3250 x110

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**Katrina Ellis,**
Co-Chair Mentoring Committee

**What is a benefit of having a mentor?** Networking—meeting one person who knows a lot of people. Someone you can call when you have a question—to let you know you’re not alone in this!

**Hobbies?** Reading, bowling, milking/cow showing, being outside.

**4-H'er?** 14 years in Jefferson County

**Movie?** The Notebook

**Color?** Purple

**Schools?** Morrisville, Oswego, Plattsburgh—a SUNY Girl!

**Book?** Anything by Beverly Lewis

**Contact?** kele26@cornell.edu or CCE Chenango 607-334-5841 x17

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**Kelly Adams,**
Experienced Mentor

**What is a benefit of having a mentor?** Learning about CCE and 4-H, when you have questions you know who to go to and that person will give you answers or point you in the right direction.

**Family?** “My 9 year old son, D.J., is my world!”

**Hobbies?** Volleyball, hobby farming, spending time with friends and family

**Contact?** kea32@cornell.edu or CCE Broome 607-584-9969

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**Holly Harwood,** Mentoring Program Participant

**What is a benefit of having a mentor?** It is great to be able to lean on and rely on individuals that have experiences in all different areas.

**Family?** Married 7 years to husband, Damon, have a beautiful daughter, Emily, 14 months old.

**Hobbies?** Cooking, traveling, spending time with family and friends, loves spending time with her daughter especially reading books!

**Motto?** Change can be good!

**Work Quote?** Yes! I am the new Bill Goewey!!

**Color?** Blue

**4-H member?** 10 years, Wayne County, PA

**Car?** Blue Traverse (mini van in disguise!)

**Pets?** Jack Russell Terrier named Allis

**Contact?** hmb62@cornell.edu or CCE Wyoming 585-786-2251

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**Photo of the Month!**

The Mentoring Committee hands out a welcome kit during the 2008 Trans4mation conference to Roger Ort.

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**Question of the Month:**

Q. Why should a new 4-H Educator have a mentor?

A. A mentor is a colleague and friend who will help you through those difficult times of uncertainty and fear. They will also be the first ones to acknowledge your accomplishments and share in your joy. Who does not need a person like this in their life?