A Note from the President:

Ava Grace, our fifth grandchild made her debut on August 9th – one day before I was to leave on vacation. There’s a rich 4-H story behind this miracle. Her father, our youngest son, Jason, met her mother, Laura, at the dairy show at our 4-H Youth Fair six years ago. It was only fitting that last fall they announced her due date as late July – the 27th – the date of this year’s dairy show! One of the “welcome to our family” gifts I gave Ava was a 4-H bib. I suggested to mom and dad that it was for a future 4-H’er – they both replied “you betcha”!

Ava is perfect, and her timing is impeccable – she didn’t arrive during the dairy show (pulling me away from my responsibilities at the fair), but she came just in time for me to give lots of hugs, kisses and lovin’ before I headed for a few days of vacation. She already understands the many demands on a 4-H Educator’s time!

During my quiet time of reflection this week, I realized that Ava’s arrival touches each one of you too. As you give the 212th degree of effort in providing effective and efficient 4-H programs based on research and best-practices, you are assuring the future of the largest non-formal educational program in the country. Five years from now, Ava may not join 4-H in Tompkins County. But because of your efforts, I am confident that there will be a 4-H program for her to join within her parents reach. There are three generations of the Carpenter family who are grateful for your passion and dedication.

On behalf of Ava, and all the future 4-H’ers just waiting for the magical age to join 4-H – thank you for giving the 212th degree of effort. I hope to see many of you at the state fair!