

# Extension Connection

In this issue

June 2003 • University of Wyoming

Young entrepreneurs learn the realities of the business world	2
Need help with a 4-H activity? Call a junior leader	4
College student parlays 4-H interests into career plans	6
College-bound students win 4-H scholarships	7
4-H "techies" learn tools of technology	8
Love of robotics locomotes 4-H-er to create curriculum	9
Unique 4-H community service project helps Worland citizens	10
Shooting sports teach about firearms and responsibility	12
Japanese and Wyoming youths gain international friendships	14
Livestock judging series leads to skills and scholarships	16
Goshen County wins national 4-H meat-judging contest	17
Summer camps run by 4-Hers teach leadership skills	18

## Looking to the future

The theme of this issue of *Extension Connection* is "Looking to the Future with Wyoming's Youths." It is chock-full of articles about the 4-H youth program of the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. It is a cliché but true nonetheless that our future rests in the hands and minds of youths. Young people combine a desire for fun with a love for the adventure of learning - learning with their minds, their eyes, their ears, and their hands.

The fundamental goal of the 4-H program is to help young people learn important skills for life such as communication, teamwork, artistry and creativity, personal management, leadership, social and interpersonal skills, patience, and empathy. Helping youths to achieve and understand their self worth is at the center of all our youth programs. We have highlighted some of our traditional 4-H project areas, growing areas, and some ideas for the future. I hope you will find the articles both informative and enjoyable.



Dan Whipple





*These students operated a pet store to try to earn money.*

# Young entrepreneurs learn the realities

*By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology*

**I**n countries like “Kidtopia” and “Cash City,” youths can learn what it’s like to create and operate their own businesses and governments and what it’s like to experience real-life successes and failures.

The Mini-Society® program offered by 4-H gives third through sixth graders the opportunity to explore entrepreneurship by developing products and marketing them to their peers. Financial successes are often tempered by the hard knocks of economic realities.

“The approach is to teach kids about business, how it works, and how it functions in real-life applications in terms that they can understand,” explains State 4-H Director Johnathan Despain. “We facilitate the learning opportunities, but the kids do it all.”

First they create and name their country and flag, develop their own monetary system, and interview and elect their civil servants and governmental bodies. The youths then work in groups or individually to create their own businesses and to devise strategies to market their products and services to each other.

Such enterprises as a tattoo parlor, an arts and crafts store, a game and entertainment outlet, a shoeshine stand, a pet shop, and a massage spa have been operated in Mini-Society® projects conducted by Despain with a fifth grade class at Linford Elementary School in Laramie and by Garnet Schatz with the Powell Rocks ‘n Bugs 4-H Club. Once the young entrepreneurs establish their

businesses, they have to discover ways to advertise so that they can begin to make money to use to spend at other establishments. At the end of the project, the participants have to dissolve their businesses and liquidate their assets.

“It’s just a hoot,” says Schatz. “They get right into it, and they love it. The kids who have done it before beg us to do it again.”

In the midst of having fun, she says, participants also learn how to handle difficult situations and how to avoid business problems in the future. For example, some youths decided that they did not want to be business partners anymore. They went to “court” to settle their differences and eventually realized the importance of having a contract that spells out what to do in such cases.

Schatz recalls a time when the youngsters were advertising their products by yelling. The noise level that resulted led to the development of regulations regarding

real life



*Sara Smith and Priscilla Jones of Park County create products to sell during a Mini-Society® workshop at the 4-H state leaders’ conference.*

# of the business world

suitable advertising techniques. “Many important teachable moments come up as the kids discover new things along the way,” she says. Her troops had to decide how to share their country’s one camera and how to regroup if no one was interested in buying their products and services. “They learn quite a bit about market analysis, scarcity, and supply and demand.”

While participating in Mini-Society® with Despain and fifth grade teacher Mike Bush at Linford, youths learned the impact of taxation. When the selling of candy was out of control, the business had to be taxed to stabilize the market. “It really hit home to them when we studied the American Revolution and they learned about the stamp act,” Bush says.

The students also learned about handling issues on their own without seeking governmental intervention. For example, one participant had concerns about a particular color being used on an advertising poster and had to decide whether it was a personal issue or something that needed to be brought up before the city council.

“The kids really have a great time, and they realize that being an entrepreneur is not as easy as it looks,” Schatz says. “They gain confidence knowing that they can do something on their own and be successful at it,” she adds.

“The activity is different every time you do it,” Despain says. “For some, government becomes a big issue. Others just want to earn money.” As in real life, he notes, some people do not want to participate and others try to steal. “Sometimes there are failures, and tears are shed.”



*Students in Mike Bush’s fifth grade social studies class learn the value of “chalupas,” the name for their monetary system, as they market products and services.*

Bush says he would love to use the activity again with another class. “The kids were always excited about the project,” he adds, noting that it satisfied many of the school district’s standards and benchmarks for social studies activities.

Mini-Society® is currently offered in Big Horn, Washakie, Park, and Albany counties. Despain says he hopes to organize more training sessions for leaders so that the 30-hour project can be expanded throughout the state. “It offers good critical thinking and application skills,” Despain says. “It fits so many of the life skill development traits that we are trying to instill in 4-H kids.”

Despain says he is amazed at what the youths accomplish. “They do some phenomenal things. If they can learn how to work and solve their problems together at a young age, maybe they won’t be flooding the courts with lawsuits later on.”

4-H and youth development

# Need help with a 4-H activity? Call a

By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology

**N**eed help teaching livestock projects? Call a junior leader. Looking for someone to conduct a sewing and modeling clinic? Call a junior leader. Have questions about a parliamentary procedures training program? Call a junior leader. In fact, junior leaders can and do help organize almost every 4-H activity in Wyoming.

"They're invaluable," says Warren Crawford, Carbon County's 4-H program associate and an adviser for the State Youth Council. "They help us, and in return they learn leadership skills."

Youths from 13 to 18 are eligible to participate in the junior leaders' project. 4-H leader Mary Louise Woods of Albany County

remembers being a junior leader as a teenager. She has now worked with junior leaders for more than 20 years as an adult.

Her group of 15 meets monthly to plan field days, workshops, clinics, and training programs. "A lot of what they do is role modeling for the younger 4-Hers. They can relate better to them than the adult leaders can," Woods says.

Last summer the leaders organized a three-day 4-H camp for the county, lining up speakers, crafts, sports, and programs and learning to adjust to things like a campfire ban and the necessity for making oven-cooked smores. Currently they are making plans to host 4-H teens from North Carolina for a week in July and raising funds so that they can return the visit the following summer.

"We try to have them decide what they want to do and how they want to pursue it," Woods says. "Sometimes that means that things don't happen. If they get busy and don't follow through, we are not there holding their hands. That's part of the learning experience."

Tammie Jensen, a University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service educator from Niobrara County, guides about 15 junior leaders who are involved in a number of community service and fundraising activities. "We use them pretty heavily," she says.

The juniors help coach and later teach judging programs and offer educational workshops in food safety, farm safety, branding beef, byproducts, and water issues. Jensen's group also conducts grooming field days, fashion review workshops, and teaches a beef production and showmanship unit for fourth graders.



*Volunteer Patty Burton works with junior leaders Quinn Oaks and Aaron Tomich of Sweetwater County to prepare camp crafts at a leadership retreat.*



# junior leaders

## junior leader.

“The young kids really like to have the juniors work with them,” Jensen says. “A lot of times they serve more like leaders than leaders do.”

They run a mini-catering business, clean barns, and work as waiters and waitresses for an alumni banquet. During fair time they replace adult leaders and moms and dads in the barns and help youngsters learn on their own how to feed, water, exercise, and groom livestock.

Sixteen-year-old Vanessa Greer of the Lance Creek 4-H Club is the president of Jensen’s group of junior leaders. Greer has stepped in several times in Jensen’s absence to help teach vegetable, meat, wool, and livestock judging.

“It has helped me develop my skills in leadership to work with both younger kids and peers,” Greer says of her experiences. “Through junior leaders I have found out how much I like helping young 4-Hers learn about their projects.”

Being a junior leader, she says, “helps you see how to use your leadership abilities to lend a helping hand to someone else. It is nice to see what giving does for your community.”

Crawford praises such junior leaders as Greer who share their specific knowledge and expertise. “If I ask them to conduct a workshop or a clinic, they really have to focus and know what they are talking about,” he says. Junior leaders in his area served as counselors last year for a natural resources camp.

Each county can send junior leader representatives to the State Youth Council twice a year. The council plans and operates the annual week-long Youth Leadership



*Junior leader Ashley Whitham of Uinta County helps 4-H campers learn to tie knots for hemp braiding.*

Conference in the summer at the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie. “It’s kind of an amazing thing that they actually pull it off,” Crawford marvels.

Junior leaders also serve as ambassadors promoting 4-H and community service around the state and attending the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C.

Brandon Tomich of Sweetwater County, the president of the State Youth Council, says being a junior leader has changed his life. “I love 4-H, and because of becoming a junior leader I became more active with helping in my community. I love meeting new people from around the state and getting to know all their opinions about different issues.”

Tomich adds, “Another great benefit of becoming a junior leader is getting to work with little kids and helping them to stay in a wonderful organization like 4-H.”

# College student parlays 4-H interests into

By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology

Elysa Schiltz of Powell is carrying the interests she developed in 4-H into plans for a future career.

Fashion design, modeling, photography, and interior decorating were all projects she enjoyed as a member of the Rocks and Bugs 4-H Club and are now components of her personal dreams.

The young girl who was once intimidated about speaking in front of people is now an accomplished young college woman who takes charge, travels, interacts with everyone she meets, and knows what she wants.

"4-H helped me to get up and get out," says Schiltz, a 20-year-old communications and photography major at Northwest College (NWC) who is grateful for her 4-H past.

She began designing and modeling clothing as a youngster through 4-H sewing and fashion reviews. Starting out with overalls and elastic shorts, Schiltz progressed to *Vogue* gowns. She particularly remembers

modeling a red formal she created that featured one shoulder strap, rhinestones, and a ruffled semi-train.

Schiltz continued modeling with an agency and hopes to find catalog modeling work to

help pay for her education when she transfers to a university or a specialty school. She has spent the last three years on the runway for the Western Design Conference in Cody. She was featured in a magazine article about a designer whose garments she wore, and her picture also appears on the cover of the catalog for this year's conference.

The photography Schiltz pursued as a 4-Her has become one of her college majors and also a source of part-time employment. "I have always loved cameras and the whole concept of taking a picture and making it appealing to the eye," she says. Her subject matter interests are varied. "I love taking pictures of anything and everything," she explains, adding that she particularly enjoys "capturing the moment of people in their natural state." She is learning darkroom techniques and has been offered a full-time job with a photographer in Cody.

Meanwhile, Schiltz says she is "always making sketches" of fashion and interior design ideas. As a 4-Her, she completely redesigned her room and would now like to work that interest into her career plans. "It's still on the top of my mind," she says.

Through 4-H and now college activities, Schiltz has had the opportunity to travel around Wyoming and also to other areas. She represented NWC's Students in Free Enterprise business club at a Seattle conference in the spring. She has also visited Canada, Hawaii, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C., as part of her interests.

Schiltz credits her background in 4-H and the people she has met through the organization with opening future opportunities to her. "4-H has been a great



*Elysa Schiltz*

## career plans



*Elysa modeled this gown for True West magazine and will appear in another award-winning design on the cover of the 2003 Western Design Conference magazine.*

help in my life," she says, noting that she is now comfortable speaking to crowds, modeling, and making presentations. She thanks the 4-H agents, leaders, and members who have supported her. "They are great people, and if I needed them, I could count on them," she says.

"It has been a great experience as far as helping me grow up and be a born leader," Schiltz adds.

## College-bound students win 4-H scholarships

Twenty scholarships have been awarded for 2003 to Wyoming college-bound students who have been active in 4-H. The winners are selected by the 4-H Foundation/State 4-H Office Scholarship Committee based on their grade point averages, their accomplishments in 4-H, their leadership abilities, and their financial need.

Receiving renewable Ella E. Schloredt scholarships to be used at the University of Wyoming (UW) are Christopher Bugas and Katheryn Behunin of Uinta County, Alicia Randall, Julie Sandberg, and Christopher Stillahn of Laramie County, Erin Stoesz and Colter Rieke of Albany County, Dixie Thoman and Lauren Ingrabrand of Sweetwater County, Rebecca Thompson of Platte County, and Kody Stocks of Carbon County.

Also receiving UW scholarships are Heidi Mitchell of Uinta County, winner of the Marjorie J. Gorman award; Stacy Johnson of Albany County, winner of the J. M. Nicholls award; and Jennifer Hayes of Laramie County, winner of the Janie Smith award.

Winning scholarships to be used at any college in Wyoming are Jade Kane of Sheridan County, winner of the Lael Harrison award; Ashiley Miller of Niobrara County and Jolene Sibert of Uinta County, winners of the Wyoming 4-H Foundation awards; Erin Reed of Converse County, winner of the Wyoming Veterinary Sciences award; Lindsey Toombs of Platte County, winner of the F.A.I.R. Posse award; and Lisa Gifford of Gering, Neb., winner of the Wyoming Farmhouse Foundation award.

In addition to the 20 first-time recipients, 19 current scholarship holders have had their funds renewed for a total of \$46,000 in 4-H awards to be distributed in 2003.

college bound



*Emily Gimpel of Teton County created a robotics technology project during a spring break Discovery Day camp in Jackson.*

# 4-H “techies” learn tools of technology

*By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology*

Through the new technology project, 4-H members are learning to build computers, create robots, develop PowerPoint presentations, and use global positioning systems.

All it took to get started was a handful of 4-H adults and youths willing to find resources in their communities to make things happen and to step up and run the programs.

In Converse County, for example, 4-H Program Associate Sarah Cary is piloting an activity that will teach a group of young people how to use hand-held global positioning system (GPS) to conduct historical and ecological field research to help local agencies pinpoint important geographic information systems (GIS) data.

Armed with a state grant, the 4-H members will use GPS units for projects like locating historic landmarks and trails, determining fire lines, assessing property boundaries, investigating water drainage, and studying wildlife patterns. They will then work with the Cando Development Center in Douglas to input their discoveries into GIS satellite computer mapping programs.

“It’s going to be exciting,” says Cary, explaining that 4-H will be working with several different agencies in town on projects to help them gather information. These partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the assessor’s office, the weed and pest office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The agencies have pledged to offer summer jobs to 4-H youths who participate and gain

experience and expertise.

“There are very few issues in communities that can’t be helped by mapping,” says Cary, noting that GIS data is used by utility companies, 911 systems, museums, hunters and fishermen, police departments, and medical research teams. “It’s becoming a pretty popular thing.”

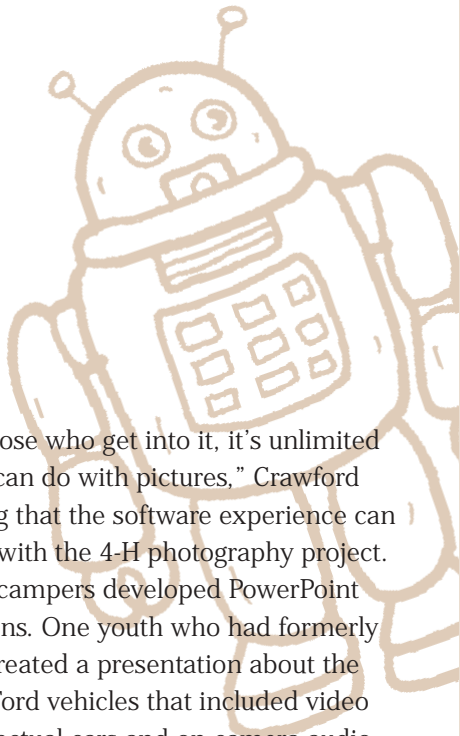
Cary sees the GPS/GIS training as a great opportunity for youths to develop knowledge that they can continue to use. “The possibilities are endless for the skills we are going to give them,” she says. “They can enjoy a summer internship or even decide on a career path.”

In earlier 4-H technology activities, members learned all about assembling computers and about using software for photography projects. Warren Crawford, 4-H program associate in Carbon County, conducted a week-long camp to teach youths about the inner workings of computers and how to take the machines apart and put them back together. Using computers donated by city and county agencies in the Rawlins area, the 4-Hers used the best pieces to construct their own machines.

They also used Internet resources to simulate the purchase of a mock computer that would include ideal components. “One of my goals for the end was to give them the skills to go home and upgrade their own computers,” Crawford says.

His group also learned how to use photography software and how to manipulate page designs and digital pictures. The 4-Hers practiced making distorted backgrounds to create artsy, colorful displays. They learned how to correct mistakes and how to clone picture changes.





“For those who get into it, it’s unlimited what they can do with pictures,” Crawford says, noting that the software experience can blend well with the 4-H photography project. Two of his campers developed PowerPoint presentations. One youth who had formerly been shy created a presentation about the history of Ford vehicles that included video footage of actual cars and on-camera audio explanations.

The 4-H technology project has also created its own “monsters.” A program aimed at helping youths design movable robots was started in Lincoln County by 4-H Program Associate Laurie Pernal and then junior leader Josh Adrianos (see accompanying article). Operating under a curriculum developed by Adrianos and using Legoland® kits funded by a grant, youths read and discussed articles and viewed Web sites about robots and then used their knowledge to make their own humanlike models.

The 4-H members presented and explained their creations at the state fair, where awards were given to the best-looking, fastest, strongest, and most well-designed robots. The project has been expanded to include Carbon, Uinta, and Weston counties.

“Kids have been saying for years that there’s an interest in technology,” says Johnathan Despain, state 4-H coordinator. The fever caught on a couple of years ago when Wyoming representatives attended a national 4-H technology conference. Despain hopes to develop a state team to help 4-H members continue to grow as “techies.”

## Love of robotics locomotes 4-Her to create curriculum

By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor

Office of Communications and Technology

There’s no doubt that Josh Adrianos of Kemmerer is hooked on robotics. He began building robots when he was 4, almost singlehandedly developed a state 4-H curriculum for the program, is currently studying mechanical engineering, and plans to earn a doctorate degree and make a living in the field. Even his e-mail address includes the word “robotics.” Now a 19-year-old college student, Adrianos’s hobby has become a way of life.

“I have always been interested in robots since I understood what they were when I was a little kid,” Adrianos says. Once he discovered his father’s toolbox, he began taking toys apart and rearranging them.

As a junior leader with the Hamsfork Hands 4-H Club, Adrianos gathered publications, perused Web sites, and attended a national technology conference to gain the expertise needed to start a 4-H robotics program.

The result was “Robotics 1: Loco-Locomotion,” a first-year curriculum to help youths learn the principles of different means of transportation to adapt to the development of movable robots highlighted by wheels, tracks, legs, arms, and grippers.

Interested 4-H members worked with Adrianos to learn all about robotics and then to use grant-purchased Legoland® kits complete with microprocessors to create their own 6 to 12-inch moving machines. He also taught his students how to adapt design principles to use with materials like wood and tin with gears from toys.

“I was implementing the program as I was creating it,” he notes. The finished product, however, is an impressive document complete with references and Web links that discuss the past, present, and future of roboting and explain such things as propulsion systems, sensors, types of motors, weight and balance, gears, and transmissions.

Adrianos also developed an outline for a continuing robotics curriculum that would contain the following components:

- **I Think** - Learning the principles of robot brains (microprocessors) and basic programming.
- **Come to Your Senses** - Learning about sensors and ideas on how to use them.
- **Smile for the Camera** – Exploring animatronics (the use of robotics to create movement that mimics living creatures).
- **Mad Scientist’s How To** – Designing and building one’s own robot.
- **Competent Competitions** – Build a bot that will compete in competitions designed to test the bot’s intelligence, speed, and agility.
- **Chaotic Competitions** – Build and compete with a battle-bot in a one-on-one battle, with rules and guidelines specified by the Society of Robotic Combat.

“Because of the very nature of robotics, it teaches patience,” Adrianos says. “It’s not something you can just throw together in a couple of minutes.” Participants, he adds, learn communication skills, how to understand new material, and how to work with partners. “They are also introduced to career options through a different kind of activity.”

Certainly the Wyoming and probably the national 4-H robotics project will bear Adrianos’s inventive mark. “All in all, I think it’s a neat program,” he says. “It’s a whole bunch of fun.”



*Eric Christoffersen digs deep to root out puncture vines as part of his 4-H club's community service project. (Photo courtesy of Northern Wyoming Daily News)*

## Unique 4-H community service

*By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology*

Knowing that community service is a cornerstone of 4-H, the Worland Washakie Wranglers have combined creativity and hard work to help their town rid itself of a pesky weed through a "Thwart the Thorns" goathead campaign.

Now in its second year, the project is giving 4-H members and their leader Varina Workman a chance to experience community pride and to know that they can work together to make a difference.

The campaign began as an effort to help people save their bicycle tires and shoes from being punctured by inconvenient, rapidly multiplying goathead weeds in a local park. The Wranglers joined forces with the parks and recreation department, local radio station KKLX/KWOR, and county pest controllers to try to eradicate the puncture vine. The 4-H club has advertised on a cable TV channel, conducted radio spots, received newspaper coverage, and printed flyers and postcards distributed through gas bills and given to schools and businesses to promote the cause.

In flyers, posters, and picture postcards designed by 4-H members about the weeds, the youths have included a photo of the goathead plant and a sketch showing its parts and size. "Goatheads are a problem in our community. Here's how you can get rid of them," the information reads. Based on research conducted about the weeds, the Wranglers advise citizens to pull up, chop up,

and dispose of the thorns in dumpsters. They also recommend the use of tested herbicides to remove the plants in grassy areas near gardens and in barren spots. Workman says the printed material ends with the slogan, "This project brought to you by the Washakie Wranglers in cooperation with the Lutheran Brotherhood," an organization that has helped to pay for the campaign.

"Attention Worland," the cable TV ads begin. "Goathead thorns have invaded the community." Again the 4-Hers include information about how to destroy the weeds and what phone numbers to call with questions about pest control.

The *Northern Wyoming Daily News* featured an article about the campaign



*Sara Christoffersen, left, and Kendra Neuenschwander pull goathead weeds at a local park along the Big Horn River on the west side of Worland. (Photo courtesy of Northern Wyoming Daily News)*

# community service

## project helps Worland citizens

showing pictures of 4-H members armed with buckets, shovels, and trash bags pulling the weeds. Workman says local grocery stores have pitched in to help the youngsters in their labors.

“Beep, beep, beep, attention Worland,” the radio news spots begin. “This is the Washakie Wranglers, and we are putting out a goathead alert for the town of Worland.” The ads go on to explain how to eradicate the weeds and who to call for more information.

One radio recording features two 4-H girls walking their dogs. One of the animals begins to limp. A check of its paw reveals a nasty goathead thorn. The girls then explain about their project. In another ad, two boys lament a flat bicycle tire and note that the weeds are the cause. “In Washakie County we are having a problem with goathead weeds,” they explain.

“The kids have become minor celebrities around the community,” says Workman. “They are absolutely delighted when they hear their radio ads. ‘Hey, that’s me,’ they say, or ‘Wait a minute, that’s our spot.’” Workman herself has appeared on a radio garden show to talk about the campaign.

Kadria Talbot, a 16-year-old member of the 4-H club, says she has enjoyed working on the weed project and appreciates the fact that it has brought the youths involved closer together. “I have learned that you can accomplish things through teamwork and getting a lot of people together,” she says. “You can’t just do things by yourself – you have to have the help of your community.”



*Logan Christoffersen removes goathead weeds as part of the Washakie Wranglers “Thwart the Thorns” campaign. (Photo courtesy of Northern Wyoming Daily News)*

Workman echoes these thoughts and praises the many organizations, agencies, businesses, and individuals who have joined the team to help citizens battle the weeds.

The Washakie Wranglers was a new club in 2002, and Workman says she is happy that the enrollment has now doubled. To promote community pride among the youths, Workman has arranged for them to tour the town hall, talk to the major, tour the courthouse, and visit with the Chamber of Commerce.

“If you can catch kids when they are young and teach them to be leaders and show them how they can make a difference in their community, they will be much more likely to step up to the plate when they are older,” Workman says.





# Shooting sports teach about firearms

*By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology*

What makes shooting sports one of the largest and most successful Wyoming 4-H activities? It teaches youths how to safely use firearms, but it also offers them the opportunity to learn about responsibility and to gain self confidence in a fun way.

“It may be the guns that draw them into the program,” says volunteer leader Roy Kern of Albany County, “but once they’re involved we teach them about ethics, positive motivation, respect, restraint, and other important values.”

The 1,500 (and growing) statewide participants learn how to safely and ethically use pistols, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment for target shooting and hunting in sporting and precision classes. Guiding them are leaders who must be trained and re-certified by the state every five years.

The goals and objectives for 4-H shooting sports include:

- practicing safe and responsible use of firearms,
- learning and practicing safe shooting sports techniques,
- developing leadership and citizenship qualities,
- fostering positive relationships with family members,
- acquiring self discipline in various shooting skills,
- promoting sportsmanship and ethical behavior,

- gaining an appreciation for the history and tradition of shooting sports, and
- appreciating shooting sports for their recreational and career opportunities.

Although 4-H youths can participate in a variety of county and state shooting events, Kern says the emphasis of the program is on providing a fun activity for boys and girls from 8 to 19.

Chase Woirhaye has been involved in shooting sports for six years. The 15-year-old member of the 4-H Snowy Range Pioneers in Albany County says that he has used the skills he has learned to hunt deer, elk, antelope, ducks, and geese.

“I’ve learned how to use a gun much safer than when I started, and I’ve learned to shoot better,” Woirhaye says. “It’s a fun way for kids who don’t have guns at home to learn how to shoot.”

Ky Burgess, a 17-year-old member of the Rocky Mountain Rebels 4-H Club in Albany County, says the best part of the program is “just getting to shoot, period. I love shooting.” A four-year participant, Burgess says he has enjoyed meeting other people who share an interest with him and has improved his aim in both hunting and recreational shooting.

Burgess also says he has learned to exercise mental and physical control over his body. “It’s incredible how much more fine tuned my motor skills are since I have been shooting. I tell my body to shut down more or less while I’m shooting so that I can be as accurate as possible.”





## and responsibility



*Young 4-H members are introduced to shooting sports through small rifles.*

He adds, "I would recommend it to anybody who has an interest in shooting or in just gaining more mental control. It's a lot of fun, but it's a safe activity at the same time."

Last year approximately 530 youths competed in the State Shoot during the state fair in Douglas. The number of participants is expected to grow in 2003. "It involves all of the kids," Kern explains. "They have an opportunity to go to an actual shoot without having to be the top qualifier in their county." Burgess says the State Shoot is fun and offers the chance "to meet new people who also like shooting."

Senior participants 14 and older at the event can qualify for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the National Rifle Association's Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. Albany County volunteer leader Bob Sexton and his wife escort 14 top qualifiers on the five-day trip each September.

# responsibility

"It's a world class shooting facility," says Sexton, that features many events and firearms that are not part of the Wyoming program. "It's a pretty challenging course."

Sexton says he appreciates the non-competitive atmosphere at the center and the fact that all of the youths can participate in each activity. "Everything down there with the trip is a totally new experience for them." The 4-Hers stay in cabins and have the chance to make new friends.

"It is really a lot of fun," says Burgess, who participated in last year's New Mexico trip. "There are different ranges for everything; it was pretty incredible."

In contrast, some Wyoming counties do not have indoor or outdoor shooting ranges yet. "There are a lot of programs that are out in somebody's barn," notes Kern. Regardless, participation in shooting sports can help 4-Hers earn college scholarships. Kern's own daughter is currently benefiting from such funding and from the life skills she learned through the activity.

"When you give someone a gun, it turns him into a powerful person," Kern says, "so you have to teach the ethics that go along with it. Shooting responsibly is something to be proud of. You can be a powerful person, or you can be a more highly respected one."





# Japanese and Wyoming youths gain

By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology

Imagine being in Japan for a month – eating Japanese food, sleeping on a futon mat, visiting shrines and temples, watching Japanese TV shows, browsing the crowded shopping areas to spend Japanese yen, and dressing in a yukata and dancing in summer O-Bon folk festivals.

Wyoming 4-H members can have this opportunity and can also help Japanese youths experience being in the United States for a month through a travel exchange program that offers participants the chance to become a member of a host family and to develop life-long international friendships.

The American 4-H program has teamed with the Japanese Labo club and camp program to match 12 to 18-year-olds with

families that will show them what everyday life is like several thousand miles away from their own homes.

“The idea behind the exchange is to have the participants eat, work, and play as the family members do as opposed to just being entertained,” says Virginia Craig, a University of Wyoming



*Japanese and American girls discuss the animal populations of their countries.*

Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES) office manager and 4-H leader in Weston County.

Craig, whose family has hosted Japanese students, says the visitors always love the outdoors but often wonder “what’s wrong with the land” since Wyoming’s wide open spaces contrast dramatically with Japan’s overcrowded urban landscape. “They are always amazed and wonder if the ground is contaminated,” she says.

In the past as many as 25 to 30 Wyoming and Japanese youths have been involved in summer exchanges. The numbers are smaller now. Former program coordinator Diane Tadewald, a UW CES office manager in Niobrara County, speculates that the cost of the trip, which youths and their families must pay, and the possible reluctance of people to travel in times of political unrest may be responsible.

“I wish we could bring more visitors into Wyoming and get more counties involved in the exchange,” says Tadewald, whose own



*This exchange visitor shares a drawing depicting parts of his country.*

# friendships

## international friendships

children have stayed with Japanese families. “I think it’s a great program. The kids have a wonderful time. You know it’s good because at the departure time there are tears because the youths don’t want to go home.”

State 4-H Director Johnathan Despain explains that 4-H and Labo youths are matched with approved families who have siblings of similar ages and of the same gender as the visitors. The young people learn about each other’s cultures and languages and experience personal discovery and growth, Despain says.

Craig points out that the Japanese visitors are usually in the state during fair time and learn to scrub animals and prepare projects for competitions. Wyoming youths in Asia often attend non-agricultural Labo camps where they learn about culture, the arts, music, and drama.

Fifteen-year-old Kyle Gunderson of Casper’s Kids Just Wanna Have Fun 4-H Club and his sister Alexis spent several weeks in Japan last summer after previously hosting three different exchange students and being tutored in the Japanese language. Through



*A Japanese Labo youth and Wyoming 4-H member share information about the geography of their countries.*

Labo he was able to hike and climb and learn skills like woodcarving. He says he enjoyed walking around Tokyo with his Japanese friends and also going to karaoke parties.

“I loved it,” Gunderson says of his stay. “If I had an opportunity, I would end up moving to Japan. The trip was probably the most valuable experience I will ever have.”

Gunderson says he was drawn to the clean cities, polite crowds, civilized culture, and muted eating habits he observed in Japan. Apartments are small, he reports, and people who do live in houses usually share them with extended family members.

Charli Raben, a member of the Huntley Farm and Homebuilders 4-H Club who lives near Torrington, also enjoyed a stay in Japan last summer living with a girl her family had previously hosted. “I really loved it all and made a lot of friends,” she reports.

Raben learned some Japanese, visited temples, participated in plays and games at Labo camp, spent time at a Japanese school, learned the art of origami, and took walks. She notes that Japanese families “don’t hug as much” and also have to shop daily because of the small food portions that are sold.

The 15-year-old hopes to return to Japan for a year-long Labo internship. “Being in Japan helped me a lot, especially with my confidence,” Raben says. “The people don’t really care what you look like, they are just glad you are there.” She says she enjoyed learning about a different culture. “It’s important that we keep good relations with Japan.”

Craig agrees. “The exchange helps people to understand others and to make the world a little smaller.”



*These international 4-H and Labo friends make a presentation about Japanese volcanoes.*



# Livestock judging series leads to skills and scholarships

By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology

The livestock judging summer series offers 4-H youths of all ages a chance to test their skills against experts and win scholarships for their efforts.

Organized two years ago to increase interest in livestock judging, the series gives youths from 8 to 18 the opportunity to enter contests around the state to evaluate beef, sheep, and swine in the show ring and to give oral reasons to support their judgments.

The top three scores that most closely match those of the official judges are averaged for each participant, and the top six judging individuals in the state who are 14 or older are awarded scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$500 from business people and producers.

"It teaches kids that no matter what background they have, they can learn more about the agriculture industry and why we eat what we eat," explains Campbell County 4-H Program Associate Rindy West, who coordinates the series with 4-H colleagues Warren Crawford of



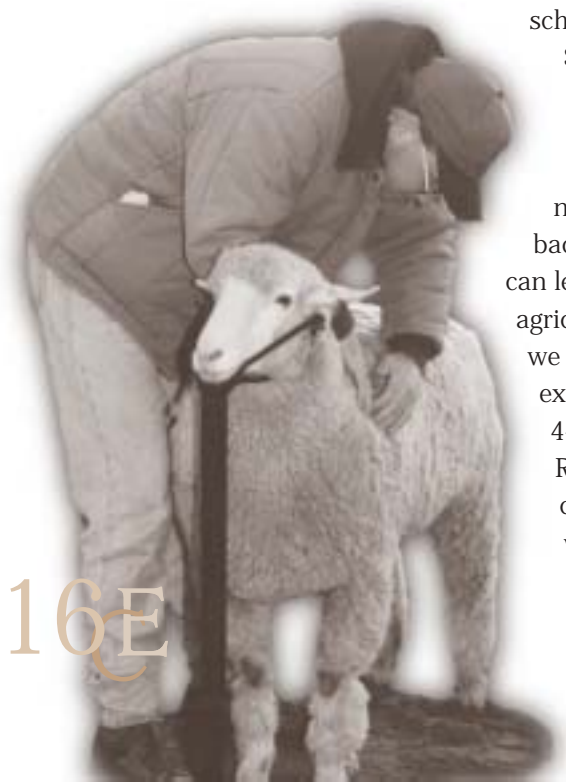
Carbon County and Alex Malcolm of Fremont County.

West estimates that more than 500 4-H members from throughout the state will enter the 2003 summer judging series. Contests will take place in Laramie, Albany, Natrona, Campbell, Fremont, Uinta, and Big Horn counties and also at the state fair in Converse County. "The kids really enjoy it when they get to see other 4-H friends from around the state every few weeks," West says.

She hopes to involve every 4-H district in the future and to find more sponsors so that scholarship awards can be expanded.

"It's such a neat way to keep kids interested in judging," West says. "With the scholarships it's also something for the younger kids to aim for when they are seniors." She adds that it is a great way to involve young people who come from counties that do not have enough members for an entire judging team.

Participation in the judging series brought success to 19-year-old Krisha Custis of Elk Mountain's Best 4-H Club in Carbon County. She won third place in 2001 and first place in 2002. Custis is using the \$600 she won in the contests along with a \$500 FFA scholarship to help pay for her education at Butler Community College in Kansas. Thanks







to her 4-H experience, she has also been awarded a full scholarship as part of the school's livestock judging team.

The judging series, Custis says, "helps you to be motivated and to learn more about livestock." She adds, "The things you learn help you as a person, particularly in terms of public speaking." Custis, who grew up involved with 4-H and with agriculture, is working toward a degree in animal science and hopes to find employment with a breed association or an extension agency.

Sixteen-year-old Aliciah Leu of Campbell County's 21 Butte 4-H Club also won a scholarship in last summer's judging series. "It's not easy, but if you want to do it, you can learn," says Leu, a high school student in Gillette. "It's really a good experience because it helps you know what you need, what to expect, and what to look for in the market."

West says she is pleased that the judging tradition is growing in 4-H and that participants are gaining life skills such as decision making, leadership, and self confidence. "The education of youths about agriculture and the nation's food system is taught through animal selection and judging. What they learn is so valuable."

# Goshen County wins national 4-H meat-judging contest

*By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology*

**H**ave questions about the quality of your beef and pork? Instead of seeking a butcher, ask the four members of the 4-H meat-judging team from Goshen County—they won the national 4-H meat-judging championship.

Coached by University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES) Educator Wayne Tatman, the Wyoming 4-H group defeated the teams from 15 other states that competed in the contest at Kansas State University to grab the award. UW student and team member Courtney Smith received a \$750 scholarship for winning the second highest overall individual score. Also on the team are Beau Yeik, Seth Schafer, and Merritt Carpenter of Yoder.

Goshen County 4-Hers have a history of knowing their meats. They also won the national contest in 1998. Three members of the current team also competed at the Western National 4-H Contest at the National Western Stock Show in 2001 and were on the state champion FFA team that competed in Louisville, Kentucky, in October of 2001. A victory in the state 4-H contest in April of 2002 secured their spot in the national 4-H event.

"It has really been a progression, a learning experience," says Tatman. "It's kind of nice to cap it off with a national championship."

To take the top spot, the Goshen County crew had to judge six different classes of meat in beef, pork, and retail-cut divisions. After evaluating beef and pork carcasses, beef loins, pork legs, pork blade Boston roasts, and porterhouse steaks, the students were required to rank them on their quality and cutability. The competitors then gave oral reasons in which they justified their decisions. In the retail-cut category, the 4-H members were required to identify 30 retail meats to determine the animal species and primal cuts they were from, their retail names, the types of cuts, and the preferred cooking methods.

Individual scores for each participant were then added together to determine the winning team. The Goshen County 4-Hers placed second in the beef division, fifth in pork judging, fourth in retail judging, first in oral responses, and first in retail identification to win the contest. In Smith's second place individual win, she placed second in both reasons and retail identification. Carpenter placed second in retail judging, fourth in reasons and fifth in retail identification to earn the fourth highest overall individual score. Schafer was fourth in pork judging and sixth in reasons.

In addition to praising the students, Tatman is also thanking the parents, the 4-H organization, and the community for offering support and financial backing for the team members. "This tremendous support is one of the big reasons for their successes," he says.

# summer camps

## Summer camps run by 4-Hers teach

By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor  
Office of Communications and Technology

What's unique about Wyoming's 4-H summer camps for youngsters is the fact that older 4-H members help plan and operate them.

Months of effort by junior leaders throughout the state lead to days of fun and bonding for young children. From the beginning flag ceremony to the closing

awards evening, junior leaders work alongside 4-H adults to make sure that happy campers abound.

"The most rewarding thing is when all the kids love camp and want to come back next year," says 18-year-old Connie Vigil of Basin, a

junior leader who has helped organize and conduct the 4-H camp for Hot Springs, Big Horn, Park, and Washakie counties for the past five years. "It's a great feeling to follow through on something and to make it happen."

Along the way, junior leaders learn team-building and leadership skills, according to Amber Wallingford, 4-H program associate for Washakie County. "We adults are there as guides if they have questions." The junior leaders, she says, create a camp theme, help plan menus, organize workshops, conduct "icebreaker" activities, serve as group leaders for youngsters, and even wash dishes and clean bathrooms. "The kids usually have fun no matter what they're doing," Wallingford says.

"One of the really important things we do is to make sure that everyone is involved and having fun at camp," says Desiree Alberts, an 18-year-old business management major at Northwest College. A long-time junior leader and camp-planner, Alberts adds, "In 4-H we want everybody to have a good understanding of how to treat other people and how to enjoy them. Camp offers this as well as learning about leadership."

Alberts says junior leaders "put everything imaginable" into planning the camps. "We learn what it's like to interact with other people and to express ourselves clearly and concisely." She says the leadership abilities and self confidence she has gained have made her "a person who starts things." Her career goal is to become a 4-H extension agent.

Junior leaders planning the 4-H summer camp for Sweetwater and Uinta counties spend months organizing the event and kick off each session with a retreat to put together final plans. During the retreat, the junior leaders discuss and practice each workshop activity so that they can provide help wherever needed.

"It's their baby," says University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service Educator Dawn Sanchez of Uinta County. "They really empower themselves, and camp becomes something they look forward to all year long." As many as 144 youths a year attend the camp, which traditionally concludes with a family dinner and awards ceremony. "The junior leaders do everything from conducting flag ceremonies, to showing kids the importance of washing their hands,



Junior leader Kendy Huntington (left) of Uinta County helps 4-H campers paint pots to create gumball dishes.



*Uinta and Sweetwater junior leaders gather to plan what songs they will sing with 4-H youngsters to help entertain them while they are waiting for meals to be ready.*

## leadership skills

to teaching the workshops, to planning the annual dance,” she says.

Junior leaders from throughout the state involved with the youth council will be running a special camp June 30 to July 3 in Douglas that will combine the traditional camping experience with Camp Fantastic (indoor 4-H activities) and Camp Catch the WAVE (4-H natural resources activities).

“It kind of rolls everything into one camp so that a large number of kids will be able to participate in more than one specific area,” says Rindy West, 4-H program associate for Campbell County.

A wildlife habitat evaluation workshop and contest will be conducted during the event so that youths can learn how to analyze range pasture to determine which species can survive in particular areas and how the locations can be better maintained to encourage thriving wildlife.

A share fair is being planned that will feature such cultural experiences as Basque dancing, Japanese and German cooking, Native American crafts and storytelling, cowboy poetry, African heritage activities, Australian music, Oregon Trail history, and tribal ceremonies.

For Camp Fantastic, junior leaders will be involved with teaching how to create quilts, tie-dyed clothing, ceramics, flower arrangements, decorated cakes, photographs, bulletin boards, and decorated photo frames. Food and nutrition events will likely include a trip to a restaurant, safety information about food preservation and cooking, and a luncheon pizza and salad bar meal.

Youth council members will also help with such activities as field trips, technology

labs, livestock workshops, fishing, canoeing, and woodworking.

Operating such summer camps has special meaning for 4-H junior leaders who remember attending camp when they were youngsters. “I’m a people person, and it has been very rewarding for me to meet different people and now to be working with little kids,” says Tara Davis of the South Flat Juniors 4-H Club in Washakie County. The 19-year-old Northwest College student credits her camp experiences with helping her decide to pursue a degree in elementary education.

“Planning the camps has given me a lot of leadership skills,” Davis says. “I’ve learned that with teamwork and leadership, anything is possible.”



*Clair Sawczuk and Rosslyn Gwilliam learn leathercraft skills during a spring break 4-H Discovery Day camp in Teton County.*



*Meeting with U.S. Senator Mike Enzi during the National 4-H Conference in Maryland are, from left, Wyoming 4-H members Rick Jones of Park County, Heidi Murray of Carbon County, Darryllyn Guffey of Hot Springs County, and Tiffany Blatnick of Platte County. On the right is Sarah Cary, a 4-H educator from Converse County.*

## Extension Connection

May 2003

### Editor

Vicki Hamende

### Layout and Design

Tana Stith

Send comments or  
suggestions to:  
Glen Whipple  
P.O. Box 3354  
Laramie, WY  
82071-3354  
(307) 766-5124  
glen@uwyo.edu

UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING



Printed on recycled paper

*The University of Wyoming  
is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action institution.*

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
University of Wyoming  
P.O. Box 3354  
Laramie, WY 82071-3354

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

PRST STD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USDA PERMIT  
PERMIT G-268