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4-H Celebrates *4-H Online!* During National 4-H Week

4-Hers across the nation marked National 4-H Week Oct. 3-9, 2004, with celebrations of 4-H's ever-increasing presence on the Internet including the much anticipated launch of the redesigned 4-HUSA.org, 4-H's first national website for, by and about youth.

4-H Online! was the theme of National 4-H Week. Ninety-three percent of young people ages 10-18 are actively online and want to find the information they need from online sources, according to the Pew Internet Project (2003). Recognizing this trend, 4-H is at the forefront of youth development organizations using the Internet as national, state and county 4-H programs and 4-H clubs are actively developing new and more innovative online presences with the support of the National 4-H Youth Technology Team, state and county 4-H youth technology teams and the 4-HUSA Web Crew.

The latest of these web sites is the redesigned 4-HUSA.org by the 4-HUSA Web Crew, a group of 14 teens from across the United States created a site that focuses on youth ages 13-16 and demonstrates the size, diversity and value of the 4-H adventure. The site features the most complete list of 4-H web sites available organized by state and many interactive elements including a national calendar of events and featured news headlines. Coming soon are games, message boards, web logs and myname@4-Husa.org e-mail aliases.

4-Hers in Ulster County celebrated National 4-H Week by attending the September meeting of the Ulster County Legislature where the County's elected officials proclaimed October 3-9, 2004 **National 4-H Week**.

Many other state and county 4-H programs also have created initiatives to reach young people who might not have easy access to the Internet. For example, Washington 4-H's 4-H-T4 Mobile Technology Van equipped with satellite capability and wireless laptops travels the state as a teaching tool for youth who are exploring the Internet and the world around them. Also, young people who participate in the Nebraska 4-H Cyber Fair are adept at mentoring others who want to learn how to use the Internet. Finally, 4-H Tech Wizards in Washington County, OR, follow a four-year curriculum that teaches them how to use computers, create digital video productions and operate global positioning systems.

4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Visit www.4husa.org for more information about the 4-H adventure or for a link to any 4-H website. Access the Ulster County 4-H website at www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster/4_h.

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