

4-H Youth Development
Program Update
March - April 2006

- **4-H Public Presentations...**

...are one of the most important life skills the 4-H Program offers to youth. For a Public Presentation youth: learn to research, prepare and speak publicly, enhance their public speaking skills, gain the ability to think and speak in front of a group, develop poise and self confidence. This year SUNY Ulster hosted the County Level event. Five youth were selected to advance to District Level.

- **4-H Veterinary Science**

In 2006 all three units of 4-H Vet Science were offered to Ulster County teens. Teens learn about the Normal Animal in Unit 1, the Diseased Animal in Unit 2, and Animal Health and Its Relationship to Our World in Unit 3. This year nine teens “graduated” from the 4-H Vet. Science Series by completing a research project. Instruction by local Veterinarians and Licensed Veterinary Technicians at the Vet Science Lab at SUNY Ulster creates interest in this very popular Animal Science project.

- **4-H Spring TOPS After School Program**

Backyard agriculture was the topic for the Spring session of 4-H TOPS After School Program. Youth learned about ways they can have agriculture outside their window or/and in their backyard. Hands-on activities included: planting seeds, meeting a rabbit and meeting a chicken. Phillis Bridge Farm presented a grand finale session with hands-on activity stations. Each student helped to spin rabbit’s wool, plant seeds and prepare herbs for tea and eating.

- **4-H Tractor Certification**

This is the only tractor safety class offered to Ulster County teens. To be New York certified teens must: be at least 14 years old, complete at least 14 hours of education in a class room and hands-on instruction, pass a written exam, and pass a driving exam. This year 20 teens were instructed by Grant DeWitt. All 20 teens earned State Certification.

- **Public Issues Leadership Development Conference**

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals sponsors this annual conference to promote leadership, communication and cooperation among Extension professionals in the area of Public Issues Education. Patti attended this Washington D.C. Conference, as the Vice President of NY State 4-H Educators, representing Cornell Cooperative Extension, the 4-H Program and Ulster County. She met with some of the USDA partners and spent time lobbying “on the hill” in the offices of Senator Charles Schumer, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Representative Maurice Hinchey. The Cornell University Office of Government and Community Relations was the host for the legislative meetings. Over 300 Extension Professionals and Volunteers from across the country attended this Conference.



Ulster County 4-H Staff

Patti Zellmer, Team Coordinator – Mary Lou Giuliano, TOPS School Program Educator – Dona Crawford, Events and Volunteer Coordinator-Jenny Burkins, Program Secretary