



## **4-H Youth Development**

### **Program Update**

### **March-April 2008**

- **2008 Environmental Awareness Day**

On May 1, 2008, 240 sixth graders gathered at Kingston Point Park for the 4-H Environmental Awareness Day. This year's theme was Water and Watersheds. Classes rotated through five half-hour learning stations, and participated in hands-on activities. We had a beautiful sunny day to enjoy, and almost all parties involved expressed contentment with the new location.

- **Public Presentations**

Public speaking is one of the most important life skills available to 4-H youth. 4-H members learn to: express themselves clearly, organize their ideas, present in a logical order, research subjects, develop confidence, use visuals, and listen to the opinions of others. This year 42 youth participated at the County level, 12 youth were recommended to District, and 1 youth was recommended to advance to State level.

- **Tractor Certification**

Grant DeWitt, assisted by John Roosa and John Ingram instructed a class of 17 teens for the 2008 4-H Tractor Certification program. Youth must successfully complete a written test, driving test and vehicle check to be State Certified.

- **Strategic Planning**

The 4-H Strategy Committee is developing a logic model and implementation plan for 4-H programming. Six desired outcomes have been identified and are being defined, they are: 1) Ulster County Youth will enter adulthood with a sense of responsibility and commitment to contributing to their community 2) Increase in personal health and health of families 3) More Ulster County youth will enter into SET (science, engineering, technology) education and employment 4) All youth in Ulster County enter adulthood with self-confidence and competence having a broad range of skills 5) There will be greater interest in preserving and enhancing the natural environment 6) Communities can rely on consistent funding for youth programming, staff and resources to provide a wide variety of strong, diverse opportunities for youth.

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

Students at George Washington and John F. Kennedy Elementary schools were treated to lessons on livestock animals, topped off with visits from Toby the rabbit and Hope the chicken. The children were asked to "think like farmers", considering the products a farmer could market from raising a certain animal. Older grade levels did the math, calculating the cost of buying rabbits, breeding, feeding kits until they were marketable for meat and estimating the cost per pound that could be charged for rabbit meat.

- **NEW 4-H Nutrition and Gardening Program Development Committee**

We are looking for 4-H leaders and community members who may be interested in participating in this new program development committee. Persons interested in planning for youth nutrition and gardening programs in Ulster County, contact Kristen Wilson, [kew67@cornell.edu](mailto:kew67@cornell.edu).

### **Ulster County 4-H Staff**

Patti Zellmer, Issue Leader – Kristen Wilson, Resource Educator - Mary Lou Giuliano, TOPS School Program Educator – Dona Crawford, Events and Volunteer Coordinator-Jenny Burkins, Program Secretary