

4-H Youth Development
Program Update
July-August 2006

- **Hudson River Adventure**

July 19 & 21 thirty-nine youth discovered the Hudson River with hands-on fishing/seining, “bug” watching, lighthouse building, beach combing, hiking, and sailing. The goal of introducing youth (especially Kingston area) to the Hudson River was successfully accomplished. Partners for this project: Steve & Julie Noble, Environmental Educators with Forsyth Nature Center; Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc; Hudson River Maritime Museum; Nordica Holochuck, New York Sea Grant; Patti Zellmer, Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Program. Funder: Stewarts Holiday Match Fund

- **Regional Standard bred Tour**

43 youth and adults from the Southeast District took advantage of the all new Regional Standard bred Tour. At the Mount Hope Training Facility participants saw first hand how horses are trained, exercised (in a pool!), stabled and shod. The Historic Track and the Harness Racing Museum provided information on the art and sport of Harness Racing. This program was funded in part by 2006 Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund; and the NYS Standard bred and Harness Racing Industry. Special thanks to Audrey Reith for all her efforts in reviving this tour.

- **County Fair**

Wow, it was a HOT one! I am happy to report we did NOT lose any animals (or people!). The heat did hinder entries, especially in Foods & Nutrition. In 2006, 216 youth showcased 1401 exhibits. This number includes every animal and static exhibit. For many youth the County Fair evaluation of their 4-H projects is the highlight of the year.

- **State Fair**

Ulster County sent 54 static exhibits to the State Fair. Everyone did very well. There were 5 Grand Ribbons (top honor at State level). At the Ulster County booth, teens engaged fair goers in the educational focus of Invasive Plants. In addition to the static exhibits there were animal entries in Horses, Rabbits and Cavies, Dogs and Poultry.

- **Summer TOPS**

This summer the topic was Alternative and Renewable Energy. Lessons included solar, hydro and wind power. Youth built solar ovens, solar cars and water wheels. Some even baked biscuits! One of the highlights was measuring the energy output of the wind turbine constructed in the Kid Wind project. John Calhoun, Solar Tech provided a special school assembly on solar power.



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