

4-H Youth Development
Program Update
July-August 2008

- **County Fair**

The “new and improved” snack bar menu brought hundreds of fair goers to the Youth Building. Once inside the youth building there was a full schedule of educational events for youth and their families. Events included: solar activities, rope making, painting a still life of fruit, and creating an herbal wreath. This year 136 youth entered 1817 4-H projects for evaluation. Projects ranged from aprons, cookies, photography to animals and tractor driving. It was another banner year for the 4-H Livestock Auction. Participation at County Fair helps 4-H members develop vital life skills in leadership, organization, critical thinking, setting goals, time management and communication.

- **State Fair**

The Ulster County 4-H teen team conducted engaging activities to focus on the theme: “Choose Health for You and Your World.” Fair goers took a water taste test (to find out if bottled water is really better), went scooter racing, and were amazed at the demonstration on sugar levels in popular drinks. The activities were a big hit among fair goers. The teen team managed the Ulster County booth which showcased over 80 outstanding Ulster County static exhibits. This year several teens assisted the evaluators. Two teens were participants in the Clothing Revue. Ulster County had animal science entries in Dogs, Horses, Rabbits, Poultry and Dairy.

- **Summer TOPS**

This summer TOPS youth at JFK and George Washington explored Solar energy with activities from Anne Hillerman’s book, “*Done in the Sun: Solar Projects for Children*”. Youth created sun tattoo’s, experimented with several solar cookers, and baked cookies in a solar oven. Each child received a copy of the book.

- **Nutrition and Gardening**

The 4-H Nutrition and Gardening Program Development Committee has held its first two meetings. Three projects the committee is interested in creating include: 1) Development of a Ulster County youth gardening website, 2) Supporting to two Kingston elementary schools in starting/maintaining youth gardening education, and 3) Creation of a teen gardening club in Kingston, which will support school gardens. The projects are currently in the development/networking phase. Julie and Steve Noble will start the teen gardening club with plans to pass off the leadership to newly trained 4-H leaders. We are looking for adults in Kingston who are interested in assisting the club.



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