



Illinois *Leader*

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

August-September 2008

Mission Mandates

Since its beginnings, 4-H has focused on the overall growth and development of youth. The four H's reflect the assets youth need to succeed in life: knowledge (Head), service to others and the community (Heart), life skills (Hands), and healthy lifestyles (Health). Nationally 4-H is refocusing the program in these areas, now called 4-H Mission Mandates which include:



- Science, Engineering, and Technology (Head and Hands) – related to agricultural and environmental issues
- Healthy Lifestyles (Health) - related to health and well-being
- Citizenship & Leadership (Heart) - related to serving or leading others in the community.

Science, Engineering and Technology: The need for science, engineering, and technology (SET) education is essential for preparing today's young people for the challenges of the 21st century in areas such as agriculture, life sciences, family and consumer resource management, nutrition, and others.

Healthy Lifestyles: Youth develop health habits, good or bad, which they often continue as adults. It is important for youth to learn and practice healthy habits for their physical health and safety as well as their mental and emotional health.

Citizenship and Leadership: Through hands-on learning, leadership opportunities, and service to the community, youth learn that they can bring about change in their community, country and their world.

This year, articles in the *Illinois Leader* will focus on the 4-H Mission Mandate areas and provide information about how they can help strengthen the club program and the mastery of skills by 4-H members. Together we can help youth begin to make the connection between their 4-H project work and the life skills they are learning that will help them succeed later in life. 4-H will also be able to do a better job reporting the impact of the 4-H program and the difference it makes in the lives of young people today.

New Curriculum and Resources for Fall 2008



The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to:
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The 2008-09 Illinois Clover: A Guide to the Illinois 4-H Program provides an overview of the 4-H program. The program guide is divided into four sections: member handbook, 4-H projects, awards and recognition, and information for 4-H volunteers. The project section is organized by the three new 4-H Mission Mandate areas. An alphabetical list of projects will also be provided at the front of the book to help members easily find projects.

New Projects for 2008-09

- Computer Science Intro and Levels 1-3
- Dairy Goats Levels 1-3
- Foods and Nutrition: *4-H Cooking 201* (Intermediate level)
- Welding: *Arcs and Sparks – Shielded Metal Arc Welding* (grades 7 & up)

New Resources for 2008-09

- Dairy Goats Helper's Guide
- Sheep Helper's Guide
- *4-H Parent Handbook*
- *Helping You Help Youth* fact sheet – *Build Character* (on-line only)
- *Vegetable Gardening* (available on-line only)

North Central Region Volunteer Forum



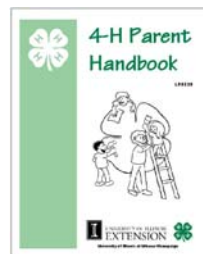
Changes in the Recognition for Excellence Program



Valued Volunteer Orientation Program Available Statewide



4-H Parent Handbook



The **2008 North Central Region Volunteer Forum** will be held in Columbus, Ohio, **November 6-8, 2008**, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. The theme of the forum is “*REV UP – Realize, Energize, Visualize Unlimited Potential.*” The forum will feature speakers, seminars, educational tours, entertainment, and networking. Information on the program, lodging, and registration is available on-line at www.4-h.uiuc.edu/events/08ncrvf.html. Cost is \$210 for early bird registration which ends September 12. The leader forum is open to all 4-H volunteers from the twelve Midwest states.

Changes Announced to Recognition for Excellence Program

The Illinois 4-H *Recognition for Excellence* Program has the following changes effective with the new 4-H year:

- ★ The recognition item for 16-year-olds reaching the *Standards of Excellence in Leadership Achievement* will be a dark green sports bag.
- ★ The 8 – 11 year old project planning guide, *Planning for My 4-H Project Work* (R90311), has been revised and is now four pages with more space for younger children to write their goals. Instead of filling out one form for each project, youth will only need to complete one form per curriculum area. For example, youth enrolled in dogs and beef will now submit one form in Animal Sciences that will include both projects.
- ★ The *4-H Livestock Record* (RA0102) has been updated.
- ★ *Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Leader's Guide* (L90240) has been revised and will be available for ordering in the new year.

The **4-H Valued Volunteer Orientation and Training Programs** are available statewide this fall. New or inexperienced volunteers are encouraged to enroll in this orientation program through their local Extension office. 4-H leaders will be asked to complete six-one hour sessions by attending face-to-face meetings, telephone conference calls, and/or by going on-line for self-study sessions during the 4-H year.

The orientation topics include: volunteer roles in 4-H, club organization, club program planning, positive youth development, communications within the 4-H club, and experiential learning. The objective of the program is to help newer leaders develop skills to initiate or strengthen their own local club programs. Special recognition will be given to those who complete the program at the end of the year. More than 50 volunteers who participated during the 2007-08 4-H year will be recognized at the 2008 Illinois State Fair at the Clover Celebration.

A new **4-H Parent Handbook** is now available to 4-H families in Illinois. It may be ordered through your local Extension office. The booklet can help new 4-H families learn more about 4-H and how to help members have a positive 4-H experience. The booklet contains a parent role description, facts about 4-H, where to get information about 4-H, what's expected in 4-H, 4-H projects and supporting events, an Illinois 4-H glossary, resources to help 4-H families, and a map of the Extension regions. The booklet can be used as a companion piece to the *Welcome to 4-H* publication available for new 4-H members – especially those ages 8 - 12. These are both great resources for the new year.

Illinois Leader is published six times a year in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. D. R. Campion, Director, University of Illinois Extension at Urbana-Champaign. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. The 4-H Name and Emblem are Protected Under 18 U.S.C. 707.