

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Flower at 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 1995, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Sloan - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cloud County 4-H Ambassadors--Aimee Sharp, Kelli McReynolds, Jessica Racette, Heather Thoman, Melissa Baldwin, Jeff Morgan, and Chris Franey

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Flower welcomed everyone and introduced the 4-H Ambassadors from Cloud County--Aimee Sharp, Kelli McReynolds, Jessica Racette, Heather Thoman, Melissa Baldwin, Jeff Morgan, and Chris Franey. She reminded the committee that the state supports 4-H through the Extension budget.

The Cloud County 4-H Ambassadors addressed the committee explaining that the goal of the Ambassador program was to develop an information program in each county staffed by 4-Her's to promote 4-H programs. There are currently 300 Ambassadors located in over 30 counties in Kansas. Their work as Ambassadors helps develop leadership and communications skills. The seven members addressed the specific areas of 4-H promotion, prevention of teenage problems, individual gains, competition, leadership, community service, and development of personal values through 4-H. (Attachment 1)

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 1995.

CLOUD COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS

February 7, 1995

Good morning Chairman Flowers and members of the state Agriculture Committee. On behalf of the Cloud County 4-H Ambassadors and our sponsor Sherry Trost we would like to thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

We represent 300 Ambassadors located in over 30 counties in Kansas. The goal of the Ambassador program is to develop an information program in each county staffed by 4-Her's to promote the 4-H program to specific audiences.

In order to achieve this goal Ambassadors tell the 4-H story, organize promotion activities, help conduct and promote county 4-H events, act as a sounding board for 4-H members ideas and concerns. In this work the Ambassador develops valuable leadership and communication skills. We work mainly with younger members to encourage them to stay involved with the program, and specific organizations.

Today we would like to address the specific areas of 4-H promotion, the prevention of teenage problems, individual gains, competition, leadership and personal values from 4-H.

*House Agriculture
Attachment 1
2-7-95*

My name is Aimee Sharp and this is my 7th year in 4-H and second year as an ambassador. I would like to start today with our promotion of 4-H.

Promotion is an integral part of keeping 4-H alive. The ambassadors are responsible for a significant part of promotion in each county. We have promoted 4-H this year with various radio spots heard in many counties. Another way of reaching out to many people is to speak to organizations. We have addressed Senior Citizens, Optimist club, widowed friends, sorority and FCE groups. During 4-H week we made public displays in downtown windows and libraries. These help us to recruit new families to join the 4-H tradition. Although new families are needed to keep the program strong, it is also important to keep existing members involved. We accomplish this by hosting a fun day at the county fair, speaking to 4-H clubs, and training officers. We believe it is important to high school age 4-Hers to promote 4-H activities to younger members. These are the roll models for the younger members. This ambassador team has members who work one on one with the younger members in various home economics projects, agricultural projects and record book keeping.

Our future plans are to serve as camp counselors this summer, serving as project leaders within each club, and to be more available to prospective members. We look to address more interest groups in the county. We gain new ideas on promotion from a statewide training held each spring.

This promotional experience not only helps support 4-H, but gives each ambassador useful leadership and communication skills.

Good Morning, my name is Kelli McReynolds. I am 17 years old and a junior at Concordia High School. I have been in the New Horizon 4-H Club and the Cloud County Canine Corp for the past 8 years. I am involved with the sheep project and the dog project, also leadership and public speaking.

I would like to tell you a little about how we help kids stay out of trouble by being in 4-H. If you are an active 4-H member, then there is very little time to get into trouble, as 4-H keeps us very busy with club meetings, projects, county committees and functions, plus an added bonus are state and national trips.

In the club meetings we decide what we are doing within the club by conducting regular business meetings. Record books also take more time, as it is a bookkeeping system, and you have to keep accurate records. For instance I am in the sheep project, both commercial breeding sheep and market lambs. I spend a lot of time picking out good lambs, feeding and watering them, and then working with them to get them calmed down to show them at the fair. With this project I get involved with county committees in which we make plans that carry through to the Cloud Co. Fair.

I am also on the 4-H Council which is a group of representatives from all of the clubs in county, and we then meet to make decisions that effect the whole county.

By being in public speaking and leadership, we all learn how to communicate with people, and this in turn can help us in the future to get jobs.

Also we do lots of community service projects like recycling products that don't have to go to the landfill. We even have a program, where we adopt a grandparent and spend time with them. These projects help the community and let us use our talents to help others.

If we can keep the kids in 4-H there are plenty of activities to keep them involved in a good positive program with good results.

Hello, my name is Jessica Racette. I am a 17 year-old junior at Clifton-Clyde High School. I have been a member of the Clyde Roadrunners for seven years.

I joined 4-H at the age of ten when many other 4-Her's were quitting. I can still remember that first meeting I went to, I was very young and very scared. I didn't understand anything that was going on and I vividly remember being afraid to talk or move in case someone would notice me.

Well, I've come a long way from being that shy ten-year-old, and I can honestly say that 4-H is the reason why.

My first ever project was the horse project. I was warned that the horse project was a big project and that I would need lots of help. Don't worry, I assured them, my family would help. And they did. 4-H is something the whole family can enjoy and it has brought me closer to my parents and grandparents as they have hauled me and my horses many a mile.

I started with that one project and have added many more through the years. I am now enrolled in nine projects and I am leader of the horse project.

My first important public speaking occurred the year I joined 4-H. I entered an essay contest to win an Arabian horse. My essay along with 19 others from the state of Kansas was selected and I was interviewed by what seemed like at least 50 people at the time, although in reality there were only 20. I was also interviewed and appeared on the Channel 13 News so I got over being shy pretty quick. And I now own a ten-year-old Arabian gelding that I wouldn't part with for the world.

Through 4-H I have met many people and made many friends. The friends I have made through 4-H will always be important to me and we will always be there for each other for the rest of our lives.

4-H is big part of my life, it has made me realize that I am an important person. It has given me a set of standards that myself and many other 4-Her's will live by for the rest of our lives. 4-H has shown me that through hard work and determination any goal can be reached.

Competition makes the world go round. I, Heather Thoman, from Concordia, Kansas, am one of many 4-Hers who will in the future be competing for status, money and recognition in America's workforce. I am a junior in high school and a 10 year member of the Jolly-J-Hawks 4-H Club. Though 4-H members learn competition, different forms are learned by competing at the County and State Fairs and local and regional 4-H Days.

During the fair all of our projects are displayed for competition. A wide variety including foods, home environment, wood working and animals are brought together to compete. Year after year we become better competitors by learning from our own experiences, elders and the judges comments. Our fair experiences teach us to learn from not only our own experiences by also from our peers and bosses.

Our talents and communication skills are displayed at 4-H Days. Consumer, horticulture and photography judging; project talks; show and share; public speaking, spontaneous speaking, one-act plays, dances, vocals and instrumental are just some of the competitions at 4-H Days. My favorite competition is Spontaneous speaking. The 4-Her has to draw from these four topics: entertainment review, current event, hobbies and what 4-H means to me. For 10 minutes the 4-Her prepares a 5 minute speech and then presents it.

Through judging, speaking and performing our talents, we learn to better ourselves in areas which we enjoy. Every 4-Her needs to learn these valuable communication skills to express our feelings through their talents to communicate co-workers in their future.

By competing with others, we learn how to better ourselves. When we are out in the real world, we will have an advantage because we have learned communication and competitive skills.

Hello, my name is Melissa Baldwin. I am 15 years old and have been in 4-H for 10 years. I am a member of the Hopewell Corners 4-H Club. The Ambassador Program has made me more aware of leadership. I have learned how to lead younger children in the right direction to a better knowledge of life through Junior Leader's and also being the leader of the reading project and leader of the citizenship project in my club. Being the reading leader, I have taught children more about libraries and how to use them. I also have helped them become more successful in public speaking by making them give an oral report on their favorite book to the group. I have also learned to use leadership as a powerful tool in my 4-H career.

Only a few years ago, I moved to Cloud county. I did not know anyone in the 4-H program and I had to start up the long, hard ladder to leadership positions all over again. But, because of my becoming an Ambassador, more aware of leadership and record keeping I have received recognition in my county and am currently serving as the vice-president of my club. Leadership and persistence has also made me successful in school. I am involved in high school band, Spanish club, KAYS and recently made a member of National Honor Society.

Thanks to leadership learned from 4-H and persistence, I am successful in life.

4-H helps not only the individuals involved in it, but it provides services to the community that cannot be replaced. I'm Jeff Morgan, from the Hill and Dale 4-H club, and I've been in 4-H for eight years.

4-H members provide service to the community through projects that improve themselves and their environment. They carry out community improvement projects like fairground improvement and recycling. Fairground improvements include: the building of benches, landscaping, building improvements and general maintenance.

4-Hers have held an important role in community service by training the future leaders of that community. They learn work skills and responsibility through many different projects. As a young member I took leather work and learned from a extremely talented leader, from the community, how to finish projects ranging from gun slings to checkbook covers. Two years ago he had to resign as the project leader and my brother and I took his place. Both of us have learned leadership and patience by teaching these younger members. During the fair, ambassadors provided services and show leadership. We help set up commercial exhibits and help anyone that asks for our assistance. When the fair is over 4-Hers provide another service by cleaning the mess left from the entire fair.

These are only a few of the helpful activities 4-Hers participate in. In general 4-H teaches the youth of the community leadership through service.

Good morning my name is Chris Franey, a ten year member of the Republican Valley 4-H Club located in Cloud County.

Developing a good set of values is the most important asset a young person can acquire. We are not born with a value system. Values must be learned from others. Our parents, of course, should be our most important source of value building. But other influences such as teachers, clergy, friends, and social groups contribute greatly to our personal growth. One of the most influential groups in my life has been 4-H.

As an adolescent, I do not take part in major business transactions. I do not have a household to run or dependents to support. But even as an adolescent I know that there will be no way to avoid tough decisions and responsibility that lie ahead. The future holds many questions. Will I be prepared when they occur?

To be prepared, it is essential to get a good education, acquire strong social skills, and most importantly, develop a proper set of values. A strong value system will help me make good decisions in a struggling society. Our personal values help us to distinguish right from wrong. 4-H has sent hundreds and hundreds of young people in the right direction for the future. You have heard it before and will probably hear it again: 4-H is a good investment in the future. The pride and determination it took to get us this far is the same motivation that will drive us toward success in the adult world. Sorting out teen problems, public service, the frustration and character of building of competition, knowledge of leadership, and how 4-H helps kids, are positive advances for the best interest of our society. 4-H encourages education, development of social skills, pride, determination and responsibility. These are strong and valuable traits. When you invest in the development of these traits, you invest in each of us. When you invest in us, you have invested in the future.

At this time, I can now guarantee some good news for your future! Our presentation is now *concluded*. For myself, current and future 4-H members, please accept our thanks and gratitude for your past contributions and continued support of 4-H.

Thank you.