

Extension Notes

Personal Column for October 5, 2010

By Gary Hall, ISU Regional Extension Education Director

4-H for Everyone!

4-H will drive you to accomplish all sorts of things in your life. Ask anyone who was ever in 4-H and they will probably be able to explain what 4-H has done for them. I certainly have gained a lot from 4-H over the years by being a member and watching our youth grow and mature through 4-H. I even got my hair colored green one year just to promote this great program.

This is a great time to celebrate 4-H and also become a part of 4-H. 4-H'ers are attending their 4-H Awards Night to be recognized for all their accomplishments throughout the year.

Members, parents and leaders will see smiles and hear the accolades for many of our youth. 4-H members are leading efforts to solve problems in their communities, raise awareness about environmental issues, and make a difference for their futures.

Today, one in every four Iowans between the ages of 8 and 19 is part of 4-H. More than 40 percent come from urban communities. 4-H is an organization that helps youth develop skills they will use throughout their lives. The goal of 4-H is to develop leadership, citizenship, and communication skills of youth mostly through experimental learning programs.

For kindergarteners-third graders, there is a program called Clover Kids to get kids excited about joining 4-H and to learn what 4-H is all about.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who help make the 4-H program a success. With the help of the community, leaders, parents, and Extension staff, 4-H is now one of the largest youth programs in the world.

You can join the 4-H community today and start developing your own 4-H memories whether you are a youth or an adult. Just contact your local Extension office. Then you can color your hair green with me next year!

Together we can all make the best better through 4-H and have a whole lot of fun.

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