

Celebrating the Centennial in McLean County



McLean County has been busy planning for the Centennial in 2002. Here are some of the events and activities we have been working on:

*Illinois State University Basketball Game: January 29th after Learn and Fun Day, ISU has agreed to have the game in honor of 4-H. 4-Hers will get special prizes, seating, etc. and be recognized at the game.

*Memorial Day Parade: We felt this was an important day to recognize 4-H, so each club will be represented in the parade with banners or floats to show the 4-H spirit.

* 4-H at the County Fair: We have had 14 centennial project exhibits approved by the fair show committee. A few are listed below with very brief descriptions. If you would like the complete detailed list, email Tammy Stewart-Centennial Superintendent at THEBREADLADIE@aol.com and have the Subject say "Centennial Projects Listing".

- 1) Club Booth: Use the centennial theme as a focus and look at the past, present or future.
- 2) Computers: Design a web page around the centennial.
- 3) Woodworking: Refinish a piece of furniture that is approximately 100 years old. Include 1 page on the history of this piece.
- 4) Crops: Exhibit a poster showing how crops were produced 100 years ago.
- 5) Citizenship: Answer the question, How has the last 100 years affected me to become a better citizen of the United States in the future? What events in history have had the most impact? Why?
- 6) Centennial Project: This project is a depiction of the history of 4-H. You can put together the history of your club, your family in 4-H, history of 4-H in McLean County, etc.

* Cookbook: The Timeless Clovers 4-H alumni group is putting together a cookbook of old recipes for the centennial. It will include recipes from past alumni and present 4-H members and leaders.

*Club Histories: Each club is being asked to send in up to 3 pages on the history of their club. Their name will then be put in to a drawing for a free pizza party.

*Community Service: For every club that does a minimum of 100 hours of documented community service, they will be given a \$20 gift certificate to be used at National 4-H Supply.

*Display at Historical Society Museum: The historical society will be giving us all their display cases to do a history of 4-H centennial display for 1 month during the year.

*4-H Quilt: Each club will be responsible for designing a 10" square of the quilt. We will also be putting together a separate Cloverbud quilt. We have a current 4-H member who will be piecing the quilt together. The quilts will be displayed at the fair at the end of July.

4-H Centennial lists for the upcoming 4-H centennial. Send ideas and comments to: Illinois 4-H Centennial, Deb Stocker, E. John, Suite 1901,ampaign, IL 61820 (217) 0910.
[/www.4-h.uiuc.edu/ts/centennial.html](http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/ts/centennial.html)

4-H Centennial Items Available

Check out the National 4-H Supply web site to order national Centennial 4-H items: www.4hstuff.org. Click on the storefront marked “Centennial.”

Illinois will also be offering some Centennial items for purchase – keep your eyes open for more information!

National 4-H Hall of Fame Nominees

During the 4-H Centennial, 100 individuals will be selected to enter the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Each state may make nominations – here is a synopsis of the first of three Illinois nominees.

William B. Otwell

Like most popular and enduring ideas, 4-H had no one beginning. It was not the idea of a recognized national leader, nor the result of a charismatic personality. In its beginnings, 4-H embodied those qualities that had characterized the movement of agriculture across the continent. Through a collection of farm families, agricultural scientists, schoolteachers, administrators and concerned citizens, the seeds of 4-H were scattered.

One of these early pioneers of the 4-H movement was William B. Otwell, a Macoupin County, Illinois farmer and president of the National Farm Institute. Otwell had been following the work of O. J. Kern, a rural school superintendent from Illinois. Kern sought to bring new methods and seed varieties to the nation’s farmers. Otwell observed that few farmers seemed interested in attending meetings so he decided to ignore parents and concentrate on young people.

When Otwell offered a \$1 premium for the best yield of corn produced from the Midwestern seed that he had collected, more than 500 young boys entered the contest. By 1901, his annual corn-growing contest had attracted 1,500 boys and equipment manufacturers were offering premiums of plows, cultivators and fanning mills to contest winners. Three years later, more than 50,000 youth entered the contest that ignited the nation to the “Power of Youth!”

Otwell’s corn contests demonstrated the value of incentives to encourage young people to compete and excel. The national 4-H movement was a merger of this concept with that of organizing rural youth into clubs and groups. Over the next hundred years, millions of youth have been encouraged to make their “Best Better” through their participation in judging contests, competitions, and incentive programs.

It is safe to say that William B. Otwell was one of many people that helped lay the foundation for today’s 4-H program. Thomas Wessel and Marilyn Wessel document this fact in the book *4-H: An American Idea 1900-1980*. In Illinois, a room in the Macoupin County Extension Office is known as the Otwell Room, an honorable remembrance of the impact he had on the national 4-H movement.

4-H Garfield Prints Available on eBay

Garfield creator and 4-H alumnus Jim Davis has created a special Garfield 4-H print for the 4-H Centennial. Only 52 signed copies of this print are available and they are being placed on eBay for auction to the highest bidder – one print each week from November 18, 2001 through November 23, 2002. Proceeds from the auction go to the state 4-H program sponsoring that particular week. Illinois’ week is slated for November 17-23, 2002, but you can bid on any print at any time. Check out the action at www.4hstuff.org/garfieldprint.htm or www.eBay.com.

Start YOUR 4-H Alumni Registry

Do you know who is the oldest living 4-H alum in your unit? Do you know the names of all the 4-H clubs since 4-H began in your county? Identify 4-H alumni from each of the decades. Establish an Alumni Wall of Fame, including members, leaders, professional staff and other volunteers from the program. Do not limit it to persons who are just from your unit, but include those who currently live in your unit who were involved in another county or state.

4-H alumni can share with you what they learned from 4-H. They can reflect on how 4-H and the projects helped them in life. Former 4-H members, leaders and parents are potential volunteers for your unit’s 4-H program. Research shows that people volunteer when they are asked to do something. This will enable you to expand your volunteer base.

If you haven't started your alumni registry, resolve to do it early in 2002. Registry forms are available on the 4-H web site: www.4-H.uiuc.edu/events/centennial.html. Carry registry forms with you and distribute them at Extension events, club meetings, workshops, PTA meetings, community meetings, service clubs, or when talking with someone on an individual basis. You will be surprised at how willing people are to share their 4-H experience with you. How many alumni can we identify in Illinois? Begin gathering Alumni Registry information today as we celebrate *The Power of YOUth*.

Securing Alumni Registry Participants in Cass County

We will be placing notes inside bank statements sent out to community members about the 4-H Centennial and the Alumni Registry. We are also making tablets of the alumni registry forms and placing them at local businesses with our address on the back so interested individuals can just tear off the form, complete it and drop them in the mail.

44 Years of 4-H in Chicago



In the mid-1950's, a growing number of private business people believed that America's agrarian values were sorely needed in the nation's cities. John B. Clark, president of Coats and Clark Inc and a long time supporter of 4-H, saw 4-H as a vehicle for transmitting such values and he was willing to underwrite the experiment. After failing to gain acceptance in New York, NY and Newark, NJ, Clark's interest shifted to Chicago and the National Committee on Boy's and Girl's Club Work. This group was not bound by the funding restrictions of the Extension Service. Clark believed that the National Committee, the predecessor of National 4-H Council, might provide the channel for bringing 4-H into Chicago. Guy L. Noble, director of the National 4-H Committee, eagerly began working out the details with Clark, but knew that he would need the support of the Illinois Extension Service.

Kenneth Anderson, Associate Director of the Committee, began talking with O. F. Gaebe, Illinois State 4-H Leader and W. G. Kammlade, Associate Extension Director, in May 1956. Both were well aware of the public demand for 4-H in Chicago. Anderson informed Gaebe and Kammlade that Clark was interested in helping and that several other businesses in Chicago would like to be involved. Kammlade immediately endorsed the idea and worked toward the establishment of the Chicago 4-H program. He had to counter resistance among rural 4-H supporters and agriculture leaders who feared their insufficient 4-H budgets would be further diluted to serve a growing urban area. The associate director assured critics that most of the money would come from private sources. He re-enforced the assurance by placing the management of the Chicago program under the jurisdiction of the State 4-H office rather than the Cook County Extension office. This was an unusual arrangement, but Kammlade apparently thought it was critical to the success of the new program.

On June 25, 1956, Clark wrote Noble that Coats and Clark would underwrite Chicago 4-H for three to five years at a rate of \$10,000 per year. Other donors were the Burrige D. Butler Memorial Trust, The Sears-Roebuck Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. By the end of 1956, most of the red tape had been cut and Kammlade, with promised backing from private industry, had convinced all the necessary forces within and outside Extension that the pilot project in Chicago should go forward. Negotiations on Chicago 4-H were conducted quietly, but as more and more people became involved the news began to leak.

Richard Orr, farm editor of the Chicago Tribune, picked up word of the Chicago 4-H plan. Anderson arranged for Orr to talk with Kammlade. On March 13, 1957, Orr filed a story for the Tribune under the lead paragraph: "State 4-H Officials are getting ready to launch a program of club work for boys and girls in Chicago this spring. It will be the first opportunity for city youngsters to become a part of the nationwide youth organization that is devoted to encouraging good citizenship, home and community service and a sense of self-reliance through 'learning by doing.'"

The first public announcements about Chicago 4-H helped launch the fund drive needed to bankroll the new program. Some money was available from state



and federal Extension allotments, but most would have to be private. Initially Ty R. Thompson, National Committee service director, headed the drive. Thompson later served as a trustee of the Chicago/Cook County 4-H Foundation. The Chicago 4-H Club Advisory Committee was formed in 1957 to help expand the program and increase private support. Within a few months, the group of business leaders incorporated under the name Chicago 4-H Association. A. W. Harlow of Illinois Bell Telephone served as its first president. In 1974 this group became the Chicago/Cook County 4-H Foundation. Many Chicago business and professional leaders worked with the Association. Frances B. Watkins, a trustee of the University of Illinois who played a vital role in 4-H coming to Chicago, later served as a trustee of the Chicago/Cook County 4-H Foundation, and was a member of the Chicago 4-H Council. Thomas J. Nayder, Chicago Building Trades Council President, headed the 4-H Association from 1967 through 1974.

From the beginning, Kammlade made it clear that the Chicago 4-H program would need to be extended to low-income people and that it would include African/Americans. He was aware that 4-H in the late 1950s was segregated, but that the university could not be a part of a new program in Chicago that would exclude African/Americans from membership and leadership. Those recruited to back the Chicago 4-H experiment agreed and the program went forward with that understanding.

The stipulation to include African/Americans, and the need to find someone who could adapt 4-H to an exclusively non-farm audience were on the minds of Illinois state 4-H officials as they worked to staff Chicago 4-H. Lawrence Biever accepted the position and began work July 1, 1957, as a 4-H youth club specialist. Biever began the program with a newly earned doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, some basic beliefs about youth work, and a letter from a Chicago teenager named Sally Tokarz who wanted to start a 4-H club in the Chicago stockyards area. In August, Biever, Tokarz and fourteen other teenage girls formed the Yardettes, Chicago's first urban club. Three of these girls then recruited other boys and girls for three other 4-H clubs in the neighborhood.

By October, seven clubs had been formed. The first 4-H officer induction ceremony and workshop was held October 7, 1957 in a schoolroom. By June 1958, a total of 28 4-H clubs had been formed in various parts of the city.

Anna Rose Biever, Lawrence Biever's wife, was hired to work with the program in December 1957. The Bievers found that 4-H home economics and photography projects worked in the inner city, but nearly everything else required adaptations or starting from scratch. Materials were borrowed from other states initially. The Bievers prepared their own guides on topics ranging from junior leadership to money management. During their seventeen years in Chicago they developed and introduced seventy-eight projects.

They conducted a connotative camping program that involved total youth involvement built around a theme that was selected annually. The program provided recognition for campers. Best campers were selected who demonstrated the qualities, characteristics and attitudes of fellowship, leadership, sportsmanship, workmanship, courtesy and cooperation. Candidates for best camper were nominated by their peers and selected by previous best campers attending camp. Campers who were fourteen years of age and members for two or more years, who camped the previous year, participated in public speaking and demonstration festivals, and completed member record forms were eligible to apply to serve as camp counselors. Applicants were evaluated at camp and at the closing ceremony a white string, a badge of their role, were given to those who were chosen as new counselors for the next year.



The Chicago Board of Education in 1961 asked 4-H to organize clubs in minority public housing projects where the school drop out rate was especially high. This was done to combat juvenile delinquency and keep youth in school. Sixteen 4-H clubs were organized in housing projects. In the process, the Bievers learned to deal with security problems that were far outside the experience of most Extension Agents. When cab drivers would not take Anna Rose into the projects for meetings, the members would walk her to the bus stop. Most meetings were held in an apartment or home where it was more secure. But the children told of

having their exhibits or ribbons taken from them on their way home from 4-H events. Ribbons and other awards were proudly displayed in the home of the 4-H'ers.

There were few reminders of rural America in Chicago, but it was not a city unfamiliar with the smell of livestock emanating from the stockyard on the southside of Chicago. Chicago did have pig projects for a short time. A Chicago packing company made some empty stalls available to 4-H members who raised twenty-two pigs. Kammlade visited the pig project and declared them "Fine enough to go to the State Fair." The pigs and their owners distinguished themselves at the State Fair. This demonstrated that quality pigs could be raised on concrete rather than mud holes.



By 1967 there were 137 clubs in Chicago and the numbers continued to grow. During the early '70's, many new programs were initiated. A gardening program was initiated at Robert Taylor Homes in cooperation with the Chicago Housing Authority. This was the predecessor of the Chicago Urban Gardening program. In 1972, "Mulligan Stew" was introduced as a television nutrition project for 4-H with an emphasis on school audiences. WTTW ran the series for several years and the Chicago Board of Education worked cooperatively with the three Chicago offices to involve students in the program. In 1973 the Chicago Board of Education approached Extension asking them to work with them to develop a program to enhance their science and family life program using incubation and embryology of chicken eggs as the topic. The first eggs were incubated in classrooms in 1974. This project is the largest 4-H project in Chicago and is replicated annually in many counties in Illinois. CES and Chicago Public Schools entered into a memorandum of understanding providing teacher training and Lane Placement credit for Chicago teachers who completed training in incubation and embryology, nutrition education, urban forestry, plant science, entomology, electricity and energy, wetland and aerospace.

Rising camping costs in 1978 lead to the development of a volunteer camping program that involved adults and youth in planning and conducting a camping program for Chicago 4-H members. More than 3,000 members camped between 1978 and 1991. The early 1980s was a time that a work preparation program was initiated in Chicago using monies secured through a grant. Other grants have been secured in recent years for expanding and strengthening the communities club program.

During the 44 years that 4-H has been in Chicago, thousands of youth have been members. Many 4-H volunteers attended Leader Forums on the county, region, state and national level. Youth participated in regional and state 4-H Conferences. Some of the older youth attended Citizenship Washington Focus while others participated in the International 4-H Youth Exchange and LABO programs either as delegates or hosts. We are proud of our members who earned trips to National 4-H Congress, served on the State Conference Planning Committee, were elected to the Report to the State Team and the Cook County Report Team, served as State 4-H Advisory Committee members, and became members of the Chicago 4-H Council and 4-H Ambassadors. Several years ago, Sam Jones, one of Chicago's first 4-H members, received one of four 4-H State Alumni awards.

Chicago is proud of the youth and adults who are and who have been involved in the Chicago 4-H program. Members and leaders have worked "To Make the Best Better" as they learned by doing.

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