



Illinois Celebrates the 4-H Centennial

State Fair Edition 2001

Meet the Illinois Centennial Committee

The Illinois Centennial Committee is looking forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions and being a resource in local areas. Committee members include:

Luke Behme--Macoupin County	Jessica Blackwell--Cook County
Darlene Curry--Tazwell County	Kate Fombelle--Moultrie/Douglas Unit
Toni Frank--Sangamon/Menard Unit	Lynn Gibson--Winnebago County
Theresa Graf--McLean County	Jan Hoeft--McHenry County
Holly Ingram--Logan County	Nathan Klinger--Richland County
Ron Snodgrass--Ogle County	Tammy Stewart--McLean County
Marion Wadkins--Will County	Carmetha Waddy--Pulaski/Alexander

Tosha Cantrell- Unit Educator, Macoupin County
 Sally Hamlin-- Center Educator , Macomb Center
 Sandra Lignell—Center Educator, Countryside Center
 Bill Million--Extension Specialist, State 4-H Office
 Debra Stocker--Extension Specialist, State 4-H Office
 Jan Seitz—Assistant Dean and Director, State 4-H Office

Illinois Centennial Committees

4-H members, adult volunteers and Extension staff serve on the Illinois State Centennial Committee, who will plan celebrations for the 100-year anniversary of 4-H. The committee focuses on four areas: Centennial newsletter, special events, Centennial display, and alumni identification.

Illinois 4-H Centennial Newsletter, published bi-monthly, provides updates on national and state activities. It also includes suggestions for celebrating the 100th anniversary in your club and county. Past issues are posted on the web site.

The *Special Events* Committee provides input on celebrating the anniversary to planning committees for state events, such as Legislative Connection, State Fair, National 4-H Week, and Leadership Convention. Plan to celebrate 4-H's 100th anniversary at county and state activities throughout 2002.

The *Centennial Display* Committee is gathering ideas and photographs to be considered for a Centennial Display for statewide use. The final display template will include photos and text. Counties will be able to add local history and information. Items being considered include project comparisons over the years, 4-H Camping, evolution of the 4-H Clover, and expansion of 4-H into urban areas.

The committee would also like to develop different pieces that local speaker bureaus could use when making local presentations, a Readers Theater piece for local use, on-street promotional brochures, and county poster contest ideas. If you have ideas to share, or information or photographs to be included in the display and/or promotional pieces, please contact Bill Million at the State 4-H Office.

The *Alumni Identification* committee hopes to invite past members and their families to celebrate the 100th anniversary alongside current 4-H members. The committee plans to prepare a list of famous Illinois 4-H'ers. Are you a 4-H alumnus? Make sure to check out the national website to register!

The committee is also constructing a form for alumni/friends of 4-H to fill out. The form will provide a quick history of that person's experiences participating, leading, or volunteering with 4-H in their lifetime. There are many uses for this form; one being a great way for county's to have an instant archive of statistics on what alumni/friends of 4-H were/are doing in the county. It makes a great reference for finding new volunteers. These types of forms make great mixers at celebrations to allow others to get to know each other, and reminisce about their 4-H ties.

The 4-H Centennial lists ideas for the upcoming 4-H Centennial. Send ideas and comments to: Illinois 4-H Centennial, Deb Stocker, 302 E. John, Suite 1901, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 333-0910. <http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/events/centennial.html>

County 4-H History Tips While there are many ways to research your county's 4-H history, an excellent source for information is in old Illinois Farm Adviser's Annual Reports. Some of these date as far back as the early 1920's. Some information you may be able to glean includes: beginning of the 4-H program – usually in girls' clubs and boys' clubs (Clubs may be segregated according to topic, such as: clothing, poultry, corn, dairy calf, canning, etc.), early leader training, National Club Congress delegates, rallies, University of Illinois tours, 4-H member ages, etc.

National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century The best way to celebrate the past hundred years of youth development in 4-H is to make history with one of the largest group discussions held in the United States. The National Conversations will be starting soon at the county level all over the country. Illinois' own Chris Anderson, Unit Educator in the Sangamon/Menard Unit is on the national planning committee. An Illinois delegation of 64 4-H members, volunteers, and staff will go to Washington, D.C., for the big event in February. Stay tuned to the website for more details.

National 4-H Centennial Website Check out the National 4-H Centennial web site at: www.4hcentennial.org. This site dedicated to all individuals who have participated in 4-H over the years and will help us all celebrate the 100th anniversary of 4-H in 2002.

2002 Centennial Celebration Ideas for Your Club & County When planning events, involve many volunteers including club members, leaders, families, and 4-H alumni. Include a small 4-H Centennial tribute at all events. Ask clubs to research and write a history of their club, including photographs. Encourage intergenerational activities, including interviewing 4-H alumni. Contact your local historical society and offer to set up a display for them. When planning events, invite the public to celebrate with you! Include former 4-H staff in your reunions. If you have "famous" or prominent alumni, use them whenever possible!

Starting now, make appearances in parades or at local festivals to promote the upcoming celebration. Post histories and upcoming events on a local or county web site. Get the local media involved as much as possible.

At your county fair, you may want to recreate some of the old contests - pie baking, preservation, etc. Special programs might include the following: oldest living "former" or current volunteer; oldest living 4-H alumnus; a 4-H alumni showmanship class in livestock; club recognition for clubs that are 25 or 50 years old; recognition of families with 3-4 generations who have been in 4-H; 4-H alumni or former leaders who traveled the furthest to celebrate with you; sponsor a 4-H trivia contest. Make an evening special by including dancing (include music and dances from over the years) and sing some of the songs from the 4-H songbook.

Sponsor a community service and/or fundraising collection of 100's. Some items to collect are blankets, peanut butter or any canned food item, personal hygiene items like soap, shampoo, or lotion, or any small money denomination like pennies, dimes or nickels, or pet supplies like dog food or cat food. This idea can be individualized for your community and the organizations that are active there.

- Start to Plan Your Club's Centennial Celebration**
- Compile a history of your 4-H Club.
 - Compile a list of all leaders of your 4-H Club. Include the years that leaders served and their current address. You may want to note those who are deceased.
 - Compile a list of all present and former members of your club. This could include the years that they were members. Again you could try to get addresses.
 - Brainstorm ideas for celebrating 100 years of 4-H with your club.
 - Prepare a club directory with names, addresses, and phone numbers.
 - Invite former leaders and members to visit your club meeting.
 - Plan some club celebrations for the year 2002.
 - Identify past award winners from your club.
 - Recognize past award winners at your club's awards night.
 - Interview former leaders and members to learn about their 4-H experiences.
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