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4-H is young people learning and doing.

For the 62,270 4-H'ers in Minnesota in 1979, 4-H was people, learning by doing, and fun. It was experiences that equipped them to solve individual and group problems. It was learning to make decisions to become effective citizens in a democratic society.

More than 48,000 people enrolled in Minnesota 4-H programs during 1979 in 2,248 community clubs. Another 14,260 youth have had 4-H experiences through TV programs, classroom 4-H for youth with learning handicaps, and other short-term special interest programs. An additional 12,000 youth participated in the youth phase of the Expanded Food and Nutrition program. Over 10,400 youth attended 4-H camp conducted by Extension.

An increasing percentage of 4-H members is found in rural nonfarm and urban areas. In 1979, 45 percent of the 4-H members were farm residents and 55 percent lived in rural nonfarm or urban homes.

Minnesota continues to lead the continental United States in the number of 10-year 4-H memberships.

Who conducts the programs?

In each of Minnesota's 87 counties the extension agents organize and supervise the county's 4-H program. Their work includes program planning for youth, organizing and maintaining 4-H educational programs, coordinating 4-H activities and events, and working with adult and teen volunteer leaders. The extension agents are supported in their youth programming by a large staff at the St. Paul Campus of the University of



Minnesota. This staff includes subject matter specialists and youth specialists (state 4-H staff) who give leadership in youth program development, volunteer leader training programs, and club and program organization. The 4-H program is financed by public and private funds. Public funds include federal, state, and county taxes which are used for educational programs conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service. In addition, in Minnesota about \$100,000 is contributed annually from private funds including foundations, business and industry, professional groups, and other specialized associations. Nationally, private funding makes up about one-fourth of 4-H's total financial support.

Leadership

16,500 men and women adult leaders and 1,150 teen leaders guide and support 4-H members at the community level. They commit well over five million hours of service to 4-H annually.

Training programs are important in helping them to effectively apply their talents and abilities in working with 4-H members. County, District, State Workshops help provide such training.

4-H is a family affair—many 4-H projects are centered around the home and family. Parent interest and support help youth get the most from their 4-H experience.

"4-H is . . .

The warm smile of a friend . . .

Confidence to go on . . .

Overcoming difficulties . . .

Happiness through sharing with others . . .

Exciting people . . .

Consideration of and understanding of others . . .

A challenge to help others . . .

as I have been helped."

These phrases are taken from a statement prepared by a Fillmore County 4-H'er describing his 4-H experiences.



Projects and Programs

Members' individual projects are important in the 4-H program. Members may choose from more than 100 projects, many of which are geared to the different abilities of the members.

The most popular projects include:

(1) Horticulture	25,286
(2) Foods and nutrition	19,417
(3) Beef, dairy, sheep, swine	23,468
(4) Creative arts	14,812
(5) Clothing	11,588
(6) Junior leadership	11,576
(7) Wood science (shop)	8,887
(8) Photography	8,830
(9) Home environment	6,500

This list of most popular projects reflects the strong agricultural and home economics base of 4-H—but 4-H “ain’t all cows and cooking” as many other projects continue to grow in popularity.

Fastest growing project is indoor gardening. Aerospace, pets, photography, child development, fruit, geology, and plant pathology also have seen significant growth.

As 4-H expands to urban areas, many additional projects take on new looks. The garden or field crop project becomes a minigarden in a window box or a small plot in a vacant lot. Other popular urban projects are embryology, rocketry, pet care, crafts, and photography.

4-H'ers are concerned about where they live. They are involved in conservation of energy, soil, water, and wildlife; pollution control; community beautification; and clean up. They serve on local or state community development committees, conduct studies and campaigns, and organize projects such as sanitary landfills, paper and glass recycling, youth recreation programs, and entertainment in rest homes for senior citizens.

Art, drama, dance, music, and creative writing become tools for human devel-

opment in 4-H arts projects and activities. Day-long "Workshops of Expression" are held for children in Indian and migrant communities and urban centers throughout Minnesota. More than 20,000 youth participate in Share the Fun (performing activities culminating in performance) on local and state levels and 17,000 are involved in the 4-H Creative Arts project. An additional 4,000 4-H'ers are involved in county and state "Arts-In" programs (preparing performances for fairs as well as visually effective and functional exhibit halls), one-act plays, and other art endeavors.



Special teen programs such as the Pedal Power Workshop offer teens an opportunity to use community resources to teach bicycle safety in their home communities. As a result of Pedal Power Workshops in 1974-79 over 600 bicycle safety events involving more than 20,000 young bicycle riders from throughout the state were held.

"Growing Up Global" is becoming more and more a reality as 4-H international programs continue to grow. Since 1948, 518 Minnesota 4-H delegates have lived with families in 55 nations and Minnesota 4-H families have provided home stays for 1,495 exchangees from 75 nations.

Participants develop skills in crosscultural communication that leads to mutual understanding and good will among the people of the world.

Exchange programs include:

- Japan Labo/Minnesota 4-H Exchange
- International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE Ambassador, IFYE Representative)
- Youth Development Project
- Norske 4-H/Minnesota 4-H Exchange
- Professional Rural Youth Leader Exchange
- USSR/USA Young Agricultural Specialists Exchange

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4-H Federations

Most counties have a 4-H council or federation made up of all the members and leaders in the county or their elected representatives. This group helps to plan, conduct, and evaluate 4-H events, leader training, and other special activities in the county.

A State 4-H Federation, composed of a teen delegate from each county, meets annually to conduct business and elect state officers.

The Federation's purposes are many. Foremost among its priorities in promotion of 4-H through the 4-H Ambassador program. It also supports the IFYE (International 4-H Youth Exchange) Representative, Youth Development Project, hosts a congressional luncheon program during the National 4-H Conference, and recognizes "Friends of 4-H" and selected corporations in Minnesota that have made contributions to the 4-H program.

For more information on membership and leadership please contact: