

Marathon County 4-H Leader Update



October 2006

"When it seems hard to keep on giving of your time & yourself...remember, you're making a difference."

Dear Leaders,

The county wide 4-H fundraisers are important because they help fund many of the activities that Marathon County youth enjoy.

The fundraisers defer the cost of Camp Susan, Teen Weekend, Quilt Camp, Camp Upham, the WI Valley Fair, CWF, Youth Conference, American Spirit to name a few.

One way that youth can help generate revenue for both the Federation and their club is by selling plat books or 4-H cookbooks.

To get started selling plat books and cookbooks:

- A club must prepay for the books that they plan to sell. The books can be purchased at the Extension Office.
- Clubs that sell plat books buy them for \$35 and sell them for \$40. Clubs that want to sell cookbooks buy them for \$11 and sell them for \$12.

The following are some ways that clubs have sold plat books:

- Clubs that do not have a lot of money to begin with may find it difficult to buy a bunch of plat books. To limit the overhead cost, some clubs take orders for the books with a required prepayment.
- A great way to sell books is by working out an arrangement with a local business. Some clubs have their local bank sell the books for them.
- Clubs have put announcements in their church bulletins and sign-up sheets at the

town hall.

- If your club has an annual fundraiser such as a bake sale, why not sell plat books and cookbooks too? Set up another table that just sells cook books and plat books.

NOTE: It is really important that the club members are the ones who are selling the plat books and cookbooks. The money is benefiting 4-H youth so who better to make the sale than our youth?



Clubs Interested in the Performing Arts Should...

Encourage youth and adult leaders to attend Arts Leadership Lab! Arts Leadership Lab is a statewide workshop for high school youth and adult leaders. It takes place December 1-3 at the state fair park in Milwaukee. This is an awesome opportunity for a very reasonable price (\$75). See the attached brochure for more information. Pass it on to your youth leaders who are interested in the arts. The application can be found under forms on the Marathon County 4-H website.

REMINDERS!

- **Enrollments are due November 1st.** Make sure that the enrollments have been signed; in order for the enrollments to be entered in our database, they must be signed.
- **Club Summaries and Financial Reports are due February 1st.**



Visit Marathon County 4-H at: <http://marathon.uwex.edu/>

Youth Representatives Needed!

We still need youth for the Leaders' Federation Board. Youth are needed from the South and East Districts. If you have any youth who are looking for a leadership opportunity please encourage them to join the Leaders' Federation. Youth must be in at least 8th grade.

Welcoming New Members and Families

Do you have new families joining your club? It is important that we make new members feel welcome. People who are new to 4-H might be confused with what they are supposed to do. Below are some helpful hints for welcoming new members and getting them involved in the club.

- Hold a new member and family orientation before or after one of your regular meetings. Tell them about member and parent involvement opportunities and what the club expects of them. Briefly describe activities coming up. Ask them questions to determine their interests. You will get ideas on how they might help the 4-H club, too. Ask them about their 4-H knowledge and experiences.
- Provide a list of club contacts with phone numbers, e-mail addresses and residence addresses. Provide a copy of the Club Calendar which has 4-H club meeting and activities listed with dates and times. See the sample "4-H Club Calendar Planner" at: www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/clubs/documents/4HClubCalendarPlanner.pdf
- Give them a 4-H or UW-Extension folder with information on how to contact your UW-Extension office. Suggest they use

this folder as a place to keep their club information.

- Do get-acquainted activities frequently at your 4-H club meetings. This helps members and families get to know each other. Even members that know each other benefit from this interaction.
- Establish a standing committee or appointed position to serve as the "Welcoming Committee." Their job is to make sure that new members and family members are greeted at meetings, answer their questions, and get involved in the 4-H club meeting and activities. This should be someone other than the 4-H club leadership team.
- Establish "Dynamic Duos" that pair up newer members with more experienced members who will actively involve the newcomer in the group.
- At the end of each meeting, check with the new participants to see if they have any questions or concerns.
- Let the new 4-H parents know that they need to support their children's involvement in the club. Give them some volunteer options to help the 4-H club that will also help them learn more about 4-H. Consider teaming them with a more experienced volunteer.

Information is from the Strengthening 4-H Club Leadership Team 2005

