



**Head**

**Hands**



**Heart**

**Health**



Winter 2009 Issue

Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Agents

**OAE4-HA**

# PERSPECTIVE

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Rick Clovis, Kim Davis, Greg Owen, Dena Powers, and Jessica Stewart. Send story ideas or submissions to [jessica.stewart@okstate.edu](mailto:jessica.stewart@okstate.edu)

## Letter from the President

Imagine the Possibilities is the 2009 NAE4-HA Conference Theme. As I look forward to attending this year's conference, I begin to Imagine the Possibilities for the Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Agents in 2010.

As we face uncertainties with the "early-out" retirement plan, I see this as an opportunity to come together as an association, much like we did in 2004, to accomplish great things! The Oklahoma Association of County Agriculture Agents will be asking OAE4-HA members to help with their 2010 NACAA Conference in Tulsa, July 11th-July 15th. Within our Oklahoma Extension Family, we all have unique skills and abilities that we can contribute to help make Oklahoma Shine. I am not only imagining but KNOW what great support OAE4-HA Members can contribute. I challenge you to get actively involved and help with the 2010 NACAA Conference. You will also have the opportunity as OAE4-HA members to volunteer and help with our own OAE4-HA promotions during this conference.

When we all work together ...Imagine the Possibilities!

*Kristy Spalding*

### Inside this issue:

**Starting with Shooting Sports • Meet Cathleen Taylor • Reminders**

# IT'S A FACT: OAE4-HA began in 1975 and its future

## Getting started (safely) in shooting sports

Contributed by Rick Clovis

- **Certifications.** You need a State Certified County SS Coordinator and a State Certified Instructor for the SS discipline chosen (archery, shot gun, etc.)
- **Recruit lots of help!**
- **Plan 6 to 12 months in advance** to get the proper training and volunteers lined up.
- **Have an organizational meeting** of adults only to plan the shooting sports practices and competitions, and have a plan in place. Try to have the kids shooting within 15-30 minutes of the first practice starting.
- **Emphasize safety and range rules.** The youth may know you or the other instructors well and think that the rules do not apply to them. Make sure the youth and adults understand this is a different kind of program. Real firearms are being used and while we want everyone to have fun, the discipline level is way up from what they are used to at most 4-H events. All rules must be followed at all the times, no exceptions.
- **You need Certified Volunteers.** This is very important for SS because of the safety concerns. If you have lots of 9- to 10-year-olds you need one adult for every youth on the firing line. These volunteers don't have to be Certified

SS Instructors, just certified by your normal County Volunteer Certification process. These volunteers can then assist with SS meetings and on the range as long as they are under the supervision of a State Certified Instructor for that discipline. Once the youth gain experience or with older youth the adult/youth ratio can drop to 1/4 or 5 on the range. A recommended policy for SS Clubs is that there is a parent or guardian for each child at a SS event or practice, when firearms will be used. This will help avoid parents dropping off kids and leaving, which creates unsafe conditions, because of insufficient adult supervision.

- **Equipment.** The less county-owned equipment the better. This helps avoid some liability issues. Equipment that may need to be purchased includes arrow backstop, clay target thrower, pellet trap and other equipment that is durable and used by everyone. The biggest problem with county-owned firearms is that you can never have enough; you always seem to be one short or not have a properly fitted firearm for an individual. A common problem with county-owned firearms is that youth will spend too much time waiting on their turn and their accuracy will suffer with ill-fitting firearms. This will lead to frustration and reduced participation. Use county owned firearms to give the youth a sense of SS, with the expectation that they will supply their own equipment. County firearms are fine for one or two meetings, but those who are serious about participating need to have their own equipment. You can have a small percentage of youth using the county firearms, but to keep the club successful, most youth should own their own equipment. Remember, youth come to SS to shoot, not stand in line and watch others shoot.



# depends on the quality of efforts put forth by YOU!

- **Youth need to have passed the Hunter Safety course** offered by the State Wildlife Department in order to attend an official 4-H contest, 4-H youth can shoot at the first county 4-H SS practice they attend, if the State Certified Instructor believes they can be safe.
- **Youth Instruction.** Youth need 10 hours of instruction under a State 4-H Certified Instructor to attend an official 4-H Contest. 4-H youth can shoot at the first county 4-H SS practice they attend if the State Certified Instructor believes they can be safe. It does not have to be classroom training. Youth's best learning style is hands-on. Youth come to SS to shoot. Don't kill your program at the beginning by too much classroom lecture while trying to get the safety requirements out of the way in one night. All the instructors are trained that the youth should be involved in live firing within thirty minutes of the first program starting. A planning session with adults only should

- be held and a closed practice with only a few youth to help the volunteers get comfortable with range safety and instruction. This will allow the first regular meeting to be successful, with all the youth getting to shoot within thirty minutes and for an appropriate length of time.
- **Educators:** If you are not the Certified Instructor, offer to help coordinate the first few meetings, until the volunteers get comfortable leading. Many adult volunteers have never led a group of youth before.
- **Don't meet year round.** Run it like a project club and meet once or twice a week for 6-8 weeks before competitions. This prevents burnout of everyone involved.
- **Remember:** Youth get involved in SS with the expectation that they will mainly be shooting. Run your program with this and safety in mind.

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## Cathleen Taylor joins McCurtain County Extension

Contributed by Greg Owen

It's almost wrong to say that Cathleen Taylor, McCurtain County, is new to Extension. While she is a new educator, Cathleen has been around Extension and the 4-H program from the time that she was twelve. Cathleen started her 4-H career in Pontotoc County and continues her career in 4-H/Youth Development in McCurtain County. Cathleen was a 2004 Public Speaking scholarship winner, State 4-H Ambassador for 4 years and 2005 State 4-H Hall of Fame winner. After high school she attended East Central University where she started the ECU Collegiate 4-H Club. Cathleen graduated in May of 2008



from East Central University in Ada with a degree in Education specialized in Elementary Education. Cathleen joined the Extension team in September and was excited about the opportunity to give back to the organization and help youth explore their opportunities and potential. Outside of her job, Cathleen enjoys reading, spending time with her friends and family, OSU Basketball, crafts, and scrapbooking. She says her favorite part of her job is interacting with the youth and helping them become successful. Her one piece of advice for 4-H members is to try everything and keep your mind open to out of the box opportunities. Cathleen is excited about her new career in Extension and looks forward to work in the OAE4-HA.

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# Don't forget!

It is time to renew membership in OAE4-HA! The deadline for 2010 membership to be recognized by NAE4-HA is in early December. While NAE4-HA accepts membership renewals after this deadline, they do not count towards our quota-per say.

Send your registration to:

1. Your OAE4-HA district director! SE: Lindsey Hix, NE: Jeff Sallee, SW: Mary Peck, NW: Cindy Conner

2. Send it to Ranel Lasley, OAE4-HA Treasurer

3. Send it to Sarah Weeks, OAE4-HA Membership Committee Chair

**Membership is due by November 15!**

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We need your stories and ideas! Send them in to Jessica at [jessica.stewart@okstate.edu](mailto:jessica.stewart@okstate.edu) or call her at 405-744-7960.



*The Perspective committee wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!*

## In the next issue...

### NAE4-HA recap

### Send in your photos, highlights and comments!