4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Oklahoma 4-H engaged 142,308 young people in 2004. Many youth participate in 4-H in more than one way: 89,021 participated in 3,057 4-H school enrichment programs, 57,899 were members of 1,259 4-H special interest groups, 31,671 were members in 995 4-H clubs, 13,412 attended 4-H camps, 2,166 entered 12 school-aged childcare programs, 226 enrolled in 4-H individual study programs, 962 enrolled in 4-H instructional television.

4-H welcomes all youth. Thirty-one percent of 4-H youth are from minority/racial ethnic groups. 69 percent are Caucasian, not of Hispanic origin. 12 percent are African American, not of Hispanic origin. 13 percent are American Indian, Alaskan. 5 percent is Hispanic. 1 percent Asian or Pacific Islander.

4-H members live throughout Oklahoma. 4-H programs are conducted in all 77 counties. Forty-one percent of Oklahoma 4-H members are from large inner cities, larger cities and their suburbs. Fifty-nine percent are from rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less. 30 percent or 41,582 lived in towns under 10,000 and open country. 23 percent or 32,100 lived in central cities of more than 50,000. 13 percent or 17,852 lived in towns and cities of 10,000 to 50,000. 31 percent or 42,858 lived on farms. 6 percent or 7,915 lived in suburbs of cities of more than 50,000.

Typically, 4-H participants are ages 5-19. Fifty-one percent or 73,336 4-Hers are girls and 49 percent or 68,972 are boys. Most are kindergarteners and primary, middle and high school students. However, some are pursuing post high-school education, are not in school or are developmentally challenged persons over age 19. 41 percent or 58,101 are in grades K-3. 35 percent or 49,833 are in grades 4-6. 15 percent or 21,392 are in grades 7-9. 7 percent or 9,094 are in grades 10-12. 1 percent or 1,964 are not in school. .5 percent or 1,111 are pursuing post high school education. .5 percent or 872 are developmentally challenged persons over age 19.

The main focus areas for Oklahoma 4-H are Youth Development pertaining to personal growth, decision making, youth in governance and increasing knowledge and understanding of science and technology as it relates to plant and animal systems and the environment. Many 4-H participants choose more than one subject or project area in any given year. Oklahoma enrollment in the major categories of educational content are: 45,837 plants and animals, 21623 science and technology, 20,577 healthy lifestyle education, 20518 personal development and leadership, 15,164 communications and expressive arts, 11,732 environmental education and earth sciences, 9,697 consumer and family sciences, 7,051 citizenship and civic education.

Oklahoma 4-H provides numerous scholarship opportunities. In partnership with the Oklahoma 4-H foundation, $38,000 was given in the form of scholarships and awards to 46 members of Oklahoma 4-H in 2005. 262 youth submitted 460 record books or scholarship applications that account for: 19,200 speeches, demonstrations or illustrated presentations, Organized, taught, or conducted 21,600 workshops, Conducted 23,400 community service activities. Reached almost 9 million youth and adults with educational information. Contributed more than 330,000 hours of service to their communities valued at over $1.7 Million in 2005.

Volunteers are essential to the successful delivery of 4-H programs to youth. Oklahoma 4-H’s 3,338 adult and 910 teen volunteer leaders contribute over 900,000 hours annually. The average 4-H volunteer spends approximately 220 hours a year and uses a personally owned vehicle to transport Oklahoma youth roughly, 350 miles a year to 4-H programs. Volunteering opportunities range from Organizational leader, Project Leaders, Activity Leader to Teen Leader in areas from camp counselor, healthy living, consumer education, agriculture, horticulture youth development and financial management.

4-H alumni now total about 60 million. They are national, state and local government leaders, community and business leaders, famous entertainers and leaders in their respective fields. In Oklahoma, five Senators and 16 Representatives of the 2004 legislation reported to be 4-H Alumni.

Statistical data from “Annual Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Enrollment Report: 2004 Fiscal Year” published by Oklahoma 4-H Headquarters, CSREES, USDA.