TALKING POINTS

1. 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

2. 4-H is the largest youth development program in the United States.

3. More than seven million young people, ages 5-19, are currently involved in 4-H, and nearly 600,000 older youth and adults volunteer their time to the 4-H.

4. More than 60 million young people across America have been 4-H members since it started in 1902.

5. 4-H has a presence in every county in every state in the nation and Washington, DC. 4-H is active in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia and the Northern Mariana Islands. 4-H also is present on United States Army and Air Force installations worldwide.

6. 4-H reaches young people through a network of 3,600 professional educators associated with 106 State Land-Grant Universities.

7. 4-H engages youth in hands-on, experiential learning projects and activities that cover almost any interest area. Nationally, 4-H focuses on the after-school, healthy lifestyles, youth in governance, science, engineering and technology and professional and volunteer development initiatives.

8. The widely recognized 4-H Clover with H’s on each leaf stands for:
   a. Head—clearer thinking and decision-making, knowledge useful throughout life;
   b. Heart—greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self-concept, concern for others;
   c. Hands—larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy;
   d. Health—better living and healthy lifestyles.

9. Principal funding comes from county, state and federal public sources, but private sector partners invest greatly in 4-H through their local and state 4-H foundations and National 4-H Council.

10. The Essential Elements of 4-H are:
    Belonging—Youth need to know others care about them. They need to have a sense of connection. In 4-H, youth have the opportunity to feel physically and emotionally safe while actively participating in a group.

     Mastery—Youth develop self-confidence by experiencing success at solving problems and challenges. In 4-H, young people tackle projects and activities in which they master skills to make positive career and life choices.
Independence—Youth need to know that they can influence people and events through their decisions and actions. Through 4-H leadership opportunities, youth learn to understand themselves. They become independent thinkers and are more responsible.

Generosity—Youth need to feel that their lives have meaning. Through 4-H community service and citizenship activities, youth connect to their communities, give back to others and begin to understand the “big picture” of their lives.