Effective communication skills essential for all involved with 4-H

It has become exceedingly evident this summer that we, as a society, need to do a better job of communicating with one another. Effective communication skills help us better understand a person or situation and enables us to resolve differences, build trust and respect, create an environment where ideas can be exchanged and problem solving can occur when cooler heads must prevail.

We live in a world of technology overload. The vast majority of us have cell phones, multiple computers, and even some have televisions in many locations in their homes. How many hours a day do you or your children spend texting or on the internet?

It is not hard to understand why we forget how to communicate effectively with other human beings in face-to-face settings. With the advent of email, text messaging, and social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and Ask.FM, the method of communication has shifted from our mouths to our fingers and thumbs.

It is almost impossible to go to dinner, the grocery store, or even church without encountering someone interacting through the use of technology. Recently, a group of 8 adults were eating at Red Lobster in Columbia and never said a word to one another for at least 10 minutes because they were all engaged in other “conversations” via their cell phones.

Email and text messages have allowed us to quickly communicate with another person or a group of people without having a real conversation. How often have you received a text or email and thought, “WELL! What did they mean by that?” Often messages can be misconstrued if something is taken out of context. Just because you are thinking it, does not mean the other person knows what you are implying. Emails make our lives efficient; or do they? Sometimes picking-up the phone and have a real conversation is more efficient.

During the summer months many 4-H families spend a large amount of time at livestock shows. It is not unusual for rumors to be running rampant through the barns about things that have happened at the show or at another show in a neighboring town. Frequently, the entire story is not known and assumptions are made about a judge, competitor, or even fair board. People begun picking sides and adding to the rumors; just like the old telephone game we played as children.

Effective communication is about much more than simply exchanging information; it is also about understanding the emotion and point of view behind the information. Often we make assumptions without knowing the entire story from both parties.

Listening is one of the most important aspects of effective communication. Successful listening means more than just understanding the words. It also means that one makes the speaker feel heard and understood while creating an environment where everyone feels safe to express ideas, opinions and feelings. Effective listening requires the ability to not get emotionally wrapped up in a conversation; and walking away to cool off when things become heated. Avoid trying to communicate when in an emotional state. You lose objectivity and may say something inappropriate or regrettable.

When we communicate about things we care about, we also tend to use nonverbal cues. Be aware that some people say more with their body language and facial reaction than they ever do with words. Being truly engaged in a conversation can be key to its...
UP AND COMING

MO Recognition Forms Due

The Missouri Recognition Forms that members need to fill out to consider their projects complete for the year, are due in your extension office by 4:30 PM, September 12, 2013. This will give us the time to have them judged before recognition day in your county.

If you have questions about the forms please contact Becky for assistance in Harrison and Daviess and Janet in Gentry County.

LATE submissions will be judged but not eligible for county recognition.

CAMP FOOD AND FITNESS

Visit the University of Missouri campus to participate in workshops and tours related to health, food and fitness!

When: December 6-7, 2013

Who: Youth age 12-14

Cost: $90 (includes lodging, meals and take-home materials.)

Deadline: October 28, 2013 to your county extension office.

This is an excellent opportunity for youth enrolled in any food project for the coming 4-H year.

National 4-H Week Resources:

Don’t miss the chance to celebrate your 4-H pride this year with National 4-H Week, and put your club in the spotlight! Will your club do community service projects? Will you recruit new members for your club? Will your county hold a countywide event to celebrate? [http://www.4-h.org/Content/Resource-Library/Promotional-Toolkits/Toolkits/2013-National-4-H-Week-Toolkit/](http://www.4-h.org/Content/Resource-Library/Promotional-Toolkits/Toolkits/2013-National-4-H-Week-Toolkit/)
Congratulations to all of our 4-H livestock and 4-H Building participants! The photos in this issue of Clover Connection were gained by visiting the Missouri State Fair website at the time of publication.

http://www.mostatefair.com/photo-search
Graydee Rains, Knee-Hi 4-H Club of Gallatin, received Champion AOB and Reserve Champion Open AOB in the 4-H Other Breed Swine Show.

Lexi Craig, Lucky Clover 4-H Club of Stanberry, received Reserve Intermediate Champion in the 4-H Hereford Show.

Graydee Rains, Knee-Hi 4-H Club of Gallatin, received Reserve Champion Gilt in the 4-H All Other Breeds Show.

Victoria Washburn, County Liner’s 4-H Club of King City, received Reserve Champion Senior Division, in the 4-H Crossbred Show.

Cooper Sadowsky, Pawnee Peppers 4-H Club of Eagleville, received Reserve Champion Junior Female in the 4-H Angus Show.

Damien Webb, Lucky Clover 4-H Club of Stanberry, received Junior Showmanship Champion, 8-10 Yrs. Novice in the Missouri 4-H Dog Show.

Graydee Rains, Knee-Hi 4-H Club of Gallatin, received Champion Berkshire Boar at the 4-H Swine Breed Show.
Northwest Missouri State Fair Projects

What: Blue Ribbon projects from Achievement Day

—If your projects received a blue ribbon at Achievement Day, they are eligible to be sent to the NWMO State Fair in Bethany. If they went to state fair, they will automatically be taken to Bethany.

Pick-up: September 2 or by September 11 at noon.

—You may pick them up at the fair on the 2nd between 3 pm and 4:30 pm or at the Extension Office by noon on the 11th. Space in our offices is very limited.

It is that time of year for “fair junkies” in Northwest Missouri. If you did not get your fill of corndogs, lemonade, livestock shows, concerts and fun at the state fair, then you have one more chance!

This is the 97th year for the Northwest Missouri State Fair which will open in Bethany on August 29. As in previous years the first day of the fair is FREE!

The livestock shows will begin on Friday, August 31: Goats & Rabbits
Saturday, Sept. 1: Swine, Fowl & Sheep
Sunday, Sept. 2: Beef


Clover Kids Corner

Through Clover Kids clubs, children learn how to get along, share and work in groups, explore their interests and build self-confidence. Each Clover Kids Corner provides an activity, information or other materials that Clover Kids leaders can use in planning and implementing experiences that introduce 5- to 7-year-olds to the 4-H concept of learning by doing.

Foam Pencil Toppers

With this project, the only limit is a kid’s imagination. Whatever creature, shape, or theme s/he can think of could be living on top of his/her pencil. What a great way to be able to identify which pencil belongs to them.

What you need:

- Craft foam sheets or shapes
- White craft glue
- Scissors
- Wiggle eyes
- Pom-poms
- Pencils

What you do:

1. Start with two identical sized shapes, such as a circle or heart. Put glue around the border of one of the shapes, leaving about ¾" where you will insert the pencil. (See photo.)
2. Press the second shape onto the first, sandwiching them together. The glue will need to dry for several hours, preferably over night, but you can decorate the outside now.
3. Decorate the outside of the craft foam shape using pom-poms, wiggle eyes, other foam shapes, glitter glue, sequins, whatever you like. You can make a black bear using pom-poms for ears and a nose and a couple of wiggle eyes. (See photo.) You may also make a flower using several pom-poms and a bird using wiggle eyes and other craft foam shapes. (See photo.)
4. Once the toppers have dried completely, insert the eraser end of a pencil carefully into the opening.

Tips

1. Drying time is important for this project. If you try to insert the pencil too soon, the glue may still be tacky and could pull away from the foam causing your topper to split open.
2. You can use white craft glue as we did, or you can purchase special glue made just for craft foam at a craft supply store.
3. Craft foam comes in convenient value packs in various shapes, sizes, and colors.

http://crafts.kaboose.com
Students who participate in 4-H programs are 25 percent more likely to make a positive contribution in their communities, according to a study by Tufts University. Now, thanks to America’s Farmers Grow Communities, rural community members and farmers can help give back to local 4-H organizations, $2,500 at a time.

Now through Nov. 30, 2013, eligible farmers in Daviess, Gentry and Harrison Counties can enter for a chance to win the right to direct a $2,500 that can be given to their local 4-H.

Farmers can apply online and find the official rules at GrowCommunities.com or call 1.877.267.3332 to apply by phone. The Monsanto Fund will select one winner at random from each of the eligible 1,239 counties and announce winning farmers and recipient nonprofits in January of 2014.

Who can apply?
This program is designed for farmers who live in one of the 1,289 eligible counties, are 21 years or older, and actively engaged in farming at least 250 acres of corn, soybeans and/or cotton, or farm 40 acres of open field vegetables, or at least 10 acres of tomatoes, peppers and/or cucumbers grown in protected culture. No purchase is necessary to enter or win.

Why are you sponsoring this program?
Rural communities are the heart of America. It’s where we find the people who work hard to feed, fuel and clothe our country, and the world. We believe in rural America, and we want to support the communities where farmers live and work.

Who were 2013 winners?

- **Clint Bird** Daviess County, Gallatin, MO
  - Chosen Organization: Gallatin High School FFA
  - Drought Organization: Daviess County Jr. Livestock Show

- **Daniel Luke** Gentry County, Stanberry, MO
  - Chosen Organization: Stanberry R-2 FFA
  - Drought Organization: Stanberry Rural Fire Department

- **Greg Fenimore** Harrison County, McFall, MO
  - Chosen Organization: Bethany Fair Inc.
  - Drought Organization: Mitchelville 4-H Club

What can you do?
Contact local farmers and encourage them to sign-up for the program and select your organization for the $2500.

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**Shoot Sports Leader Certification Workshop**

**WHEN:** October 4-6, 2013

**Check In:**
- 6:00- 7:00 pm Friday, Oct.4 for 1st timers
- (if not completed Volunteer Orientation)
- Repeat participants may check in:
  - 7:00- 10:00 pm Friday OR
  - 7:30-8:00 am Saturday

**Session concludes 3:15 pm – Sunday**

**WHERE:** Camp Galilee, El Dorado Springs

**COST:** $65 includes 5 meals, overnight lodging (1 or 2 nights), and workshop materials

**PRE-REGISTRATION:** Required by September 23.

Registration is limited and will close when session is full or when the camp is full. All registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
Thank you for signing up to help provide 4-H members with a rewarding and wonderful experience in the Missouri 4-H program. September is an exciting part of the 4-H year as the new program year is just beginning. Remember to encourage club officers and other 4-H members take responsibility for events and activities; this is a great experience and fosters ownership of the program. Here are some suggestions and ideas that may help you get prepared for the first two months of the new program year.

1. Elect and install officers in September.
2. Invite prospective members and volunteers to the first meeting of the new program year. Some clubs have a separate welcome meeting for new families to ask questions before enrollment.
3. Discuss importance of the county’s family newsletter.
4. Recruit assistant leaders to lighten the load of club coordination. Consider a planned succession of leadership duties. A committee with defined roles has been effective in many clubs.
5. Explain completion requirements for the county and club and define “member in good standing” so that members and families understand expectations.
6. Explain the countywide accident insurance policy that is a part of the membership fee. (This provides proof of good faith effort to manage risk in case of accident during, or travel to or from a sanctioned 4-H event that includes club and project meetings, field trips and other countywide or club events.)
7. Discuss purchase of member project manuals. Coordinate literature order to save shipping costs. Announce/distribute project leader training resources.
8. Discuss recognition for year just completed, forms and date of county recognition event. Encourage new families to attend as well as existing families, and fill out forms. Encourage youth that have participated to share experiences.
9. Talk about plans for National 4-H Week, the first week in October.
10. Work with youth on planning a Halloween party or other fall social events to get acquainted with new members/families. It is important for new members to feel involved right away.
11. Turn in names and addresses of new members and leaders (also dropped members) to the local MU Extension center as soon as possible to update the family newsletter mailing list.
12. Remind reporter to send in club reports to extension center every month.
13. Begin working with your club on establishing goals and programs they wish to complete this year. Great planning resource: Club Program book Y612. Club seal standards can be found in this publication as well.
14. Apply for BOAC grant or Missouri 4-H Foundation Community Service Grant if needed for planned service project.
15. Plan fundraising activities for the year.
16. Schedule a visit to your club meeting, by your 4-H Youth Specialist and Youth Program Associate.
17. If your club is responsible for the recognition night, make sure committees are prepared and other county clubs know what they should bring.
18. Make sure each family has a new copy of the Missouri 4-H Clover.
4-H Tax Exemption Reminder

Dr. Ina Linville, State 4-H Program Director

As the dust from the fairs begins to settle, you may be receiving those little pesky notices from the IRS that clubs have not completed their e-990’s. Our 4-H Clubs derive their federal tax exemption status from their local Extension Council. There are few entities in Missouri that truly have their own 501 © 3 status as a not profit, but for the majority they are a subsidiary of the MU Extension County Council. Simply put, 4-H clubs, councils and committees do not have to complete e-990’s because we are considered a government entity. 4-H Clubs then derive their status from exemption from federal tax through IRS Code of 1954, section 115. Thus, we do not owe or report fiscal activity to the IRS.

Contributions to 4-H by donors or supporters are tax deductible by IRS Code of 1954, Section 170. This is the same tax deductible status and guidelines as an organization that has 501 © 3 status.

If your club checked on your application for 501 © 3 status that you were non-profit rather than government, this will trigger the IRS to expect a 990.

If your club receives notice that they have not submitted their 990’s and may be at risk of losing their charitable status, please do the following:

Contact Becky Simpson at (660) 663-32332 or simpsonre@missouri.edu ASAP so that she may contact the proper individuals on campus to correct this misinformation. You will need to provide your club name, EID and contact information for the club.
Recognition Days

As the 2013 4‐H year draws to a close, it is time to plan for Recognition Days in Daviess, Harrison and Gentry Counties. Below you will find the beginning details for each county. We will send further information to the families of each county as the specifics are settled by the groups in charge of each event. If you have questions, contact your club leader, Becky Simpson or Janet Sager.

HARRISON COUNTY: Sunday, September 29th, 3:00 PM. (The new YPA will be present!)

DAVIESS COUNTY: Sunday, October 6, 3:00PM. Location being secured.

GENTRY COUNTY: Sunday, October 13. County Liners 4‐H Club is in charge.

Glenda Mercer Honored at Missouri 4‐H Hall of Fame

(Columbia, MO)—Making the best better for generations of Missouri 4‐H’ers, Glenda Mercer of Cainsville joined the Missouri 4‐H Hall of Fame, held August 17 at State Fair Community College.

Glenda Mercer has been an active and humble volunteer for Harrison County 4‐H for more than 22 years. She led the Grand River 4‐H Club, even after her children were not involved in the club. Glenda is always willing to lend a hand to make sure events run smoothly and the kids have a great time. The 4‐H families from Cainsville always know that Glenda will take care of their kids and teach them to be caring and contributing adults.

The Missouri 4‐H Foundation recognizes individuals who have created a legacy of service to 4‐H by honoring them with membership in the Missouri 4‐H Hall of Fame. “These leaders have made exceptional contributions to the lives of Missouri 4‐H members,” said Missouri 4‐H Foundation Executive Director Cheryl Reams.

Hall of Fame inductees from 40 counties established a legacy totaling 1,465 years of service to 4‐H. Family members and friends

Continued from page 1:

ultimate success. If you are looking around while having a conversation with someone, they may be inclined to believe that you do not think what they are saying is important.

So what does all of this have to do with 4‐H? Everything! Our youth look to the adults in their world for behavior modeling. It is important that, as adults, we train our youth to have face‐to‐face or at least voice‐to‐voice conversations where everyone is heard. (I am not telling you to give up your computer or smart‐phone; I would be lost without mine!)

When there are decisions to be made at the next club meeting, encourage your children to use their voices and express their opinions. Remind them that a conversation with their club leader tends to be greatly different from a conversation with their best friend. If they do not express their opinions, then they cannot expect to make a difference.

As adults we also need to remember that the best communication occurs when cooler heads prevail. Yes, you want to protect your children. But the other people in a conversation want to protect their kids too. If a judge does not select your child or child’s animal in the placing you believe they belong in; do not put down the judge in front of your kids. Remember, “It is the opinion of one judge on one given day. Tomorrow, there will be a new judge and a new opinion.” Having a total meltdown in public and in front of your children is not good for anyone. You never want to become THAT parent. And your kids do not want to have THAT parent.

The bottom line is 4‐H is for the kids and about the kids. It has zero to do with your or my ego. We need to encourage our youth to communicate with one another and in a way that is a positive reflection on them and the adults in their world. Someday, your grandchildren will be in 4‐H and we want them to be proud of the skills they have learned from YOU. Positive youth development is something that does not occur overnight; it takes time and lots of positive role models who communicate effectively.
DAVIESS, GENTRY & HARRISON 4-H CLOVER CONNECTION

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