



# STRAIGHT FROM THE VINE

January 2012

Sumter County 4-H hopes everyone had a wonderful, fun and refreshing Winter Break. As the new year rolls in, there comes great opportunities to set new goals, learn new skills, have new experiences, make new 4-H friends, and strive towards excellence. We hope everyone takes advantage of all the great opportunities 4-H and our community has to offer.

*You and your family are cordially invited to*  
**Sumter County 4-H Awards Night**

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Sumter County Extension Office  
(127 William Bowen Pointe)

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Refreshments will be served.*

*Please RSVP by Monday, January 23rd at noon to  
229-924-4476 or [uge2261@uga.edu](mailto:uge2261@uga.edu)*

## **Operation: Military Kids Reaches Our Community**

Operation: Military Kids is a national initiative designed for military youth to help them find positive ways to cope with the stress of their parents' deployment.

**Military youth are invited to participate in OMK activities and events! Adult and youth volunteers and community agencies are invited to join the network!**

**We welcome April Bowen, OMK L/RSN Program Assistant** to our team. Mrs. April is no stranger to 4-H, as she has been a volunteer for over 3 years. She is a certified 4-H Volunteer, Overnight Chaperone, and holds 4-H Coach Certifications in the areas of SAFE Archery, Wildlife Judging, and Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging. In the OMK L/RSN role, Mrs. April will provide support by developing resources and programming for military youth in both Sumter and Lee Counties. If you are a military youth or know of military youth in grades K-12, please come/send them to meet Mrs. April to learn more about the fun with OMK!

## **4-H Camp Scholarship Available**

Do you want to go to camp this summer but need extra cash to attend? Don't wait, **apply today** for the Sumter County 4-H Camp Scholarship that will help you pay for camp costs.

## **2012 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest**

Deadline: Friday, February 3rd, 2012

4-H'ers, investigate plants in your community that benefit from honey bee pollination, determine the results of that pollination, and report it in an essay.

For more information, visit: [www.georgia4h.org/beekeeping/](http://www.georgia4h.org/beekeeping/)  
This year all entries **must be submitted electronically**; all entries should be emailed to [jbrown10@uga.edu](mailto:jbrown10@uga.edu).

## **Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation T-shirt Design Contest**

GDYF is looking for a fun and creative t-shirt design that will be given to Dairy Show participants. T-shirts must promote milk and/or milk products. Design winner will receive \$100! Contest Deadline: **February 25**. Send your T-shirt Design by mail, email or fax to :

Farrah Newberry

Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation  
1641 New High Shoals Road, Suite 5  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Fax: 706-310-0025

Email: [gamilkproducers@gmail.com](mailto:gamilkproducers@gmail.com)

Phone: 706-310-0020

## **Project Achievement**

Become an expert in your favorite area of interest and present your knowledge to other 4-H'ers across the District! **Contact Mrs. Keri to make an appointment for guidance.**

## **Thanks for Supporting Our Troops!!!**

Thank you to those who came out to help sew and decorate stockings for Operation Desert Support! Together, we sent over 550 beautifully decorated stockings overseas to our troops over the Holidays.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Mrs. Keri Hobbs, Sumter Co. 4-H Agent.

Email- [klgandy@uga.edu](mailto:klgandy@uga.edu)

Phone: 229-924-4476

[www.ugaextension.com/sumter/4h](http://www.ugaextension.com/sumter/4h)

"Like" our page: [facebook.com/SumterCounty4H](https://www.facebook.com/SumterCounty4H)

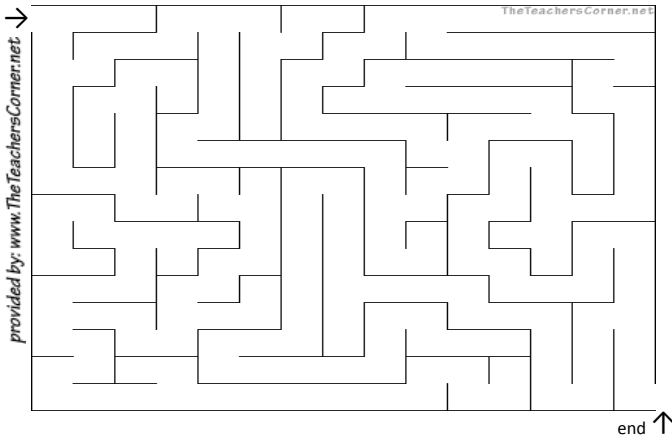
Visit our blog: <http://sumtercounty4-h.blogspot.com/>



**Learning  
for  
Life**

## MAZE CRAZE

Can you find your way through the crazy maze below?



### Georgia National Fair "Fair Bear" Writing Competition

All 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to enter in this creative writing contest. Fair Bear sees a presentation on "Going Green" at school and decides to start a project to make the neighborhood "greener." Students will describe the process as Fair Bear decides on, designs, and implements a project. The project can be anything from a recycling program, to a community garden, to any type of program to reduce waste. Deadline to enter is Feb 20. Contact us for more info.

### Pay It Forward with Cans and Coats!

Bring in your can/nonperishable goods to donate to our local food pantry, collect your empty soda cans to support scholarship for youth to go to camp this upcoming summer, save your pop tabs to support Ronald McDonald Houses and bring us your gently worn coats for the less fortunate to stay warm this winter. All collections are accepted at the Sumter Co. Extension Office.

Gently worn coats are being collected until 1/20. Collection boxes are also located at Habitat for Humanity Atrium Lobby, and Front offices of Sumter Co. Elementary, Cherokee Elementary, Sarah Cobb Elementary, Sumter County Middle School, Staley Middle and Americus-Sumter North and South Campuses.

### 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus

Delegations from across the country attend this six-day (July 7-14), program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located near Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people's lives by broadening their appreciation and respect for themselves and others in the world. Participants attend workshops, committees, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. Citizenship Washington Focus is open to all Georgia 4-H members 15 to 18 years old, as of Sept., 2012. The deadline for registration is **January 15, 2012. \$150 Deposit Required. (Estimated total cost is \$1150.)**

For more information visit: [www.georgia4h.org/public/edops/washingtonfocus/](http://www.georgia4h.org/public/edops/washingtonfocus/)

### Important Dates & Deadlines

- \*^Jan.: Archery Team Meetings begin
- Jan.: Cloverbud Meetings begin
- Jan.: Schedule an appointment with Mrs. Keri for DPA consultation
- \*Jan. 15: Deadline to register for the 4-H Citizenship Washington Program
- Jan 20: Deadline to apply for camp scholarship
- Jan 26: Sumter County 4-H Awards Night
- \*Jan 30: Georgia Youth Summit Steering Committee Application due
- \*Feb 1: Agri Council Contest Essay Deadline
- Feb 1: Registration for Walk Georgia Begins
- Feb 3: Deadline to submit 4-H Bee Keeping Essay Contest
- \*^Feb 10-12: Jr./Sr. Project Achievement
- \*^Feb 18: State Indoor Archery Match
- +Feb 20: Georgia National Fair "Fair Bear" Writing Competition
- \*Feb 27: Deadline to apply for GA 4-H College Scholarships
- March: Sell your Vidalia Onions
- \*^March: Poultry Judging Team meetings begin
- March 1: Horse Show Pre-registration deadline
- March 17: Cloverleaf Project Achievement
- March 17: Walk Georgia Ends
- March 19: Get Movin' Monday's resume
- April 1st: Leadership in Action
- \*^April: Dean's Award.

\*Indicates event for Seniors. ^ Indicates event for Juniors. + Indicates event for Cloverleaves. Questions? Call Mrs. Keri (229) 924-4476.

### Earn Recognition from the President

Given our ongoing service activities, many of you are already eligible to receive a Presidential Service Award from President Obama.

To qualify, 4-H'ers under the age of 14 must volunteer at least 50 hours and 4-H'ers over the age of 14 must volunteer at least 100 hours.

**4-H'ers aged 14 and older:** Create an account online by visiting [presidentalserviceawards.gov](http://presidentalserviceawards.gov) and submitting a record of your service hours. Simply enter **KLB-47447** as your *record key of service listed under the profile section*. We will then verify your hours and distribute awards. **4-H'ers under the age of 14:** Contact Ms. Tejal to create an account and enter hours. Turn in your hours, what you did, and your contact information at [tejalyp@uga.edu](mailto:tejalyp@uga.edu).

We will continue to provide opportunities for you to volunteer, but feel free to volunteer on your own time also!

### 2012 Georgia Youth Summit Steering Committee

Students applying for the planning committee will help with planning, coordinating, and evaluating the Summit. They will develop a theme for the event, develop curriculum for workshops, organize and preside over assemblies, and develop follow up activities to maximize the impact of the event.

Applications and requirements are posted online at [www.georgiayouthsummit.org](http://www.georgiayouthsummit.org). These applications will be due to the State 4-H Office no later than

**Friday, January 30, 2012**