



Spirit

THE MISSOURI 4-H FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER // SPRING 2014



Missouri 4-H
FOUNDATION

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A legacy of support

1944 National 4-H Congress trip inspired \$250,000 endowment

The seeds for Missouri's first National 4-H Congress Endowment Fund were planted in 1944 when a young Cape Girardeau County farm boy took his first train ride to Chicago.

Walt Wilkening was one of the 4-H members who made the trip off of the farm to the big city's Union Stock Yard for the first time in their lives. As a member of the University of Missouri Extension's 4-H National Congress delegation, he and other youth escaped the worries of World War II for a few days to share ideas and learn leadership skills.

Pleasures were in short supply as gas, sugar and shoes were rationed. 4-H members led the planting of Victory Gardens that supplied much of the country's food. Women entered the workforce for the first time in mass numbers to support the war effort. There were scrap drives for steel, tin, paper and rubber.

Some 4-H members had been lucky enough to see movies like "Meet Me in St. Louis" or "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" in their hometown theaters. Even



International Harvester photo

Walt Wilkening (far left) with performers of the hit musical "Oklahoma" during the 1944 National 4-H Congress.

fewer had seen a live musical.

When news came that International Harvester farm machinery company would sponsor tickets for 4-H'ers to see the hit musical "Oklahoma," the delegates were elated. However, the theater couldn't seat the 1,500 4-H'ers in attendance, so the production was taken to them.

One of Wilkening's friends challenged him to get an autograph from one of the performers. Someone snapped a photo. A few months later, an International Harvester employee hand-delivered Wilkening a copy of the IH magazine featuring a cover photo of him getting the coveted autograph.

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Missouri 4-H FOUNDATION

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Incorporated in 1949, the mission of the Missouri 4-H Foundation is to secure and manage financial resources to enhance and expand the Missouri 4-H program.

Dear 4-H Friends,

I hope 2014 is off to a great start for you! On behalf of all of us at the Missouri 4-H Foundation and our board of trustees, I want to thank you for your past and continued support of Missouri 4-H. You are helping us pave the way for generations of successful youths, and for that we cannot express enough gratitude.

The New Year got off to a smashing start at the 4-H Foundation. Former extension employee and Foundation Trustee Walt Wilkening and his wife Norma helped us usher in 2014 with a historic endowment. After establishing Missouri's first National 4-H Congress Endowment in 2010, Walt and Norma recently pledged an estate gift to the Missouri 4-H Foundation with a goal to fully endow the Walter T. and Norma R. Wilkening National 4-H Congress Endowment Fund. Walt's experience as a member of the 1944 Congress delegation led him and Norma to embrace future Missouri delegations with this generous commitment, and they are asking for your support to help grow the fund. Please join Walt and Norma in their commitment to future Congress delegations with a tax-deductible gift to the Wilkening National 4-H Congress Fund. And please join me in thanking Walt and Norma for recognizing this important need and leaving a legacy to fulfill it.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has been a dedicated Missouri 4-H partner for more than 50 years, and it was an honor to present them with the 2013 Missouri 4-H Nelson Trickey Bridge Builder Award in September. This organization is committed to the continued growth of Missouri 4-H Outdoor Education programs, and is very deserving of this recognition. It is a privilege to partner with MDC on behalf of Missouri's youth.

In December, we received some exciting news from Karla Deaver, a 4-H youth development specialist, and Ted Probert, an MU Extension dairy specialist. For what is believed to be the first time in Missouri 4-H history, the Missouri 4-H Dairy Judging Team has been invited to compete in the International Dairy Judging Tour of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland in the summer of 2014. The immediate challenge is raising the necessary funds in a short amount of time to support the two-week, multi-country, \$24,000 trip for the team of four and their coaches. Please show your support of our team with a gift to the Missouri 4-H Foundation International Dairy Judging Trip Fund! And best of luck, Team Missouri!

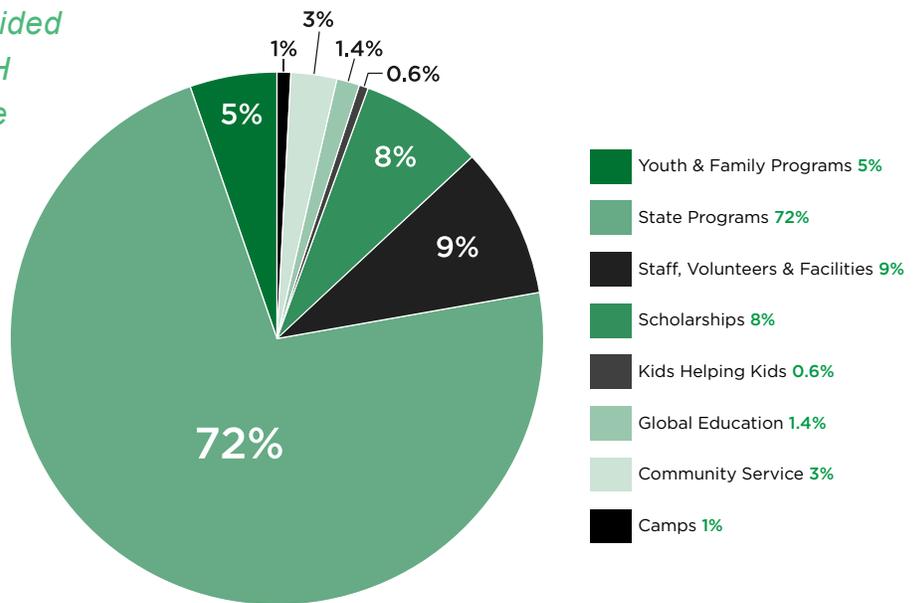
Thanks so much to each of you for partnering with the Missouri 4-H Foundation. Please continue your annual or endowed support today! Call us at **800-642-8041**, or visit us online at <http://4h.missouri.edu/foundation/>.

Warm Regards,

Cheryl Reams
Executive Director

How you support Missouri 4-H

Together with our partners, we provided more than \$1 million to Missouri 4-H in fiscal year 2013. The chart on the right shows how **\$816,093** of that funding was allocated.



Youth and Family Programs — \$41,835

Grant funding helps support Youth Futures, Healthy Relationships, Hispanic Youth and Families, and 4-H LIFE (Living Interactive Family Education) programs.

State Programs — \$591,069

Your gifts support state Science, Livestock and Equine events, Dairy Judging, Shooting Sports, Robotics, PhotoCorps, MOVE Across Missouri, Public Speaking, 4 Habitat, Fashion Revue, State 4-H Council and Congress, National 4-H Conference and much more.

Volunteer Recognition, Professional Development and Facilities — \$75,331

We recognize volunteers with awards and training, offer professional development for state 4-H staff, and administer the Doane 4-H Facility Grant.

Scholarships — \$60,863

More than 60 college scholarships are awarded to 4-H'ers through your gifts and endowments.

Kids Helping Kids — \$4,646

Missouri 4-H'ers donate funds to help their fellow 4-H members and their families in need. Last year, youth fundraising brought the total endowment fund to more than \$85,000.

Global Education — \$11,557

Just as 4-H goes beyond our doorstep, it goes beyond our nation's border. International 4-H Youth Exchange is truly a life-changing experience!

Community Service Grants — \$22,849

Through the William T. Kemper Foundation and Pioneer Hi-Bred International civic service grants, we create opportunities for 4-H club members to leverage an average of \$2 for every grant dollar invested in Missouri communities.

Camps and Conferences — \$7,943

We supplement fees for 4-H career, agriculture, business, health and science camps.

Additionally, in fiscal year 2013 nearly **\$311,000** of Missouri 4-H endowed funds, investment income, annual support and administrative fees were allocated to foundation operations and greatest needs.

Missouri 4-H holds first Sportfishing Day

Missouri 4-H members recently cast their knowledge of fishing at the first Missouri 4-H Sportfishing Day at Little Dixie Lake near Fulton.

“The day was a success and will become an annual event for the 340 4-H members statewide enrolled in sportfishing as a 4-H project,” said Gerry Snapp, University of Missouri Extension 4-H specialist.

Through club projects, 4-H’ers from across the state learn about fishing skills and equipment, tackle craft, biology, aquatic ecology, conservation, ethics and regulations.

Members of MU’s bass fishing club and **Missouri Department of Conservation** staff volunteered



Shannon White photo

Youth at the first Missouri 4-H Sportfishing Day learned about sampling fish populations at a demonstration by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

their services. **Bass Pro Shops** provided hats, tackle boxes, equipment, gift cards and goody bags for the event as well as financial support.

Activities included a fishing

derby, casting contest, “skill-a-thon” and a fish fry. Mark your calendars for the second annual Sportfishing Day, **May 31, 2014.** 🍀

—**Linda Geist**, MU Ext. Cooperative Media

Governor’s Conference on Agriculture benefits Missouri 4-H

Farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state of Missouri descended upon Kansas City Jan. 16-18, 2014, for the 44th Governor’s Conference on Agriculture, hosted by Gov. Jay Nixon. The three-day event, which focuses on current issues in agriculture including technology, advocacy and youth involvement, featured a Friday evening BBQ and auction to benefit Missouri 4-H, FFA and ALOT.

The auction was kicked off with a winning bid of \$2,100 by Orscheln Farm and Home for the Missouri State Fair Grand Champion Ham. The ham, which was donated to the foundation by Barbara Hayden of Starline Brass, Inc., provides public recognition for the Missouri 4-H program and a unique opportunity to fundraise. In total, live and silent auction items raised \$3,995 to benefit

Missouri 4-H.

Additional Missouri 4-H auction donors included A. L. Gustin Golf Course, AgriMissouri, Farm Progress Companies, Inc., Kansas City Chiefs, Les Bourgeois Vineyards, Midwestern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Missouri Ducks Unlimited, Missouri Life Magazine, Mizzou Athletic Department, MU Concert Series, Protect the Harvest, White Mule Winery, and Yates House Bed & Breakfast.

Thank you to all of our winning bidders: Mike Deering, Betty Doke, Renee Fordyce, Delmar Hunke, Adam and Melisa Jones, Anne Loethen, Gary Marshall, Sonny Martin, Dave Miller, Sen. Brian Munzlinger, Orscheln Farm and Home, Carol Payne, Misti Preston, Chris Riley, Ted Shepard, Don Steen and Gary Wheeler. 🍀

4-H Bridge Builder

The Missouri Department of Conservation

The Missouri Department of Conservation was honored with the 2013 Missouri 4-H Foundation Nelson Trickey Bridge Builder Award. The conservation department has been a dedicated Missouri 4-H partner for more than 50 years.



“We value the strong, long standing partnership between 4-H and the Department of Conservation, and are honored to receive this award,” said MDC Outreach and Education Division Chief Michael R. Huffman. “The focus of 4-H on youth and families is helping develop future generations of Missouri leaders. The partnership between the department and 4-H is helping develop the next generation of citizen conservationists.”

The conservation department’s work with Missouri began in 1939 with “Missouri Nature Knights,” an education initiative adopted by 4-H clubs, which promoted activities to restore wildlife habitat. In 1958, the department began leading 4-H programs covering youth hunter safety training, wildlife education, water facts, fishing skills and boat safety; overall, the department has contributed thousands of hours of outdoor education to Missouri 4-H.

For these contributions, Missouri 4-H honored the conservation department with the Friend of 4-H award in 1977. The department’s support continues today in all 4-H outdoor education and natural resource programs.

“The Missouri Department of Conservation is committed to the continued growth of Missouri 4-H programs,” said Missouri 4-H Foundation Executive Director Cheryl Reams. “We are very grateful for this extraordinary partnership that makes possible so many opportunities for Missouri’s youth, and MDC is very deserving of this honor.”

The Missouri 4-H Foundation’s Nelson Trickey Bridge Builder Award is presented to individuals or organizations for their exceptional service to bridging youth and community. ❁

Foundation honors trustees’ contributions to Missouri 4-H



Amanda Stapp photo

From left: Ruth Tofle, John Saunders, Jim Chenoweth, Ed Turner, Aaron Baker and Charles Hunt

The Missouri 4-H Foundation honored six retired trustees for their commitment to 4-H during the foundation’s fall banquet. Ruth Tofle, John Saunders, Jim Chenoweth, Ed Turner, Aaron Baker and Charles Hunt were recognized for their dedication and outstanding service as board members.

Ruth Tofle served as a foundation trustee from 1997 to 2013, and is a former chair of the foundation. John Saunders, also a former chair, served from 1989 to 2012 and was inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame in 2012. Jim Chenoweth has served on the Missouri 4-H Foundation board since 1989, representing Southwest Missouri. Ed Turner, a 1959 National 4-H Conference delegate, has served as a foundation trustee since 2001. Aaron Baker, a former State 4-H Council president, served as a foundation trustee from 2004 to 2010. Charles Hunt served as a foundation trustee from 1997 to 2012, representing east-central Missouri.

“The foundation is grateful for our trustees and their many years of service,” said Cheryl Reams, executive director. “Their collective knowledge and valuable insight play a key role in the success of our fundraising mission.” ❁

A legacy of support

Amanda Stapp photo



Walt and Norma Wilkening

Cape Girardeau County’s first National 4-H Congress delegate never forgot that trip, and he vowed to help other 4-H members have the same opportunity.

“One of my early ambitions was to help other boys and girls enjoy many of the benefits and pleasures of 4-H.”

—Walt Wilkening

As a high school student, Wilkening kept the family farm going when his father became ill and his two older brothers were serving their country. His efforts were so notable that then MU Extension Assistant Home Demonstration Agent Helen Hansen reported, “Walter is doing a very able job of running the 200-acre Wilkening farm, since his brothers are in the armed services...Walter is always

anxious to help with 4-H work...”

He was active in 4-H for eight years before attending the University of Missouri. He received his bachelor’s degree in agriculture and a master’s degree in extension education. He was a county extension agent for 17 years and spent an additional 23 years with MU. His career included two stints in India, one to establish a research farm. He earned his doctorate degree in extension administration from the University of Wisconsin.

In the middle of 25 moves, he and his wife, Norma, helped organize the Columbia Fairview 4-H Club. Their two sons were members. Mrs. Wilkening was a teacher.

After retirement, they spent 20 years as volunteers at 27 agencies in the United States and overseas. From building schools in Alaska to installing kitchen floors in the Appalachian Mountains, they traveled around the world seven times, serving in many locations. They now live in Columbia.

The Wilkenings established the Foundation’s first National 4-H Congress Endowment Fund in 2010 with a gift of \$25,000. In January 2014, they pledged up to \$225,000 from their estate to fully endow the Walter T. and Norma R. Wilkening

National 4-H Congress Endowment Fund. National 4-H Congress is now held in Atlanta, Ga., and Missouri’s delegation will be supported by the endowment fund and supplemented by annual funds.

“Walt’s experience as a member of the 1944 Congress delegation had a significant impact on him. It is the value of this experience that led him and Norma to embrace future Missouri delegations by establishing this historic endowment,” said 4-H Foundation Executive Director Cheryl Reams. “Walt and Norma recognize this important need and are leaving a legacy to fulfill it. We are incredibly grateful for their foresight and generosity.”



Walt Wilkening (second row, center) was a 1944 Missouri delegate to National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

“4-H has always filled an important need for the young people in Missouri and elsewhere,” Walt said. “My guess is that even though we don’t have many youngsters on the farms anymore that 4-H is perhaps filling an even more important role in the busy lives of today’s youth.”

—Linda Geist, MU Ext. Cooperative Media

So many ways to give

Missouri 4-H Foundation Heritage League

The Missouri 4-H Foundation invites you to join the Heritage League, with an estate gift or charitable annuity. Cash securities, real estate or personal property can be conveyed to the Missouri 4-H Foundation through a simple and inexpensive amendment to your will. **Call Executive Director Cheryl Reams at the foundation, 1-800-642-8041,** for more information.

Clover Club

When you join the Clover Club, you're making a valuable contribution to Missouri 4-H, and helping youth to grow! Clover Club members show their commitment to supporting Missouri 4-H through a three-year pledge. The Clover Club provides long-term support for 4-H programs, and helps the Missouri 4-H Foundation plan for the future.

Join Walt and Norma Wilkening!

When you make a gift to the **Walter T. and Norma R. Wilkening National 4-H Congress Endowment Fund**, you're making an investment in today's young people and the future of the Missouri 4-H program.

Whether you're a 4-H alumnus, parent, former delegate or friend, your gift today will help us develop the leaders of tomorrow! **Contact us for more information.**

Missouri 4-H Foundation
1110 S. College Avenue
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1-800-642-8041

4h.missouri.edu/foundation/

Matching Gifts

Does your company offer a matching charitable contribution program? Many do. Contact your employer for details. Some corporations cap their total contributions, so making your donation early in the year helps ensure you get the maximum match for your donation. If you participate in a matching gift program, please call us at 1-800-642-8041, so we can credit your company's matching gifts.

Schnucks Community Card

Did you know that Schnucks grocery stores will donate a portion of your monthly grocery purchase to the Missouri 4-H Foundation? Simply request a Schnucks Community Card at the customer service desk of a participating store. To activate your card call 1-800-931-6258 using the Missouri 4-H Foundation ID number 500021116.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL
Clover  *Classic*
at A.L. GUSTIN GOLF COURSE
SAVE
the DATE
June 3, 2014

Register online >> 4h.missouri.edu/foundation

The poster features a golf club on a green field with a golf ball on a tee. The text is overlaid on the image, with 'SAVE the DATE' in large, bold letters. The date 'June 3, 2014' is written below. The background is a soft-focus green field.



Missouri 4-H Foundation
1110 S. College Ave., Room 152
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Columbia, MO 65211

Dairy Judging team invited to international contest

The Missouri 4-H Dairy Judging Team, already ranked among the top 10 in the United States, has been invited to compete in the 2014 International Dairy Judging Tour of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland in the summer of 2014.

On the heels of an outstanding performance that earned them 9th place overall at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, Steven Nelson, Tucker Peterson and Bailee Whitehead will compete with other winning 4-H, FFA and intercollegiate teams on June 21 at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh.

The team is hard at work now to raise the \$24,000 needed to finance the trip. Those interested in contributing to the fundraising effort may send donations to the **Missouri 4-H Foundation** in care of the **Missouri 4-H International Dairy Judging Trip Fund**.



From left: MU Extension Dairy Specialist Ted Probert, Steven Nelson, Tucker Peterson, Bailee Whitehead and 4-H Youth Specialist Karla Deaver.

The team receives ongoing support from **Monsanto, FCS Financial, the Missouri Holstein Association** and the **Missouri Dairy Association** in partnership with the **Missouri 4-H Foundation**.