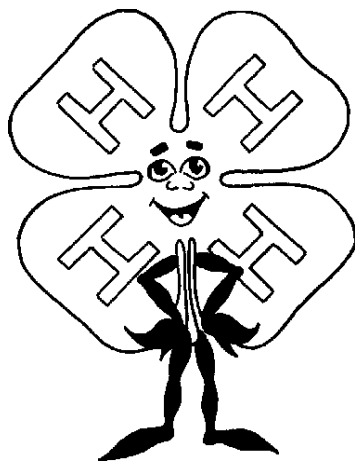


New
Jersey **4-H**

Leader Training Series



Highlights of Early 4-H History



Taken from a chronology of 4-H that includes 190 noteworthy dates, events, and actions that contributed to 4-H history.

- 4-H Clubs were preceded by corn clubs for boys and canning clubs for girls organized early in this century by public school educators.
- Cooperative Extension Service was created when Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.
- A four-leaf clover with H's standing for Head, Heart, Hands and Health replaced a three-leaf emblem after World War I, and the term "4-H" came into common usage.
- National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work was organized in 1921 to encourage private sector support.
- First National 4-H Congress was held in 1922 and the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927.
- National 4-H Pledge and National 4-H Motto were approved by state leaders in 1927.
- Increased public funding of the Extension Service, including 4-H, was assured by Acts of Congress in 1928, 1935 and 1945, and special appropriations in 1969, 1972 and 1977.
- Extension Committee on Organization and Policy created a 4-H Subcommittee to deal with policies and procedures in 1939.
- County 4-H agents organized a national professional association in 1946.
- 4-H moved rapidly to other countries after World War II.

*Written by: Betty Ann Smith,
County 4-H Agent, Middlesex County
1990, revised 2000*

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- International Farm Youth Exchange began in 1948.
 - National 4-H Club Foundation organized in 1948, opened the National 4-H Center (a special citizenship/leadership training facility) in 1959, at Chevy Chase, Maryland, and became National 4-H Council in 1976.
 - Division of 4-H and Young Men and Women's Programs was created in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1952.
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Reference:

4-H: An American Idea 1900-1980: Wessel, Thomas & Marilyn.

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