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4-H Is A Family Affair

By Jay W. Irwin,
Associate Lancaster County
Agent

When a boy or girl joins a 4-H club, it's really a "4-H family" who is enrolled. From the selection of the first project all the way to the final achievement, father and mother—even brothers and sisters—are involved.

4-H is a family affair when members and parents plan together the type and number of projects for the club year. Most project work is done at home. A good project fits into the ongoing way of life there, and makes some contribution to it.

4-H is a family affair when parents and 4-H members agree without argument on the wise use of time. They try to strike a balance among the hours needed for work, for rest, for recreation—or for 4-H activities.

4-H is a family affair when parents and club members learn together. The club leader and

member expect "cooperation" from parents in carrying out club plans. And, parents, rightfully, expect cooperation from young people in carrying out family plans and activities. Each generation has much to learn from the other. Family members learn together through project work, 4-H tours and trips, and recreational activities brought from club meetings into family fun. About half of the members who fail to re-enroll in 4-H work

don't have adequate parent cooperation in their 4-H work.

4-H is a family affair when parents and members encourage one another to experiment, adventure, try new ways of working, and achieve. Parents of 4-H members often tell of ways in which club work has shown results in the member's increased initiative and self-confidence, in willingness to assume responsibility. But such results come when there has been encouragement along the way. Encouragement from parents means very much to a boy or girl.

In many other ways, 4-H is a family affair. But if you ever looked around the audience when ribbons are handed out at a 4-H exhibition, you know that more folks than the members appreciate the achievement recognized there. When all of the family shows enthusiasm and appreciation for a job well done, a project completed, leadership exercised, 4-H Club work is a family affair.

One mother of a National 4-H Award Winner says: "There are harder things (than project work) for parents to teach a child—especially in a small family; thoughtfulness, resourcefulness, responsibility, fair play, learning to be a good winner and a good loser." She appreciated the learning experiences her daughter had in 4-H.

4-H leaders and 4-H members count the parents on their team because 4-H is truly a family affair.

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by LEE LANDIS

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But profit is the starting place of prosperity, according to the American Economic Foundation. It is the incentive that makes free people willing and able to invest their savings in tools that permit them to multiply their productivity and income. It also gives consumers the values that keep them coming back for more. It encourages science, research, invention, innovation and risk-taking.

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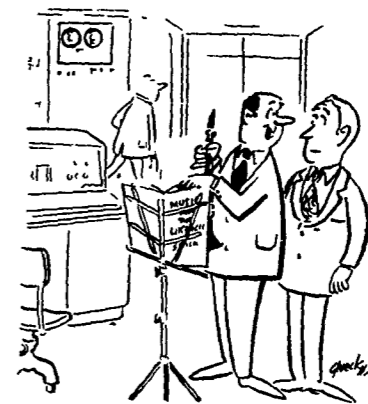
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