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UPCOMING DEADLINES

July 1

Distinguished Service Award  
county nominations due to District  
4-H Council President

July 8

National 4-H Congress applications  
and videos due to UI 4-H Youth  
Development Office

July 15  
Articles for the  
Leader's Corner are due

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# Leaders Corner

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## President's Note

By Debbie Lowber, State Leaders Association President

Spring has sprung and we're more than half way through the 2011 4-H year! If your schedule is like mine, you're "knee deep" in helping club members reach the goal of project completion. As we continue in the 4-H year, I challenge you, as adult volunteers, to take a look at why you're involved in 4-H. Is it because 4-H teaches young people valuable life skills which will enable them to become strong leaders? Is it because 4-H provides youth a hands-on learning experience with rewards that go beyond a "ribbon" won at the fair? Or is it because you may be the only positive role model in a young person's life? Often times, in organizations like 4-H, those involved become so passionate about the "nuts and bolts" of the program (rules, committees, competition, the fair, others' agendas, etc.) we lose focus on what the program is truly about. As leaders, your contributions to 4-H are very valuable, in fact vital to the strength of our program. Your involvement is appreciated! The next time you have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to 4-H during a council meeting, on a planning committee, or at a competition, make it a goal to focus on the true purpose of the 4-H program, think about the life skill you can bring to every event and continue the tradition of the 4-H motto "to make the best better."

## State Leaders Association Officers

President:	Debbie Lowber	Canyon County
President Elect:	Tass Heim	Canyon County
Secretary:	Roxanne Berheim	Twin Falls County
Treasurer:	JoAnne Fortier	Kootenai County
Past-President:	Bonnie Caywood	Bear Lake County

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University of Idaho  
Extension

# University of Idaho Extension 2011 and Beyond

by Arlinda Nauman, 4-H State Director

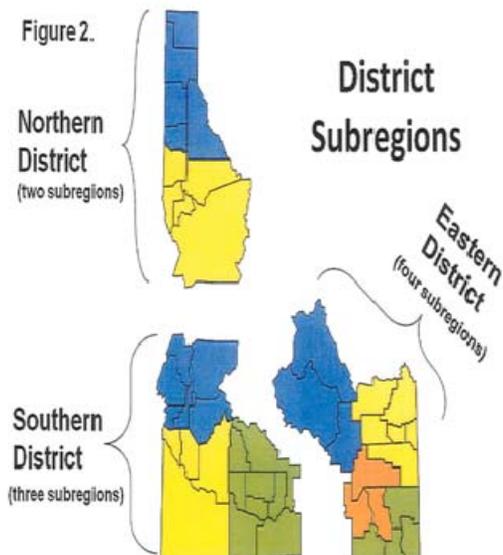
The 2009-2010 Redesigning Extension Task Force made six recommendations as reported by Dr. Charlotte Eberlein, Extension Director in January 2011. They are:

1. Maintain a permanent UI Extension presence in every county currently served, with at least one Extension Educator per county.
2. Conduct UI Extension's clientele-based programming on a regional basis.
3. Narrow the breadth of Extension programming and focus on higher priority issues and problems identified by stakeholders.
4. Develop stronger collaborations and new, creative partnerships.
5. Increase the use of technology in program delivery in order to serve a broader range of clientele and make the best use of faculty time and operating funds.
6. Increase revenue generation opportunities: pursuing grants and a 4-H Youth participation fee.

Changes based on these recommendations have already begun to be implemented in these areas:

- 4-H Youth Development programming participation annual fee.
- Extension Educators are organized into three Extension Districts (there are still four 4-H Districts); see Figure 2.
- Topic Team Organization and the amount of Extension faculty time invests in each Topic has changed and topic teams are narrowing their program focus areas.

And stay tuned for a summer edition article about the July 1, 2011 merger of the Department of Agricultural Education and 4-H Youth Development.



## Department of Agricultural Education & 4-H Youth Development

By Carrie Stark, Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist

The merger between the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and the State 4-H Office is now official. The Notice of Intent was signed by Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director, of the Idaho State Board of Education (and an alumni of the department), March 17, 2011.

The new Department of Agricultural Education & 4-H Youth Development will come into existence with the new fiscal year on July 1, 2011. This next year will be one of challenges and transitions. I look forward to working with all of you as a team to bring agricultural education and youth development professionals together to offer quality courses, workshops, youth development programs, leadership development opportunities, and rigorous scholarly research.

Throughout the summer, I plan on meeting and working with all faculty and staff to review mission statements, values and goals, and develop a vision for where we want the new department to go in the next five years. Again, thank you all for your dedication to agricultural education and youth leadership development in Idaho and across the country. I'm confident that the new department will become a model for outstanding academics, scholarly research, and outreach/engagement.

# State 4-H Livestock Skill-a-Thon Contest

by Cindy Kinder, Gooding/Camas County Extension Educator

University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development will have a new state contest this year for those youth interested in livestock production. The Livestock Skill-a-thon state contest will take place on Saturday, September 19th at the Jerome County Fairgrounds. Guidelines are currently being put together for this contest. They will be available by June 1, 2011. The efforts are being headed up by Cindy Kinder, Gooding/Camas County Extension Educator, Carrie Stark, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, and John Hall, Extension Beef Specialist.

What is a livestock skill-a-thon? The objectives of the program are:

- To provide youth with the opportunity to blend knowledge and skills acquired in livestock judging, demonstrations, care and exhibition of animals into one activity.
- To provide youth who have no opportunities for livestock ownership with an opportunity to learn about the importance of livestock and their products to the environment and economy.
- To encourage youth to continue expanding their knowledge and participation.
- To recognize youth for their total involvement in and comprehension of the livestock industry.
- To instill ethical values, good sportsmanship and product evaluation skills.

An example of the types of classes offered in a livestock skill-a-thon are:

NOTE: CLASSES ARE NOT LIMITED TO THIS LIST BUT IT SERVES AS A EXAMPLE OF WHAT PROGRAM WILL LOOK LIKE

- Livestock Equipment Identification: Identify the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production. (A list of equipment and potential uses will be provided.)
- Livestock Breed Identification: Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
- Retail meat cut identification: Identify from a provided list the uniformly accepted name of beef, pork, and lamb retail cuts on display including the species, wholesale cut from which each retail cut originates and the retail cut.
- Hay and Wool Judging Class: Rank a class of four hay and wool samples with analysis information.
- Quality Assurance Exercise: Demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
- Quiz: Complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.
- Quality Assurance Exercise: Demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, calculate dosage rates and withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, be familiar with administration routes, animal identification and restraint methods, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)
- Meat & Carcass Evaluation: Rank one (1) class of four similar retail cuts. Evaluate photos of a carcass and also price carcasses using a grid.
- Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise: Team members will evaluate a breeding/marketing animal scenario and make animal selection/marketing decisions based upon performance/visual data to rank breeding animals or market them for use within the situation.
- Evaluation of Performance & Marketing Information: Evaluate performance information on a group of livestock and then use the information given to make the best marketing decisions.

# 2010 Outbound Japan Exchange Delegate Experience of a Lifetime

by Cody Purchase, 4-H Youth

During the summer of 2010, I had the opportunity to spend two months learning and living immersed in the fascinating culture of Japan. I had worked towards and anticipated this trip for years before I took it. For three years, I had also been a Japanese language student. To cover the cost of the program, I had done miscellaneous odd-jobs for years, applied for many scholarships, and also received generous assistance from family. When I received assistance from the Idaho Friends of 4-H from a scholarship award, I was thankful. Upon returning from Japan, I was deeply appreciative; I had not known how amazing of an experience my trip to Japan would be.

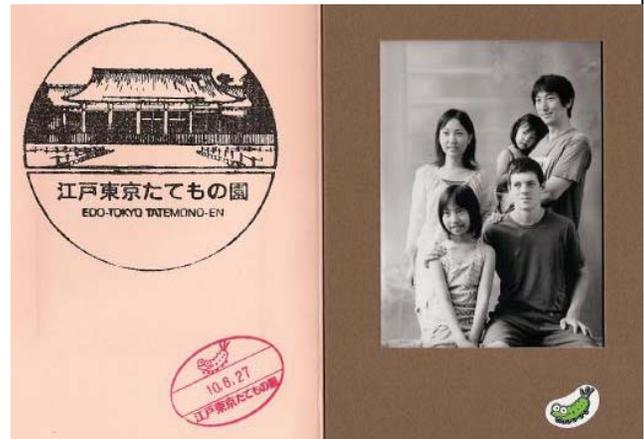
The first month I spent in Tokyo with the Tanabe family, attending an intensive language course. Every day I left from what the Tanabe family made feel like home, and I took the train for about a twenty minute ride. I walked another fifteen minutes straight through Shinjuku, a district of Tokyo filled with skyscrapers, to get to school. I learned a lot and met many nice people in the Japanese language school: Canadians, Americans, and my senseis (my teachers). In addition to classroom time we students enjoyed a lot of fun day trips. We explored Tokyo and some of its famous attractions while learning Japanese. It was awesome to be seeing so many interesting things, and to have other students to share my thoughts and experiences of the stay with.

Although I did learn a lot being in this intensive language course, the part that really made the trip for me and taught me the most was being brought into the home of my host families. The times I spent with them were the times I enjoyed the most. They became my friends and felt like family – I was sad to say goodbye by the end of my stay.

Coming home from school each day I would eat and visit with my little host sisters Chihiro and Touko, my host mom Noriko, and my host dad Junichi. I called my parents “mom” and “dad” instead of by their names. On weekends we rode bikes to the park and got ice cream, or rode the train together, went out to dinner or ate at home together, practiced Japanese with their etch-a-sketch, or played wii. I remember getting demolished by Chihiro on the wii, and making spaghetti with my sisters for the family to try. They really made me feel like part of the family, and they did a lot for me. I appreciated the fact that they did not think I needed some special trip to Tokyo Disneyland, they just brought me into their home – no special treatment. Well that’s not completely true.

I told Noriko how much I loved mangos – I swear I ate them from then on. I toured many historic temples and shrines with my family, as well as Tokyo’s famous attractions such as the Tokyo Tower, getting the inside scoop and the answers to any of the many questions I had. They also taught me so much about their way of life, and I loved being a part of it. I learned about eating etiquette, how to use the funny Japanese toilets, to take off the shoes before entering the house, Japanese customs, greetings, and many other things.

By the end of the month with the Tanabe family I was sad to say goodbye, but so excited to meet my Nagoya host family. I traveled by bullet train (there is a reason they call it the bullet train) south to Nagoya – it was the first time I had been in a relatively large open space in a month and it felt nice. I soon met the Negi family: Kento my 16 year old brother, my mom Yuko, and my dad Takayuki. I went to school this month also, this time with Kento to his school. I met a lot of fun people there and I enjoyed the experience of being in a Japanese school – this particular one having had a very relaxed atmosphere, contrasting from what many people imagine when they think of a Japanese school. It was nearing summer break and the workload was almost nothing, so I enjoyed a lot of time laughing with Kento and his friends. We swam in the school’s pool and after school hung out in the handball clubroom. Handball, I discovered, is very fun and challenging. The rain of the first month in Tokyo began to change to humid heat as Kento and I spent our



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## 2010 Outbound Japan Exchange Delegate Experience of a Lifetime

*(Continued from page 4)*

days going out on bikes all over Nagoya, riding the train to his favorite places, eating a whole lot of ice cream, lounging inside to recover from the heat, playing video games, eating a whole lot of delicious foods, eating more ice cream, staying up late, and having fun. I found Kento became my friend just like he were anybody here at home – it didn't matter that we were from different cultures, different countries – we had a lot of fun. With this family as well I learned so much. I improved my fluency greatly living in their home – speaking in both English and Japanese, I helped them learn as much as they did me. I enjoyed the everyday moments I had with the family so much.



During this stay I also traveled with Yuko and Kento to Kyoto, the ancient capital and current cultural capital of Japan. The place had always held so much mystery to me. The ancient beauty and peaceful atmosphere was captivating, it is a place I will always want to return to. I will never forget traveling to Kyoto and the feeling of being part of the families I had there.

I got one more chance to say goodbye and have dinner with my first host family when I returned to Tokyo my final days in Japan. I was sad to be returning home – I wanted to stay longer.

I learned so much, and I learned of what really matters: people. I now have more of a desire than ever to experience, share, travel, and see for myself and appreciate the cultures of the world, and encourage anyone to do the same if they get the chance – it is an experience unlike any other.

With each family I laughed and learned, talked about my life, experienced their life, I ate so many delicious and interesting new foods, and saw so many things I will never forget. I still talk with my families today, the recent earthquake scared but did not harm either of them. I miss them and I hope to see them again soon. One exciting thing I know is I will be able to see Kento again this summer, he is coming to stay with my family. I am so appreciative of the friendships that my travel to Japan has awarded me.

Host families are currently being sought for summer 2011. If you would like to be a host family to experience a wonderful opportunity to share your culture with an Inbound Japanese Delegate while learning of their culture, please contact Claudine Zender at either [czender@uidaho.edu](mailto:czender@uidaho.edu) or call (208) 885-7700.

## State Ambassadors

By Roxanne Berheim, Twin Falls County Volunteer

This year I had a 4-H revelation. I hadn't planned on it happening. I didn't have any expectation of gaining any insight. It was to be just a fun 4-H weekend. My husband and I volunteered our time to chaperone some of Twin Falls great teens to State Ambassador's in McCall. Some would call us crazy or brave, but my husband and I really do enjoy spending time with this age group and watching them discover themselves, growing from that knowledge, and then sharing that breakthrough with others.

The mood of the retreat was the first thing that I noticed. I expected to be dealing with some youth not wanting to participate or the lone wolf that just was having a hard time belonging, but it never happened. It was as if the teens had come to a home away from home, one big loving family glad to have everyone back under the same roof. It frankly, shocked me. These are teens we're talking about. Everyone, even the first time attendees, were taken in as if long lost friends.

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# State Ambassadors

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Well, with the mood set and everyone feeling wanted, I thought that is pretty great and so making new friends would be the high point for this weekend. I was wrong, so wrong. The friendships made were just the icing on the cake and the beginning to a weekend of enlightenment and astonishment.

The program offered at this training is presented in a manner that is very easily absorbed by every teen that participates whether they realize it or not. I was pleasantly surprised that these teens seemed to not only be willing to participate but excited and anxious to participate. It was amazing to see these youth buckle down and spend their time focused on the tasks at hand. They didn't seem to mind that there was not a lot of free time but a lot of organized work with some fun moments.

I was amazed when I heard that these kids all had to write a speech about the "person who has influenced you most in your 4-H career" or "how 4-H has influenced you". I thought no teen is going to get serious about this, it is too personal. I also remember thinking that we had finally arrived at the point I had been dreading. I thought I had found the one area that was going to be that downer the youth all mentioned when asked about the weekend. I was soon to find out that I was wrong again.

The day of the speeches finally arrived. I thought here we go. We are going to have to fight these young people to deliver their speeches. Wrong again. Are you sensing a theme here? My husband and I gathered in the meeting hall and sat towards the back. It is a good thing because what came next was the point of revelation I had not expected. The tears began to flow as young person after young person delivered his and her speech.

I have never been so touched by a group of teens with their stories and personal challenges these young people shared. To see the sincerity and emotion from these young people truly impressed me. Our 4-H program has some awesome youth that represent 4-H proudly. They do make the BEST BETTER. My husband and I were blown away by the discoveries and growth these super great young people were going to walk away with by just coming to this training. Young person after young person volunteered to go next. There were no awkward quiet moments of waiting for someone to volunteer to give their speech. I witnessed young people lending their support by going up and standing next to those giving the speech, by giving a warm bear hug embrace, by giving a standing ovation, by young people calling out that they cared about each other, etc. It was amazing. I was awe struck by the bond that these teens from across the state had for each other. What awesome youth we have in Idaho 4-H. As the adage says "children are our future", I witnessed proof that Idaho 4-H is going to be in great hands in the future. Just writing this brings back those feelings of inspiration, awe, caring, and promise back to me, causing the tears to pool in the corner of my eyes.

I came back a changed person from my experience at State Ambassadors. I will forever be thankful for the opportunity that I had to share with these youth. If anyone says that the teen generation is not in touch with what's important, that they don't care, or that they have nothing to offer, I will be the first one to say that they truly do not understand and are very misguided in their opinion. Idaho 4-H teens are the proof of that.

I want Andy Smyth to know how pleased I am to promote this program to other teens. I want to thank him for the time and effort that he contributes to the 4-H program. He has a great rapport with the teens and connects well with them, yet is still able to maintain being the adult in charge. As a parent, I am so appreciative of the opportunity that my son had to participate and become a teen with conviction, principles, and a willingness to step outside the box. I have seen a growth in him and a challenge to become something bigger and better since his trip to a simple retreat and training in McCall. As a 4-H Leader, my hopes are that every youth that is of age will somehow get the opportunity to share in this character building and leadership development program. The program is very informative and engaging to all the youth that participate.

I want to lay down a challenge to all youth. I want the youth to participate in this program to make themselves bigger and better, to open themselves up to the possibility of what can be, and to look for and develop the potential that they all possess to become a successful adults.

# Idaho's 2011 Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer

by Bobbi Flowers, 4-H Volunteer



Mary Davidson

Idaho's 2011 Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer winner is a volunteer with over 30 years of participation. This individual spent 12 years as an active member of the 4-H program serving as a teen leader, a teen association officer for 2 years and a delegate to National Congress in Dairy. She is well known throughout the state for dedication to "Making the Best Better", she is Mary Davidson from Buhl, Idaho. Mary met, Kevin, her husband of 27 years while serving as a teen officer.

Mary and Kevin have four children whom they have raised up through the 4-H program. To reach out to other children in her community, Mary started an after-school program to introduce what 4-H had to offer. She continues to reach out to youth through her craft business where she hosts after-school programs. One of Mary's mottos is, "If a youth has a desire to learn something, I will try my best to help them learn it."

In working with youth, Mary has taught her members to always be willing to give back to their community. She has done this through community service projects with her club completing 6 to 10 projects annually. Through this experience the youth learn how to work with other community service groups.

Mary's dedication has lead her to take many classes, read numerous books, furnish countless supplies, and drive miles upon miles to help youth complete their project goals. She encourages youth to find and grow their creativity while being their own person. Mary is always willing to lend a helping hand or listening ear to all youth, to afford them the best experience out of the program. One such experience came from Mary investing her talent, desire to see a youth succeed, and her creativity when she help a legally blind girl who wanted to sew with her friends be successful in sewing an outfit. Mary went on to create special banners for the stage of the style revue so the young lady could model her new outfit without fear of falling off stage. Mary acceptance of youth have include those with special needs, youth at risk, and considered a problem by other clubs.

Mary has and continues to serve on the Friends of 4-H, formerly Idaho State Endowment Board, District and County Leaders Council, and State Leaders Association. She has participated in close to 28 forums in Idaho while helping plan six of those forums. Mary has also helped plan two Western Regional Leaders Forums hosted by Idaho.

# Idaho's 2011 Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year Award

by Bobbi Flowers, 4-H Volunteer

Idaho's 2011 Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year Award recipient is an individual who has been an active volunteer for nine years on the county, district, and state level. This individual began his 4-H volunteer involvement from being a 4-H parent by leading Dutch Oven Cooking and Shooting Sports projects. This volunteer saw a need for Shooting Sports funding and took the steps to successfully write a grant to the National Rifle Association. He resided in Greenleaf, Idaho with his wife and youngest son, he is Steven Johnson. Steve received this honor posthumously as we unexpected lost him on February 16, 2011.

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## Idaho's 2011 Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year Award

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Steve's involvement at the county level and becoming a certified Shooting Sports instructor eventually lead Steve to becoming active in the district program. Steve held the office of District II President in 2009. Through Steve's commitment as a chaperone for Know Your Government, he pursued his interest to be on the planning committee as a result of the impact that this opportunity had upon him. The computer technology and media knowledge which Steve held enabled him to empower the youth reporters to be successful in their tasks. From a suggestion by Steve, a partnership with Treasure Valley Television was created in 2007 to train youth in how to use their video equipment and facilities to record and produce the conference video. Steve continued to look into ways to enhance the reporters experience at KYG with something new each year.

Attending the State 4-H Leaders Forums and Western Regional Leaders Forums was important to Steve. He found these educational events as an opportunity to increase his 4-H knowledge and network with other volunteers to make the 4-H program as strong as it could be. When Idaho hosted the 2008 Western Regional Leaders Forum, Steve immediately stepped forward to serve on the planning committee. Also, in 2008 Steve had the chance to serve as a chaperone for the Idaho delegation attending the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, being instrumental in making it a positive one for the nine youth attending.

This past fall Steve was hired as the District II 4-H Camp Director. His enthusiasm was evident in he made it a point to attend county leaders council meetings encouraging leaders to share the camp opportunity with 4-H members in their counties. At the time of Steve's passing he had been working diligently on making District II 4-H Camp the best that it could be, as well as having his plans in line to hone the skills of the 2011 KYG Reporters who did him proud.

As the Idaho Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year, Steve represented Idaho in the regional review of the 2011 National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award program. The 2011 Western Regional Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year is Mr. Steven Wayne Johnson.



Steve Johnson.

## Idaho 4-H Centennial Celebration Update

By Carrie Stark, Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist

The Centennial committee is working hard getting ready to celebrate the 4-H Centennial in Idaho in 2012. The first big event to get ready for the centennial is to create a logo. The information has been sent out to the county 4-H professionals and is on the state 4-H website regarding the logo contest that is currently happening. The designs are due by June 1st to the State 4-H Office. The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to the National 4-H Supply Service.

Second, many counties have started looking at their 2012 fair season (I know-it seems early). It would be great to have all of the fairs in Idaho with a 4-H Centennial theme so if you are a part of the process, please promote the idea. All counties are encouraged to host a "birthday party" during their 2012 fair. The guidelines on how to put this together will be available in the fall, along with other ideas of ways to celebrate the Centennial.

The University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development Centennial Celebration will kick off November 4-6, 2011 at the State 4-H Leaders Forum in Boise and will conclude in November, 2012. Some of the finale events will take place at the 2012 State Leaders Forum in Southern District III and at the Friends of 4-H Gala.

It is going to be a great year! Get ready to celebrate the best youth development program in Idaho!!!!

# 2011 National 4-H Conference

by Debbie Lowber, State Leaders Association President

Elements 4 UR Future was the theme of the 2011 National 4-H Conference. Seven Idaho youth, Monika Riegel (State 4-H Office), and myself traveled to the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland to experience leadership beyond our expectations, gain knowledge, life skills, and make long lasting memories. While at conference we experienced a variety of competency/skill building workshops, along with round table discussions on topics which ranged from "texting while driving", "opportunities for older youth", "retention of high school and college age young adults", "bullying", and environmental conservation just to name a few. 4-H members then had an opportunity to have a powerful presence at several federal agencies during youth and adults presentations on the issues discussed during the round table sessions. Four webinars were recorded as a result of these discussions. To view go to: <http://4hconf.4-h.org/postconference.aspx>.

The Keynote Address of the conference had two federal cabinet members, Tom Vilsack, Secretary for the Department of Agriculture and Arne Duncan, Department of Education, who shared their visions of the future in both agriculture and education with the conference participants. This was a first time experience for National 4-H Conference!

The Idaho delegation had an enjoyable day visiting Capitol Hill. They visited with first time Congressman Raul Labrador as well as Senator Jim Risch. The highlight of the Capitol Hill visit was watching Congress in action while visiting the House Gallery (the session that day was centered on shutting down the Federal Government). The youth found the debate extremely fascinating and truly bought their government to life! Visiting the monuments, the National Archives, the Smithsonian, a dinner cruise on the Potomac River, and much more... were just a few unforgettable experiences of the trip, not to mention a fun dinner at the Hard Rock Café!

Overall, the National 4-H Conference is an opportunity of a lifetime! I urge you, as adult volunteers, to inquire about chaperoning in future years. It goes without saying volunteers and alumni need to make it a priority to encourage the youth in your clubs and all members in your sphere of influence, to take advantage of and not let their 4-H careers end without attending this conference.

I would like to thank the Idaho Friends of 4-H and the Idaho State 4-H Leaders' Association for their generous support of this opportunity!

For more information about National 4-H Conference please visit:  
[http://www.4h.uidaho.edu/National 4-H Conference](http://www.4h.uidaho.edu/National%204-H%20Conference) and <http://4hconf.4-h.org>.

