**4-H New Brunswick Programs/Activities Report**

**November 2023**

The following are highlights of the programs/activities that the 4-H New Brunswick Program has been involved with:

**Membership:**

This past 2022-2023 year we had:

20 Clubs

523 Members

157 Volunteer Leaders

**Programming:**

***4-H New Brunswick Provincial Communications Competition:*** The Southern District hosted the 2023 N.B. 4-H Provincial Communications Competition on April 15th. We had representation from all 5 Districts and participants from 15 different clubs.

The winners from the 2023 Competition are as followed:

Cloverbud Single Demo: Lennon Abernethy from Triple K

Junior Single Demonstration: Elena Valji from River Valley

Intermediate Single Demo: Liam Geroux from Ag Ventures

Senior Single Demo: Josef Folkins from Chignecto

Cloverbud Double Demo: Calvin Albert & Sam Cleghorn from Harvey

Junior Double Demo: Lucas Folkins & Jack Perry from Farm Fresh

Senior Double Demo: Braelee Folkins & Dylan Perry from Farm Fresh

Cloverbud Speech: Emily Betournay from Triple K

Junior Speech: Clay Steeves from Tri-Point

Intermediate Speech: Nathanael Buschhaus from Irishtown

Senior Speech: Quinn Baxter from Country Meadows

Quinn moved on to represent NB 4-H at the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on November 4th.

This event was sponsored by FCC. The 2024 competition is to be hosted by the Northeastern District.

***4-H New Brunswick Cloverbud and Junior Camp:*** This event took place from June 16-18th, 2023 at Caton’s Island in Browns Flatt. We had 70 members present and 19 chaperones. Members took part in games, craft sessions, a nature walk, tie dye and other activities.

This event was sponsored by Kubota Canada.

***4-H New Brunswick Provincial Show:*** This event took place-September 1-3rd, 2023 in Fredericton. This was our first time back in Fredericton after 10 years. It was evident that members, leaders and parents wanted the show on the weekend, and Fredericton provided that option to us. They rented us the facility at no cost and covered some of our expenses as well. We had just around 160 members participate, which was a large increase compared to the about 100 that participated in the previous year. We saw some positive and some negative feedback come out of the show, but we plan to work hard to better improve our programming over the next year to host an even better show in 2024. The show committee moving forward consists of myself, Amy Montgomery and Nick Graham from Western District, Kate Coleman and Ashley Story from Southern District, Melanie Bourque, Phoebe MacDonald, and Alain Blanchette from Eastern District, and Jayde McConchie and Alli Harris from Southern District. We are looking for two reps to come forward from the Northeastern District to participate in the committee.

We had several generous sponsors for this show that are available to view on the NB 4-H website.

***4-H New Brunswick beef and dairy team:*** During our Provincial Show, we selected our Beef and Dairy teams that competed at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. The Beef team members were: Marie and Braelee Folkins from Farm Fresh, Tayler Akerly from Chignecto, Kalley and Emily Thorne Tri-Point, Mackenzie Thorne and Hillary Ness from Country Meadows, Carissa Geddes from McKees Mills, and Ella Flewelling from River Valley. The chaperones were Terry Geddes, Kate Folkins and Belinda White.

The Dairy team members were: DJ Wolverton from River Valley, Emma Hanrahan from Farm Fresh, Violet McCutcheon, Lauren Boonstoppel, Christine Adams, and Kayleigh Brewer from Keswick Ridge, Emily Bourque from Irishtown, Wilson Frazee from Sussex Holstein, and Chloe Betournay from Triple K. The chaperones were Alain Blanchette and Sarah McCutcheon.

***4-H New Brunswick Youth Advisory Committee Member:*** Kate Coleman continues as our YAC member. She has spent the year networking for 4-H New Brunswick, attending travel opportunities, and helping promote and support the 4-H program. Her term will be coming to an end in February. We have begun the search for a new YAC member and will be closing applications for that position in January of 2024.

***4-H New Brunswick Intermediate and Senior Weekend:*** this was a new event hosted in Fredericton from March 3-5th, 2023. We had 49 members participate and 10 chaperones. The weekend consisted of farm tours, educational sessions with Ag in the Classroom, and multiple fun and games. We hope to host this again in 2024 and will be starting to look at options on a location and sponsors.

**Promotion:**

In November of 2022, we had a booth set up at the Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show in Moncton. We also continued to promote NB 4-H on social media by posting photos and descriptions of events we took part in.

**Other Initiatives:**

1. NB 4-H Registration Platform: In 2023, NB 4-H worked with CC Goodwin Consulting to develop a new online registration platform. The platform launched in September 2023 and is housing all 2023/2024 membership registrations. This system will also be used for event registrations for all conferences, shows and events. The system experienced some major glitches upon launching, but the programmer has worked hard to fix all issues.
2. Strategic Plan: NB 4-H has begun a Strategic Plan with Dawn Binns, who built PEI 4-H’s Strat Plan and is currently also working with NS 4-H to complete their Strat Plan. We have been meeting regularly with Dawn throughout the fall and are close to the finished product.
3. NB 4-H Youth Committee: This past year, we established a youth committee consisting of 2 senior members per district. The committee met a few times over the year and the members have been working on a promotional slideshow for NB 4-H. Additionally, several of the members were able to attend and participate in Cloverbud and Junior Camp as chaperones. The members created a promotional video for the event. The committee has not met for the 2023/2024 year, and we will be looking to get re-organized in the new year.
4. International Rural Exchange Trip 2024: Last year, I took the lead on organizing the 2024 International Rural Exchange trip for senior 4-H members across Canada. In May of 2024, the group will travel to Ireland to spend a week touring different agriculture businesses to get an understanding of how farming and agriculture practices work in Ireland. NB 4-H selected Kate Coleman and Ty Johnson from Farm Fresh to attend. Ashley Story from Gentle Giants & Friends was selected as one of three chaperones to travel with the Canadian delegation.
5. District Showmanship Clinics: With some additional funding received from Syngenta, NB 4-H offered $700 to each district to host a judging/showmanship clinic for their members. Each district participated except for Northeastern.