

# Claver CORNERSTONE

Spring 2010



**Curly Cook to be honored at  
2010 Georgia 4-H Gala with  
Lifetime Achievement Award**



# Clover CORNERSTONE



## It Only Takes One....

The year 2010 is proving to be a busy one for Georgia 4-H! The Georgia 4-H Gala will be held in August, another successful Kroger Customer Cabin Campaign was held, and a future leader was sent to Washington, DC as an intern. This year Georgia 4-H began online club meetings through the Georgia Cyber Academy, and Georgia 4-H'ers stepped up to the plate to support relief efforts in Haiti. Fundraising continues for 4-H projects, as we approach State 4-H Congress in July.

To make your gift to Georgia 4-H, you may either send in the contribution form included in this publication, visit our web site at [www.georgia4hfoundation.org](http://www.georgia4hfoundation.org), or contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation at (706) 542-8914 or [4hfndtn@uga.edu](mailto:4hfndtn@uga.edu). Thank you for your support of Georgia 4-H!

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## Spring 2010

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Georgia 4-H'ers interested in experiencing national politics while representing Georgia 4-H have the opportunity to spend a semester as an intern with Senators and Congressmen in Washington, DC. Along with faithful donors, the Georgia 4-H Foundation provides Washington Interns with the chance to gain experience in federal government, increase their understanding of the legislative process, enhance their network of leaders and career contacts, refine their communication and leadership skills, and represent Georgia 4-H in a federal government setting.

Currently serving as a Georgia 4-H Washington Intern is Hutch McCollum. A recent graduate of the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, Hutch earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He served for three summers in the Georgia 4-H summer camping program, including a leadership summer as Cherokee Mico at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. He remained active as a Collegiate 4-H'er, holding the office of treasurer in the UGA club and helping manage various club events and activities. He also was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity and entertained the Bulldog faithful for four seasons as a member of the University of Georgia Redcoat Band.

Of his experience, Hutch shares, "I am excited and humbled at the opportunity to represent Georgia 4-H in Washington, DC. The Washington Intern Program allows me to apply my experiences in 4-H toward meeting the challenges of working in a hectic environment and expanding my horizons as I look to the future. The knowledge and insight I gain during my time in Washington will undoubtedly further my ability to achieve my career goals, and I remain indebted to Georgia 4-H for all it has given me."



Hutch McCollum is spending a semester as an intern in the office of Saxby Chambliss

Start-up funds for the Georgia 4-H Washington Intern program were provided by Senator Herman Talmadge's widow, Lynda Talmadge, as well as friends of the late Senator. Annual support has also been provided by Georgia 4-H Intern Alumni. To find out how you can support the Georgia 4-H Washington Intern program, please contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation at (706)542-8914 or 4hfndtn@uga.edu.

## Tractor Supply Company Teams with 4-H to Raise Funds for Local Clubs

Spread the word! Tractor Supply Company has joined 4-H in support of local youth with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign, a national in-store fundraising effort to benefit state and local 4-H programming in each of the communities where a Tractor Supply Company store is located. 4-H Paper Clovers are paper representations of the 4-H clover that are sold for \$1 or more by Tractor Supply Company store clerks and prominently displayed in-store.



Beginning Friday, March 26, and continuing through Sunday, April 18, shoppers at Tractor Supply will have the opportunity to support 4-H by purchasing paper clovers for just \$1 at checkout. All funds raised through the local TSC Paper Clover Campaign will be donated to 4-H, and will support local camps, after-school programs and other 4-H youth development program activities.

"Many of our stores have been involved with 4-H clubs for years. Now, Tractor Supply Company is proud to have an official chain-wide relationship with 4-H," said Tractor Supply Company Chairman and CEO Jim Wright. "For us, this is an outstanding way to support our current and future customers and future team members."

### Why Give to Georgia 4-H?



**"I just can't say enough about this club. Being an active member of 4-H since the 5th grade, I have had more opportunities and more doors opened to me than I would have ever imagined."**  
**- Keith Thompson, Bacon County 4-H**

## Curly Cook Honored For A Lifetime of Service to Georgia 4-H

by Mary Ann Parsons

In 2001, Georgia 4-H awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was established to recognize an individual who had made a significant contribution to the Georgia 4-H program in their lifetime. The 2010 Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is Dr. M.K. "Curly" Cook. Dr. Cook was nominated by Laura Perry Johnson, Robert Stewart, and Ronnie Silcox. Dr. Cook joins a class of other influential recipients including the late Edgar Rhodes, Dr. Tom Rodgers, and the late Wayne Shackelford.

After receiving his B.S. degree in Animal Science from Panhandle State University in Oklahoma, Curly moved to Georgia in 1959 to manage a cattle farm in Barnesville. He then attended the University of Georgia and received both a M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Science with an emphasis in Ruminant Physiology. Curly joined the UGA Extension Service as an Assistant County Agent in Mitchell County, beginning what would become a 31 year career at UGA. Curly then moved to a district Livestock Specialist position in southwest Georgia and in 1981 was named as Head of the Extension Animal Science Department. Under his leadership, the Extension Animal Science educational and youth livestock programs flourished.

Youth Livestock Programs were a passion of Curly Cook. He was a product of the Junior Livestock Program himself and passed this passion along to his son Currey and daughter Kim who both exhibited livestock. Dr. Cook made the Youth Livestock Programs a priority, enabling the program to grow and flourish. Today it remains the largest junior program east of the Mississippi. Countless 4-H and FFA members attribute their start in agricultural careers and development of life skills to this program. A lasting testament to the commitment Curly had for Georgia's livestock youth stands in Perry at the Georgia National Agricenter and Fairgrounds. The thousands of people who walk on these grounds annually may never be aware that even though the facility hosts a diverse array of events, it was built for the 4-H and FFA members of this state to honor and support their involvement in the Youth Livestock Programs. Curly Cook was the driving force behind the vision for a facility that could host all of the state junior livestock shows at the same time. After co-chairing the planning committee and many hours of hard work, this vision was realized in 1991 and the inaugural event was dedicated in his honor. In October 2009, the 20th Anniversary of the GA National Fair was celebrated, and in February 2010 4-H and FFA members from across the state gathered for the 20th Georgia Junior National Livestock Show. This exciting event fulfills the dream Curly and others shared and each year allows over 1,000 young people to exhibit their livestock in one of the best facilities in the nation. It is estimated that over 30,000 youth have exhibited over 60,000 head of livestock in Georgia's Junior Livestock Program.



In 1989, Curly became the Associate Director for Agricultural Programs in the College of Agriculture at UGA and he served here until his retirement in 1992. His other professional service roles included director, vice president and president of the Georgia County Agricultural Agents Association. After he retired, Curly continued to serve and support the Georgia agricultural industry as President of the Georgia Cattleman's Association and the UGA Ag Alumni Association. His honors include his induction into the Panhandle State Alumni Hall of Fame, the Georgia Cattleman's Hall of Fame, the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame, and the National Ag Alumni Volunteer Award.

In his nomination application it was said that, "he was such a powerful force and such an advocate for youth. He did not hope and dream; he planned and did. Over the years, several generations of kids saw the tall, rambling man in the cowboy hat at livestock shows and events and even if they did not know his name or even exactly what he did – they felt his passion and they respected him and knew he cared about them. Why? Because he told them so, but even more because his actions spoke louder than his words. He showed up and he cared!"

Georgia 4-H is blessed to have Curly Cook as an advocate for the youth in this state. His work has impacted the program and has developed thousands of young people into the successful, contributing adults they are today. Additionally, Curly and his family made another commitment to the program through the contribution to the Georgia 4-H Foundation to endow two food projects in memory of his late wife, Sandra Cook.

Curly will be honored at the 2010 Georgia 4-H Gala on August 14 at the Renaissance Waverly hotel in Atlanta. Tickets and table sponsorships are available for this memorable evening honoring Curly and his impact on Georgia 4-H. To purchase tickets, or make a donation in Dr. Cook's honor, please contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation at (706)542-8914 or [www.georgia4hfoundation.org](http://www.georgia4hfoundation.org).



***[4-H] has taught me community service, speaking skills, interview skills, how to put together a portfolio, and to be a leader. 4-H means a lot to me and others too. Without it I wouldn't be where I am today.***

***- Morgan B., Sumter County 4-H'er***



# The Georgia 4-H Foundation invites you to an evening of celebration

Honorary Chair  
The Honorable David Ralston  
Speaker, Georgia House of Representatives

Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award  
Honoree  
Dr. M.K. "Curly" Cook

Visit [www.georgia4hfoundation.org](http://www.georgia4hfoundation.org) for more information.

4-H friends, alumni, and sponsors will gather to celebrate 4-H beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m. During the silent auction, casual entertainment will be provided by 4-H'ers from Georgia's own Clovers and Company. The evening will conclude with the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award and a live auction. Tickets for the event are \$150 with a discounted rate of \$125 if purchased by July 15th. Don't wait to sign up! You can easily purchase tickets online, or a printable form is available. A ticket payment plan is available through the Georgia 4-H Foundation; please call (706)542-8914 for details.

## Presenting Sponsor Georgia EMC

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Corporate and Individual Sponsorships for the event are still needed and greatly appreciated. Payment may be made online, by check, or through other special arrangements. Items, experiences, and other donations are still needed for the silent and live auctions.

# Georgia 4-H goes Virtual with Georgia Cyber Academy On-line Club

by Melanie Biersmith

Georgia 4-H has a long, rich history of working with the school systems in counties across Georgia. Beginning in January of 2010, Georgia 4-H now reaches students not only in brick and mortar schools, but also the students enrolled in school online at the Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA). The Georgia Cyber Academy is a public, charter K-8th grade school which currently serves 5,000 students all across Georgia. The students “meet” their teachers online and complete all lessons and curriculum under the guidance of a learning coach at home. GCA reached out to Georgia 4-H and requested an online 4-H Club.



Already familiar with Georgia 4-H through the use of the Environmental Education Program and through the County Extension connection of several students, GCA recognized the value of providing students with the many opportunities associated with Georgia 4-H. Two virtual 4-H club meetings, one for Cloverleaf age and one for Junior 4-H'ers, are being offered in each of the remaining months of this school year. The focus is on the Project Achievement process, as Georgia 4-H is responding to a request to help GCA reinforce English/Language Arts concepts in preparation for the Writing Test. There is a culminating, in-person event planned at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on May 14 for the GCA 4-H'ers. This exciting day will bring GCA students together for a face to face meeting, help with their socialization plan, and allow the students to experience many of the great opportunities possible through Georgia 4-H. Involving a statewide issue team of Georgia 4-H Agents and District and State Staff members, we are also already looking forward to the 2010-2011 school year and the structure and programs that will be delivered by Georgia 4-H to GCA in the future!



**[4-H] has improved my life in many ways, and I know I will use what I've learned in 4-H for the rest of my life.**  
**-Olivia B. Ocone County 4-H'er**

## State Farm youth advisory board GRANTS SUPPORT GEORGIA 4-H efforts

- Georgia 4-H recently received two grants totaling \$105,000 from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, to help fund both the CSI and SOS programs.

**CSI - Cyber Security Initiative** Partnering with local Cooperative Extension Offices, Youth Technology Leadership Team (YTLT) will serve as a resource for the public to gain knowledge and resources. Tech Team members lead free classes for community members on 'Internet & Social Networking Safety', 'Cyber-bullying' and more. Classes will be advertised as a part of the 4-H program to local public school systems for kids ages 9-19. Through 'Need-a-Computer', youth/families apply for a refurbished computer to gain technology for home use allowing them increased opportunities. YTLT members also gain first-hand building skills that will prepare them for careers in Science, Engineering and Technology.



**Sharing OurSelves (SOS) for America's Future** Armed with data that suggests nearly half of high school students will not graduate, seniors average a failing grade on the JumpStart Coalition financial literacy survey, and that college graduates have the highest levels of student loans and debt in history, the Georgia Collegiate 4-H Club will receive training from a specialist to develop curriculum to pilot in ten communities on financial literacy, to be delivered to students in middle school. The nationally elected Collegiate 4-H members will work with thirty state teams to develop service-learning projects in their home states. At the 2011 National Collegiate 4-H conference, training modules developed through these state teams will be delivered.

## Georgia 4-H'ers Raise Funds for Haiti Relief

When a need arises, Georgia 4-H'ers are always willing to step up and “pledge their hands to larger service.” 4-H'ers competing at this year's District Project Achievement pooled their efforts to raise funds to send to the American Red Cross to aid in the relief efforts taking place in Haiti, following the recent earthquake there.

Each of Georgia's four 4-H districts worked to collect funds to send for Haiti's citizens. The Northwest district raised money at Junior and Senior DPA with a silent auction and “blount fork trauma;” they also raised funds by collecting change at the February Cloverleaf DPA. Southwest and Southeast district 4-H'ers collected change at their DPA's to send for Haiti relief; Northeast district 4-H'ers held a County Collection Contest and Cutest District Officer Baby Contest to raise money.

In addition, Carol Smith in Brooks County organized a t-shirt sales campaign statewide and also outside of the state. She is working with 4-H groups in other states to promote the campaign, and proceeds will go to support a new orphanage being built in Haiti.

Photo credit: Marko Kotic/American Red Cross

# Project Funding Need

The Georgia Junior Livestock Program exists to equip young people with life skills such as critical thinking, contribution to group effort and teamwork, social skills, self-motivation, self-esteem, decision-making, problem solving, and self-responsibility. In keeping with those objectives, the 4-H Livestock Judging contest is held on an annual basis for Georgia 4-H'ers. Through this contest, participants learn to develop leadership abilities, build character and assume citizenship responsibilities; to develop a knowledge and respect for agriculture and its importance to the community and to the international economy; to develop integrity, sportsmanship, decision-making abilities and public speaking skills; and to learn the value of scientific research and its influence upon animals and the meat industry.

The Livestock Judging Contest is partially sponsored, thanks to the generosity of the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, but is in need of additional support in the amount of \$2,300 per year, in order to provide youth participants with a quality contest, awards and incentives, and trips to national contests for the top-placing teams. To speak with us about providing additional support to help complete annual funding of this contest, please call the Georgia 4-H Foundation at (706)542-8914.

Photo credit: Bob Brussack, athensview.com

## Kroger Customer Cabin Campaign Concludes

The 2010 Kroger Customer Cabin Campaign has been completed! Thank you again to Kroger for allowing its customers to participate in another successful in-store campaign, as we raise money to build the Kroger Customer Cabin at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

This year Kroger customers contributed over \$79,000, bringing the total raised in the three-year campaign to \$245,000! A huge thank you to Kroger and its customers!



**4-H does more than hold a special place in my heart for fond childhood memories; it was part of the paving stones that ensured my success and my ability to give back to the state and its children on a daily basis.**

**—Michelle Cannon, Coffee/Spalding Counties, former 4-H'er, current volunteer**



**Honor a graduating senior by placing their name on the Georgia 4-H Senior Wall! Only \$35 - contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation at (706)542-8914 to purchase.**

Detach and return to Georgia 4-H Foundation, 306 Hoke Smith Annex, Athens, GA 30602

## It Only Takes One....

*One Moment to Change a Life, One Life to Change the World, One Gift to Create an Opportunity*

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Please contact me about planned giving opportunities.

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(Gifts may also be made online at [www.georgia4hfoundation.org](http://www.georgia4hfoundation.org))

**Yes! I want to create an opportunity for a Georgia 4-H'er!**

Enclosed is my gift of:  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100

\$50  \$25  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**4-H has been the cornerstone to every major milestone in my life.**  
**-Anna Pierce, 4-H Alumna, Bulloch County**



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