This past spring, the UConn 4-H Teen Council was formed with members from across the state. The mission of the Teen Council is to educate and enhance 4-H in Connecticut through leadership activities, citizenship activities, and helping out in the everyday aspects of 4-H. Over the last 6 months, Council members have convened on WebEx to draft operational guidelines, hold officer elections, establish an application process for future members, brainstorm fundraisers, and plan leadership and citizenship events for the upcoming year.

The Council consists of active members in UConn 4-H between the ages of 14 and 18, with no more than 2 members from each county in the state. A representative in the Council serves for one year as a liaison between the county and state level of 4-H. They are responsible for promoting the UConn 4-H program and opportunities available with their county, and updating the Council on all county happenings. We also have a dedicated cohort of Council officers, featured on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Council’s upcoming events include a food drive in November, and trivia night fundraiser in December. Also in this newsletter is a special feature on this year’s virtual 4-H fairs in Connecticut. Through the Council, we hope to spread awareness of UConn 4-H and facilitate programs planning so more people can be involved in 4-H at the state level. Make sure to connect with us on Page 2 of this newsletter!
Have you ever wondered how or why the UConn 4-H Teen Council was created? Well, let me tell you! The council was created by Olivia H and me (Chelsea W). We had met through 4-H dog programs and became great friends. We each had gone on a national trip and saw what other teens in other states did in 4-H. We both noticed that many other states had a teen council or some form of teen leadership on the state level. I can’t speak (or write) for Olivia but I was a little sad that Connecticut did not have something like this.

Later in the year, after we both went on our separate national trips, we went on one together, Citizenship Washington Focus. On the trip, we of course had a lot of fun, but we also did a thing called action planning. In Action Planning everyone in our delegation picked topics that were important to us that we wanted to improve. The many ideas are dwindled down and small groups are made based on your interests. Olivia and I both wanted to work on teen engagement. With the rest of our group, we came up with several ideas and plans to improve teen participation in Connecticut. Action planning helped to inspire us to create the teen council.

Almost immediately after we got back from Citizenship Washington Focus we talked and decided we wanted to create a teen council in Connecticut. First we spoke with Nancy Wilhelm, and then Maryann and Jen became our advisors. Over the last year and a half we have worked hard to create this council and we are both super excited to get it off its feet! We cannot wait to engage teens in the UConn 4-H program!

"The mission of the UConn 4-H Teen Council shall be to educate and enhance 4-H in CT through leadership activities, citizenship activities, and helping out in the everyday aspects of 4-H"

UConn 4-H Teen Council Operational Guidelines

Stay tuned for our winter newsletter! Council Reporter, Harper T, will be taking submissions about county and state events. We will also highlight our upcoming leadership program! Email Harper with submissions at uconn4hteencouncil@gmail.com
"My name is Olivia H and I am the Co-President of the UConn 4-H Teen Council. I am a member of Litchfield County 4-H where I am the President of the Diggity Dogs 4-H Club. I am very active on the club, county, state, and national levels of 4-H. One of my favorite 4-H activities is showing my dog at the Big E! I have attended Citizenship Washington Focus, National 4-H Conference, and National 4-H Congress, all of which have taught me leadership, public speaking, and communication skills. I am honored to have been elected as the Co-President of the UConn 4-H Teen Council. I am excited to share our first year with Connecticut 4-H families, providing growth opportunities for everyone!"

My name is Chelsea W and I am a Co-President of the Teen Council along with Olivia H. I am part of New London County 4-H. Here I am the President of the club Canine Commanders and an officer on the VLC Fairboard. My projects are leadership, citizenship and dogs. I am active on the club, county, state and national levels of 4-H. This past year I was a teen Chair of the Connecticut Citizenship Day committee and was on the New England 4-H Dog Clinic committee. I have also gone to National 4-H Congress and Citizenship Washington Focus. I was also selected to go to the National 4-H Conference last April but unfortunately due to Covid-19 it was turned into a virtual event this April! I am very excited to attend later this year. Some of my fondest memories of 4-H have come from showing my dog at the Big E and attending National Trips. Through my participation in 4-H I have learned leadership, communication and many other helpful skills. I am beyond excited to be a Co-President of the council this year. I can’t wait to see all the amazing things we accomplish and work with 4-H’ers from around the state. I know this year is going to be great and I can’t wait to get started!

Rania A. from Fairfield County, is the Vice President. As Vice President, Rania is responsible for assisting the Co-Presidents in the performance of their duties, and in their absence, presiding in order of seniority. Rania’s project areas include animal science and leadership.
OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Josie M. from Hartford County, is the Treasurer. As Treasurer, Josie is responsible for handling council funds, keeping track of expenses and revenue, and preparing a written financial report for each meeting. Josie’s project areas include sheep, swine, poultry, canning, natural sciences, and photography.

Olivia B. from Hartford County, is the Public Director. As Public Director, Olivia is responsible for monitoring and guiding the social media and news presence of the UConn 4-H Teen Council. Olivia’s project areas include dairy goats and photography.

Harper T. from Fairfield County, is the Reporter. As Reporter, Harper is responsible for the publication and distribution of the quarterly Council newsletter covering all meetings and activities. Harper’s project areas include leadership, citizenship, beekeeping, and textile arts.
The Council has organized a statewide food drive this fall to combat food insecurity. Drop off non-perishable food items on November 20 and December 18 from 9-3 PM to support our ongoing community service project! 4-Hers are encouraged to participate either as clubs or individuals. See the flyer on the next page for your county’s designated drop off location, and look for a box when you arrive at the center. Council members will deliver your donations to local pantries including Operation Hope, St. Vincent De Paul Place, Litchfield Community Center, and West Hartford Food Pantry.

On October 16, the Teen Council had its first food drive. Fairfield County collected over 500 pounds of canned goods for Operation Hope.

Turn to the next page for drop-off locations!
UConn 4-H Teen Council

FOOD DRIVE

When: November 20 & December 18
Drop off 9-3

Drop off locations for each county
Fairfield County: Wakeman Boys & Girls Club (385 Center St, Southport) & Extension Center (67 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel)
Hartford County: Westmoor Park (119 Flag Rd, West Hartford)
New Haven County: Extension Center (305 Skiff St, North Haven)
New London County: Extension Center (562 New London Turnpike, Norwich)
Windham County: Extension Center (139 Wolf Den Rd, Brooklyn)
Litchfield County: Extension Center (843 University Dr, Torrington)
Middlesex County: Extension Center (1066 Old Saybrook Rd, Haddam)
Tolland County: Tolland Agricultural Center (24 Hyde Ave, Vernon)

The drive will benefit local pantries including:
Operation Hope, Fairfield
Litchfield Community Center
West Hartford Food Pantry
St Vincent De Paul Place, Norwich

What you can donate:

- Boxed milk
- Peanut butter
- Oatmeal
- Canned vegetables
- Canned chili and stew
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Cans of soup
- Paper towels
- Canned fruit
- Applesauce
- Dried potatoes
- Baked beans
- Jelly
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing)
- Canned tomatoes (diced, crushed, tomato sauce)
- Pasta sauce
- Popcorn
Another exciting event that the Council has planned is a virtual trivia night on **December 13** from **6-7 PM**. The theme is “Road Trip USA.” Join us on Quizizz and WebEx to connect with 4-Hers from across the state and explore your knowledge of states and geography! The entry fee is **$5 per family** as a fundraiser for future UConn 4-H Teen Council programs. Explorers, Juniors, Seniors, and 4-H Leaders are all invited to participate, either individually or in a team.

Please complete the attached Google Form to RSVP by December 1, and reach out to the Council at uconn4hteencouncil@gmail.com with any questions. The links will be emailed to all registered participants prior to the event.

Please mail checks to the following address once your registration is complete:

*Tolland County Extension Council
24 Hyde Ave.
Vernon, CT, 06066*

Please make checks out to Tolland County Extension Council, and write a note in the memo for 4-H Teen Council or "Trivia Night."

**Check out our flyer on the next page!**
ROAD TRIP USA VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

December 13, 6–7 PM
$5 family entry fee
RSVP by December 1

Connect with 4-Hers across the state!
Explore your knowledge of states and geography
Prizes awarded to winning participant in each age group!

Hosted by the UConn 4-H Teen Council

The UConn 4-H Teen Council consists of 2 representatives (ages 14 to 18) from each county. Our mission is to educate and enhance the 4-H program through leadership events, citizenship activities, and helping out in the every day aspects of UConn 4-H.

Open to all ages
Proceeds will support future UConn 4-H Teen Council programs
Quizziz and WebEx links will be emailed to participants
Thank you for your support!
SPECIAL FEATURE: VIRTUAL FAIR SPOTLIGHT

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Fairfield County had a hybrid Fair on October 17. Exhibit judging was in person at the extension center. The Fair Board offered workshops, opening and closing ceremonies, and a pumpkin contest, through virtual platforms. 4-Hers also participated in this year’s community service project, collecting canned goods for a local pantry and making blankets for kids in hospitals (Harper T.)

NEW LONDON COUNTY

New London County offered a virtual Fair week. 4-Hers submitted something highlighting their growth and achievements in each project area including videos, speeches, or pictures. During the Fair week, 4-Hers could participate in breakout sessions through Zoom, such as demonstrations, a presentation from a vet, and a trivia game. The Fair also included virtual opening ceremonies, and a virtual ice cream social at the end of the week, where 4-Hers watched a video of the compiled submissions over ice cream. The Fair Board had t-shirts and memory books made for each participant (Chelsea W.)
Litchfield County hosted a virtual show from August 1-September 1. We had over 200 entries, with almost all species represented! We also had a small home show exhibition at a local library. The kids loved being able to show off their hard work, even if it was virtually! (Olivia H.)

Hartford County

The Hartford County 4-H Fair was a little different than usual due to the pandemic. But as the Fair Association, we came together to come up with a plan so that 4-Hers could exhibit their projects and show what they have worked on all year. We decided to use Flipgrid so 4-Hers could send in videos exhibiting their projects, whether it was an animal project or a project in the exhibition center. Despite the circumstances, we are still proud of the outcome and of all the 4-Hers who decided to show off their projects (Olivia B.)

Windham County

Windham County offered home arts judging on August 8.

Middlesex County and New Haven County

Middlesex County and New Haven County went virtual this year. 4-Hers sent in virtual presentations of their projects during the #It’sNotFair celebration.

Tolland County

Tolland County had a virtual Fair from August 7-9. 4-Hers submitted their record books and showmanship videos of their projects.