



4-H'ers gain leadership skills

By Bo Henderson

The goal to achieve better leadership skills brought 48 students from different corners of Mississippi to the 2018 4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference at Mississippi State University July 16–19.

The conference, organized by Laura Greenhaw, MSU Extension specialist, was designed to develop leadership skills. Young people formed their own soft drink cooperative, conducted two service projects, participated in various workshops and toured real business co-ops.

“My favorite part of the entire conference was competing in the 4-H Leadership Olympics with my team,” said Joe McCreary from Lee County. “The activities were really challenging.”

Supporting and helping others are both essential in 4-H. 4-H'ers participated in service projects by writing letters to the National Guard and making blankets for the less fortunate. The young people also learned various business skills by forming their own soft drink cooperative and electing members to serve in business positions.

Tours took 4-H'ers to an electric power association in



Members of the 2018 4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference gathered at Staplecoth in Greenwood as part of their four-day event. (Photo by MSU Extension Service)

Mayhew, a grain terminal in Greenville, an agricultural research center in Stoneville and a cotton gin in Greenwood.

“The most interesting tour to me was Staplecoth, because I was able to learn about how the cooperative business

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Greenhaw shows passion for youth development

By Ashlynnne Vaughan, Brenden Chatham and Jonah Holland

Brilliant, kind and dedicated.

These are just a few words that come to mind when Mississippi 4-H'ers hear the name Dr. Laura L. Greenhaw. Over the past four years, she has led the 4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference in a new direction.

“Dr. Laura Greenhaw has made such a great impact on the co-op confer-

ence,” said Ellen Graves, social media strategist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. “She brings energy and a fun spirit to everything we do. Without her leadership, the conference



Greenhaw (Photo by MSU Extension Service)

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2018 4-H Co-op Stats

Soft Drink Officers

President **Jonah Holland**
 Manager **Shea Phillips**
 Assistant manager **Audrey Sanders**
 Sales representatives **Peyton Horn and Jaylin Smith**
 Board of directors **Connor Hidalgo, Savannah Ashley, John Mark Huff, Daniel Laudadio**

Tour Stops

4-County Electric Power Association
Mayhew
 Farmers Grain Terminal and Farmers Inc. **Greenville**
 Staplecoth **Greenwood**

Students form private soft drink cooperative

By Peyton Horn

Mississippi 4-H President Jaylin Smith and other consumer representatives work hard to make soft drink cooperative members happy.

Their job is to hear opinions from the 4-H group about the cooperative. They listen to the ideas and advice that others in the 4-H family have to say about the products.

"If there is a complaint, then it is the consumer representative's job to relay the message to the board so they can solve the problem to make our services the best they can be," Smith said. "We listen to what our buyers want and need."



Soft drink cooperative manager Shae Phillips, left, and assistant manager Aubrey Sanders prepare for snack sales. (Photo by MSU Extension Service/Jonah Holland)

Consumer representatives went to Walmart with cooperative manager Shae Phillips, assistant manager Audrey Sanders and accountant Aubry Quartana to purchase soft drinks, chips and cookies. Then the group arranged the prices to ensure profits and strong sales. Promoting the products is important for the cooperative's success.

Being a part of this year's cooperative is just the beginning for some of the participants, who hope to return next year.



Chip Upchurch of Staplecotn in Greenwood discussed various aspects of the cotton industry with Mississippi 4-H'ers July 18. The group toured the facility as part of the 2018 4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference at Mississippi State University. (Photo by MSU Extension Service/Jonah Holland)

Greenhaw

would not be organized and definitely would not be as fun."

Her past as a high school ag teacher proves she's always had a heart for youth development. Using that knowledge, she has been able to incorporate her ideas into the agricultural aspects of the youth.

Knowing that young people are the future leaders, she tries to broaden their views in a positive way on what agricul-

ture does for everyone.

Greenhaw shows by example that it's not all about what a person does but how they do it. She inspires young people to become better leaders, not just in 4-H, but in their everyday lives as well.

"She has taught us it is only as we develop others that we permanently succeed," said Lucien Failla.



Skills

works and where the cotton is shipped off to," said Mara Shelton from Neshoba County.

4-H'ers qualified to attend the conference in various ways, some being members of the leadership team, some being council members, and some placing as high-scoring individuals or winning as a team at Club Congress.



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