The Future of Jefferson County 4-H

14 clubs recently participated in our Vision to Action session. The session allowed us to look at what is important to 4-H in Jefferson County and how we can build a stronger Positive Youth Development experience for all 4-H members in Jefferson County.

The group identified 4 key ideas that they would like to see enhanced or developed in the Jefferson County 4-H program in the next 3 years.

The next step involves our club families. The visions are included with this packet. The vision identifies what you would see, hear, and feel in Jefferson County 4-H if each vision was reached in 2018 (three years from now).

Our goal is that at your March and April club meetings you brainstorm action steps your clubs has for ideas, program, policies, or strategies that could lead to the concepts in the vision happening, we are calling these Action Steps. I have included a script for the club leader or someone who attended the visioning to use in guiding the discussion. You do not have to use this script, but I thought it might be helpful for those who were not part of the process.

One of the identified visions was creating a 4-H program that is Youth Driven. You may want to consider having an older member or Junior Leader facilitate the discussion. Larger clubs might want to break into smaller groups of 5-10 people. You can use the “club script” in small groups, especially for clubs that have 20-100 members.
Last month 4-H members and leaders from all over Jefferson County met to look at 4-H in Jefferson County. They used a process called visioning. They looked at how to build a stronger 4-H program that focuses on Youth Development.

The group identified four areas or visions for the clubs, members, and leaders in Jefferson County. At this meeting we are going to look at the two of the visions and at the next meeting we will look at the other two visions.

I will read the visions to you. While I am reading them our job as a club is to come up with action steps we think would help the vision to happen. Any action step or strategy would work. Action steps might be trainings, programs, handouts, meeting presentations, or other information to help make the visions happen. The action steps can happen at our club, at the county, in the newsletter, or anywhere that they may help the 4-H program to reach the vision I read about. No idea is to small and no idea is too big, so be creative. Each idea will help in the next step of making 4-H even better than it is.

Here is the first vision.

*If your club has the resources it would also be good to hand them out or post them in the front of the room for everyone to see. Please let the Extension Office know if you want copies of them for your meeting or need poster board to write on.
After the process.

The Jefferson County 4-H program and the Vision Team would like to thank you very much for help. If you have new ideas that come up later please feel free to share those with me or send your ideas to Sarah at the Extension Office.

The next step in the process will be forming Action Teams to help create Action Plans for each of the areas addressed. We are currently looking for both youth and adults to get involved with the action teams. I have a signup sheet where you can identify your interest. Once you sign up someone will contact you with additional information. Signing up is not a commitment, but it shows that you might be interested in helping. I hope that members of our club get involved with this effort. Again thank you.
SEE
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we see an increased involvement by youth and adults. 4-H members, leaders and families are involved, informed, and interested in:

- Their 4-H Club
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Education
- County Events and Activities
- Project Areas
- Awards
- Trips
- Scholarships
- Fair
- Other opportunities

HEAR
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we hear how much being a 4-H member or leader is benefiting to their personal growth. We hear that community praising 4-H for the service they are doing. We hear accomplishments being celebrated. We hear about all of the positive relationships 4-H is forming. We hear 4-H members, leaders, and families laughing, talking, and having a good time.

FEEL
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we feel that 4-H is creating stronger youth and adult leaders and excitement for all involved.

Our group suggests the following action steps to help in making this vision happen:
Recruitment of Members and Leaders

SEE
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we see the county and clubs reaching a broad range of youth and families (both urban and rural) in an organized manner. The goals and expectations of youth and parents are clearly defined through written materials and presentations given by youth and adults.

HEAR
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we hear excitement in the community and schools to be in 4-H. We hear that youth and adults are participating in many opportunities.

FEEL
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we feel proud that our youth try new opportunities and are becoming leaders.

Our group suggests the following action steps to help in making this vision happen:
YOUTH DRIVEN

SEE
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we see youth given a voice to determine their club activities and direction. We see training offered at the club, project, and county level as adults step back and allow youth to lead.

HEAR
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we hear an efficiently run meeting directed by the youth with minimal adult input. The meeting includes community improvement and member driven activities.

FEEL
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we feel confident turning over the reins of the 4-H program to the youth.

Our group suggests the following action steps to help in making this vision happen:
BIG PICTURE OF 4-H

SEE
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we see youth involvement on a variety of levels in all aspects of 4-H. We see youth engaging in big decision-making processes and implementing action that results in visible end results. We see youth putting effort into 4-H willingly. We see youth from a variety of backgrounds (urban and rural).

HEAR
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we hear more emphasis from members on what they are involved in and less emphasis on what they are showing at the fair. We hear excitement about new opportunities.

FEEL
In Jefferson County by the year 2018 we feel satisfied with the leadership skills we have gained and our personal development.

Our group suggests the following action steps to help in making this vision happen:
I WANT TO GET INVOLVED!
If you have an interest in being part of an Action Team please sign up below. Signing up is not a 100% commitment. It is going to take Youth and Adult 4-H leaders to accomplish the best 4-H program in Jefferson County.

**Vision: INVOLVEMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Info Phone / Email</th>
<th>Best Night of Week to Meet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vision: RECRUITMENT OF YOUTH AND ADULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Info Phone / Email</th>
<th>Best Night of Week to Meet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vision: YOUTH DRIVEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Info Phone / Email</th>
<th>Best Night of Week to Meet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vision: BIG PICTURE OF 4-H**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Info Phone / Email</th>
<th>Best Night of Week to Meet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>