



Agriculture ● Home Economics ● 4-H
UC Cooperative Extension Glenn County

4-H NEWS FLASH

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THE 4-H EMBLEM

The first emblem design was a three-leaf clover, introduced by O.H. Benson sometime during the period of 1907 or 1908. At that time, it was being used on placards, posters, badges, labels for canning, etc. In 1909, the first pins with this emblem came into use. From the beginning, the three H's signified Head, Heart and Hands.

A four-leaf clover design with four H's appeared around 1908, and was used by Benson and others on posters, labels, etc. In a talk with Benson around 1911, he referred to the need for four H's rather than three, suggesting they stand for "Head, Heart, Hands and Hustle ... head trained to think, plan and reason; heart trained to be true, kind and sympathetic; hands trained to be useful, helpful and skillful; and the hustle to render ready service, to develop health and vitality ..."

In 1911, at a meeting of club leaders in Washington, a committee recommendation was adopted approving the present 4-H design. O.B. Martin, who was directing club work in the South, is credited with suggesting that the 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health, universally used since.

The 4-H emblem was patented in 1924. When the patent expired at the end of the usual 14-year term, it was determined to ask Congress to pass a law protecting the use of the 4-H name and emblem. This was done in 1939 and slightly revised in 1948.

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