
DEKALB COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUTHS IN DEKALB COUNTY LEARN AND LEAD ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Young people will have a “Biofuel Blast” on 4-H National Youth Science Day™

DECATUR – On October 7, DeKalb County youths will join thousands of young people around the nation to simultaneously create biofuel. As part of **4-H National Youth Science Day™**, students will participate in *Biofuel Blast*, the 2009 national science experiment that will teach young people how cellulose and sugars in plants – such as corn, switchgrass, sorghum and algae – can be converted into fuel and how alternative energies can be used in their own communities. *Biofuel Blast* participants will lead discussions about alternative energy in 10 DeKalb County Schools, as well as 10 DeKalb County Parks and Recreation sites.

To combat a national shortage of young people pursuing science college majors and careers, **4-H National Youth Science Day** will spark an early interest in science and science education. Currently, more than five million youths across the nation take part in 4-H science, engineering and technology year-long programming. Through the *One Million New Scientists, One Million New Ideas™* campaign, 4-H has undertaken a bold goal to engage one million new young people in science, engineering and technology programs by the year 2013.

“Engaging youth early in scientific exploration has been shown to spark a lasting interest in the sciences,” said Marie Trice, DeKalb County 4-H Youth Development Program Manager. “Science can often seem intimidating to young people, but *4-H National Youth Science Day* makes science fun, real, and accessible. Kids will learn about cutting edge technologies and then take the next step to lead by applying what they’ve learned in their very own community.”

4-H is a community of six million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. National 4-H Council is the private sector, non-profit partner of National 4-H Headquarters at USDA.

This year’s national science experiment – *Biofuel Blast* – was developed in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension and Wisconsin 4-H with generous sponsor support provided by John Deere and DuPont.

For more information on *4-H in DeKalb County and National Youth Science Day*, please visit www.dekalbextension.com or www.4-H.org/NYSD. Please contact Marie C. Trice at 404-298-4080 for more information on this event or 4-H in DeKalb.

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