

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



## 4-H News & Reviews

### FOR SALE

Dog Calendar = \$10

4-H Leaders Council  
Cook Book = \$9.00

At the MSUE Office

### 4-H STAFF

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MSU EXTENSION is an educational organization funded jointly by the **St. Clair County Board of Commissioners**, the State of Michigan through Michigan State University and Federally through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities.

## Gilda's Feedback

What are your new year's resolutions? I hesitate some years to make any because the intent is that we should follow through on them and that is generally the hard part of a resolution.

What is your real purpose for being involved in the 4-H program? Whether you are a member or a leader, is your purpose really to "Make the Best Better"? "Make" implies that there is action. Are you really making strides to improve and learn or are you in it for the name's sake? I would like to challenge some of you in your thinking as we start into the New Year. We can make changes in ourselves – our attitudes; our knowledge. There is a plethora of opportunities within the program in order to make ourselves better. Taking advantage of these is the first step. But let's not stop there. Bring that information back and share it with others – your leaders and your peers. We can't help make things better by hoarding information. We have to share information. 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Let's begin to enhance that sense of community by *playing together, working together and learning together in a cooperative effort*. Here's to a new and improved **Happy New Year!**

## 4-H Leader's Auction February 28, 2009

Are looking for a fun way to occupy your time during the cold winter day of February 28, 2009? Well, come out and participate in the annual 4-H Leaders' Council Auction. There is something for everyone – many items are unique. Come out, bid often, and have a great time!

Is your club looking for a way to help earn some spending dollars? Why not help procure items to be auctioned off? Ten Percent of whatever the item brings can go back into your club's treasury to help with club expenses. You have time to start asking businesses and other 4-H supporters. All items need to be delivered to the community building on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8 p.m. One Hundred percent of all the dollars raised through this effort goes back directly into the local program.

## Michigan State University 4-H Volunteer Training Workshop Schedule

**2009****WORKSHOPS AT THE KETTUNEN CENTER, CADILLAC MI**

Jan 9-11	608	*4-H Horse Judges and Show Managers Conference
Jan. 16-18	609	*The Future is You!
Jan. 24-25	610	*4-H Teen Citizenship, Leadership & Service Conference
Feb. 27-28	611	*4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leader Workshop
Feb 28-Mar 1	612	*4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leader Workshop
Mar. 14-15	613	*Family Science 2009
Mar. 21-22	614	*4-H Environmental & Outdoor Ed.—Adult & Teen Leader Training
Apr. 4-5	615	*4-H Rabbit and Cavy Volunteer Workshop
Apr. 17-19	616	*2009 4-H Dairy Conference
Apr. 24-26	617	*4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop

### Other State and Local Events for 2009

Jan 17	4-H Dressage Clinic, MSU Pavilion
Jan 19	4-H Leader's Council Meeting, Goodells
Jan 25	4-H Youth at the MSU vs Wisconsin Women's Basketball Game, Breselin Ctr
Jan 30-31	Green & White Swine Youth Ed. Fair & Open Market Hog Show, MSU Pavilion
Jan 31	Bay City Pigeon Fancier's Assoc. Show, Bay City MI
Jan 31	4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show, MSU Pavilion
Feb 1	Fair Book Cover Design due to Fair Office in Marysville
Feb 7	Horse Benefit Clinic, see page 3
Feb 14	4-H Communications Day—Anthony Hall, MSU, more information on this website <a href="http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/events.html">http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/events.html</a>
Feb 21	4-H Bi-State poultry Clinic, at MSU Campus, Anthony Hall
Feb 28	4-H Leader's Council Benefit Auction, Goodells
Feb 28	2009 Michigan Week Youth Photo Contest entries due
Mar 21	SE Regional Horse Bowl, Sanilac Co. entry deadline March 6th
Mar 22-25	4-H Capitol Experience, Lansing MI
Mar 28	4-H Bi Stat Poultry Clinic, at OSU, Wooster OH
Mar 28– Apr 2	National 4-H Conference, Washington D.C. <a href="http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/cls/nat4hconf.html">http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/cls/nat4hconf.html</a>
April 25	Spring Achievement, at Central Middle School, Port Huron
June 24-26	Expo Days, have an idea for a session? Contact Gilda Schott 810-989-6935
July 14-16	Ag Expo
July 27-Aug 1	4-H and Youth Fair

Please note that the results for the 2008 State 4-H Horse Show are now available on the Youth Horse web site <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/horsekids/>

If you have questions about the results please feel free to contact Taylor at [tenlenta@msu.edu](mailto:tenlenta@msu.edu)

## 4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education \* Adult and Teen Leader Training Workshop—March 21-22, 2009

The 4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Adult and Teen Leader Training Workshop will be held March 21-22, 2009 at the Kettunen Center.

Gain ideas, project resources and activities to help kids enjoy the outdoors and care for the environment. Sample a variety of interest areas within the 4-H environmental and outdoor education program. Sessions will feature wildlife, environmental stewardship, renewable energy, fisheries, outdoor recreation and leadership, forensic entomology, nature photography, and GPS (global positioning satellite systems). Open to adults and youth aged 13 and up. For more information call Lori Warchuck, (810) 989-6935 or visit our website at <http://msue.stclaircounty.org>

## 4-H Capital Experience—March 22-25, 2009

4-H Capitol Experience is an annual 4-day conference that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. More than 100 teens from around the state converge in Lansing, Michigan, to experience state government in action! Applications and promotional information are online and are due in the county office by February 6, 2009. Registration cost includes all meals, lodging and material fees. Rate: \$275 Adults and current 4-H members; \$285 Non 4-H members. For more information call Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935.

## 4-H Communication Day—February 14, 2009

Youth ages 9 to 19 are invited to participate in contests that will showcase and expand their communication skills and knowledge through public speaking, demonstrations, job interviews, photography, art, exhibits, cookery, graphic design, web design, citizenship and more. For more information contact Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935.

## 32nd Annual MI 4-H Horse Programs Benefit Clinic Saturday, February 7, 2009

### Featuring:

- AQHA Approved Judge, trainer and clinician GiGi Bailey, from De Pere, WI
- Saturday, February 7, 2009
- 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- At The Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, (Located on Farm Lane, South of Mt. Hope Rd.)
- Tickets are \$10.00 in advance, \$12.00 at the door

If you are a youth in the Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project who would like to brush up on your showmanship and horsemanship skills, here is your chance! The 32nd Annual Clinic to Benefit the Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project will be held on February 7, 2009 at the MSU Pavilion, in conjunction with the MQHYA Winter Spectacular Horse Show and Tack Sale. This year's clinician is a nationally recognized trainer, clinician and AQHA judge, GiGi Bailey, and it will focus on both Showmanship and Horsemanship classes. For more information call Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935.

# MQHA/4-H Horse Program Horse Judging Workshop

Held in Conjunction with the  
2008 MI 4-H Horse Program Benefit Clinic & MQHYA Winter Spectacular Horse Show

## **You be the Judge!**

### **Judging Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle, & Developing Oral Reasons**

- MSU Pavilion
- Friday, February 6, 2009 – 7-9:00 p.m.

### **Judging Contest/Clinic with opportunity to give reasons**

- Saturday, February 7, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., (prior to the Michigan 4-H Benefit Clinic and MQHA Tack Sale)

### **Classes:**

- (2) AQHA Halter
- Western Pleasure
- Hunter Under Saddle

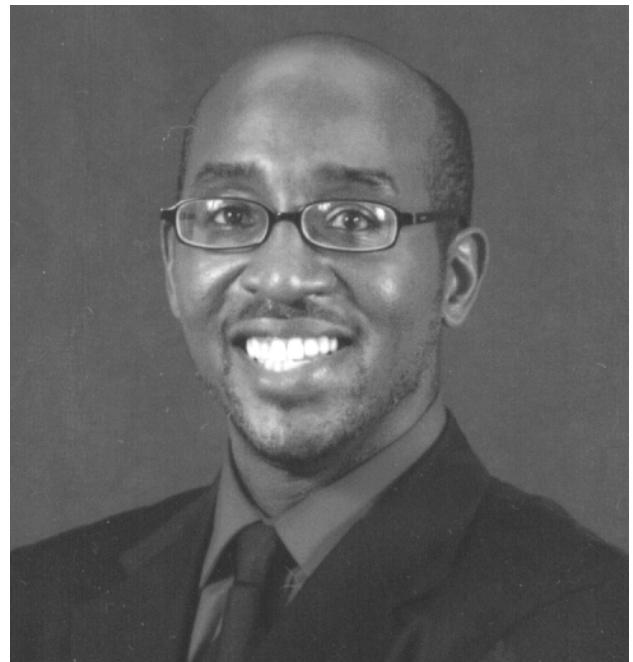
### **Cost is \$10.00/youth or \$12 coach or adult**

This is a great opportunity to work out youth judging teams, or to just get an idea what a judging team is all about! Friday evening's oral reason clinic will feature Equine Extension Specialist Karen Waite and will provide information on the basics of evaluating Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle, and developing a set of reasons. Saturday morning, participants will have the chance to judge high quality Quarter horses, and deliver a set of reasons. Each class will be critiqued by officials, and tips will be given on improving your reasons. We have divisions for Junior (9-13 yrs), Senior (14-19 yrs) and coaches or adults!

## **Introducing James W. Ribbron, St. Clair County Extension Director**

The St. Clair County MSU Extension office is proud to introduce you to our new County Extension Director, James Ribbron. James started in the Director's position in October of 2008. He recently worked as a Planner with the City Planning Commission – Detroit. His duties there focused on economic development policy analysis for the Detroit City Council. Two major projects, the Paradise Valley/Cultural Entertainment District and the targeting of Community Development Block Grant funds for Economic Development, provide opportunities for continued growth and development professionally. As a component of the job responsibility as Director, James will be focusing on educating policy makers on issues related to Economic Development.

Having been involved with 4-H since 1972 as a youth and MSU Extension as an Advisory Member, he is familiar with the program and supportive of our Youth Development focus. He brings new ideas and high energy to the office. Some of our leaders were able to meet him at the Leaders' Banquet, which is one of the first 4-H events that he was able to attend. Please join us in welcoming James.



## 2009 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest

Sponsored by The Foundation of the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. Each year the Foundation sponsors an essay writing contest for active (fees paid) members of 4-H clubs across the country. There are cash prizes for the national winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$750.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500.00; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250.00. National and state winners receive a book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey. For more information contact Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935.

### Request from: Sheila Urban Smith Operation Military Kids

The MI National Guard (NG) will be holding Reunion workshops for the 125 INF and 126 CAV across Michigan. These workshops are for the soldiers and their families approximately 45 days after they return home. This is part of the MI NG's *Road to Reintegration* to provide resources and services to families. What we need through your extensive volunteer and community networks are volunteers to assist with infant, toddler, and youth programming and weekend activities.

#### Reunion Workshop Dates:

- January 24-25: Lansing, Holiday Inn West
- January 31 & February 1: Traverse City
- February 21 – 22: Battle Creek
- February 28 & March 1: Flint
- March 7 – 8: Lansing
- April 4 – 5: Wyoming

#### Workshop Time Schedule - which will stay consistent for each session:

- Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday: 8 .m. to 1 - 2 p.m.

#### Other Information:

The team would like to have the same group of teen and adult volunteers both days, but we would understand that isn't always feasible. We would prefer that the volunteers commit to a minimum of a 3 hour time slot.

All adult volunteers (18 and above) must have gone through VSP or if they are from a partner organization (teachers, child care providers, etc) have had a criminal history check.

At the two previous reunion workshops 4-H clubs with teen leaders have assisted with a part or all of the session. Thank you to the MSUE educators in Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Saginaw counties for their support.

Yes, we would welcome you to volunteer too!

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sheila Urban Smith

[smith20@msu.edu](mailto:smith20@msu.edu)

Operation Military Kids Coordinator

## Join Youth Service America in Mobilizing Young People to Improve Communities During *Semester of Service 2009*

**Semester of Service** encourages students, ages 5-25, to develop a semester-long service-learning project that launches on **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service** (January 19, 2009) and culminates on **Global Youth Service Day** (April 24-26, 2009.) Semester of Service provides the framework and tools for children and youth from schools, colleges and universities, youth centers, and faith-based organizations to improve their communities. Young people will prepare a plan, take action to implement their solution, reflect on their progress and next steps, and celebrate their success. Semester of Service is one of YSA's to improve communities by increasing the number and the diversity of young people, ages 5-25, serving in substantive roles. Visit [www.semesterofservice.org](http://www.semesterofservice.org) for the latest news, updates, ideas, and resources from Youth Service America and its partners. At the website, you can also connect to Semester of Service online: become [a fan of Semester of Service on Facebook](#), join the [Semester of Service group on ThinkMTV](#), and follow our [Semester of Service twitter feed](#). For more information contact Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935.

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## FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Michigan State University's [Office of Financial Aid](#) works hard to help students invest in their studies. For many families, it is difficult to pay full educational costs from current income or savings. All admitted freshmen interested in receiving financial aid should submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online as soon as possible after January 1 of their senior year of high school.

The FAFSA evaluates eligibility for need-based aid, including federal loans, and gives students access to need-based grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study. MSU does not have a separate financial aid application; however, aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted based upon receipt of the FAFSA. Applicants are encouraged to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible.

The Office of Financial Aid provides several [cost calculators](#) to assist students in personalizing costs and financial aid estimates. Students and parents may also want to familiarize themselves with the Office of Financial Aid's publication, [Financing Your Education](#).

[Private loans, student employment and other alternatives](#) such as borrowing against home equity or retirement accounts are additional ways to consider financing your education.

Michigan State University Financial Aid provides helpful information online to youth and families about the Financial Aid application and a detailed informational guide to financing your education at <http://admissions.msu.edu/finances/financialAid.asp>.

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## Safe Driving tips for 4-H Volunteers

Is Your Car Ready For Winter Driving? The following tips are designed to get your vehicle in shape for winter driving: Check the headlights and tail lights. Do they all work? Does the defroster/heater work properly? Is the exhaust system free of leaks that can cause asphyxiation? Use the recommended weight and grade of oil in the engine for winter conditions. Low temperatures can cause oil to thicken, making starting more difficult and adding strain to the battery. The power of a battery declines as the temperature drops, if the battery is nearing the end of its warranty life, maybe it should be replaced. Be sure the terminals are clean and tight. The fan and alternator belts need checking. The engine cooling system must have antifreeze protection to the lowest temperature you expect. Hoses and clamps must not leak. Flush and replace antifreeze that is older than two years. Is the engine properly tuned for winter conditions? An out-of-tune engine can be very difficult or impossible to start in below-zero temperatures. A good winter tune-up is travel insurance. Are the windshield wiper blades in good shape? Good vision is essential in winter driving conditions. Are the brakes in good, safe condition? Brakes that are poor in summer are much worse in winter. If the brakes are suspect, have them checked at a competent brake shop. The radio should be in good working condition; it will keep you advised of weather conditions as you travel and entertain you if you should become stranded. Carrying a cell phone is a great way to speed up rescue efforts. Keep the gas tank as full as possible. More condensation will form in a half-full tank than in a three-fourths full tank. This can lead to ice-plugged fuel lines and stalled engines. Fuel filters should be clean and free flowing. Snow tires provide 51 percent more pull in snow and 28 percent more pull on ice than regular tires. Tire chains provide three times more pull in snow and six times more pull on ice. Use tire chains that fit properly. Don't mix radial tires with bias ply tires (especially side-to-side); vehicles will be dangerously difficult to control.

## Project Linus 2008 Wrap Up

The count on the board at the end of the day was 106 blankets, 8 pillows, and 5 scarves (some of the West St. Clair members were being creative with the fabric scraps). We had 95 people attend 53 4-H members, 10 4-H leaders, 20 National Honor Society students, 4 were also 4-H members, 2 community volunteers, 9 parents, 3 school volunteers, 2 girl scout leaders (their members registered as 4-H'ers and listed their 4-H clubs).

Adding up the amounts of material listed as donated on the forms was about 313 yards of fabric donated that day in addition to the 17 blankets that were brought in completed. A conservative estimate of the value of the donated fabric would be over \$2,200. Not bad given the current economy. \$102.14 was donated towards the lunch costs.

Once we returned unopened items last night and figured out the cost for just the items used the cost of the lunch supplies was \$110.13. The donation jar worked out well.

We will be taking the blankets to the Project Linus Macomb County Chapter President during Christmas break. There are some clubs that have more blankets that will be dropping off to our house before then so our final number could be higher.

Thanks to everyone who participated! We had kids from Yale to Algonac involved this year. It was a true "community" service project.

*Sincerely, Mary and Angelina Taylor*



Angelina Taylor, Kathryn Roggenbuck and Emily Sovey with 106 blankets

## Rimrock Challenge 4-H Club Honor our Nation's Fallen Heroes



For the first time St. Clair County Allied Veterans Cemetery hosted a Wreaths Across America Ceremony. The *Wreaths Across America* story began over 15 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our Nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. Since that period of time, Worcester Wreath has donated 90,000 wreaths which have been placed by volunteers in a wreath-laying ceremony each December. It is their mission to *Remember; Honor; and Teach* about the sacrifices made by our veterans has captured the hearts and minds of many communities across the Country.

This year, Rimrock Acres Challenge Club sought sponsorships for the wreaths and leaders Joe and Theresa Whitenight, and members Lisa, Dannie and Kayleigh Fountain attended the event. Seven specially made ceremonial wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POW/MIA were placed at the memorial during a unique ceremony that was coordinated simultaneously at over 350 participating locations all across the Country and around the World. All of these specially made wreaths are donated by Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. In addition those in attendance laid 700 sponsored wreaths at the headstones.

Thank you Rimrock Challenge for your efforts in honoring our Nation's fallen heroes.

**SCC AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

(Fair Board)  
Sponsors of the  
St. Clair County  
4-H & Youth Fair  
P O Box 325  
Marysville MI 48040  
(810) 364-9100  
[www.stclaircounty4hfair.org](http://www.stclaircounty4hfair.org)  
**2009 Fair- July 27 to August 1**

**Pasture/Board**

For up to 4 horses on our acreage near St. Clair. Your horse will be more than "just another horse" at our home; routine vet care available on site. Pricing starts at \$175 monthly. Other 4-H animals also welcome, contact Robyn Child for more info and pricing: 810-326-0360 or email [deafdogdoc@hotmail.com](mailto:deafdogdoc@hotmail.com).

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: Anyone who would like to :  
: show minis and needs :  
: one to show please con- :  
: tact Patti Shappee from :  
: St. Clair County Trail Blaz- :  
: ers for more information :  
: @ [pshappee@msn.com](mailto:pshappee@msn.com) :  
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**St Clair County MSU Extension**

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

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