



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

TO: **4-H Administrative Leaders**

FROM: St. Clair County 4-H Program Staff

RE: Bi-monthly update to share with your club
Members and leaders

DATE: February 2009

GILDA'S DESK - We hope that this newsletter finds everyone settling down after the holidays and getting excited for the possibilities of this new year. Administrative Leaders can be a great source for encouraging youth. There are many opportunities offered within the 4-H program. Members might think they know what they like, but you would be surprised at what new things they find out about themselves and their interests when trying something new. It goes along with that old saying, "try it... you'll like it". Kids may find they like something that they would have normally turned their noses at, had they not taken the risk to step out of their box to try something different. (*The same holds true for us adults*). Be encouragers to support our members in trying one new opportunity this year.



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It seems that we continue to be bombarded with information that can be shared with our members. Some of this information is very project specific; other is information for families in general. We have been utilizing e-mail much more frequently to share this information sooner. I don't have any expectation that this process will replace your administrative newsletter, but e-mail can be a great tool for enhancing communication. That being said, it would be very helpful if you could consider facilitating within your club a match-up system for families that do not have e-mail (or don't choose to use it) capability with a family that does have e-mail and uses it regularly to help in the "information sharing network" within your club. This match would best work with families of like-project interests.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested three days before the event by calling to make the arrangements, requests received after three days will be met when possible.

A reminder that the 4-H Leaders' Council Annual Auction is coming up on February 28th at Goodells County Park. Everyone is invited to come out and have fun bidding on your favorite items. There will be something for everyone! If your club is helping procure items, please remember that the items need to be dropped off on Friday, February 27th from noon until 8 p.m. It is imperative that items NOT be brought the morning of the auction. If there is absolutely no way that the item can be dropped off on Friday, then please contact the Extension office and speak with either Lori Warchuck or myself so that arrangements can be made to drop off items at our office prior to that date. Please make a note to share this with family members. Remember that this is an opportunity for your club to reap some of the benefits through helping procure items. Your club will receive 10% of whatever the item(s) bring. Questions? Give the office a call.

Michigan State University

4-H Volunteer Training Workshop Schedule

2009

WORKSHOPS AT THE KETTUNEN CENTER, CADILLAC MI

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. 17-19	616	*2009 4-H Dairy Conference
Apr. 24-26	617	*4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop
Nov 14	615	*4-H Rabbit and Cavy Volunteer Workshop

Other State and Local Events for 2009

Jan 31	State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show, MSU Pavilion, registration at the door
Jan 31	Beef Project for Fair weigh-in at Goodells County Park
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 http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/events.html
Feb 14	Heartland Rabbit Show, Farwell, MI more info contact Clare County (989) 465-2058
Feb 20	Rabbit Expo Competitors round up at Goodells Co. Park 7:00 p.m. (see page 3)
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
Feb 28	Equine Colic: Recognize, Prevent, Treat at MSU College of Vet. Med., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free admission. Please RSVP to Judy Lessard at Lessardj@cvm.msu.edu or (517) 355-0001
Feb 28	"This is the Pattern?" a Showmanship Horse Clinic, Holly MI contact (248) 761-7664
Mar 7	From the Forest to the Table, 4 Square Sportsman's Club, Grant Twp., (see page 5) pre-register by February 23rd
Mar 14	Animal Mania, McMorrان Place Pavilion, PH, (see page 5)
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 Spring Fling, Horticulture/Entomology Workshop at MSU Plant & Soil Sciences Bldg
Mar 28	4-H Bi State Poultry Clinic, at OSU, Wooster OH
Mar 28 & 29	Hunter's Safety course at 4 square Sportsman's Club, reservations (810) 327-6859
Mar 28– Apr 2	National 4-H Conference, Washington D.C. more information at http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/cls/nat4hconf.html
Apr 17 7 18	Earth Fair—Goodells County Park (See page 4)
April 18	Vet-A-Visit, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine Open House, more information at http://cvm.msu.edu/vetavisit
April 25	Spring Achievement, at Central Middle School, Port Huron
May 2	Swine, sheep and meat goat weigh-in for Fair at Goodells County Park
June 24-26	Expo Days
June 13	Rabbit Expo, MSU Campus
July 11	County Fair Shoot for muzzle loading, 5 stand, 3-D archery at 4 Square Sportsman's Club
July 12	County Fair Shoot for target archery at Goodells County Park
July 14-16	Ag Expo
July 18	County Fair Shoot for bb gun, pellet gun, .22 rifle, shotgun at Blue Water Sportsman's Club
July 27-Aug 1	4-H and Youth Fair

Getting Ready for the Rabbit Expo Contest

Attention Teen Leaders and Rabbit Leaders—Please share the following information with your rabbit members

Do you know your rabbit facts? Could you play a great round of rabbit Jeopardy? Do you know all of the rabbit breeds and their varieties? Can you tell them apart? If not, would you like to learn? Getting ready for the Rabbit Expo contests can be a fun way to learn all kinds of things about rabbits and covies (guinea pigs). To find out more and take the first step in being part of the St. Clair County Rabbit Expo teams. Join us **February 20, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at Goodells County Park**. We are looking for 4-H'ers from around the county to make up our teams and represent St. Clair County in a variety of contests on June 13th at MSU. If you are interested in being part of a team join us. If you are unable to make this meeting, contact Mary Taylor at (810) 987-9170 or at merataylor@advnet.net so that you can be notified of future meetings.

Thank You

Gilda Schott, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
St. Clair County MSU Extension

Fair Updates

Beef Project—Weigh In is Saturday, January 31, 2009 starting at 8am

For more information contact Bob Blumerich @ 810-395-2117

Swine Project—Weigh in is May 2, 2009. All market swine must have an average daily gain of 1.5 lbs. per day or greater in order to be eligible for the market swine class and the livestock sale. Market swine not meeting this requirement will be exhibited in the feeder pig class and not be eligible for auction at the fair. Swine weighing over 149.9 pounds at weight in will not be tagged and are not eligible for showing at the fair. Calculating this out, 85 days from the May 2nd weigh in to the July 26th fair dates, your swine must gain at least 129 pounds, in order to be eligible for the market swine class and sale.

Questions contact- Bernie Dudek @ 586-717-1632 or Rick Ruemenapp @ 586-725-7955

Shooting Sports – County Fair Shoot

Saturday - July 11, 2009 at 4 Square Sportsman's Club (muzzle loading, 5 stand, 3-D archery)

Sunday – July 12, 2009 at Goodells Park (target archery)

Saturday – July 18, 2009 at Blue Water Sportsman's Club (bb gun, pellet, .22, shotgun-trap, skeet)

For more information (gun disciplines) contact- Tim Warchuck at (810) 367-6956 or Joe Provost at (810) 367-6222. Information regarding archery contact Kim Carrier at (810) 325-1210 or Jenny Fox at (810) 384-6561.

“Earth Fair 2009: Get there, Get involved!”

Submitted by: Sheri Faust, Environmental Educator, St. Clair County Health Department

Millions have found ways to express their environmental commitments through Earth Day. What can you do locally for Earth Day? The answer is... sign your club up to participate in St. Clair County's 7th Annual Earth Fair! You can teach your children to make a difference in their schools, homes, and communities.

Earth Fair is held at Goodells County Park on Friday, April 17th from 11am – 6pm and Saturday, April 18th from 9am – 2pm.

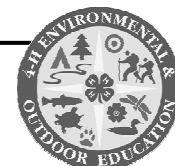
It's impossible to list everything you'll find at Earth Fair: conservation organizations, organic crop products, alternative energy vehicles, recycling information, alternative health care services, food vendors, wagon rides, live music and animals... the list goes on and on.

As an exhibitor you form the heart of our Earth Fair. For example, Clarence Van Camp and the Rustic Ramblers Entomology club have been participating the last few years with an awesome display, complete with reference guides, bug face painting, stickers and more. Your booth can be as complex or as simple as you like. To be an exhibitor, your club must provide a hands-on activity, information, or display that addresses something about the environment.

So, is Earth Fair right for you? **YES! YES! YES!** The intent of our event is education and inspiration: a visitor to your booth should be exposed to new resources and ideas that help them become a better, informed citizen of our earth. What better way to educate other youth than from the mouths of youths themselves! Sign up your 4-H club to be part of the movement and join the thousands of others that attend our two-day event ! We will help you pull together information, materials and resources, even help you brainstorm ideas, just call Sheri Faust at (810) 987-5306 or sfaust@hd.stclaircounty.org

Challenge members go to Planet Rock, Ann Arbor MI

Reported by Joe and Theresa Whitenight, Challenge Leaders



We had a terrific turn out for the Planet Rock climbing trip on December 29th. We think we had 65 in all; 15 from the new Memphis High School Challenge Club, TNT; three from the other side of the state; Rob Hewlett and his sons, Dakota and Cheyenne joined us from Caledonia. Five members of the Koehler family from Milford, Challenge instructor Paul and his sons, Sam, Noah and Ben, and Paul's daughter, Bree joined us. We were happy to have Bree, Sam and Paul as belayers. Finally, Challenge leader Scott Wiesler from Monroe came by and also helped us belay and watch the kids as they learned to belay. Several parents also joined us, Lori Warchuck, Josie Hendricks, Kevin Hauer, Todd & Jan Desloover, Ken Fountain, and Marv Kruckenberg. The newest Challenge members to join us for climbing were Abby Obrzut, Sarah Cornwell, Matt Hauer, Delaney Hendrix, Jordan Tranchida, Madison and MacKenzie Desloover. Some Rustic Ramblers also joined us, it was fun to have Justin and Katie along!

This was definitely the largest group we have ever taken to Planet Rock. The gym opened two hours early so our kids and adults could get their lessons done before the gym opened to the public. We pretty much had the place to ourselves until about 1 in the afternoon. The place looked empty when we all walked out at 3:45. The kids all did a fantastic job climbing, tying knots, learning to belay each other, helping each other climb, encouraging each other to overcome fears and just having a great time. I was a bit sore the next day and I know the kids were as well. It always makes me feel good when those much younger than I also have sore muscles after a day of climbing. The folks at Planet Rock did a fantastic job and we appreciate all they did to help us make this day possible for the club. The employees of Planet Rock made several comments about what a wonderful group of young people we had. They were impressed by the way the kids took the lessons seriously, did not horse around, were very polite and respectful to adults and each other. These comments make us very proud to be leaders! We hope the next trip will be just as good!

From the Forest to the Table 4-H Workshop



- Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9 am to 4 pm
- **Pre-register by February 23, 2009**
- Four Square Sportsman's Club, 6779 Cline Road, Grant Township, MI 48032
- Free to 4-H members and \$5 for non 4-H members ages 10-19 years old

The St. Clair County Shooting Sports 4-H leaders and volunteers present this workshop in cooperation with the 4-H Program Staff, DNR Officer Ben Lasher, and Four Square Sportsman's Club. Sessions include:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Ethics | Shot impact |
| Blood Trail tracking/shoot or don't shoot | Tree stand safety |
| Turkey, rabbit and deer processing | Compass Reading |
| Leave No Trace | Trap setting |
| Wilderness survival, lost in the woods; could you survive? | |

Other activities include:

- Gun Cleaning (guns provided-do not bring guns)
- Knife sharpening (bring your favorite hunting knife, learn how to properly sharpen-must be in a sheath or case)
- Raffle—lots of prizes
- Bring your favorite hunting hat for a chance at a prize
- If time allows hands on shooting (equipment and ammo will be supplied)

REMEMBER: Dress for the weather. We will be outside rain or shine.

Animal Mania, Saturday, March 14, 2009

- Saturday, March 14, 2009
- Noon to 4 pm
- McMorran Place Pavilion, Port Huron
- Free Admission, for adults and children of all ages

Modeled after Michigan State University's "Vet-A-Visit" program, this workshop is presented by Vet Quest and St. Clair County MSU Extension 4-H Program. Come explore the world of animals through interactive exhibits and demonstrations.

Financial sponsors include Port Huron Noon Optimist and Blue Water Area Humane Society. Donations of dog and cat food (canned or dry), collars (buckle, slip or training), leashes, can food lids, raw hide bones (American Made), bandanas, toys and treats will be accepted and distributed among rescue groups participating in Animal Mania.

Activities include:

- Stuffed animal clinic—bring or adopt a sick or injured stuffed animal to the clinic for suturing or diagnosis
- Microscope research
- Wool spinning
- Hatching Chicks
- Large livestock (where does food come from?) and pet animals
- Animal rescue groups
- Dog agility demonstrations
- And much, much more

For more information contact Lori Warchuck at (810) 989-6935 or Dr. Robyn Limberg-Child at deafdogdoc@hotmail.com or Wendy Mollan at 98100 984-2624

Be a part of International Programming

Reported by Mary Taylor

4-H offers you a world of opportunities, literally. You can travel around the world, meet people, get to experience other cultures. The International Programs allow you to also be an "arm chair traveler", by investigating other countries and cultures on your computer, through videos, books, etc. You can then exhibit the information you learned at the fair. You can also join a county-wide group who will be putting together an exhibit for the Port Huron Museum's International Festival in September. This group is going to learn how to do and instruct the Japanese Ribbon Dance so they can demonstrate it at the Festival. They will also be learning some other activities to showcase at the Festival. If you would like to be a part of this global group contact Mary Taylor at (810) 987-9270 or merataylor@advnet.net.

Poland Exchange Program

Michigan has available some wonderful international exchange opportunities. We have had the pleasure of having some of our St. Clair County families being hosts for Japanese exchanges with our LABO program. You will likely hear about this program in the coming months.

The 2009 Inbound Polish Exchange recruitment is now under way. This hosting opportunity targets teens, ages 14 to 19 as of January 1, 2009, from around Michigan to host students traveling here from Poland on June 26 to approximately July 21, 2009. The incoming group will spend June 24-26, 2009 at Exploration Days. Arrangements for travel from Exploration Days will be made with the counties that have hosting families.

Host families will be responsible for getting their Polish visitor to the airport for the return flight home.

All host families are required to attend an orientation meeting in the spring after the application deadline. The location will be based on the distribution of host families in the state.

In return, Host family students will be given the first opportunity to travel to Poland for a four-week exchange in June through July 2010.

If you are interested, please contact Gilda for information on getting an application. **Completed applications will be accepted until April 1, 2009.**

Horse Riding Helmets for sale at the MSU Extension office

The office has five Troxel horse riding helmets available for \$25.00 each. We have one extra-small; two smalls; and two mediums. The member will need to come in with an adult for correct sizing. Once a helmet is purchased, it cannot be exchanged. These are on a first come-first serve basis. Contact Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935 for more information.

4-H Spring Fling Horticulture/Entomology Workshop

- March 28, 2009 from 9:00 am to 2:30 p.m.
- MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building
- Games and more for kids 5-11 years old.

9:30 – 10:15 Welcome and Key Note Speaker - Room A149

Dr. Randy Beaudry, Acting Horticulture Department Chair and scientist will delight you with his humor and knowledge with his presentation: “The Tempting Apple: Aroma and Evolution in Eden”

Kids - Growing and Going the 4-H way. Many fun classes to choose from, you can pick three for a \$6.00 registration

Crops for Kids
Pieces and Parts New Plant Starts
Bees - What's all the Buzz About
Garden Scarecrows extra fee
Floral Design extra fee
Research at MSU - What's new?

Buzz on Biz
Story Time with Jessica
Good Bugs/Bad Bugs
Fancy Fruits extra fee
Bug Basics
Cooking from the Garden

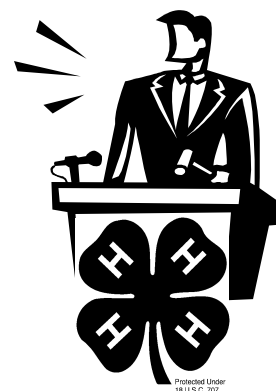
Please join us for a day of fun. For more information contact Gilda Schott at (810) 989-6935

4-H Leader's Auction February 28, 2009

Are you 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 27th from noon to 8 p.m. One Hundred percent of all the dollars raised through this effort goes back directly into the local program.



Winter Weather Advisory or Pets and Livestock

CONTACT: Jennifer Holton, 517-241-2485 or holtonj@michigan.gov

LANSING – With below freezing temperatures hitting Michigan, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) reminds animal owners that all pets and livestock must have feed, water, and shelter from the wind and other elements.

Companion animals, particularly dogs and cats, are also impacted by severe winter weather. Animals kept indoors may have great difficulty adjusting to outdoor winter temperatures. Other winter precautions for companion animals include ensuring:

- Access to fresh water that is not frozen
- Access to shelter that is dry and free of drafts
- Protection from de-icing chemicals, which can irritate skin; and antifreeze, which tastes sweet to animals, but is extremely toxic

Adopted by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for the Care of Farm Animals has specific guidance on cold weather care of livestock species. Some general precautions include:

- Ensuring access to water that is not frozen
- Increasing feed to provide the energy bodies need to stay warm
- Providing shelter to allow animals to escape the wind and heavy snow
- Caution around icy areas to prevent falls and injuries

For more information, visit MDA's Web site at michigan.gov/gaamps

NOTE: on the St. Clair County Website <http://msue.stclaircounty.org> (under current events) is a Weather Advisory for Horses.

The Michigan Film Office is looking for agricultural locations to be used in feature films. There would be no "Field of Dreams" without the field. From your historic family farm house, to livestock barns, and crop fields the Michigan Film Office is reaching out to our rural land owners to find locations for this growing industry. Complete information on how to make your property available is on our website at <http://msue.stclaircounty.org/> on the Agriculture and Natural Resource page titled Michigan Film Office – Moovie Announcement.

Get your copy of Clover Country: Songs from famous 4-H Alumni like Dolly Parton, Martina McBride, Faith Hill, Vince Gill, Alabama and more. Only \$10.00. While supplies last, at the MSU Extension Office

4-H STAFF

Gilda Schott, Extension Educator
Lori Warchuck, Program Assistant
Liane Allen, Program Assistant
Therese McKernan, Program Assistant
Christine Sulter, Program Assistant

OTHER MSU EXTENSION STAFF

James W. Ribbron
 County Extension Director
Kimberly Mihelich
 Extension Educator, FCS
Terri Tabacco
 County Extension Educator, FCS

3 male black lab pups with no papers that need a home we were asking \$40 but we would like them to go to good home, so if a 4-her is looking for a nice puppy We would consider donating the dog to them call Janet (810)327-6276

SCC AGRICULTURE 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

This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

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 Dr. Robyn Limberg-Child for more info and pricing: email deafdogdoc@hotmail.com or 810-326-0360