A Letter from Les

Warmest Fall wishes to you and yours– I hope you are able to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather as well as prepare for the marathon that is the impending Michigan winter. Personally, this is my favorite time of year as it offers a chance to replace the lawnmower with the chainsaw, the golf clubs with the hunting gear and the Tiger ball cap with the stocking hat. For me, fall is also cider presses, jack-o-lanterns, maple leaves, football (and futbal) and spending time in the woods.

In 4-H, Fall is a time for getting re-started– it’s the revival of 4-H club meetings, the renewal of completed projects and the start of new ones. Some clubs will wait until the winter or spring months to start and some clubs have already finished for the year. Regardless, Fall is a wonderful time to look at where you’re headed and decide the best way to get there. But don’t forget to stop and enjoy today– and so whatever your passion this fall, make time to pursuit it.

Best wishes for the new 4-H Year,

Les

2015 4-H Showcase in Stores Across the County!

The newest Alcona 4-H Showcase has recently finished production and is turning heads as it features a new and improved format. This year’s annual 4-H promotion tool boasts a clean, super-shiny magazine format and is 28 pages of Alcona clubs, events, awards winners and sponsoring businesses.

The production is the result of the effort of numerous club volunteers that took and submitted photos, as well as 4-H staff at events and ultimately is reflective of the hard work (and fun) that the youth of the program had all year.

The cost to create the publication was covered mostly with local advertising– as well as a contribution from the 4-H Advisory Council. We want to be sure to thank those businesses and individuals that supported the piece that is offered to you, free of charge.

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Help MSU Extension Sharpen Its Focus!
Michigan State University Extension has long been a source of information and education for Michigan residents. To help define the needs and priorities of those residents, MSU Extension professionals throughout the state are asking Michigan citizens to help them determine where they should place their future emphasis through a short online survey.

Michigan 4-H parents, alums and volunteers (anyone over the age of 18) are encouraged to take the survey, located at [http://bit.ly/1QtlhL6](http://bit.ly/1QtlhL6). Although not collected in the survey, input from youth will be solicited through a series of face-to-face meetings.

### 4-H Workshops

**December 8:** North Central Region 4-H Volunteer E-Forum  
[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/north_central_region_4_h_volunteer_e_forum](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/north_central_region_4_h_volunteer_e_forum)  
Online

**January 8-10, 2016:** Michigan 4-H Horse Judges & Show Superintendents Conference  
[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_horse_judges_and_show_managers_conference1](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_horse_judges_and_show_managers_conference1)  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

**January 30-31:** 4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular  
[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_youth_leadership_global_citizenship_spectacular](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_youth_leadership_global_citizenship_spectacular)  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

**February 5-6:** 4-H Horse Judging Workshop & Mini Contest  
Contact Taylor Fabus ([tenlenta@msu.edu](mailto:tenlenta@msu.edu))  
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

**February 6-7:** 4-H Winterfest  
[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_winterfest16](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_winterfest16)  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

**February 19-20:** 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

**February 20-21:** 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

**February 26-28:** Teen & Adult 4-H Horse Leaders Workshop  
Contact Taylor Fabus ([tenlenta@msu.edu](mailto:tenlenta@msu.edu))  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

### Other 4-H Events

**January 10, 2016:** 4-H Day at the Breslin  
Contact Gail Hebert ([hebertg@msu.edu](mailto:hebertg@msu.edu))  
Breslin Center, MSU, East Lansing

**January 29-31:** Green & White Youth Event & Open Hog Show  
Contact Carla McLachlan ([mclachl2@msu.edu](mailto:mclachl2@msu.edu))  
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

**January 30:** 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show  
[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_rabbit_and_cavy_show](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_rabbit_and_cavy_show)  
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events)
School Gardens: The New “In” Thing for Schools

School gardens are making headlines as they become the new “in” thing for schools.

While school gardens were once thought of as an “extra” busy activity and only for schools in warm climates, today they are in the mainstream, as research is demonstrating that, among other things:

• Schools are using gardens in creative ways to improve academic test scores in science, math, social studies and art (http://bit.ly/IVSOrF5).
• Other benefits that school gardens provide to students include:
  ° Improved classroom behavior
  ° Valuable life skills such as higher-level conflict resolution, problem solving and thinking and
• School gardens are reportedly helping combat childhood obesity (http://bit.ly/ljoJcks).
• School garden programs have a positive effect not only on students, but also on school staff, families and communities (http://bit.ly/lhEAluo).

Michigan 4-H (http://4h.msue.msu.edu) and the Michigan 4-H Children’s Garden (http://4hgarden.cowplex.com) are eager to embrace this innovative trend, and to work with county Extension staff, schools and partners to:

• Share the research behind this growing movement
• Inform others about tried and true best practices, and
• Introduce exciting new programs.

One of these new programs is Texas A & M University’s (http://www.tamu.edu) Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! (LGEG) (http://jmgkids.us/lgeg) program. LGEG is the new research- and evidence-based curriculum project of the International Junior Master Gardener® Program (http://jmgkids.us). It is an interdisciplinary program that combines academic achievement, gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity, and school and family engagement.

Join us at Kettunen Center (http://kettunencenter.org) from March 11 to 12, 2016 for a special, fun-filled, information-packed training for Extension staff, teachers and volunteers that features the Learn Grow Eat & Go curriculum to use in schools, after-school programs, 4-H and partner programs. Find out more about this exciting new program and the training from your local 4-H staff (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county) or Extension Specialist Dixie Sandborn (dixie@msu.edu).

Additional information about the benefits of school gardens is available from:

Alcona County 4-H’ers Earn Recognition at County Fair

Though it seems like months and months ago (because it was) an awards ceremony was held at the Alcona County Fair to recognize the efforts of some awesome youth members. The program opens with recognition of Project medals—awards won for work in a specific project area—like shooting sports or poultry. These recipients must be at least 9 years old and have a full year of experience in the area prior to being nominated. A youth cannot be awarded in two consecutive years for the same award.

This year’s project winners were: Beef—Matt MacMaster, Trenton Schnabel and Autumn Schwarz Sheep—Abby Lobaugh and Jennifer Tait Goat—Seth Tulgetske Dairy—Sara Sweet Archery—Patrick Bates, Andrew Gull, Hazel Gull and Chris Kamischke Rabbit—Cheyenne Appleton, Nelson French, Emily Lobaugh, Trenton Schnabel and Autumn Schwarz Horse—Cheyenne Appleton and Maddie Lane Arts and Crafts—Victoria Burns, Abby Lobaugh, Emily Lobaugh and Amanda Phillips Community Service—Emily Lobaugh and Ben Thomas Poultry—Gracie Brittain, Nelson French, Matt Good, Alex Stephenson and Zach Stephenson Swine—Gracie Brittain, Victoria Burns, Layla Carriveau, Kayla Escareno, Daniel Fulsher, Maddie Lane, Abby Lobaugh, Maire MacMaster and Amanda Phillips.

The highly contested County Awards can only be given to a youth once in their lifetime and are acknowledged with a golden medallion and in some cases, a cash prize. This year’s top winners included: Leadership—Alex Stephenson (top left) Citizenship—Maire MacMaster (l) and Victoria Burns (r) (middle right) and Achievement—Cheyenne Appleton (middle left).

This year’s 4-H’er of the Year honors went to Seth Tulgetske, son of Melissa and James June of Glennie. Seth’s accomplishments throughout his 4-H career include mastery of various livestock projects, completion of countless hours of community service, participation in numerous statewide events and providing leadership at 4-H camp for two years. His medallion was accompanied by a check for $50, courtesy of the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council.

Matt MacMaster, son of Dr. Jaci Fitzgerald and Dr. John MacMaster of Harrisville, was named the Junior 4-H Member of the Year. Matt’s involvement in the county program has been in several areas of interest, including livestock, shooting sports and Amateur Radio. In 2014, Matt became one of the youngest HAM radio operators in Alcona county and is currently a volunteer member of the Alcona Amateur Radio League (AARL). In addition to his medallion, Matt will receive a $25 cash award, courtesy of the 4-H Advisory Council.

The first step to winning an award is getting involved! Contact the MSU Extension Office to find out how!

4-H’ers are:

- **Four times** more likely to make contributions to their communities (Grades 7-12);
- **Two times** more likely to be civically active (Grades 8-12);
- **Two times** more likely to make healthier choices (Grade 7);
- **Two times** more likely to participate in Science, Engineering and Computer Technology programs during out-of-school time (Grades 10 – 12); and
- 4-H girls are **two times** more likely at grade 10 and nearly **three times** more likely at grade 12 to take part in science programs compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

Source: The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development
4-H Online Re-enrollment is a Snap!

As families all dived in to enrolling youth through the new 4-H Online system last year, we knew the reenrollment process would prove to be very easy when that time came around. I am pleased (and a little relieved) to say that it was very true! Re-enrollment in 4-H clubs really is a snap and can be completed in a few easy steps:

1) Log-in to: https://mi.4honline.com using the name and password you created last year. Do NOT create a new one. If you forgot your password, please follow those directions to have it reset.

2) Chose a member (or leader) to re-enroll and follow the prompts through the screens. Remember to update phone numbers, email address, mailing address as well as any health information that may have changed since you first registered.

3) There are once again spaces for digital signatures where the youth and/or adult will need to type in names in the blank. Some options you can refuse, but you will still need to type in your name.

4) Check the clubs that you were in last year— if you are not making any changes, leave that alone. If you are, add or delete the clubs from the drop down menu.

5) Add any projects that you are working on in your club(s). This is a very important step and it’s important to add ALL of the projects you are involved in, in each club. You do not need to add any groups or activities to your record.

6) Simply hit “submit” and I will get a notice that you have re-enrolled. Once I receive notice from your leader that you have paid your member fee (or if I receive it directly from you) I will approve your record and everything will be set for another year!

It is crucial that you register (or re-enroll) before your second club meeting. If you have an issue with payment of the Michigan 4-H enrollment fee, please do not hesitate to contact me. Scholarship support for the $10 fee is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is available to any family that is eligible to receive free or reduced lunch. It is not our intention that the fee will be a barrier to anyone participating in our programs.

Did you know that 4-H is the nation’s largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering six million young people in the U.S.

In partnership with 110 universities, 4-H life changing programs are research-backed & available through 4-H clubs, camps, after-school & school enrichment programs in every county & parish in the U.S.

4-H is the youth development program of our nation’s Cooperative Extension System & USDA.

Source: National 4-H Website
http://www.4-h.org/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Dues</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Primary Leader</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcona Archery Club</td>
<td>Shooting Sports</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>$2/wk</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Jan 7th</td>
<td>Tom Keerl</td>
<td>(989)724-6804</td>
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<td>Ace Riders</td>
<td>Horse &amp; Livestock</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesdays</td>
<td>Shannon Rifenbark</td>
<td>(989)464-9307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcona Softball</td>
<td>Softball, leadership</td>
<td>6th-8th grades</td>
<td>tba</td>
<td>Alcona Schools</td>
<td>tba Mar-Apr?</td>
<td>Ed Schmitz</td>
<td>(989)736-8447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcona Strikers</td>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>7-14</td>
<td>$6.00/wk</td>
<td>Harrisville Bowling Alley</td>
<td>Jan 7th</td>
<td>Frank Belloli</td>
<td>(989)724-6433</td>
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<td>Alcona Soccer</td>
<td>Soccer, Leadership, Nutrition</td>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>$35/season 20/second season</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>Kristin Hoffman</td>
<td>(989)335-0398</td>
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<td>All Around Horses R Us</td>
<td>Horse &amp; Home Arts</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>2nd Sun Dec 2015</td>
<td>Sue Schmitz</td>
<td>(989)736-8447</td>
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<td>Apple Hill Variety</td>
<td>Beef &amp; Livestock</td>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mikado</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Jaci Fitzgerald, Lisa Stephenson</td>
<td>(989)370-1833</td>
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<td>Bird Brains</td>
<td>Woodworking &amp; Comm Service</td>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mikado</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Kevin and Deb Boyat</td>
<td>(989)335-0307</td>
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<td>Crafts &amp; Critters</td>
<td>Beef &amp; Livestock</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Glennie</td>
<td>tba</td>
<td>Elaine McGuire</td>
<td>(989)735-2094</td>
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<td>Dairy Heirs</td>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Harrisville</td>
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<td>Katie Dellar</td>
<td>335-0879</td>
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<td>HAM Radio</td>
<td>Emergency Radio</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Harrisville EOC Bldg</td>
<td>Jan-tba</td>
<td>Stan Darmofal</td>
<td>(989)724-5550</td>
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<td>Horsin' Around</td>
<td>Horse, Livestock</td>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Glennie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Petty, Melissa June</td>
<td>(989)735-3585</td>
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<td>Jolly Rogers</td>
<td>Rabbit, Recreational</td>
<td>6-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Harrisville</td>
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<td>Judy French</td>
<td>(989)335-1601</td>
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<td>Rolling Hills Variety</td>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mikado</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy Labeau</td>
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<td>Shoot What 4-H Variety Club</td>
<td>Pellet gun/Small Livestock</td>
<td>9-19</td>
<td>tba</td>
<td>Glennie</td>
<td>Pellet coming soon!</td>
<td>Jennifer Harte</td>
<td>(989)305-2139</td>
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<td>Student Stewards</td>
<td>Environmental Stewardship, Community Service</td>
<td>9-14</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Harrisville</td>
<td>FULL-Contact leader to be added to wait list.</td>
<td>Tracy D'Augustino</td>
<td>(989)724-9909</td>
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<td>Alcona 4-H Advisory Council</td>
<td>Leadership, fundraising</td>
<td>11-adult</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advisor Les Thomas</td>
<td>989-724-6478</td>
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</table>
Summers are never long enough, but you can make the most of them when you attend a 4-H summer program! Youth attend various events and programs either on a local, regional or statewide scope and always make lots of memories. **Above**– Summer camp Fur, Fins and Feathers participants had a great time learning about various animals and their habitats. **Right**– Youth and adults stayed three days and two nights on the campus of Michigan State University during the annual statewide Exploration Days program; taking classes, making new friends and learning about the life of a college student.

Alcona 7th graders spent one of their last school days on the grounds of Negwegon State Park last June. The students learned about the various natural elements while taking part in an invasive species eradication– pulling Spotted Knapweed in the dune and parking lot areas.

Participants in the 2nd Annual Dodgeball tournament during the Summer 4-H Expo had to duck and dodge their way through a double elimination tournament bracket. The recreational program was held during the 4-H Expo– designed to connect the 4-H program as a whole to the public. In addition to club and community displays, the day offered free event t-shirts, children’s books as well as lunch– all provided by the 4-H Advisory Council.