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Thank you to all our 4-H volunteers, we appreciate all you do for the Calhoun County 4-H youth program!

2016 Theme: Youth: Chasing Their Dreams!

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Local Volunteer Wins State 4-H Award

The Michigan 4-H Youth Development Program announced the winners of the inaugural Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award with the youth winner being Cassie Holladay of Oceana County.

**Calhoun County is very proud to share that the adult winner is Mary Adams**, a 4-H leader from right here in Calhoun County. Mary has been involved in 4-H for more than 30 years. Her nominator, Michelle Barnes, mentioned that she’s an energetic, dedicated, and full of life supporter of 4-H. It was made clear that Mary’s involved in 4-H to help all youth, no matter what club they’re a part of.

Michigan 4-H volunteers and teen leaders work with 4-H youth to teach outstanding sportsmanship in competitive environments. They focus on four areas:

1. Displaying respect for animals by exercising good animal management through proper healthcare and nutrition, as well as fair training practices.
2. Displaying respect for opponents by recognizing and appreciating a well-prepared, challenging opponent who can bring out the best in them and share that appreciation with their opponents.
3. Displaying respect for the “game” by respecting and following the rules of the event. This also includes always trying one’s best, using skill and training to achieve positive results, and appreciating the training process.
4. Displaying respect for others including judges, show managers, parents, trainers, coaches and leaders.

“Michigan 4-H is proud to have individuals like Cassie and Mary representing the Animal Science programs,” states a press release from the Michigan State University Extension Office. “It’s because of commitment and dedication like theirs that 4-H is able to provide positive experiences to youth and adults throughout the state.”

Michigan State University 4-H Youth Development is available to all youth ages 5-19. For more information about the Calhoun County 4-H Program, contact MSU Extension office at 269-781-0784.

**Important Volunteer Update**

**WHAT**: Join Kathy Fischer and other MSU Extension Staff for a Volunteer Update with some learning and fun!

**WHEN**: Thursday, January 14th at 6:30 pm

**WHERE**: Calhoun County Garden Level Conference Room 1-400 in the County Building

**WHY**: Enjoy the company of other Volunteer Leaders dedicated to Calhoun County 4-H while you learn some new things and are reminded of some old. This is sure to be a fun filled evening you won’t want to miss!

**4-H Capitol Experience**

4-H Capitol Experience ([http://bit.ly/12lMMg8](http://bit.ly/12lMMg8)) is an annual four-day conference that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. Up to 100 teens from around the state meet in Lansing, Michigan to: 1. Understand the responsibilities of a citizen. 2. Explore different aspects of a policy issue that may affect individuals and their communities. 3. Explore various careers in public policy. 4. Attend bill writing session. 5. Have an in-depth meeting with someone in (or involved with) state government.

**When and where**: March 20 to 23, 2016. Tours and agency visits will take place at the State Capitol and surrounding area.

**Who should attend**: High school students at least 14 years old and adult participant-chaperones. All participants must have pictured identification.

**Cost**: $315 4-H and Michigan Farm Bureau members, $325 non 4-H members. Includes all meals, lodging and material fees. All registrations must be paid in full by February 12, 2016.

**Registration deadlines**: Registration is collected online via a secure web-based platform. All registrations must be paid in full by February 12, 2016 or risk being cancelled to make space for the youth on the waitlist.

If you have any questions on the registration process, contact the MSU Extension office at 269-781-0784.
4-H Statewide and Local Program Events

State 4-H Awards Program Information

This is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth. This program is for 4-H youth aged 13 and up with at least three years of 4-H experience. All youth who meet these requirements are encouraged to apply. Youth compete in 19 different award areas showcasing their knowledge, skills and experiences.

To apply, youth submit the State 4-H Awards application to State4HAwards@anr.msu.edu by February 1. Applications are carefully reviewed by selection committees and delegates are announced by March 15. Delegates are invited to participate in either an advanced leadership development program (juniors), competitive interviews (seniors) or presentations (groups) during 4-H Exploration Days on June 24. State 4-H Award winners will be announced at the 4-H Recognition Program, held at the prestigious Huntington Club in Spartan Stadium, June 24 during 4-H Exploration Days.

For more information please don’t hesitate to call our office at 269-781-0784 or attend the State Awards Help Session (see information below).

State Awards Help Session Scheduled

Join Kathy Fischer, 4-H Program Coordinator on January 7th for a State Awards Help Session. The session is being held at the Calhoun County Garden Level Conference Room 1-400, 6:00 pm Kathy will be going over the application process and will help you work on filling out forms.

The purpose of this awards program is to recognize 4-H youth for engaging in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development. Michigan 4-H members currently enrolled in a county 4-H program and are 11 to 19 years of age (as of January 1, 2016) are eligible for the program. The State Awards Recognition Program is divided into three age divisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicants who are</th>
<th>Are eligible for this division</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 to 12 years old</td>
<td>Mark of Excellence Essay Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 to 15 years old</td>
<td>Junior State Awards (state awards application and leadership development program)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 to 19 years old</td>
<td>Senior State Awards (state awards application and interview)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 to 19 year old</td>
<td>Group Awards (group awards application and presentation)</td>
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For more information visit: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/awards_scholarships/4-h_recognition_program

4-H Entrepreneurship Club Being Planned Again for 2016

4-H Entrepreneurship Club is for High School Students Grades 9th thru 12th.

The classes will begin on February 8th at 6:30 pm. If interested in learning more please contact Kathy Fischer, 4-H Program Coordinator at the Calhoun County MSU Extension Office: 269-781-0784. The Generation E Showcase is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Plans for 4-H Exploration Days have begun

June 22-24, 2016 Michigan State University

This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life! About 2,500 youth (ages 11-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually.

Visit the webpage at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days

What is Exploration Days like?

- There’ll be more than 200 session choices held on and off campus. You’ll choose one or two for your three-day stay.
- You’ll live in a Michigan State University dorm and eat in the cafeteria—just like MSU students do.
- Sessions are taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members and other experts.
- It’s not all sessions! There’s plenty of time for fun, including swimming, skating, souvenir shopping, exploring, bowling, basketball—even a great dance Thursday night.
- The 2015 cost is $165 per person. There is an additional $10 4-H participation fee for youth not yet enrolled in 4-H. The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. You may wish to check with your county MSU Extension office to see if scholarship funds are available.

4-H Exploration Days registration goes from mid-March through April with session assignments made on a first-come, first-served basis. As you select your session choices, be sure to watch for age restrictions! Age requirements for sessions are based on your age as of January 1.

Contact the 4-H staff in Calhoun County at 269-781-0784 for more information on 4-H Exploration Days, and any specific details pertaining to your county’s delegation.
Statewide Calendar of Events

4-H Workshops

January 13: Michigan 4-H Embryology Program Coordinator and Volunteer Training
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=Embryology
Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, East Lansing

January 15-18: National Youth Summit on Agri-Science
National 4-H Conference Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland

January 30-31: 4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular
http://bit.ly/1Xc491o
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 5-6: 4-H/MQHA Horse Judging Workshop & Mini Contest
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

February 6-7: 4-H Winterfest
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=winterfest16
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 13-14: Junior Master Gardener Workshop
Contact Dixie Sandborn (dixie@msu.edu)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 19-20: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=4HBeefSheepSwineandVetScience
Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 11-13: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/Michigan_4-H_Dairy_Conference
Beechpoint Christian Camp, 3212 125th Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010

April 22-April 24: MI 4-H Shooting Sports Adult & Teen Instructor’s Cert. Workshop
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/michigan_4_h_shooting_sports_adult_teen_instructors_certification_workshop
Kettunen Center, I4901 4-H Drive, Tustin, MI, 49688

Other 4-H Events

January 7th at 6:00 pm. Calhoun County MSU Extension 4-H State Awards Help Session
Calhoun County Building, Garden Level Conference Room 1-400

January 14th at 6:30 pm. Calhoun County MSU Extension Volunteer Update
Calhoun County Building, Garden Level Conference Room 1-400

January 16, 2016: 4-H Day at the Breslin to cheer on the Spartan Women’s Basketball team. Tickets are free for 4-H youth and their families, 4-H volunteers, and MSU Extension staff members and their families. Breslin Center, MSU, East Lansing

January 29-31: Green & White Youth Event & Open Hog Show
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

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

Beginning on February 8th: 4-H Entrepreneurship Club
4-H Entrepreneurship Club is for High School Students Grades 9th thru 12th. Calhoun County Building, Garden Level Conference Room 1-400, 6:30 pm

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to:
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events

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 is asking them to take a short online survey that will help determine where to place future emphasis.

Michigan 4-H parents, alums and volunteers (anyone over the age of 18) are asked to take the survey located at (http://bit.ly/1QtlhL6). The deadline is January 31, 2016.

Prior interaction with MSU Extension is not required; so, please share this opportunity with friends and family.

Although not collected in the survey, input from youth will be solicited through a series of face-to-face meetings.