With the first month of serving as your 4-H program coordinator already past, I feel it is time to introduce myself to all of you! January was spent enjoying getting to know more about the ins and outs of the Iosco County 4-H program and all of the dedicated volunteers that help make it possible. I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to get to know and work with all of you.

Working together we can make your terrific program even stronger and give the youth of Iosco County more opportunities in 4-H. I hope to spend my first year here getting to know the program, people and experience as much of the happenings in Iosco County as possible.

Growing up surrounded by 4-H and my past positions with the organization make me very passionate about the 4-H program and excited to see what we can accomplish over the next few years to better our youth and community.

The office will be compiling and sending out these monthly newsletters as one way to rebuild communication and to keep you all abreast of the happenings in 4-H Land! Do you have any ideas on new ways to expand the program or unique opportunities for 4-H members? On behalf of the 4-H program as a whole I welcome any and all suggestions.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call or stop by the office. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and Iosco County! Just a reminder the MSU Extension Office is open 8:30 AM– 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM- 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

Don’t forget that 4-H Club Activities are cancelled if school is cancelled.
The Michigan 4-H Staff statewide work very hard all year to provide the 4-H members and volunteers with as many leadership opportunities as possible. Throughout the next few months there are an abundance of workshops available to all Iosco County 4-H members and volunteers. Below is a list of all the workshops and dates. More information about all of these workshops can be found by visiting the Michigan 4-H website http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule. Please keep in mind that the Iosco County 4-H Leaders’ Council has partial scholarships available for you to attend these workshops. Kelli will be trying to attend as many of these workshops as possible and if she is going there will be possibilities of carpooling together to save the 4-H members and volunteers the cost of transportation to and from the Kettunen Center. Do you know what the Kettunen Center is? If not check out their website by visiting http://www.kettunencenter.org/ to learn all about this hidden 4-H treasure located in Tustin, MI!

February 2-3: 2013 Winterfest
February 22-23: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Volunteer Leader Workshop
February 23-24: 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Volunteer Leader Workshop
March 1-3: 4-H Recreational Leadership Workshop
March 9-10: 4-H Science Adult and Teen Volunteer Workshop
March 15-17: 4-H Environmental and Outdoor Education/Plant Science and Entomology Workshop

The Michigan State Awards program is an award program designed to recognize Michigan 4-H members, aged 13-19 (by January 1, 2013), and 4-H clubs, for their accomplishments through their county 4-H program. 4-H members may compete either as an individual or in a group award in numerous project areas. To participate in the program, 4-H members must complete an award application and submit it to the MSU Extension Office by March 1, 2013. After you turn in your portfolio it will be submitted to the regional review team and then selected regional delegates will go on to compete at the state award program held during Exploration Days at Michigan State University. State level participants will go through an interview process and then the project area winners will be recognized on stage at the State Award Celebration. To help our 4-H members with the application process and to provide more information on what all applying for a State Award entails there will be a State Awards Workshop held at the Iosco County MSU Extension Office on Saturday, February 16th from 1:00-3:00 PM. Any 4-H members interested in attending this free workshop need to call the MSU Extension Office at (989) 362-3449 to register. The MSU Extension Office also has copies of the applications and instructions available.

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4-H Volunteer Opportunities

The only way to continue to strengthen the Iosco County 4-H Program is to provide the 4-H members with more project areas. We are currently looking to reestablish four previously active clubs so that the youth of Iosco County do not miss out. In prior years Iosco County has had active Canine, Vet Science, Hippology and Archery Clubs. For various reasons the volunteers of these clubs are unable to continue to head up these projects. We are hoping you can all pool your resources to help us find some GREAT volunteers. To become a volunteer in the 4-H Youth Development Program, volunteers must first go through a screening process followed by an orientation if they meet all of the qualifications. Once this is complete the staff at the MSU Extension Office will work with the club to recruit members and publicize the projects. If you or anyone you know would be interested in sharing your talents to better the kids in Iosco County please call the office today! We cannot have a program without our volunteers!
4-H Cake-N-Rake Fundraiser Auction

Attention all 4-H members! Do you want to participate in one or more of the many fun and exciting 4-H summer programs that are offered including summer camp and Exploration Days? Does the cost of these events scare you away? Many of the Iosco County 4-H volunteers are here to help you! They are devising many different fundraising opportunities to help you go to these events at little to no out of pocket cost to you and your family. The first fundraiser will be the Cake-N-Rake Auction. This auction will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Plainfield Township Hall. 4-H members will be able to bake and decorate a cake that will first be judged and then auctioned off with funds being divided evenly among all participants for their summer adventures. Following this there will be a worker bee auction that is for 4-H members aged 13 and older. These members will be sold as a worker for a 4 hour shift and in turn they will be able to put the money they bring in towards the event of their choice. For more information on these events please contact the event coordinators Susie Colvin (989) 873-3312 and Carla Johnson (989) 965-0199. Please look for more fundraising opportunities in the March Newsletter along with partial scholarship opportunities.

4-H Day with the Lady Spartans

GO GREEN GO WHITE- Thousands will be on hand March 3rd at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center at Michigan State University to celebrate Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development at the eighth annual "MSUE 4-H Day with the Lady Spartans." As a way to recognize and celebrate Michigan 4-H programs, 4-H members and their families are encouraged to attend the final home game of the Spartan women's basketball team's season as they take on the University of Wisconsin's Lady Badgers. Admission is free for 4-H families, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Call or email the office for more information about tickets today!

4-H Discovery Camp

4-H Discovery Camp Is Coming, June 24 to 28

4-H Discovery Camp, held on the Michigan State University campus, is an interactive, precollege program, open to 13-19 year old youth who are interested in exploring Michigan resources in a social setting. Campers team up with leading researchers at MSU who are developing innovations in biofuel production and technology that offer alternatives to fossil-based fuels. Space for the camp is limited and campers are chosen on the basis of their submitted applications. Applications are available online and they are due to Jacob DeDecker at the State 4-H Office by April 19. For more information on MSU Extension's 4-H Discovery Camp program, visit http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_discovery_camp.

4-H Capitol Experience

Practice Active Citizenship at 4-H Capitol Experience

Teens from around the state have the chance to participate in a 4-day conference, 4-H Capitol Experience, focusing on civic engagement and public policy. Open to high school students 14 years and older, the event will take place March 17 to 20 at the State Capitol in Lansing and surrounding areas. Adult participants and chaperones are also welcome to attend. Since space is limited to 100 teens and chaperones, selection is made through an application process and registration is due to the State 4-H Office by February 13, apply today by calling (989) 362-3449. More information is available at http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/news/article/youth_practice_active_citizenship_at_4_h_capitol_experience.
4-H International Opportunities

The world is changing rapidly and to keep up, we must learn to understand new cultures and languages and be willing to accept all people, along with their different cultures, customs and values. Through 4-H international exchanges, we hope to not only increase the friendship between people in Michigan and other countries, but also to help young people around the world develop an international outlook. Michigan 4-H Youth Development offers many opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges for Michigan young people and their families. Each year, Michigan 4-H families host international visitors from various countries including Japan, Norway, Finland, Belize, Poland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Camaroon and Australia. Host families typically include a young person of the same sex or general age group as the visitor. International visitors usually are with families from three to five weeks, with the exception of some year-long stays. There are outbound exchange opportunities for our 4-H members to travel as well. If you are interested in travelling as part of the 4-H program please contact Kelli today and she will help coordinate this life-changing experience with you. To learn more about these and other exchange opportunities visit http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/international_exchange_programs.

2013 4-H Poultry Palooza

Save the Date! The 2013 4-H Poultry Palooza is set for May 4th at the Gratiot County Fair. Classes being offered this year include breed judging and showmanship. In addition there will be many contests to compete in including a quiz bowl, judging contest, skill-a-thon, egg preparations, and Chicken/Turkey BBQ. This year the cost will be $3.00 per class and a $5 entry fee. This event is open to all 4-H members aged 9-19 as of 1/1/2013. To find out more please call the event coordinator Katie VanderKolk at (517) 432-5270.

Iosco 4-H is on Facebook

The best way to stay up to date on all of the happenings in 4-H Land is by “Liking” the Iosco County 4-H Facebook page. This page is updated almost daily with new and upcoming events. Many of the 4-H clubs also have Facebook groups that serve as a way of staying connected with everyone. Be sure to ask your club leader if your club has a group.

Iosco County 4-H Shirts

Looking for a way to show your Iosco County 4-H pride? The Iosco County 4-H Leaders’ Council has t-shirts available for purchase. These shirts are available for $5.00 each at the MSU Extension Office. All monies collected for these shirts will be used to fund additional projects sponsored by the council.
4-H Summer Camp Counselors Needed

We will be Movin’ & Groovin’ at this year’s 4-H camp for 8-12 year olds! Camp is set for June 12-14, 2013 at the beautiful YMCA Camp Timbers in Clear Lake. To make sure this camp can happen we need teen 4-H members to serve as camp counselors. Teens aged 15-19 as of January 1, 2013 are eligible to apply to be counselors. Applications are due back to the MSU Extension Office by February 27, 2013. There is a mandatory camp counselor training being held at the Ogemaw County MSU Extension Office from 9:00 AM-1:30 PM on March 9, 2013. If you would like more information please call Kelli directly at (989) 984-1057. If your high school requires volunteer hours as a graduation requirement this will count towards those hours!

4-H Mark of Excellence

4-H members between the ages of 11-12 years of age may participate in a 4-H essay contest. 4-H members will have the opportunity to share their 4-H experiences with other 4-H youth in their county and across the state. Interested 4-H’ers will write an essay focusing on the theme “Because of 4-H, I Can...”. Each county may select up to two representatives to be recognized during the State Awards Celebration at MSU in June during 4-H Exploration Days. Participation in 4-H Exploration Days is not required but is strongly encouraged. For more information and the entry deadline, you can contact Kelli Rau, 4-H Coordinator, at the Iosco County MSU Extension Office at (989) 984-1057.

New 4-H Club

There is a new 4-H Club starting soon in Iosco County! The Iosco County 4-H Dairy Club is currently recruiting members and getting ready to start their group. This club is open to all children between the ages of 5 and 19 years old as of January 1, 2013. Participants do not need to have any experience with dairy animals, nor do they have to have their own animal. This group will focus on learning all about the dairy project as well as having an educational component of taking field trips to dairy facilities. The group will highlight their year by exhibiting dairy calves at the 2013 Iosco County Fair. If you would like more information or want to register for this project please stop by the office today!

4-H Club Looking to Start

The Tawas area Durangos Horse Club will have a new look this year! The club has a new leader, Kara Hauff and they will be having their first meeting on February 13th at Grant Township Hall. The fee to join this group is $10.00 and is due at registration for new members only. The club will be covering the cost of the fee for last year’s members. If you have any questions please call the 4-H club leader Kara Hauff at (989) 820-5661. The club will be meeting the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

4-H Member Spotlight

A HUGE Congratulations goes out to Haley Kopkau. Haley, a member of the Blue Ribbon Riders Horse Club was one of ten Michigan 4-H teens selected to represent Iosco County and the Michigan 4-H program in the 36th Annual 4-H Benefit Ride.
2013 4-H State Goat Expo

MSU Extension Staff has set the date for this year’s State 4-H Goat Expo! Be sure to mark your calendars to attend on **April 13th**! The State 4-H Goat Expo is designed for young people who are interested in live animal evaluation and in testing their knowledge of the goat (Caprine) industry in a fun and educational manner. This event includes contests in judging, quiz bowl, skill-a-thon, creative writing and problem-solving. State 4-H Goat Expo events are open to participants aged 9 to 19 by January 1 of the current year. You must be a 4-H member but you don’t have to be enrolled in a 4-H goat project to compete. Some contests are designed for both team and individual competition. For more information call the office!

2013 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Expo

The 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Expo for 2013 is set for June 1st! This Expo is designed for young people who are interested in live animal evaluation and in testing their knowledge of the rabbit and cavy fancy in a fun and educational manner. This event includes contests in judging, quiz bowl, skill-a-thon, showmanship and live animal evaluation. 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Expo events are open to participants aged 9 to 19 by January 1 of the current year. You must be a 4-H member but you don’t have to be enrolled in a 4-H rabbit and cavy project to compete. Some contests are designed for both team and individual competition. Spectators are welcome! For more information visit the event website: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/events/event/4h_rabbitcavy_expo

Horse Camp T-Shirt Contest

The Iosco County HDC needs your help! They are holding a contest to design the t-shirt for 4-H Horse Camp in May! This contest is for anyone to enter. Simply design a t-shirt relating to this year’s theme of “**Caution 4-H Horse Camp Future Winners Under Construction!**” The t-shirt will be florescent yellow with black lettering. Hand drawn and computer generated designs are welcome. Please include the theme and a “stand alone 4-H Clover.” Mail all entries to Iosco County HDC 7720 Old State Road Whittemore, MI 48770 or give them to your 4-H Horse Leader. If you have any questions please contact Melanie Barnes at (989) 240-1648. Please put your name, phone number and address on the back of your design. The deadline to submit your artwork is **March 22, 2013**. The selected winner will receive their camp fees paid for 1 horse.
MSU Pavilion February & March Activities

2/1: MQHYA Winter Spectacular
2/2: 4-H Horse Benefit Clinic
2/7-2/9: Great Lakes Draft Horse Sale
2/15-2/17: Spartan Stampede
2/22-2/23: Southern Michigan Horse Sales
3/8-3/10: Stallion Expo
3/14-3/17: Lansing Home and Garden Show
3/22: Michigan-Indiana Spring Foundation Sale
3/23: Michigan Holstein Association Great Lakes Spring Sale
3/24-3/25: Norma Agnew Memorial MSU Hairy Horse Show
3/28-3/31: MQHYA Easter Extravaganza

Iosco County 4-H Calendar of Events

February
2  4-H20 at Perchville
2  4-H Horse Benefit Clinic
4  HDC Meeting
8  Sunrise Side Livestock Club Meeting
13 Durangos Horse Club Meeting
16 State Awards Workshop
16 Blue Ribbon Riders Club Meeting
22-23 4-H Veterinary Science Workshop
23-24 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Workshop
27 4-H Camp Counselor paperwork due
27 4-H Leaders’ Council Meeting
March
1-3 4-H Recreational Leadership Workshop
9  4-H Camp Counselor Training
9-10 4-H Science Workshop
11 Exploration Days Books available at the office
15-17 4-H Environmental Science Workshop
16 4-H Cake-N-Rake Fundraiser Auction
17-20 4-H Capitol Experience
27 4-H Leaders’ Council Meeting

Have dates you would like on the calendar? Call the Extension Office or email them to raukelli@anr.msu.edu by the 25th of each month to get them in the monthly newsletters!

Upcoming Community Events

2/6 Free Legal Services at IRESA
2/9 Iosco County Farm Bureau Farm Safety Day
2/20 Iosco County Farm Bureau Meeting
2/21 Iosco County Fair Board Meeting