Welcome to August Everyone! With this new month brings some time to catch up on office work and prepare for the end of another amazing 4-H year. The 4-H year officially ends on August 31, 2017 and here at the office we are wrapping up the summer events, preparing award nomination packets, and making plans for fall leader updates and national 4-H week activities.

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of the amazing 4-H volunteers that dedicated a whole week to helping members at the Iosco County Fair. Many of these leaders use their vacation days to help our youth have a positive experience and be there with them to support them every step of the way. Without each of you, this program would not be what it is and I am very grateful to have all of you involved with Iosco 4-H. If you are a member that has not taken the opportunity to thank their club leader for all their help and support, be sure to take a moment to let them know how much you appreciate all their efforts!

Be sure to keep reading to hear more about Achievement Day, the fair, and state events.

Last Thursday I was notified that Iosco 4-H will be receiving two grants this fall, one to start a gardening program and another to purchase robotics kits. We will be working to get new clubs started as soon as we receive the funds. This is an exciting opportunity to grow our program and I am looking for new volunteers to help make these clubs a success. If you know of anyone interested, please let me know!

Last but not least, I wanted to mention that Iosco County 4-H Volunteer, Melanie Barnes was selected as a recipient of the Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture award. The Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes outstanding achievements of Michigan 4-H volunteers who have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development in the agricultural sciences. Melanie will formally receive her award at the 2018 Emerald Awards Gala, the bi-annual Michigan 4-H alumni and volunteer awards event. That event will take place in the fall of 2018 and we will share more about the award and the Gala at that time. Congratulations again Melanie on a very well deserved honor!
Council Connection

Happy Monday everyone. Hope you all have recovered from the fun filled week of fair. Let me congratulate all of the 4-Hers for the wonderful job they all did this year. Special thanks to the leaders for the many hours they put in to make this year’s fair a wonderful experience for everyone. Thank you to Sandy Lieber and her crew, especially Laura Mayhew, for the wonder job on the snack shack. And to all you folks who worked effortlessly on the silent auction. Despite some bumps, looks like a record year.

Please come join us for the Leaders’ Council meeting on August 22nd at the MSU Extension office. This is a wrap up meeting for events, planning of the year end awards and nomination of officers. Positions that are opening are for Secretary, Vice President and one of the youth reps. We need your nominations and your input as we strive to continue the success of the Iosco County 4-H.

Paul Grabstanowicz, Council President

4-H Grows Here Signs

Attention all 4-H Volunteers - We want you to show your pride and therefore the 4-H Leaders' Council has purchased a 4-H Grows Here Yard Signs for each of you! Stop by the MSU Extension to pick your sign up today! This is just one way for us to thank you for your dedication to Iosco County 4-H!

4-H Dairy Club Attended 2017 4-H Dairy Days

Six Iosco County 4-H members traveled with 4-H Leader Jessica Provoast to East Lansing, Michigan for the 2017 Michigan Youth Dairy Days. 4-H members, Cole Provoast, Karlee Nelkie, Madison Grubaugh, Gabi Nelkie, Autumn Reed, and Isabella Nelkie.

Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days is held in conjunction with the Annual Michigan Dairy Expo at the Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education at MSU. The mission of the Michigan Dairy Expo is to encourage and promote youth involvement in dairy activities, to showcase the Michigan dairy industry and to provide continuing education to the dairy industry in Michigan and nearby states. Dairy Days events are designed for young people who are interested in dairy cattle and the dairy industry. Youth participants competed in various competitions, including dairy quiz bowls, dairy management contests, dairy cattle judging contests, and the Dairy Days youth show.

This was the first time Iosco 4-H has sent youth to participate in the event and the youth participated in quiz bowl, showmanship, judging, and dairy management.

The results for judging in the junior division were Autumn Reed took 8th place, Madison Grubaugh placed 13th, and Isabella Nelkie placed 17th. There were 12 junior teams and the Iosco team of Autumn, Isabella, Madison, and Karlee placed 4th overall. In addition, Madison and Isabella both got 100% on their cow parts quiz. In novice judging Gabriella Nelkie, placed 3rd.

In Showmanship Gabriella Nelkie: 1st place, Isabella Nelkie: 5th place, Karlee Nelkie: 5th Madison Grubaugh: 5th place, Autumn Reed: 4th place Cole Provoast: 4th place.
4-H Achievement Day

Iosco County 4-H held its annual 4-H Achievement Day on Friday, July 21, 2017. 4-H Achievement Day is an opportunity for local youth to display the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the year in a variety of 4-H project areas. 4-H members create projects or displays around their project areas and then meet one-on-one with a judge for a personal interview regarding their projects. This event allows youth the opportunity to gain life skills including self-confidence, responsibility, and public speaking. 4-H members learn how to conduct themselves in an interview and gain the ability of sharing what they are learning in meetings, at local events, and through hands-on experiences.

After meeting with the judge, the members are able to display their projects in the youth department for the week at the Iosco County Fair. These projects help to educate the public on a variety of topics and allow people to see the true breath of the 4-H project areas.

Iosco 4-H Cloverbud members range between the ages of five and eight years old as of January 1st and participate in 4-H Achievement Day for participation ribbons. These members are learning how to share about what they are learning and how to talk with adults in a professional manner. 4-H members ages 9-19 as of January 1st compete for overall best of shows in their project areas. Receiving best of shows for 2017 were Matthew Bennett with his Rabbit Diseases project, Heather Fore with her fudge cookies, Leah Gingerich with her string art project, Jennifer Colvin with her sheep feeder, Michael Nelkie with his shooting sports project, Joslyn Nelkie with her Government project, Brianne Wanks with her pajama pants, Sophie Hemker with her apron, Kaylee Morley with her shadow box, Krista Cowles with her picture boxes, Molly O'Reilly with her Emergency Kit and her Stomach Ulcers project, Brody Ruckle with his pig feeder, Aiden Strauer with his Beef project, Grady McGillis with his pig feeder, Emily Morley with her string art, and Jerrick Johnson with his tack box.
Iosco County Fair

The Iosco County Fair is an opportunity for many of our members to showcase their projects that they have worked so hard at throughout the past 4-H year. In addition to livestock projects, members are also able to display their still exhibits including shooting sports targets, sewing projects, food preservation, and more. Throughout the week 4-H members with animal projects participate in county shows including horse classes, rabbits & poultry, dairy, beef, sheep, and swine. These projects are judged on different criteria including showmanship, market, breed characteristics, and more. Horse project members are able to participate in both speed and pleasure shows, as well as a fun show and the lighted horse parade.

The Iosco County Fairboard also graciously allows members to hold the 4-H Silent Auction and 4-H Livestock Auction on the grounds. The silent auction is the largest fundraising event for the 4-H Leaders’ Council each year. The profits from this event are used to help provide scholarships to local 4-H members to attend various 4-H activities throughout the year.

The 4-H Livestock Auction is the largest 4-H event at the fair. It involves a lot of work for the members and volunteers. An executive board comprised of twelve teen members, that are elected by their peers each December, work tirelessly to coordinate the auction and ensure that all members have a good time and are supporting one another. At the livestock auction, 4-H members that have successfully completed their 4-H projects and adhered to the market livestock rules are eligible to sell their market animal projects. This is the culmination of a year’s hard work for the members. Immediately following the auction, members attend an appreciation dinner with their buyers and families to celebrate the conclusion of another successful year.

In addition, the 4-H Leaders’ Council also coordinates the 4-H Snack Shack, a food wagon back in the grandstands and participates in Ag Days with a 4-H informational booth. As you can see, it takes a lot of dedicated volunteers and some great 4-H members to pull off all of these events.

It is a great week that encourages our members to gain new skills, try new things, and make lasting memories with their 4-H friends! We want to thank the Iosco County Fairboard members for providing this opportunity for all our members and for their constant support of our youth!

Check out the 4-H Facebook page for more pictures of fair week. I have also included a few pictures in this newsletter.
**4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament**

On Saturday, July 29, 2017 Iosco County 4-H members Sydney Broughton, Ashely Johnson, Courtney Johnson, William Johnson, and Michael Nelkie attended the 4-H State Shooting Sports Competition in Calhoun County. This annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition with other 4-H members from all over the state. 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in eight different event categories: BB Gun, Target Archery, 3-D Archery, .22 Rifle, Trap, Skeet, Air Rifle, and Muzzleloading. Iosco County had representatives for BB Gun and Muzzleloading.

Michael Nelkie represented Iosco County 4-H in Muzzleloading, while Sydney Broughton, Ashely Johnson, Courtney Johnson, and William Johnson all participated in BB Gun.

Ashley Johnson and Courtney Johnson brought home third place in Senior BB gun team event and Michael Nelkie received 2nd place as an individual and 2nd place team in open class muzzleloader.

Shooting sports programs enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting. The shooting sports programs promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and conservation. In addition to bringing home medals, participants learned new skills, met new friends and made memories that will stay with them as their 4-H careers continue.

Iosco County 4-H Shooting Sports programs run throughout the year with different programs. Currently Iosco County has four disciplines offered: BB Gun, Muzzleloading, Archery, and .22 Rifle.
4-H Teen Spokesperson Training

A Communications Workshop for 4-H members, teen leaders, ambassadors, and community issue advocates

Thursday, August 17, 2017
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Mid Michigan Community College
(Mt Pleasant campus)
2600 S Summerton Rd
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

This workshop is also being planned in SE Michigan (Macomb); details TBA

Who: Michigan 4-H members (12-19 years old on January 1, 2017)
What: Communications workshop for 4-H members. Learn about a variety of communication tools and strategies for crafting an effective message to tell the “so what” of the 4-H message.
Why: Because Michigan 4-H members are doing amazing things and the world should know about it!!
How: Register online by August 9th at: https://events.anr.msu.edu/TeenSpokesperson17/
$15 registration fee; includes continental breakfast & lunch

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- Dining etiquette
- Practice public speaking
- Promote 4-H
- Preparing for an interview
- Breakout sessions may include: social media, video, photography, or public speaking

» Dress attire for workshop: Business Casual
» Questions: contact Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbelt@msu.edu or 810-648-2515

Project funding provided by National 4-H Council grant:

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National 4-H Congress

“Be True, Be You” and participate in the 2017 National 4-H Congress November 24 to 28 in Atlanta, Georgia! Michigan 4-H youth ages 14-19 are invited to apply for this leadership, citizenship and community service event. In this capstone 4-H youth leadership event, 4-H youth from across the U.S. will come together to experience an exciting program, full of educational, service and leadership opportunities as well as local cultural tours and experiences. The event includes outstanding community leaders, speakers and educators. The exact cost will be determined based on the number of delegates and airfare, but will be around $1500. Fees include registration, hotel, airfare, and most meals. Be sure to check out the website at http://national4-hcongress.com. Any youth interested in attending must let Kelli Rau know by August 8, 2017! A $100.00 deposit is due by August 11th to hold your spot!
4-H Workshops

August 11-13: Kayaking, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Level 2
Little Bay de Noc, Gladstone

August 18-20: Flat-Water Canoeing, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Level 2
Manistee River near Kingsley

August 26-27: Global Village and Global Gateway Experience With 4-H
http://howellnaturecenter.org/programs/heifer-global-village/global-gateway
Howell Nature Center, Howell

September 22-24: Backpacking, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Level 2
Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area, Free Soil

Other Upcoming 4-H Events

August 11-13: State 4-H Horse Show
http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

August 19: State 4-H Dog Show
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/state_4_h_dog_show
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

August 19: Lansing Lugnuts 4-H Night!
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/lansing_lugnuts_4_h_night
Cooley Law School Stadium, Lansing

September 2: Michigan State 4-H Poultry Show
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_poultry_palooza1
Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

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