**4-H NEWSLETTER**  
April / May 2016

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Information in this Newsletter provided by:

Lori Cargill  
4-H Program Coordinator

&

Toni Van Bergen  
4-H Secretary

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MSU Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.
ENROLLMENTS

June 1, 2016 is the last day for enrollments for the 2016 4-H year. For those of you who have not done so, you need to sign up and also either pay the $10 enrollment fee to the office, or request a scholarship, before you are an official 2016 4-H member.

If you know of anyone interested in joining, please direct them to the 4-H Online enrollment site at http://mi.4honline.com. They may also come into the office and we will help them signup online.

COUNTYWIDE 4-H BAKE SALE

The annual bake sale will be held on Saturday, May 7th. This year the bake sale will be held at Gales IGA and also at Hansen Foods, both in Hart. The proceeds of these bake sales go to those youth attending Exploration Days in June, provided they work at the sale. This is worth one nonclub point for anyone signing up with the office at 873-2129. You must bring a baked good (at least one per person) and work for one hour. The more baked goods the better, so if you like to bake, or know of someone who would like to help by donating baked goods, that would be wonderful! You can drop them at the office on Fri. or at the sale itself.

BAKED GOODS NEEDED AT BOTH LOCATIONS—drop them at the office Fri. or the stores on the day of the sales. Thank you!

SPRING BREAKIN' THE BLUES AWAY!

Thank you to the wonderful parents, 4-H volunteers, and others that helped with the Spring Breakin’ the Blues Day Camp. What a fun day between the edible car contest, string art, migrating around the gym and seeing which birds made it back home and why, to putting together terrariums. We would also like to thank Oceana Farm Bureau for collaborating with our 4-H Program to host this event. We could not have done it without you all.

* JILL, NICOLE & MAKayLA ROCKWELL
* Kathy Carter
* Andrea Herrygers
* Lynda Herremans
* Kaylee & Katelynn Herrygers
* Kathy Walicki
* Meghan Greiner
* Kim Harris
* Stephanie OstrenGA & Aaron
* Chuck Van Bergen
* Kathy Grantz

Community Support provided by: ShopKo, North Central Co-Op, Peterson Farms, Oceana County Farm Bureau
Dear 4-H community,

It is with regret that I am writing to inform you that the Oceana County 4-H Youth Program is suspending its Folk Festival program for the 2016 school year. In recent years, our school and exhibitor participation with the program has diminished and we must now make strategic decisions about the future of this event. A community gathering of this magnitude and reach does not wane quietly; the Folk Festival has been championed by students and exhibitors, volunteers and staff members. However, the time has come to reshape this program into one that better fits the needs of our community and our youth.

Over the past 8 years, 4-H has seen the disappointing trend in lower attendance. Three schools and 15+ exhibitors no longer able to participate due to scheduling conflicts, transportation costs, health and various other reasons. Many of our global/cultural exhibitors no longer participate. These exhibitors are the unique addition to the Folk Festival that set it apart from White Pine Village, the Scottville Old Engine Club and other local and regional offerings. In contrast, we were able to add only one school and two exhibitors to our roster in recent years.

Our staff and volunteer leadership believe in the goals of the Folk Festival and wish to see it reinvent itself for future generations to enjoy. We are committed to adding value to our community through high quality educational programming. Below are some of the initial thoughts regarding the future of our community efforts.

★ Oceana County volunteers can seek outside funding to assist schools in sending their students to the festival. Possible sources include PTA's, the Shelby Optimist Club, and the Great Lakes Energy Peoples Fund.

★ As a community, we can look at alternative venues available in February or March to better accommodate the school calendars. We will need to evaluate this option carefully as snow days may seriously impact the scheduled date.

★ An alternative structure for the Folk Festival, holding it on a Saturday, encouraging families to attend together.

★ As a community we can evaluate our strengths and better align our program offerings with the needs of our community. There is great opportunity for 4-H volunteers to impact the youth of our county in areas related to financial literacy, early childhood literacy (reading levels of youth younger than 8), career exploration and global citizenship.

★ Instead of a Folk Festival, perhaps it becomes an Agricultural Heritage Festival and 4-H and Farm Bureau partner to provide today’s youth with an understanding of how we produce the food we eat.

For any of the above measures to be successful, it will require a group of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to serve on a committee to evaluate the Folk Festival and plan for its return in 2017, please contact the Oceana County MSUE office at 231-873-2129. We have set an initial meeting date for Tuesday, May 3rd at 7:00pm at our office, 210 Johnson Street, Hart MI 49420.

The success of our program is due to the wonderful relationship we have with you, our volunteers and youth participants. We greatly appreciate the time you have given to this program, and the skills and traditions you have shared with others in Oceana County.

With sincere gratitude,

Lori Cargill, 4-H Program Coordinator
and the Oceana County 4-H Youth Program
2016 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

4-H Exploration Days is being held June 22 - June 24 this year. At this time we have 17 Oceana County 4-H members signed up to attend. There will be a MANDATORY meeting of all those attending Exploration Days on Monday, May 31st at 6:30 p.m. at the Hart Community Center. (postcards will go out as a reminder with the time indicated).

Remember, depending on which classes you signed up for, you may have additional fees. These fees are due at the mandatory meeting. When you receive your postcard, it will have the fees owed indicated on it. Any questions, call the Extension Office at 873-2129.

CELEBRATE 4-H DAY AT MICHIGAN'S ADVENTURE

4-H members, volunteers and families come celebrate 4-H at Michigan's Adventures on Saturday, June 4th. For an admission price of $24.00 per person you will have unlimited use of the amusement and water parks (with the exception of the Riptord). 4-H Day meal tickets will also be available for only $6.00 each!

To find out more go to: www.miadvventures.com/specialevents
and click on the 4-H day link.

Reservations are required for admission and meal ticket (if purchasing) by June 1, 2016. There is a parking fee for standard and oversized vehicles.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!

Kassidy Baum
Terri Carlson
Dustin Carlson-Hicks
Abigail Christmas
Dakota Dailey
Brooke Jager
Chase Jancek
Loren Kroll
Joseph Marsh

Haley Mast
Lars Mattson
Christyn Pek
Jessica Riggs
Kate Ross
Brandon Vanderleest
Matthew Vanderwall
Dylan VanderZwaag

THANK YOU TO GALES IGA FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF $225.00 RAISED FROM THEIR HOTDOG FUNDRAISER AND MATCH DOLLARS IN SUPPORT OF OCEANA 4-H!
CLOVERBUD CORNER

In an effort to provide more intentional experiences for our youngest 4-H members, Oceana County will be highlighting meaningful ways to include age appropriate activities in club meetings and at home. There are many resources available and our staff is excited to work with you if Cloverbud content is an area of interest. Each newsletter will have a page dedicated to learning more about Cloverbuds. This month, we are looking at the rationale behind the Cloverbud program and what the developmental needs and abilities are for these ages.

- Michigan’s 4-H Cloverbud Program is for youth age 5 through 8. The primary goal of the Cloverbud program is to promote children's healthy development—mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

The Cloverbud program is developmentally-age appropriate, therefore it is:

★ fun and positive
★ leader-directed
★ activity-based
★ noncompetitive
★ success-oriented
★ group-centered

The Cloverbud program allows for and encourages creativity and play.

The goals of the Cloverbud program are for children to develop:

★ self-understanding (self-esteem)
★ social interaction skills (getting along with others)
★ decision-making skills
★ learning skills (learning how to learn)
★ mastering physical skills

Children possess general characteristics of development that can be categorized around age. Here are some specific points to keep in mind when working with Cloverbud children (Bushaw, 1998).

5 & 6 Year Olds
- Learn best by exploring “real” materials
- Need clear and simple directions
- Begin selective hearing
- Enjoy the process and the product is not important
- Cooperates
- Energetic
- Has a 10-15 minute attention span
- Likes to play with other children

7 & 8 Year Olds
- Concerned about the rules
- Questions adult authority
- Likes repetitious activities
- Judges parents yet are sensitive to criticism
- Needs some personal privacy
- Begins to empathize with others’ feelings
- Thinks about the future
- Fears failure and peer rejection

TRY THIS!

Use the A-B-C-D Method of Conflict Resolution
Give 7-8 year-olds the tools to solve disagreements by teaching them the simple A B C D method of conflict resolution.

A – Ask what’s the problem?
B – Brainstorm possible solutions
C – Choose the best solution
D – Do it
HORSE (HDC) NEWS

REGISTRATION & COGGINS DUE! All horse project members remember that your negative Coggins along with your project registration page (NOT the cover page of your notebook) and parent acknowledgement page are due to the MSUE office by 5:00 p.m. on May 2nd.

OCHDC HORSE SHOWS:

The first Oceana County Horse Show of 2016 will be held April 30th at the Oceana County Fairgrounds beginning at 9:00 a.m. (rain or shine). This is the Shaggy Show!! This show is open to both youth and adults and is just a fun show to get the year started. There is no show clothing required (proper riding attire such as boots and helmets is still necessary), and there will be a prize for the shaggiest horse! The show bills are available in the office and also on the portal at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/oceana and on the Oceana County 4-H Program Facebook page.

The OCHDC Open Youth Horse Shows will take place: May 14th, June 18th and July 16th. We will have the show bills, tab sheets and waivers available in the office or on the portal soon.

Remember that HDC meets the 3rd Monday of each month. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for a reminder each month, please let us know in the office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE STATE 4-H TRAIL RIDE

Date: June 17, 2016 - June 19, 2016
Location: Whiskey Creek Campground, 5080 Sippy Road Custer, MI 49405

For 4-H club member, families & leaders. Participants will be responsible for bringing their own horse for their use. NO stallions allowed. Hay & grain will not be furnished. Don’t have a horse? No worries! There are plenty of activities for non-riders. Whiskey Creek Campground offers an indoor heated swimming pool, full electric hook ups, stocked fishing pond, Wi-Fi, laundry, playground & so much more. The Trail Ride Committee has an agenda including: crafts, t-shirt making, science activities, line dancing & more! Your low registration fee includes camping and 6 meals.

REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE TO THE STATE OFFICE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2016.

Complete registration info and all information may be found at:

http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs

STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW: The State 4-H Horse Show will be held August 19-21, 2016. The entry deadline is July 18, 2016—therefore we need your application to the MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m. on July 12, 2016. Registration information will be coming soon.
LARGE MARKET LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

GRAND SLAM SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC
(beef, sheep & swine)

The Market Livestock Committee will be hosting a Showmanship clinic featuring beef, sheep and swine. They have secured Karen Percival to come and share her experience as a judge and show person. You are invited to attend this clinic on Saturday, May 21st at Holladay's farm (4552 N. 104th Ave., Hart, MI). If you have problems finding the farm, you may reach Michelle at either: michel.leh@live.com or by texting 231-742-0414.

The clinic will run from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and will be followed by a potluck.

Sloppy Joes will be provided but if you would like to attend the potluck, please bring a side dish. You NEED to text or email Michelle that you will be attending so she has a count for food, etc.

This is worth 1 nonclub point.

They would really like to have a pig and a lamb there to demonstrate showmanship. If you have one available that could be brought please let Michelle know. Thank you.

SWINE PICTURES, BREEDS & EAR TAGS due by May 11th at 5:00 p.m.
LAMB PICTURES, BREEDS & EAR TAGS due by June 1st at 5:00 p.m.

Both swine & lamb pictures need to show the entire animal and also the 4-H ear tag. If the ear tag is not legible, your leader can sign the back of it verifying the number. The easiest way to get your picture is to bring in 2 pictures, one close up of the ear and one full body shot. Each 4-H Market Livestock Project lamb is required to have two ear tags (one in each ear-matching numbers). Swine are required to have 1 4-H tag in one ear and 1 MDA tag in the other. Please remember that you need to know the breed also.

The office is open Mon–Fri from 8-noon and 1-5. If you are registering a second animal you need a picture with the tag & breed also. You may pick up tags at the office after paying the $5.00 fee. You will declare your primary at this time and have until August 11th to change to your backup if desired.

The 4-Star 4-H Club is hosting a hoof trimming on Saturday, July 16th from 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at the Oceana County Fairgrounds. You MUST call ahead to let Michelle Holladay know that you will be bringing your steer.

The cost is $15.00 per 4-H animal and $5.00 per wrap.

Call or text Michelle at 231-742-0414 to let her know that you will be attending with your animal.
SMALL MARKET ANIMAL NEWS

April 1st was the registration deadline for both 4-H & Junior Market Projects. Below are the deadlines for paperwork due to the MSU Extension Office:

- Feeder Calf & Young Beef pictures, breed & RFID electronic tag numbers must be on file by June 1, 2016
- Goat pictures and tattoo numbers must be on file by August 1, 2016
- Rabbit pictures must be on file by August 1, 2016
- Poultry pictures must be on file by August 1, 2016

- all deadlines are by 5:00 p.m. on that day

If you have any questions on project requirements please refer to the 4-H SMAA Rules & Guidelines. We have copies in the office or you can view them on line at:

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/oceana

(faxes will not be accepted as all we receive is a black and white picture. We also cannot print them for you in the office, we do not have that type of supply budget to print everyone’s pictures for them with the ink it takes.)

FOR ALL MARKET ANIMAL PROJECTS

POTENTIAL BUYERS NAMES: You have until Wednesday, August 3rd to turn in your potential buyer's names. You may turn them in sooner, and it is preferred that you do. Remember the following.

1. Your list must be submitted in person to receive a stamp & initialed MSUE staff. You will return the original to your book.

2. You must have 3 different names than those of your siblings.

3. You must have complete addresses, including zip codes, to be accepted.

NEED A NON-CLUB POINT?
Contact Phil and Kathy Carter (861-2654) about Adopt a Highway, you must be 12 or older. Contact Brenda Eilers (893-7888) about the Claybanks Campground/Park Clean up (April 23rd), and the Claybanks Township Cemetery Rake Clean Up (April 30th). You can also work the bake sale on May 7th, call the Office (873-2129).
NOTES FROM THE NOTEBOOK JUDGES

4-H Project Notebooks are the primary way we keep records of our goals, work and accomplishments in project areas. The record of your work should be as accurate as possible and reflect the effort you put into raising your animal.

This year the notebook judges gave us feedback on what they would like to see and what doesn’t really matter to them. Keep in mind, every judge is different, just as every teacher you have is different in what they expect, so these are just some suggestions from this set of judges that met after judging the notebooks.

1. 1/3 to 1/2 of you left your judges comment sheet in a sheet protector, even though it specifically says not to. If you were not already, you will be marked down for this from now on.

2. Do not glue your judges comment sheet to your cover. Judges understand the rationale, to secure it in the notebook, but a judge needs to move that sheet with them from page to page. A glued page makes them flip back and forth continually to write comments.

3. Record of Care-- Your input costs should differ as your animal grows. You should not be feeding your starter “swine, feeder, duck, etc.” the same at the end as you were at the beginning of your project.

4. If a parent, or someone, donates the animal to you; there is still a cost to “someone.” You need to record what that purchase price would be.

5. For cloverbuds, the judges like to see that the youth did some writing, if possible. If the parent, or older youth, helped with all of the writing make sure it is in the 4-Her’s words, not the adults.

6. Some notebooks had LOTS of pages of extra material, reference, etc. This is great, but the judges would like to know what the purpose of these pages are. Why did you include them, how did they relate to your project? This demonstrates that you did not just print a lot of filler material for no reason other than to make your notebook larger.

7. Bling does not matter to most judges. Some like the “wow” factor but the majority liked a nice clean notebook. The notebook is first and foremost a recordkeeping tool.

8. Some judges commented they would prefer all sheets out of page protectors so they could make comments next to items they either really liked, or had questions about. They realize pages are in them to keep the pages clean, but it also prevented them from commenting directly on the page.
Explore how Michigan’s abundant natural resources, growing agriculture industry and emerging technologies are changing the face of energy and what it means to your family, Michigan and the world.

4-H Renewable Energy campers will stay in a campus dorm and experience campus life, enjoying a mix of recreational opportunities and learning experiences that may include:

- Conducting their own experiments.
- Creating their own biofuel and taking home a sample.
- Exploring renewable energy in action by visiting farms and homes that have gone off the grid.
- Examining biofuel crop field trials at the Kellogg Biological Station.
- Touring a wind farm and commercial ethanol plant to see how alternative energy sources are created.
- Interacting with leading scientists and engineers.
- Competing in an engineering design challenge.
- Designing, building, testing and racing a solar powered car.
- Touring the Michigan State University Breslin Center and much more!

June 27 – July 1, 2016
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

APPLY!
Camp is open to all youth age 13 to 19 (as of January 1, 2016). Apply online by May 1, 2016. Applications can be completed online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_renewable_energy_camp_1.

Call Insa Raymond at 517-439-9301 to find out more.

LOW COST!
The cost to attend this five-day camp is just $190 ($200 for youth who are not 4-H members) and includes all meals, transportation to field trips, lodging and materials.
**50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**STATE 4-H TRAIL RIDE & FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND**

**JUNE 17-19, 2016**

Whiskey Creek Campground
Custer, MI

Don't have a horse? No worries! There are plenty of activities for non-riders. Whiskey Creek Campground offers an indoor heated swimming pool, full electric hookups, stocked fishing pond, wifi, laundry, playground and so much more! The Trail Ride committee has an agenda sure to please: crafts, t-shirt making, science activities, delicious meals, line dancing, and more! Plan on attending to meet other horse-enthusiasts, camp and make great memories. This is a great event for the whole family to share! Camping fees and 6 meals are included with your low registration fee. Registration deadline is June 1st.

**REGISTRATION INFO ONLINE**

www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth_extension_programs

Have questions? Contact Taylor Fabus at:
(517) 353-1748         tenlenta@msu.edu

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**Bird Biosecurity Training**

Biosecurity remains a key tool in preventing the spread of avian diseases. Attend this free workshop to learn more about avian influenza, disease transmission and prevention, and proven biosecurity measures any bird owner can implement.

Open to poultry producers, owners of backyard flocks, 4-H and FFA members and volunteers, and anyone interested in poultry and biosecurity.

**Dates and locations:**

- **April 18** Alcona High School, Harrisville
- **April 20** Lapeer Co. MSU Extension Office, Lapeer
- **April 25** Mason Co. MSU Extension Office, Scottville
- **May 12** Kent Co. MSU Extension Office, Grand Rapids

*All programs are available virtually through Zoom connection.*

Learn more and register at [http://events.anr.msu.edu/APHIS/](http://events.anr.msu.edu/APHIS/)