**IMPORTANT ** **4-H ONLINE IS UP AND RUNNING **

The 4-H Online system is ready for families to enroll themselves online. While many Oceana County 4-H families submitted paper enrollments this Fall, 4-H Online creates a “family profile” that is managed through your personal email with a unique password.

The Oceana MSUE Office is asking that ALL 4-H families use this system to create a family profile.

If your 2014/2015 payment has already been received by the office, you only need to go on and create your family profile, inputting all members of your 4-H family. Those still needing to pay the annual $10/youth 4-H enrollment fee also need to enroll through the online system but also need to mail, or bring in, their fee or request for scholarship.

Enclosed is a step by step guide on how to create a family profile & enroll. Once you have completed the online portion, the MSUE Oceana County office will be notified of your enrollment. If you have already submitted the $10/youth enrollment fee, we will accept your enrollment. Enrollments are not considered complete until payment has been received by the MSUE Office. This year, the only forms of payment accepted are cash or check made payable to MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. You may also request help through a scholarship from the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council.

If you do not have internet access or an email address, contact the office for assistance. You may come in and use a computer in our office, your local public library, or if necessary, complete a paper form.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Lori or Toni with any questions or for help.

We need everyone to input their 4-H information into the ONLINE system by **March 6th** in order to get club listings to your leaders, update our mailing and email lists, etc.

Thank you for your patience as we work to transition to this new statewide enrollment system for 4-H.
The dates for the OCHDC Open Youth Horse Shows have been set. Mark your calendars for: May 9th, June 20th and July 18th at the Oceana County Fairgrounds.

The Horse Notebooks are now available to be picked up at the office along with the project registration papers.

**DEADLINES TO REMEMBER**

1. Copy of the Negative Coggins and horse registration due in the MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m. on day May 1. Also remember, if your horse travels or completes at earlier events you will need proof of Negative Coggins earlier than May 1. Make sure you have the test done in time to get the results into the office. A copy that this was done and you are awaiting results will not be accepted.

2. The 4-H Little Buddy Horse registration deadline is June 1st by 5:00 p.m. of the current year.

3. All Level testing is to be completed by the last OCHDC horse show in July. If changing levels the 4-Her must show in new level prior to, or at, the July show. Also, State show delegates and alternates must have notebooks completed and must be checked by either their leader or the MSUE Office before the state paperwork can be turned into the office.

The Companion Animal Veterinary Service, PLC is again offering a shot clinic for the local 4-H equine groups. These shots will be at a discounted rate. Please see the enclosed letter with directions on how to sign up, if interested, and pricing.

**SMAA MARKET ANIMAL INFO**

There is still room available in some project areas for those wishing to bring a second small market animal project. Those animals with space still available are:

- Chickens – 6
- Turkeys – 4
- Ducks – 3
- Geese – 3

You have until April 1st to sign up for any of these spots (until full).

**Other SMA deadlines to remember:**

- **June 1st:** Feeder Calf pictures with RFID tag number and breeds are due into the office by 5:00 p.m. (you may turn them in earlier if you have them)

- **August 1st:** All other animals pictures are due with breeds. Goats must have tattoo numbers.

- **August 5th:** Potential Buyer’s names must be turned into the office by 5:00 p.m. (it is preferred that you turn them in earlier than this-don’t wait until the last minute)
LARGE MARKET NEWS

The beef and swine projects are closed. Little buddy swine project members may still sign up until May 11th. Lambs still have space available with a deadline date for enrolling of June 1st, or until space is filled.

Upcoming deadlines:

May 11th - Swine pictures with breed and ear tag numbers are due into the office by 5:00 p.m. As a full body shot is needed along with the ear tag being readable the easiest way to do this is to take 2 pictures. If you take one and you can not read the ear tag a leader needs to sign the back of the picture that it is the number being recorded. If you are registering a “backup” animal you must pay the $5.00 per person registering that hog before the pictures may be accepted. You will also declare you “primary” hog at this time.

May 11th - Little buddy deadline for swine.

June 1st - Lamb pictures with breed and ear tag numbers are due into the office by 5:00 p.m. As a full body shot is needed along with the ear tag being readable the easiest way to do this is to take 2 pictures. If you take one and you can not read the ear tag a leader needs to sign the back of the picture that it is the number being recorded. If you are registering a “backup” animal you must pay the $5.00 per person registering that lamb before the pictures may be accepted. You will also declare you “primary” lamb at this time.

August 5th - Potential Buyers names must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. to the MSUE Office (no exceptions.) You may turn them in earlier, it is preferred that you do so instead of waiting until the last minute.

August 11th - If changing to your “backup” animal the office must be notified, in WRITING, by 5:00 p.m. today that you are changing from your primary.

NORTH CENTRAL COOPERATIVE, Inc.- 2nd Annual Fair Program
Feed Management & Nutrition Meeting.

Who: Youth County Fair participants interested in feed management & nutrition suggestions from North Central’s feed specialists & learning more about North Central’s custom line of feed designed for fair animals.

What: Presentations and discussions on management tips covering finishing steers, market swine, market lambs & equines.

When: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: North Central Cooperative, 720 W. Main Street, Fremont. Meeting will be held at office directly west of the Express Feeds store. Questions call 231-924-1526.

RSVP with your name & fair project by Tuesday, February 24 to Denny or Becky at Express Feeds: 231-924-1526 (please leave a message if they are unable to take your call)
**4-H Club Swine and Lamb sale listings can be found at:**

Michigan Pork Producers Association swine sales listing can be found at:

http://www.mipork.org/Youth/1035/ShowPigs.aspx#.VOOKSUZ0zIU

Michigan Sheep Breeders Association lamb sales listings can be found at:

www.misheep.org

Local Club Lambs For Sale—Call Tara VanderNaalt  
231-873-5357

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**New Resources Available!**

Oceana County 4-H now owns the Ohio State Learning Lab kits for:

- Swine
- Dairy
- Sheep
- Rabbits

Leaders may check out these kits for use at club meetings. Additional kits may be borrowed from neighboring counties with advance notice. Filled with activities for Anatomy, Conformation, Health Concerns, Safe Handling and Loading Practices, and so much more! These kits are sure to be a hit at your meeting!

Learn more about them here http://www.ohio4h.org/projects-publications/learning-lab-kits or stop in to the office to check them out!

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**Congratulations!**

Kaylee Herrygers has been selected to serve on the 4-H State Youth Leadership Council. She will serve as an ambassador of 4-H, sharing her experiences and providing input for statewide outreach and events/programming planning. Kaylee is also a resource in our region for 4-H staff and general community members who might be interested in participating or volunteering with 4-H.

Lars Mattson of Hart was accepted to the 4-H Ag-Innovators Experience Teen Volunteer Team. He will work on the “Water Windmill Challenge," exploring the water footprint of common food products and making the connection between water use, environmental sustainability, and food security.
SENIORS— Don’t miss out on Scholarship Opportunities

Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship

application is due to the office by 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2015.

Requirements of Application:

- A high school graduate this June (end of 5th year with ASM Tech)
- Acceptance at a college, university or further course of study.
- Current year 4-H member with at least four years or more of total involvement in the Oceana County 4-H Youth Program.
- Must have at least 2.5 grade average.
- Completion of this application by April 15th of the current year and possible interview with the Awards Committee.

You can find the application on the portal at:
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/oceana
The application is also available at the MSUE Office in Hart.

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The Community Foundation for Oceana County
Bert Stevens Memorial Scholarship

Current members of the Oceana County 4-H Program who are graduating seniors and have four years of high school membership in 4-H are eligible to apply for the Bert Stevens Memorial Scholarship. In addition, to be eligible for this award, a student must have exhibited at the Oceana County Fair for the first three years of high school. Other criteria include maintaining a minimum 2.5 cumulative high school GPA and planning to pursue any degree at any two or four-year accredited college, university or vocational/technical School.

How to apply: The Community Foundation for Oceana County is found online at:

http://www.oceana-foundation.org/receive/scholarship

Click on the scholarship link and complete the required steps. You also need to mail in the Oceana County 4-H Youth Program Participation form (available online, by email or in the office) by March 1. Mail to:

Community Foundation for Muskegon County Scholarship Program
425 W. Western Avenue, Suite 200
Muskegon, MI 49440

Applications will be evaluated on presentation, biographical information, 4-H and other awards, 4-H leadership and involvement, future plans, and high school recommendation. Financial need is not a consideration for this award. While there, check for other scholarships you may be eligible to receive.
Do you have goals for the New Year?

4-H members, parents and leaders statewide are starting new projects and learning a great deal in the process.

What goals have you set for your club or with your club members?

Now is the time to begin brainstorming, planning and organizing your efforts so you can find success. When we set goals, it is helpful to make them smart goals. Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.

When we have goals and take the time to think them through, we will see clear action steps we need to follow to accomplish what we set out to do.

Set your goals today so you can enjoy a future filled with success!

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**Host a Japanese Visitor Summer 2015!**

Do you have a child aged 10-15 years old?

Would your child like to share Michigan family life with a Japanese brother or sister?

Host families needed from July 24 to August 23. **Two week** home placements needed for Japanese adult chaperones as well. See: [www.4h.msue.msu.edu/international_exchange_programs](http://www.4h.msue.msu.edu/international_exchange_programs).

Apply by May 1, 2015. Contact Heather Gray at (517) 355-2361 or grayhea2@msu.edu. Begin an online application at: [http://www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org)

**Host a High School Exchange Student!**

International teens, ages 15-18, arrive Aug. 2015 to join a family and attend a school year in Michigan.

Host a student from Japan or Korea and earn a $1000 credit toward your child’s 4H trip. Or help the U.S. Dept. of State by hosting a FLEX scholarship winner from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, etc.

Apply by May 1, 2015 at: [www.4h.msue.msu.edu/international_exchange_programs](http://www.4h.msue.msu.edu/international_exchange_programs)

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Shooting Sports has a few openings. Meetings begin February 28th. If interested, call Jim ASAP at 873-4548.
2015 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS – Explore the Possibilities

Each year, about 2,500 youth and chaperones from across Michigan attend this fun MSU precollege program. Designed for 11- to 19-year-old young people, 4-H Exploration Days includes:

- More than 200 session choices held on and off campus. Participants choose one or two for their three-day stay. Sessions include everything from animal and veterinary science to visual arts and crafts, from business and entrepreneurship to shooting sports and everything in between such as food, nutrition and fitness, international languages and cultures and money management.
- Living in a MSU dorm & eating in the cafeteria, just like MSU students do.
- Sessions taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members, and other experts.
- Fun activities such as swimming, skating, souvenir shopping, exploring, bowling, basketball, even a great dance Thursday night.

Who: Participants must be age 11 by January 1. Session age requirements are also based on age as of January 1.

When: June 24 to 26, 2015

Where: MSU campus, East Lansing

Cost: The 2015 cost (that includes meals, a shared dorm room, sessions and a t-shirt) is $165 per young person (and an additional $10 4-H participation fee for youth not yet enrolled in 4-H). There are scholarship opportunities available through your county. the event at no cost.

Registration: Registration will open March 17, 2015. Registration deadlines (usually the end of April) vary by county. So check with your county MSU Extension office. Don’t wait until the deadline because popular sessions fill up fast! All participants must submit their forms and payments to the county MSU Extension office (forms are at the back of the registration book). County 4-H staff process registrations and payments with the State MSU Extension 4-H office.

More Information: Some of the ways to find out more about 4-H Exploration Days are:

- The 4-H Exploration Days web site (http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h_exploration_days)
- The event’s video and podcast previews (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIFDetehGeA)
- Contact Laura Potter (potterla@msu.edu) for general information about 4-H Exploration Days

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE! TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED!

- Market Livestock $35
- HDC $30
- Youth Council up to $50 returning/$65 first time
- There are limited $40 scholarships available through our office from MSU for first time attendees and families sending more than 1 child.
- There is a Bake Sale held the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend where youth who participate split the proceeds towards the cost of attendance.
4-H Volunteer Training Workshops
September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015—Kettunen Center and Kellogg Biological Station

2015
Feb. 27 - Feb. 28: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
Feb. 28 - March 1: 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
Mar. 27 – Mar. 29: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference
Apr. 24 - Apr. 26: Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification
June 24- June 26: 4-H Exploration Days (MSU)
Jul. 17 - Jul. 19: 4-H Mentoring Weekend
Aug. 15 - Aug. 16: 4-H Family Fun Weekend

You can read descriptions on the above workshops and learn more about what they involved at:
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule

Make sure you bookmark the above link to the workshops. We also send links out to each individual workshop as registration opens via email and Facebook so please make sure we have your most up to date information.

Workshop fees for Oceana County 4-H Leaders are reimbursed by the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council. Active Oceana County 4-H members must pay up front and are then reimbursed 100% of the fee once they return and share what they learned with their club, another club or the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council at their monthly meeting. If you carpool, you may also have your mileage reimbursed.

Don’t miss out on these wonderful opportunities.

MSU Events:
Feb. 28-March 8  Ag & Natural Resources Week
March 13-15, 2015 Horse Expo
March 22-25, 2015 Capital Experience
April 10-12, 2015 Michigan Beef Expo
May 30, 2015 MI 4-H Companion Animal Camp
June 15-19, 2015 Animal & Veterinary Science Camp
July 16, 2015 MI 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest

**This is just a partial listing, see enclosed Animal Science 2015 Calendar of Events for complete list**

Volunteer:
Your heart will thank you!

Volunteering in your community can bring many benefits including greater life satisfaction, increased physical well-being and larger social networks.

According to a study by the Corporation for National and Community Service, volunteering can make your heart happy and healthy. In the study, this was particularly true for older adults who volunteered for 40 or more hours in a year.

So, just imagine the long-term benefits of volunteering; not only will improve your community but you may increase your mental and physical health in the process.

http://1.usa.gov/1yFRoPd

4-H WANTS YOU
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