Welcome to 2016!!

We hope you all had a very nice holiday with friends and family. We are so excited for 2016. We have a lot of new opportunities on the horizon and hope that you will all be able to join us as we head into the new year.

Members, please join us at the annual 4-H Fish fry on Friday, January 8th at the Gladwin K of C Hall. Members are asked to help serve, clean up, greet guests that night as a way to help support the efforts. There will also be a 4-H bake sale that night. Bring in your goodies to sell to add to the event. Invite your friends and family to the event. This event is the biggest fundraiser for the scholarship program throughout the year.

Don’t forget that you must sign up on 4-H online once again this year to be a member. You must also pay your membership fee to the Extension office. If you haven’t please take care of this as soon as possible. New members have until February 1st to sign up.

Did you do something fun during the last year with your club? Did your club do a community service project? Want to share a success story about your project? We would love to share your stories. Let us know. Send us your pictures. Help us spread the word about the awesome things 4-H is doing in Gladwin County.

SAVE THE DATE: February 20th, tubing at Snow Snake. See back page for more detail.

Upcoming Events:

January 7th: Small Animal Association Meeting, MSU Extension Office 7 p.m.
January 8th: Fish Fry, Gladwin Knights of Columbus 4-7
January 9th: Beef Weigh-In, Gladwin County Fair Grounds 9-11 a.m.
January 12th: Livestock Advisory Board Meeting, MSU Extension Office 7 p.m.
January 14th: Horse Leaders’ Association Meeting, MSU Extension Office 7 p.m.
January 18th: Leaders’ Council Meeting, MSU Extension Office 7 p.m.
Learn How to Keep Your Bird Flock Healthy and Safe!


Offered at various locations across the state, the workshops will provide information about avian influenza, disease transmission and prevention, and proven biosecurity measures that bird owners can implement. Poultry producers, owners of backyard flocks, 4-H members and volunteers, as well as anyone interested in poultry and biosecurity, are encouraged to attend.

Find more information about training dates and locations, as well as virtual connection options, on the web (http://bit.ly/1QseuH).

4-H Workshops

January 9-10, 2016: Michigan 4-H Horse Judges & Show Superintendents Conference
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=4HHorseConf2016
Kettunen Center, Tustin

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/1Xc49Jo
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

Other 4-H Events

January 12, 2016: Student & Counselor Day
http:// conta.cc/1XemCYt
The Lansing Center, Lansing

January 16, 2016: 4-H Day at the Breslin
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

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

Fairs are an important part of life for many 4-H’ers, but how did fairs begin? Who had the idea for a show of such sweeping proportions? Where, when and why did they start?

According to the International Association of Fairs and Expositions’ (IAFE) [web article, History of Fairs](https://www.fairsandexpos.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=iafe&WebCode=History) (International Association, 2015), these events may have been held as early as 500 BC in the eastern Mediterranean. The IAFE bases this notion on the following quotation from Ezekiel 27:12: “Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the kinds of riches . . . they traded in thy fairs. These “periodic gatherings” brought together individuals involved in business, trade and production of commodities. As time marched on, such events spread into western Europe. Finally, entertainment was added to these get-togethers.

In the U.S., fairs grew from one man’s entrepreneurial idea. In 1784, a wealthy 26-year-old New York businessman, agriculturalist and banker, Elkanah Watson, purchased two merino sheep. As a farsighted entrepreneur, Watson saw the potential in breeding sheep whose wool was of a higher quality than that which could be obtained locally. This was especially true since the Revolutionary War had ended a year earlier and, at that time, “. . . many people in the United States were trying to rely less on England and English goods . . . .” (Michigan State 4-H Rabbit Fitting and Showing Curriculum Subcommittee, 2009, p. 17).

First, however, Watson had to excite his neighbors’ interest in his sheep. To do so, in 1807, he invited his neighbors to “meet him and the sheep” at Park Square in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he tied the sheep to a tree and gave a presentation (Oliver, 2011). Watson and his sheep received the enthusiastic reception for which he had hoped. In 1810 and 1811, this led Watson to (1) create an event, the Berkshire Cattle Show, at which animals were exhibited and prizes were paid for the best animals exhibited, and (2) organize the Berkshire Agricultural Society (Us-education.net, 2011). Watson continued helping communities organize their own agricultural societies and shows, thus earning himself the title, “Father of US agricultural fairs” (International Association, 2015).

Further, by the end of the nineteenth century, almost every state had one or more fairs or exhibitions. The “History of Fairs declares that the “core elements of those agricultural society events of the early 1800s – those early fairs – are at the heart” of today’s agricultural fairs, which now number more than 3,200 annually.

More information is available from:
Build Your Future

When: Mondays-February 15th, February 22nd, February 29th
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Cost: Free of charge
Who: Open to all youth ages 14-19 years old, 4-H members bring a friend
Where: MSU Extension Office, 555 W Cedar Ave, Gladwin, MI 48624

Build a portfolio, explore different types of careers, develop a business plan, compete in a quiz bowl, write a resume, practice interviewing skills and a whole lot more fun!

Food provided, along with curriculum and lots of learning!

Class Instructors

Bev Przystas, Extension Educator, Children and Youth
Janelle Thurlow, 4-H Volunteer Instructor

In order to plan for food and materials, please register by February 1st by calling the MSU Extension Office at 989-426-7741

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Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Rachel Brewer at (989)426-7741 by 2/1/16 to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.