A Letter from Les

Welcome to the latest edition of the Alcona 4-H Newsletter - we are excited to finally be able to share some cool information about some excellent summer programs - some of them still on the drawing board! As normal, inside you'll find a complete club listing, information on Council benefits for 4-H members and leaders, policies regarding fund-raising as well as some cool photos from a really cool program from this winter.

We are excited to have Detroit Daytrip registration included in this newsletter—This year we will be exploring the Michigan Science Center (formally the Detroit Science Center) as well as attending an evening Tigers’ game. If you’ve never been to the science center, it is a really cool, hands-on learning environment that will inspire learning at all ages. There are numerous displays, exhibits and demonstrations that will be fun and engaging for everyone. If you are interested in the daytrip, find the enclosed registration form and get it returned as soon as possible—there are a limited number of seats available.

Another really cool (NEW!) program happening this summer is the 4-H Expo - This event, happening on Saturday, July 26th is sponsored by the 4-H Advisory Council and is free for the entire community to attend. We have a committee hard at work designing this event that will focus on exhibiting clubs, showcasing youth and having a fun, enjoyable afternoon. Some highlights of the day will include 4-H display tables set up by various clubs, staffed by club members and leaders, informational booths from local partners, a book giveaway for youth of all ages, and of course a complimentary picnic lunch. Additional highlights for the day include numerous mini-fundraiser projects, coordinated by the members of the Exploration Days delegation. Some of the fundraisers will include: Dunk-tank (pay to dunk or pay to sit) Dodge Ball Tournament (4 person teams), Smash-a-thon, Corn toss tournament (2 person teams) and many more, including the culmination of the kiss-a-pig fundraiser. We’re hoping for an epic turnout—so make plans to attend!

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Les
Why do a record book?

Record books can provide a large list of benefits for youth.
Posted on April 18, 2014 by Laurie Rivetto, Michigan State University Extension

It is record book time! Whether a completed record book is required or is a choice for you to add to your project, why should you complete a record book?

Any project, including completing a record book, has some challenges such as the time it takes, the materials it might require and the opportunities to forget to record some important detail. However, the pay-off, over the long term, exceeds the challenges. Let’s consider a few of the benefits that Michigan State University Extension identifies for keeping a record book:

It helps you organize your time and develop skills in record-keeping, time management, goal-setting, decision-making, planning/organizing, self-motivation and in marketable skills. This will help you with future projects and your job or careers in life.

- All your project information is in one place so it is easily accessible for reference.
- It can be displayed at the auction, exhibit halls or in other venues (science fairs, portfolios, etc.) to inform others about the work you have done on your project.
- It can be used to reflect on what went well this year as well as what can be improved for next year. Comparing record books from year-to-year will help you see all that you have learned by doing the project.
- It helps with goal-setting and being able to track progress towards goals.
- It can be worked on year-round. You can keep a small notebook in with your project materials that you won’t worry about getting wet or dirty and make notations in it to help you keep up on your record book.
- You can showcase your creativity by including pictures, recipes, making it into a PowerPoint or more. Think outside the box!

It can help you to complete 4-H State Awards portfolios, college applications, an employability portfolio or scholarship applications.

Completing a record book helps you develop skills that, ultimately, will help you in your future career and in life. The 4-H Youth Development Program has lots of tools to help young people build these skills and create a strong record book. Take the time to create a fantastic record book and watch yourself benefit exponentially in the process!

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit http://www.msue.msu.edu. To contact an expert in your area, visit http://expert.msue.msu.edu, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).
4-H Council Attends Retreat

Members of the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council recently attended a two-day, two night retreat at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI where they participated in a training as well as took time to address the progress of their 5-year plan. The presentation was titled “Creating Effective Youth and Adult Partnerships” and was presented by Leadership and Civic Engagement team member Sara Keinath of Wexford county and focused on getting the most out of youth that are on councils, boards and committees. Sara brought numerous tools and created an environment that allowed everyone to contribute to the learning process. In addition to the 6-hour program, Council members also took a look at the progress of the 5-year plan that was developed at the previous retreat, two years prior. In addressing that plan, the council decided to hold a summer 4-H Expo event (see page 1) that would help the community see the full reach of the 4-H program.

At right- Council members (missing Lois Marshall and Kelly Sexton) pose for a photo at the end of the retreat.

Below- Exploration Days participants pose for a group photo during a county meeting near the end of the event. 30 youth and 3 adults from Alcona County participated in the 3 day, 2 night event, held on the campus of MSU.
Fundraiser Policy for all clubs

Step one: Club determines that they need money for something. Could be a trip, membership fees, club resources, 4-H paraphernalia; whatever. You may not raise money for the sake of having it.

Step two: Club plans a fundraising project—carwash, bottle drive, bake sale—something that all or most of the members will be able to help with. Remember that raffles or other games of chance are not allowed for 4-H clubs in Michigan.

Step three: The club leader submits a fundraising request to the MSU Extension Office no less than 2 weeks prior to the anticipated start of the fundraiser event. This document can be picked up at the office or can be found in the Michigan 4-H Treasurer’s book.

Step four: Wait until confirmation is given for the fundraiser; either right then by staff or by phone or mail. You may NOT go ahead with the fundraiser unless this confirmation is given.

Step five: Conduct fundraiser and make sure to include all members; this can be a very valuable learning experience for everyone. Make sure that all moneys are accounted for and that they are carefully tracked using the Michigan Treasurer’s book.

Step six: Complete the Fundraiser Wrap-Up form found in the Michigan 4-H Treasurer’s handbook. Mail or drop it off to the Alcona County MSU Extension office.

A reminder—All clubs will be asked to complete an Annual Fiscal Statement to be on file with the MSU Extension Office no later than November 1 of the following 4-H year. If your club had no fiscal activity (no current balance or money raised or spent on behalf of the club in the past year) simply zero the form and return it to the office. Bank slips and receipts should be turned in where appropriate.

$upport Available from the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council

The Alcona 4-H Advisory Council recently approved their 2013-14 budget including numerous items that will benefit the active 4-H family. Through tireless fundraising, the council has set aside funds for youth and adults to use when attending 4-H programs on the local, regional and state levels. Additionally, funds from the annual membership fee may also available for youth wishing to attend state programs for the first time such as Exploration Days and Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp. 50% of the member fees collected annually stays within the county to be used in this manner.

Scholarship Policy

Any current 4-H member may request that an educational program be paid for up to 50% of the total cost of registration, not to exceed $50 per member. To apply, simply request this benefit when registering with the Alcona MSU Extension Office. In the event of a no-show where fees are collected, the scholarship will be removed and payment must be made by participant. This benefit will occur at time of registration.

Training Policy

Any youth or adult registered volunteer attending an educational training program, may request up to 50% of the total cost of registration be paid for elective training and 100% for mandatory training (not including room upgrades.) In the event of a no-show where fees are collected, this benefit will be removed and payment must be made by participant. This benefit will come in the form of a reimbursement after completion of the program.

Loans for Market Beef Projects

The Ludlow Family of Alpena has set aside money in a loan program for any youth who wishes to raise a beef project and would like financial help to get started. This is a zero interest loan that can offer up to $500 per year on a first come—first served basis. All loans are subject to repayment by September 30th without penalty.

The Council Needs you!

While we have seen the council grow in the last 6 months, we are always looking for more members to share their time and effort in supporting the Alcona 4-H program. Call for meeting details!
Alcona Archery Club
Projects – Shooting sports (archery)
Age – must be at least 9 years old before first club meeting
Meetings – at the upper floor of the ACCOA building in Lincoln on Thursday nights starting after the first of January.
Dues – in addition to the $10 member fee, a $2 per week dues will be collected to go toward the end of year banquet and awards.
Contact- Tom Keerl 724-6804
Chad Kamischke 471-2353
Phil Potter 736-3137

Alcona 4-H Strikers
New Bowling club will be meeting again this winter with interested youth of all experience and ability.
Ages –
Meetings are weekly for set number of weeks at Village Lanes in Harrisville.
Dues – weekly dues of $ are in addition to the $10 member fee and include weekly refreshments and awards at the end of the year.
Contact- Frank Belloli – 724-6433

Orkie’s Camo Club
Projects – Rabbit, poultry, gardening, composting,
Ages – 5-19
Meetings – leader’s home in Harrisville
Dues – none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact-
Pat Stewart 724-7474

Apple Hill Variety Club
Projects – All livestock including beef
Ages – 5-19
Meetings –
Dues – none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact-
Dr. Jaci Fitzgerald 736-6020
Dr. John MacMaster 736-6020
Lisa Stephenson 736-3021

Horsin’ Around
Projects – Market animals, pocket pets, fundraising.
Ages – 5-19
Meetings – Every Tuesday—sign up in Spring of ’14
Dues – none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact-
Jennifer Petty 735-2126
Melisa June 736-8258

Jolly Rogers
Projects – Outdoor recreation, communication, community service, community engagement
Ages – 9-19
Meetings – primarily in Lincoln, but will move depending on activity
Dues – In addition to $10 Member fee, some activities may be at additional cost.
Contact-
Judy French 335-1601

Born in a Barn
Projects – Gardening, Community Service
Ages – 5-19
Meetings – Spruce Presbyterian Church
Dues – none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact-
Hope Smith 471-2972

Crafts and Critters
Projects – Community Service, small animals, crafts, jewelry making
Ages – 5-19
Meetings – Start in October at leader’s home in Glennie
Dues – none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact-
Elaine McGuire 735-2094

Horsin’ Around
Projects – Market animals, pocket pets, fundraising.
Ages – 5-19
Meetings – Every Tuesday—sign up in Spring of ’14
Dues – none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact-
Jennifer Petty 735-2126
Melisa June 736-8258

Jolly Rogers
Projects – Outdoor recreation, communication, community service, community engagement
Ages – 9-19
Meetings – primarily in Lincoln, but will move depending on activity
Dues – In addition to $10 Member fee, some activities may be at additional cost.
Contact-
Judy French 335-1601
Dairy Heirs
Projects– Dairy Education, Public speaking
Ages– 5-19
Meeting place varies
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Katie Dellar 335-0879

Shoot What 4-H Variety Club
Projects– Shooting sports (Pellet gun) small livestock, but not mixing the two!
Ages–
Meeting place– leaders’ home in Glennie
Dues–
Contact–Jennifer Harte— 305-2139

Dothraki Skydogs
Projects– Horse, Rabbit
Ages– 7-19
Meetings- Leader’s home in Mikado
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Lindsay Nardi– 884-3295
Stephanie Maturen 590-3843

All Around Horses R Us
Projects– Horse, Home Arts, Home Economics
Ages– Target ages are 13-19
Meetings– Leader’s home in Lincoln
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Sue Schmitz 736-8447
Pam Joslin 736-8064

Rolling Hills Variety Club
Projects– All livestock (no beef)
Ages– 5-19
Meetings– At leaders home on the south shore of Hubbard Lake
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Sandy LaBeau 335-4044
Missy Lobaugh 727-2013

Ace Riders
Projects– Horse, Livestock, community service
Ages– 5-19
Meetings– Leader’s home in Lincoln
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Shannon Rifenbark 335-0394

Student Stewards
Projects– Environmental Science, ROV, outdoor education, recreation, camping, community service
Ages– 11 and up
Meetings– primarily at leader’s home in Harrisville
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Tracy D’Augustino 724-9909

Fishing Club
Projects– Outdoor recreation, fishing, aquatic science, community service
Ages– 9 and up (younger with parent involvement)
Meetings– monthly depending on where the fish are biting!
Dues– none in addition to the $10 annual member fee.
Contact– Tom Keerl 724-6804
Les Thomas 736-7231
15th Annual 4-H Detroit Daytrip!

$30 all youth
$40 all adults or
$15 commuter
(Any age – No transportation provided for commuters)

Tuesday July 8th

Bus leaves Alcona High 9:00 AM (exactly)
Returns 2:00 AM (approx.)
We will make a lunch stop in Clio

First stop—enjoy a 3 hour visit to the Michigan Science Center (formerly the Detroit Science Center) where families can enjoy hands-on exhibits that are both fun and educational. Experience one of many demonstrations by staff that will amaze and inspire learning. Additional attractions on site include IMAX movies and other experiences that will be at an additional charge.

Next stop—Comerica Park—home of the Detroit Tigers to watch our boys of summer take on the Los Angeles Dodgers in Interleague Play. We will arrive early enough to watch warm ups and batting practice for the visiting team.

There are a limited number of spaces on the chartered bus, and they will be filled on a first-come, first served basis. There are a limit of 15 commuter spots that are also on a first-come, first served basis. Transportation will NOT be provided for commuters.

Fill out the form on the reverse side—return it with full payment to the Alcona MSU Extension Office:

4-H Detroit Daytrip 320 South State St. Harrisville, MI 48740

Registration is on a first-come, first served basis and registration deadline is Thursday, July 3rd or until all spaces are filled!

Trip Sponsored by: MSU Extension, Alcona 4-H Advisory Council and the Detroit Tigers.
Registration for Detroit Daytrip
(Must be completely filled out and accompanied by full payment)
Limited space available!

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_____ I have enclosed full payment ($30 per youth, $40 per adult or $15 per commuter) with this form

Adult Address: (with PO Box) ___________________________ Zip ____________

Contact phone (morning of trip) ____________ Email ____________

Youth address (if different) ___________________________ Zip ____________

Contact phone (morning of trip) ___________________________

Attach additional youth address information as necessary. All registered participants will get a direct mailing to next year’s trip.

As it is our goal to serve youth, we require every adult sign up with at least one youth.

Adults are responsible for all youth on their forms and no youth can attend without an adult.

Adult and Youth Code of Conduct

- I do accept responsibility to represent MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H Youth Programs with dignity and pride by being a positive role model for others.
- I will conduct myself in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, respect, adhere to and enforce the rules, policies and guidelines established by MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H.
- I will not tolerate physical or verbal abuse to myself or any other person.
- I will comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.
- I will under no circumstances, participate in theft or vandalism, consume, use, sell or have in my possession alcohol or any other controlled substance.
- I will not display inappropriate affection at any time.

Adults and youth over 18 are strongly discouraged from smoking or using other tobacco products at 4-H activities or events. The use of tobacco products by youth under 18 is illegal.

__________________________  __________________________
Adult Participant signature(s)  Date

__________________________  __________________________
Youth participant signature(s)  Date