Mark November 23th on your calendar – take you family to dinner and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. The 4-H Council will be sponsoring their annual spaghetti Dinner and Holiday Auction. The program will take place in the Activity Center with the meal beginning at 4:00 p.m. - the first items will be auctioned off beginning at 6:30 p.m. but dinner will be served until 7:00 p.m. Cost for the meal is $6.00, kids 10 and under $3.00. This year we are also have a Silent Auction so you will be able to start bidding on some items as early as Friday.

How can clubs and individuals be involved? Wendy Rozanski is Chairing the auction. She is also seeking donations from families, businesses, and individuals for the evening activities. That prize winning 4-H project, or that Christmas gift from Aunt Rose may be someone else’s treasure. Clubs will also be challenged to donate something unique that will get the bidding going. The club and district with the highest selling items, will receive half of the price back for their treasury. Special activities will also be held for the kids, with the items they want to buy.

Items may be brought to the Extension Office any time during regular business hours. Arrangements can be made for pick-up of large items.

Desserts are needed to round out the meal. Families are encouraged to bring fancy desserts as well as the traditional cookies and cupcakes. That good 4-H cooking guarantees an excellent end to a perfect meal.

Remember – the 4-H Council provides some wonderful scholarships to our members who attend Exploration Days – this is one way the members and families can help to raise some of the funds to insure that the scholarships are available in 2014.
**TREES TRUE COLORS**

It's Autumn time and leaves are turning color - or are they?

Tree leaves actually have a variety of color pigments always present within them. These beautiful yellows, oranges and reds are masked during the warm months of the year by an abundance of green pigments called chlorophylls.

When the weather gets cooler and the nights become longer, the chlorophyll moves out of the leaves and into the tree’s branches and trunks, leaving behind the remaining pigments to be seen. That begins to explain the colors changing in the leaves, but there are other pigments that are responsible for the wide variety of colors.

Carotenoids are pigments that produce yellow, orange and brown colors. The reds and purples are caused by anthocyanin pigments that form in the cell sap of some species in late summer and fall. Anthocyanins also give color to things such as cherries, blueberries, strawberries and plums.

The most influencing factors involved in seeing tree color changes as mentioned before, are the shorter days and longer nights causing the chlorophyll to retreat out of the leaves. But the amount of brilliance in the colors each season depends on the temperature, moisture and wind. Although the yellows and golds remain fairly consistent year to year because carotenoids are always present in leaves (as well as other things like corn, carrots, and bananas), the anthocyanins that give us the reds and purples are produced when there is lots of sugar in the leaves and lots of light. Therefore bright, sunny days and chilly nights (with no frost) create the brightest colors.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Trees can help reduce your heating costs? Trees act as natural windbreaks. During windy and cold seasons, a properly planted row of trees can make a significant difference in how cold your home gets! A reduction in wind can also reduce the drying effect on other vegetation/crops behind the windbreak.

Hemlines come and hemlines go, but certain colors just look best on certain trees. That’s because of the different chemicals such as iron, magnesium, and phosphorus present in each species. Here are some of fall’s colors and the trees that “wear” them best:

- **Yellow** – Ash, basswood, birch, beech, butternut, elm, hickory, mountain ash, poplar, willow
- **Orange** – Some oaks and maples
- **Red** – Black, red and white oaks, some maples (red, mountain and sugar) and tupelos
- **Red or Yellow** – Sugar maple, dogwood, sweet gum, black gum and sourwood

Taken from Arbor Day foundation Newsletter
You’ll find more tree info at: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)
The article below (Qualified Forest Property Program) was written by Dr. Karen Potter-Witter, MSU Forestry Professor. The QFP program underwent significant change this June, as the Governor signed the changes into law. The QFP program offers property tax reductions (school mill tax) in exchange for forest management. The QFP program is somewhat similar to the Commercial Forest program, but one important difference is that QFP program enrolled land does not need to be open to the public for hunting and fishing. There are short-term deadlines associated with the changes to the QFP and CF programs that can affect forest owners.

Major changes to Michigan’s private forestland policy occurred with the passage of Public Acts 42 through 50, signed by Governor Snyder on June 5 & 6, 2013. These acts included amendments to the requirements, provisions and administration of the Qualified Forest Property Program (QFP), which was established in 2006 to provide a reduction in property taxes for private forestland. These acts also expand the role of the Michigan Department of Agriculture Rural Development (MDARD) and the Conservation Districts in provision of assistance to private forestland owners, including administration of QFP.

QFP was enacted in 2006 to reduce the property taxes of owners of forested property that met certain conditions. Important qualifications were that the property was at least 20 acres, was capable of producing forest products and had no buildings. Lands enrolled in QF are exempt from the local school operating millage, usually 18 mills and enrolled land that continues in QFP can be exempt from the uncapping of taxable value when transferred. Since its enactment approximately 80,000 acres have been enrolled in the program, which is only a fraction of the approximately 7.2 million of private forestland in Michigan that is in parcels of at least 20 acres. Two aspects of QFP, the high withdrawal penalty (recapture tax) and the stipulation that the property cannot contain any structures are thought to be the major reasons for such a low enrollment. Public Act 49 of 2013 changed the calculation of the withdrawal tax and PA 42 of 2013 allowed forestland on which there are buildings to be enrolled.

There are two benefits from QF enrollment available to forest landowners. The first is an exemption from the school operating tax, which is usually 18 mills, and the second is an exemption from an uncapping, or “pop-up” of taxable value when the property is transferred. Since its enactment approximately 80,000 acres have been enrolled in the program, which is only a fraction of the approximately 7.2 million of private forestland in Michigan that is in parcels of at least 20 acres. Two aspects of QFP, the high withdrawal penalty (recapture tax) and the stipulation that the property cannot contain any structures are thought to be the major reasons for such a low enrollment. Public Act 49 of 2013 changed the calculation of the withdrawal tax and PA 42 of 2013 allowed forestland on which there are buildings to be enrolled.

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To meet QFP qualifications the property must be productive forest which is defined as that being able to produce forest products of at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year, which is about a quarter of a cord of wood per year. Parcels of more than 20 acres but less than 40 acres must be at least 80% stocked in productive forest. Properties of 40 acres or more must be at least 50% stocked in productive forest. Unlike the Commercial Forest Program, public access for hunting and fishing is not required for enrolled property. Buildings are now allowed on the property, but they are not exempt from the school operating millage or the pop-up 'deferral'. The buildings’ taxable value and millage rate will appear on a separate line on the owner’s property tax statement. There is a limit of 640 acres that a landowner may enroll in one local tax unit.
Owners of QFP forestland must follow the management plan that was submitted with the QFP application. The plan must include “1) a legal description and parcel identification number of the property, 2) a statement of the owners forest management objectives, 3) a map, diagram or aerial photograph … of the forested and unforested areas of the property, including the location of any buildings, 4) a description of forest practices [sic] including harvesting, thinning and reforestation that will be undertaken and … the period of time before each is completed, 5) a description of the soil conservation practices and 6) a description of activities that may be undertaken for the management of forest resources other than trees. “ (PA 42 of 2013). The landowner must perform the forest practices stipulated in the plan within three years of that scheduled by the plan. Landowners must also notify MDARD when a forest practice, including harvest, occurs.

The plan must be written by a qualified forester which includes State of Michigan Registered Foresters, Society of American Foresters Certified Foresters, a Forest Stewardship Plan writer or a USDA registered forest management plan technical service provider. The Conservation Districts will make a list of qualified foresters available on request and will post a landowner’s request for the services of a forester on its website. MDARD will also maintain a master list of all qualified foresters in the State which will be available to landowners. If the landowner has not located a qualified forester within 30 days of posting the request then the conservation district forester may write the forest management plan.

Landowners who are transferred (e.g. purchasing) property that is enrolled in QF can choose to keep the property in the program and have the school tax affidavit (QF STA) transferred to them. To prevent an uncapping of the taxable value the new landowner must also file a qualified forest taxable value affidavit (QF TVA) with the county register of deeds. This affidavit is provided by MDARD and includes a legal description, the name of the new property owner, a statement that the property qualifies for the exemption and that the new owner will continue to manage the property according to the forest management plan on file. If the QF TVA is not filed when the property is transferred, the property is withdrawn from QFP, the taxable value of the property is uncapped and any applicable recapture taxes are assessed.

Between June 1 and November 30, 2013 owners of lands which were enrolled in QFP before January 1, 2013 must choose to keep the property in QFP or remove the property from the program. To keep the property in QFP the landowner must file a new QF TVA (if needed) and a new QF STA with MDARD before November 30, 2013. During this six month period the $50 fee is not charged. Landowners may also opt not to execute new affidavits during this period and the existing affidavits will be rescinded, withdrawing the property from QFP but without the recapture tax being charged.

To withdraw property from QFP after November 30, 2013, the landowner files an application with MDARD and pays a recapture tax. If there had been a harvest on the property since enrollment the recapture tax is calculated as: (the school operating millage minus a two mill fee) x (the property’s taxable value) x (number of years enrolled in QFP not to exceed seven years).

If there had been no harvest of forest products during enrollment the calculation above is doubled.

To withdraw QFP properties which had a transfer ownership and for which a QF TVA was filed stating that the property would stay in QFP with the transfer, there is an additional repayment which is a function of how many years the property has been in the program and what the taxable value of the property would have been if it was not enrolled with the transfer of ownership (PA 49 of 2013 Sec 4(d)).

PA 45 of 2013 created the Private Forestland Enhancement Fund (PFEF). A fee equivalent to two mills per year is paid into the fund every year by QF property owners and, beginning in January 1, 2014, QFP recapture taxes are deposited into the fund. The PFEF is to be used by MDARD to provide assistance to private forestland owners including programs to encourage the judicious management of forestlands’, administering cost-share and incentive programs, educational, demonstration and technical assistance programs.

Landowners should contact their local Conservation District (macd.org/local-districts.htm) or MDARD (www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1599--,00.html) for additional information on applying for QFP exemption. MDARD can also supply a list of consulting foresters with whom landowners may wish to discuss QFP enrollment.
SIX OPPORTUNITIES FOR RAISING GOOD KIDS

The scary part of parenting is that you never know when you’re making an indelible impression on your kids or what lesson your child is taking from it. Most of the lessons we’ll teach, will be conveyed incrementally over the course of our living together. And yet, as parents we are not completely at the mercy of random chance and circumstance. Life provides many ordinary, but teachable, moments that we can use in raising good kids. Take some time and come up with your own list of teachable moments. To help you get started, here are six opportunities to teach your child well.

- Foster empathy—From early on make it a clear expectation that sharing is part of living as a family as well as living in society. An example might be when you see your child acting cruel or unkind, stop the action and review the situation together. Help them understand the implications of this behavior and how the other person may be feeling.

- Foster responsibility—One of the best ways to help your children in life is to coach them in taking responsibility for their actions. Unfortunately, many parents don’t allow their children the benefit of experiencing the consequences of their decisions. An example of how to foster responsibility is helping teach your child how to make amends. Brainstorm together ways to set things right whenever, wherever possible.

- Table Time—The family meal seems to be an endangered tradition, just when we as a society need it the most. Family life expert Dolores Curran explains, “The family that wants to improve its level of communication should look closely at its attitudes toward the family table”. A family table is the place where many kinds of nourishment are offered. Examples of opportunities would be learning proper social skills and the value and skills of communication.

- Introduce your children to grown-up life—Get your children involved in worth-while work. Let them know that they can contribute to the common good. Involve your children in community service activities. Give them an important role to play in the family like a household chore.

- Foster and understanding of self and others—It’s easy for family members to misunderstand one another. Stephen Covey says that at the heart of most family pain is misunderstanding. Seeking first to understand can save a lot of trials and tribulations between parent and child. Taking the time to understand what the deeper issue is will allow you to help kids through difficulties rather then add to them.

- Foster limits—To raise great kids, you need to establish a range of age-appropriate guidelines. For example, consider your rules for what your kids can eat and when or when they get the car keys—who can ride with them, how many can ride with them, how far are they allowed to travel, etc. Be clear about why you believe an action is right or wrong. Determine which issues matter to you, and establish some house rules that support your values.

Parenting is the most difficult job you will ever have but it will also be the most rewarding job you will ever have. Parenting is a process of launching children into the world with the best preparation we can give them. Just by the fact you read this article indicates your effort.

For more parenting information go to:
http://www.extension.org/parenting
http://www.search-institute.org/content/what-kids-need
Families and Transferring Personal Property Heirlooms

Planning is key to having personal belongs transferred successfully as result of downsizing and death.

Everyone has personal belongs that contain meaning to them or other members of their family. So the questions becomes “What happens to these things when you die?” and “Who decides who gets what?”. Planning for the transfer of personal property is just as important to plan for as the transfer of titled property. Even if you don’t have title property, everyone has personal property that needs to be dealt with. Consequently, this becomes a challenge for the person who owns the property and possibly, family members who may be left to make decisions when a family member dies.

This issue is frequently disregarded until a crisis occurs. It is often assumed to be a minor issue or a matter that just takes care of itself. However, research on the subject indicates otherwise. The transfer of non-titled property is an issue that affects individuals regardless of their financial worth, heritage or cultural background.

Individuals fail to plan ahead to include non-titled property as part of this decision-making process. What surprises many is that the transfer of personal property can create more challenges then titled property. These challenges can be; items have different meaning to different family members, sentimental value attached to an item is the more important issue verse monetary value, family member’s perception of “fair” is different, and communicating about the process can be difficult.

There are no right formulas or solutions available to transferring person property but there are factors to consider. One factor is understanding the sensitivity of the issue. Each family member will have a different feeling about the subject. Another factor is to define what you want to accomplish when distributing your personal items. Third factor is to determine what fair means in the context of the family. An additional task is to identify what each family member is interested in receiving and match that up to your wishes to transfer. Decided what distribution option you would like to utilize and the pros and cons of each. Lastly, have a plan in place in case of conflict.

University of Minnesota Extension has a resource called “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” This is a great resource to assist in transfer of non-title personal property. This process can be a time to rejoice a person’s life, share memories, and a way to continue family traditions. Plan now to add this to your estate plan.

For more information go to:  
www.mimoneyhealth.org;  
http://www.extension.org/personal_finance

To contact an expert in your area, visit people.msue.msu.edu, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

WHO GETS GRANDMA’S YELLOW PIE PLATE?

Monday, November 4, 2013  
1:30—3:30 pm  
Monroe County MSU Extension Learning Center  
963 S. Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48161  
Pre-register by calling 734 240-3179  
Hosted by Monroe County Homemakers of Extension
PARENTING PROGRAMS

FALL 2013

NURTURING PARENTING ONGOING CLASS

Every Tuesday
11:30 am—12:30 pm

Arthur Lesow Community Center
120 Eastchester
Monroe, MI 48161

COST: FREE

Pre-register required
734 240-3179

Certificate of completion is awarded once six classes are completed.

BUILDING STRONG ADOLESCENTS
PARENTING COURSE

Mondays
October 28, November 4, 11, 18, 25, and December 2, 2013

Monroe County MSU Extension Learning Center
963 S. Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161

COST: $30.00 per person/couple

Pre-register by October 18, 2013
734 240-3179

Certificate of completion is awarded when participant attends all classes.
BREASTFEEDING AND EMERGENCIES

Key Facts about Breastfeeding in Emergencies

Emergencies often occur when least expected, and sometimes when we are least prepared. They can include a wide range of unsettling events, including personal or family crises, public health emergencies (such as a flu pandemic), acts of terror and violence, and natural disasters or weather-related events (such as floods and blizzards).

Mothers can breastfeed in an emergency!

- The safest food in an emergency is the mother’s own milk. Donor human milk is the next best option. Mothers who cannot directly feed their babies can also be supported to express their milk.
- Women who are stressed can continue to make milk. A quite area that helps mothers relax can help their milk flow to the baby.
- Malnourished mothers can make plenty of milk.
- Even mothers who have already discontinued breastfeeding may be able to restart breastfeeding (known as “relactation”).
- If a baby (or mother) becomes ill, the best thing the mother can do is to continue breastfeeding to provide her baby with human antibodies that fight the illness.
- Support makes the difference.

For more information go to www.breastfeeding.org/communities/breastfeedingandemergencies/

MONROE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS OF EXTENSION

MCHE Council met Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at the Extension office.

It was reported we have sold all of the first printing of our Cookbook. We have had 75 more printed. See a member to purchase. They are $3.00 each.

The “Flower Cards” are ready to sell. Members have them. The card sells for $30.00 each. You will then go to Deb’s Florist to get flowers each month.

Rally Day is September 24th with a Hawaiian Theme will be held at the Carleton United Methodist Church. Those receiving awards are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betty Mae Smith</td>
<td>Lullabye</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Kreps</td>
<td>Lullabye</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Smith</td>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Ziske</td>
<td>Ostrander</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemary McCrea</td>
<td>Ostrander</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxine Layton</td>
<td>Ostrander</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorna Eddings</td>
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<td>Betty Curley</td>
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<td>Darlene Liedel</td>
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<td>Carol Yount</td>
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<td>Barbara Sampsel</td>
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October 30, 2013 is the deadline to register for the lesson “Who gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate”.

Members are asked to get their donations of twin size blankets, sheets and towels ready for our Linen Tree at the Monroe Historical Museum. Donations may be brought to the Extension Office.

Carleton Study Group has scheduled their yearly auction for October 22nd starting at 6:30pm at the Carleton United Methodist Church. Money made will be donated to charity.

Our next meeting is October 15, 2013 at the Monroe County MSU Extension office.
NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

The 4-H Clover is the second most recognized symbol in the world and during National 4-H Week – You will see it displayed across Monroe County. Many of our 4-H clubs are creating displays to better inform the public what 4-H is all about. 4-H has made a tremendous impact on our community, and will continue to make a difference to future generations.

Let’s get this story out.

The 4-H Council is encouraging clubs to create these displays in a store window, a church, school or library. Perhaps you could paint a store window, which tells your clubs 4-H story. Clubs who create a display, and submit a picture to the 4-H Office by October 31st, will be given a $25.00 award.

We will try to include many of these pictures, and all club names in the December Network.

THE BANQUET SCENE

The banquets, recognizing the tremendous success of the 4-H Youth, have all been excellent this season.

The Junior Livestock Banquet was again held in the Activity Center this year, with a capacity crowd. Elliot Wollman was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The meal was prepared by Wendy and Rick Rozanski. JLA members who had Champions at fair, showmanship and lamb lead winners were recognized during the afternoon activities.

Also announced were the Beef Herdsmanship winners for 2013. This award is sponsored by Blanchett Farms, Masserants Feed and Grain, Albring Farms and Gary and Barb Drodt.

Election results from the meeting has the following elected to the 2014 JLA Board. Garrett LaRoy, Charlie Martin, Gabe Hoffman, Paxton Kreps, Emily Kittendorf, Dane Diesing, Kyle Motylinski, Noah Sampson.

A Turkey and Beef dinner with all of the trimmings was the order of the day for the Small Animal Association. A crowd, including many buyers assembled for the evening activity. Monroe Bank and Trust was present to distribute checks to the 4-H’ers who sold in the sale. Tabatha Lajiness was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. The board did a wonderful job of recognizing their buyers and the members who had earned Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

The Small Animal Master Stockman awards will be presented at the October 21st, Small Animal Annual Meeting. The evening was concluded with door prizes being awarded to the buyers.

BEEF CATTLE SALES

Michigan State University has published a list of Cattle Sales for those members who may be hunting for a steer for next years fair.

This list is available on line at http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/ when you get to the site click on Upcoming Events.

If you don’t have access on line – please call the 4-H Extension Office and a copy will be mailed.

Cattle must be in the member’s possession by January 1, 2014.
MASTER STOCKMAN NAMED

For the thirteenth year the program continued to grow as members completed enough divisions to be eligible to compete. This year, 4-H’ers between the ages of 9 and 19 not only exhibited their animals and competed in showmanship, they gave speeches and demonstrations, tried their hand at livestock judging, experimented with photography, created animal science exhibits, worked with record keeping, made Promotional Posters and participated in the Skill-a-thon.

Congratulations to these outstanding youth, their willingness to experience something new and be willing to take the challenge has helped to earn a cash award.

Overall Master Stockman for 2013 was Piper Hopple, who competed in Beef and Swine and earned the highest score of any Master Stockman this year. Piper earned $200 for her work.

Champion Master Stockman
Piper Hopple

Winning in the divisions were

Intermediate Beef
Jacob Luty
Colton Aikens-Jaworski
Charlie Hileman

Senior Beef
Piper Hopple

Junior Division Sheep
Cale Piedmonte-Lang
Levi Couch
Joseph Liedel
Lilly Anderson
Anthony Vandermeer
Ross Thomas

Intermediate Sheep
Zane Piedmonte-Lang
Taylor Fietz
Kerrie Kraftchick
Leah Thomas
Erin Thomas

Senior Sheep
Antonia Piedmonte-Lang
Bethany Martin
Hannah Haise
Emily Oley
Baily Ott

Senior Swine
Emily Kittendorf
Steven Rinaldi
Michelle Thiabault
Delaney Preston
Kyle Wood

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Want to get ahead of the rush? We have an item that just might fill the bill for a variety of gift giving needs

4-H Brick - For that special person who has everything, give them the lasting gift of a brick in the 4-H Walk of Support. The 4-H Council will be cutting and placing additional bricks in the spring. Special Presentation Cards will be available for bricks that are purchased to be given as gifts. The cost of the brick is $100 for a 4x8 or $150 for an 8x8 or $250 for 16x16 granite.

If you would like further information, please contact the 4-H Office.
**LEADER BANQUET**

We have begun to make plans for the 65th Annual Leader Banquet the date of the banquet has been set for December 13th. The committee has again planned the event for the Activity Center. This evening we will bring together the past, present and future to guarantee a 4-H program for the next generation.

Monroe Bank & Trust will again be providing a buffet dinner for all Monroe County 4-H Leaders and their guests. Leaders will be recognized for their outstanding efforts, along with alumni and community supporters who have together combined to make the 4-H Program the largest youth program in the county.

The Award of the Clover will also be presented to the leaders who have completed years of service; the award is given in five-year increments. A 2013 pin has been designed and will be presented to every leader who attends.

Since returning to the Activity Center the committee has provided some tremendous recognition, we have brought our program home and we will again this year provide an evening of enjoyment for the Monroe County 4-H Leaders and their spouses.

Please call by December 5th with your reservations.

**GARAGE SALE**

The Fair Board is going to let us be a part of the Fall Garage Sale on October 26th – but we need STUFF to sell. The garage Sale pays for our fair ribbons. You can bring your donation any time either to the Activity Center or to the office.

**Remember – We do not take clothes.**

**KIDS DAY**

We have 216 young 4-H members registered for Kids Day and this year it is going to be a fun event. Activities will be set-up inside the Activities Center and members and their families will be able to not only observe but also get involved in a variety of fun activities it will be a fun, learning experience for everyone.

As usual for Kid’s Day the program will conclude with refreshments and awards for the outstanding All Stars that will be there representing the clubs.

**Don’t forget** – Sunday October 6th - 2:00 – 4:00 at the Activity Center on the fairgrounds. Everyone is welcome!
SMALL ANIMAL ANNUAL MEETING

Members enrolled in the Small Animal Project are encouraged to take part in the annual meeting schedule for October 21st. The association has planned the meeting so that members, parents, leaders and interested buyers, who have an interest in small animals can have input into the direction of the association.

The meeting will be held on Monday, October 21st, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Activity Center. A discussion will be held on ideas for the 2014 auction. Suggestions are welcome to improve both our show and sale. Election of new directors to the governing board will also be held. Any 4-H’er, 14 and older with an interest in rabbits, poultry or cavies is encouraged to run for a seat on the board. One adult position will also be on the ballot.

The meeting will include refreshments. A recognition portion of the meeting will include presentations to the 2013 Board and awarding of the MasterStockman awards. Reservations are not required.

2013 YOUTH RECOGNITION

The date for the 2013 Fall Recognition Program has been set. Please mark Sunday, November 3rd as the day to recognize all of the special achievements of our Members for this past 4-H year.

Sunday, November 3rd at 2:00pm. members, parents, leaders and friends will gather in the Activity Center to recognize and congratulate the 4-H members who completed County and Older Teen Award Forms, the members of the New Horizons Program, this years State Award Winners and delegates, Scholarship Winners as well as the Key Club Awards and to recognize this years “I Dare You” recipients.

Everyone is invited to the program. The 2013-2014 New Horizons Delegates will be providing refreshments for the program.

MITTEN TREE

Fall has arrived so winter cannot be far behind. It seems like fair was just over and we are planning for another year. To get ready for winter we are again preparing to decorate the Mitten Tree. Pat Webb, project chairman will set up the tree in November in the lobby of the Extension Office. We encourage all clubs, families and interested community members to donate, hats, scarves and mittens to decorate the tree.

Traditionally we not only decorate the tree we heap baskets full of the colorful items around the tree. Items should be to the Extension Office by December 9th as on that day the tree will come down. The elves will arrive and each parcel will be wrapped in preparation for the children who will be receiving the items. The gifts are distributed to youth across the county.

Several packages are also given to schools that continue the distribution throughout the winter to youth who come to school and need warm, mittens, hats or scarves.

This is a very easy community service project, but one that brings much enjoyment to the warms hands and heads that benefit from the gifts.

LEADER LEARNING FAIR

There are still a few openings for the popular Leader Learning Fair. The date this year is October 19th and it will begin at 9:00 am. Brenda Chandonnet, Chairman of the event has put together and amazing agenda of activities. The cost is $10 – and includes all materials, lunch and snacks.

Reservations must be received by October 9th. Call the office if you need a flyer mailed.
REASONS TO CONSIDER RYE FOR FALL COVER

By Jim Isleib, MSUE

Why consider rye? Here are a few good reasons why cereal rye remains an excellent choice for a fall cover crop in many situations:

1. Reduces weed seed germination (allelopathic effect).
2. Provides significant organic material for soil improvement (up to 3-5 tons per acre if grown to maturity).
3. Reduces or prevents soil erosion in fall and spring.
4. Supplies nutrients to the following crops (good scavenger of surplus nitrogen and other nutrients, reducing nitrate leaching by tying up nitrate in rye plant material and making it available to following crops).
5. Very winter hardy.
6. Easy to establish.
7. Germinates quickly.
8. Provides structural support for an additional legume cover crop, such as hairy vetch.
9. Establishes well without seed coverage by soil, as long as the soil is moist enough.
10. On wet, clay soils, rye can help reduce excess spring soil moisture.

Sounds great! Are there any downsides? Of course…

- Potential for crop suppression (allelopathy or nutrient tie-up) with following crop (not likely).
- Other cover crop choices may be better for erosion control and rooting depth.
- Spring growth can “get out of control” if not killed early.
- If rye is used for grazing, there is not much fall growth available and forage quality is not as good as some other cover crop choices.
- Susceptible to small grain insects and diseases.
- Rye needs to be killed in the spring between 8 to 12 inches. If rye gets taller than 24 inches in the spring you may need to add starter nitrogen due to the rye tying up nitrogen.
- Regrowth may occur if not completely controlled (mature rye difficult to manage).

All things considered, rye is a great choice for a fall cover crop. It’s not completely fool-proof, but as close as you can get. Your local Michigan State University Extension field crops educator can suggest seed sources and varieties suitable for your situation.

For more details on rye and other cover crops suitable for Michigan agriculture, visit the Michigan Cover Crops website.

Photo credits: Florian J. Farber, USDA photography services (first image); John S. Quarterman, USDA photography services (second image); Jason Johnson, USDA photography services (third image)

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).
CALENDAR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2013

4-H

October
10/2/13  Junior Livestock Association
         Extension Learning Center
10/3/13  Fair Advisory Board
         Extension Learning Center
10/6/13  Kids Day
         4-H Activity Center
10/7/13  4-H Council
         Extension Learning Center
10/8/13  Dairy Banquet
         4-H Activity Center
10/14/13 Horse & Pony Board
         4-H Activity Center
10/15/13 Spaghetti Dinner Committee
         Extension Learning Center
10/19/13 Leader Learning Fair
         REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED
         4-H Activity Center
10/19/13 Horse & Pony Banquet
         4-H Activity Center
10/21/13 Small Animal Assoc. Annual Meeting
         4-H Activity Center
10/24/13 Work and Learn
         Extension Demo Gardens
10/30/13 Teen Ambassadors
         Extension Learning Center

November
11/2/13  Explorer Program
         4-H Activity Center
11/3/13  Youth Recognition
         4-H Activity Center
11/4/13  4-H Council
         Extension Learning Center
11/11/13 Horse & Pony Board
         4-H Activity Center
11/20/13 Teen Ambassadors
         4-H Activity Center
11/21/13 REAACT
         Extension Learning Center
11/23/13 Spaghetti Dinner
         Holiday Auction
         4-H Activity Center
11/25/13 Small Animal Board
         Extension Learning Center
11/28/13 THANKSGIVING—OFFICE CLOSED

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

October
10/15/13  MCHE Meeting
         Extension Learning Center
10/28/13  Building Strong Adolescents Class
         Extension Learning Center

November
11/4/13  “Who gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate”
         1:30 pm

HORTICULTURE

October
10/12/13  Work and Learn
         Extension Demo Gardens
10/19/13  MCMGA Meeting
         Extension Learning Center
10/24/13  Work and Learn
         Extension Demo Gardens

November
11/9/13  MCMGA Recognition Brunch
         Extension Learning Center
STAFF AND MSUE RESOURCES

The Monroe County MSU Extension office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am—noon and 1:00—5:00 pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734-240-3170. Service is also available at the lobby counter during these hours. On Wednesday and Friday, staff may only be reached via their direct lines which are noted below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Though Extension has recently reorganized our structure, Extension professionals are still located in communities across the state and are still working to address Michigan’s most pressing needs through four broad-themed areas; greening Michigan, agriculture and agribusiness, children and youth, health and nutrition. If you would like to learn more about these program areas, you can read about them in a document called “Carrying Out the Land-Grant Mission” that can be found at www.msue.msu.edu To locate MSU Extension Staff across the state by name or area of expertise go to: http://people.msue.msu.edu