Kalamazoo County 4-H Benefit Auction Successful!

Thank you to the many families, businesses and community clubs who donated to the 21st Annual Benefit Auction, and to those who came out to support the program by way of purchasing the items. We would also like to give thanks to the auction committee for helping make this a successful event. Your hard work paid off!

There were many gift baskets, gift certificates and other items that helped raise over $5,000 towards 4-H programming. These funds will be used to support programs such as youth attending MSU Exploration Days, scholarship opportunities, educational programming and fall achievement awards.

Kalamazoo’s 4-H Archery Club

The archery program will be up and running soon. Youth will have the opportunity to learn safety around archery equipment, how to shoot and have the opportunity to choose between Olympic style or 3-D targets that include dinosaurs, deer, bear, turkeys, caribou and other assorted animals. If you haven’t signed up yet and would like to please make sure to go back into the 4-H online family profile and add it to your project list. Then please contact Mike George, archery leader, at 269-665-9865. Please make sure that you/your child is signed up by March 9th to participate in the archery program. If you have any questions, please contact Mike immediately.

March 2015
EXPLORATION DAYS—JUNE 24-26, 2015

ALL 4-H MEMBERS, AGE 11-19 YEARS OLD ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE!

The early sign up meeting will be held on Friday, March 6th, 2015, in the Georgian Room at the Nazareth Complex on Gull Rd, starting at 6 pm. Sign up early to ensure that you are able to attend the classes you want. Make sure to bring your forms completely filled out, personal data sheet and a down payment of $80 with you.

4-H Exploration Days is an annual MSU Pre-College Program that attracts approximately 2,500 participants from all 83 counties in Michigan. There is a lot to do while on campus. You’ll experience what living in the dorms is like, learn new things, make new friends and have time to explore the beauty of the MSU campus. Youth can choose from over 200 hands-on-learning sessions; everything from health and nutrition to personal development to livestock and money management.

The registration fee is still $165 for 4-H members, $175 for non-4-H members. This fee includes a 3 day, 2 nights MSU program full of experiential learning, including the lodging and food. Scholarships are offered for a limited number of 4-H youth through the Kalamazoo County Leader’s Council and the Kalamazoo County 4-H office.

4-H members from Kalamazoo County have said the following about this event:

- Attending 4-H Exploration Days has helped me to try new things, and developed my problem solving abilities.
- Made me more confident about being independent.
- It has shown me some possible career choices to pursue.

For more information on the Exploration Days Program go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h_exploration_days
4-H has been an influence on many well-known people throughout history...
So who are some people who've been through the program? The first family to e-mail the 4-H office with the correct answers to the following, will be getting a bag of 4-H swag from the 4-H Mall:

1. What famous astronaut was a 4-H member?
2. This 4-H alumni was a product manager, Agricultural Division, The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, MI; served as president of the Michigan 4-H Foundation; was instrumental at gaining his company’s support of the national 4-H veterinary science program; who was he?
3. He was the retired vice president of Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, that was in charge of public relations, chairman of the board of directors of American Feed Manufacturers’ Association. And as a Ralston Purina executive he conducted an annual campaign in the feed industry to build financial support for the National 4-H Foundation, and was one of the innovators of the 4-H Dog Care & Training Program which Ralston Purina sponsors nationwide; also served as president of the North Carolina 4-H Development Fund; who was he?
4. Because of this gentleman’s work with Michigan State University and the W.K Kellogg Foundation, two grants totaling nearly $1,282,000 in support of 4-H youth development programs in the Americas were given in 1971. He also served as the first chairman of the national State 4-H Leaders’ Conference; who was he?
5. He's best known for the popcorn that bears his name, he has had a long association with 4-H; as a boy in Clay County, Indiana, he belonged to 4-H for 7 years and was a member of the Indiana state 4-H championship judging teams in poultry and eggs, corn and dairy; in 1929 he organized the first Vigo County, Indiana 4-H fair; he served as a 4-H volunteer leader and was chairman of the Gibson County Extension Committee.
6. This gentleman was a U.S. Senator from Tennessee, U.S. Representative and Vice President and was a 4-H member in Smith County, TN for four years exhibiting purebred Angus cattle and attended Crossville 4-H Camp for three years; attributes 4-H with giving him citizenship, leadership and public speaking skills that helped pave his way toward a successful career as a politician.
7. As a famous country music singer she won the country music entertainer of the year, 1986; six year 4-H member from Oklahoma participating in several agricultural projects; says 'I always enjoyed the Share-the-Fun Festivals in 4-H because I was able to sing before groups of people and gain self-confidence.'
8. As an animal scientist and expert on rabbits, operating one of the largest individually-run rabbitries in the United States, the operation involving 11 rabbit barns with a capacity of 20,000; her interest in rabbits began during her 11-year 4-H career in Barry County, MI; works with a state 4-H intergenerational program, an effort to involve senior citizens and 4-H youth in working together. She has also judged at the Kalamazoo County fair for several years.

According to research done through Tufts University, youth who are a part of the 4-H Youth Development Program are:

- Four times more likely to make contributions to their communities (grades 7-12);
- Two times more likely to be civically active (grades 8-12);
- Two times more likely to make healthier choices (grade 7);
- Two times more likely to participate in science, engineering and computer technology programs during out-of-school time (grades 10 – 12)
- Female 4-H participants are two times more likely (grade 10) and nearly three times more likely (grade 12) to take part in science programs compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

For more information on this research check out [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/tufts_research_defines_positive_youth_development_statistics_about_4_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/tufts_research_defines_positive_youth_development_statistics_about_4_h).
The 2015 build season for the Stryke Force Robotics club is complete and in just 1 short week, March 6-7, the team will participate in the first competition of the season! The event will be held in Kentwood at East Kentwood High School, with the Opening Ceremonies beginning on Friday at 10:30 am and the last matches ending at 7:00 pm. On Saturday, the Opening Ceremonies begin at 9:00 am and the Awards are at 5:00 pm. Our second competition will be held at St. Joseph High School in St. Joe, March 20-21, and the opening ceremonies and awards times are the same as Kentwood.

This year’s Robotic challenge is called RECYCLE RUSH. This is a recycling-themed game played by two Alliances of three robots each. Robots score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers, and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter. In keeping with the recycling theme of the game, all game pieces used are reusable or recyclable by teams in their home locations or by FIRST at the end of the season.

Teams that qualify will compete at the state and national level - April 8-11 State Tournament in Grand Rapids at the DeltaPlex and April 22-25 World Championship in St. Louis.

Hope to see you all at one of our competitions!

Fun Facts on Wheat

When we think about preparing a meal – many times we include something that we probably take for granted – wheat. Here are some fun facts about wheat taken from http://www.wheatworld.org/wheat-info/fast-facts/.

· Wheat was first planted in the United States in 1777 as a hobby crop.
· Six classes bring order to the thousands of varieties of wheat. They are: hard red winter (HRW), hard red spring (HRS), soft red winter (SRW), hard white (HW), soft white (SW) and durum.
· In 2008/2009, U.S. farmers grew nearly 2.4 billion bushels of wheat on 63 million acres of land. (THANK YOU to all of those farmers!!)
· Kansas produces enough wheat each year to bake 36 billion loaves of bread and enough to feed everyone in the world, over six billion people, for about 2 weeks. An acre of Kansas wheat produces enough bread to feed nearly 9,000 people for one day.
· A bushel of wheat yields 42 one-and-a-half pound commercial loaves of white bread OR about 90 one-pound loaves of whole wheat bread.
· The first bagel rolled into the world in 1683 when a baker from Vienna Austria was thankful to the King of Poland for saving Austria from Turkish invaders. The baker reshaped the local bread so that it resembled the King’s stirrup. The new bread was called “beugel,” derived from the German word stirrup, “bugel.”
· Ancient traditional tortillas were made from ground corn by Mexican natives as long as 2000 years ago. Flour tortillas only started to become popular in the 19th century. There were over 85 billion tortillas eaten in the US in 2000, not including tortilla chips.

For more facts about wheat check out the website above, and keep an eye on upcoming newsletters for more “fun facts”.

There will be a countywide swine meeting on March 24th at 7pm at the fairgrounds. Tags will be handed out and we will be talking about what youth should be looking for when picking out a pig.
Kalamazoo County Rabbit Project Update

A big thank you goes out to Sandra Newport from Zoetis who came and spoke to our 4-H families about Zoetis and a career in animal science. Thank you!

At the last meeting Janelle reviewed the dates for breeding your market rabbits. We will send out a reminder email and also post on the facebook page soon. If you don’t receive an email within the next two weeks, please contact me.

It is really cold out there so be sure to take extra care to provide fresh water, not frozen, for your bunnies and make sure they are out of the cold wind. Bunnies prefer temperatures between 20-60 degrees. With the temperatures dropping below zero, it is important that they are properly protected from the cold temperatures.

Rabbit Hopping is going well. Come check it out and see if your bunny likes to take on the agility course. We encourage all 4Hr’s to participate. The scheduled dates for the next few months are, March 27th, April 17th, May 15th, and June 15th. As the weather warms up, we will move outside for practices, more to come.

Should you have any questions, please contact Janelle at 269-254-2411, or Roxanne at 269-317-1925.

Co-superintendents

Roxanne O’Neil
Janelle Gray

POULTRY PROJECT

Start your heat lamps—THE CHICKS ARE COMING!!! Its hard to believe that spring is just around the corner and our first shipment of breed/show chicks is due to arrive the week of March 9th. If you are one of the lucky families to welcome these super cute chicks, get your brooders set up now so that your chicks get a great start when they arrive. Jackie will give you a call when the they arrive to arrange a time to pick them up.

The market poultry project is underway, too. The dates for ordering are:

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<tr>
<th>Poultry</th>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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<td>Market Geese</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>May 12</td>
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<td>Heavy Duck</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>May 27</td>
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<td>Roaster</td>
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<td>Market Ducks</td>
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<td>Broiler</td>
<td>June 5</td>
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<td>Cornish</td>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>July 7</td>
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Call Ann Hollister at 685-2301 to get your orders in or come to the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th at 7pm.

Another date to put on your calendar is Saturday, May 16th for the STATE 4-H POULTRY SHOW to be held at the Eaton County fairgrounds in Charlotte. The catalogue and entry form is available on the 4-H website.
Upcoming urban 4-H programming includes the spring kick-off event for the Eastwood Community Club, scheduled for March 7th at the Eastwood Public Library. This event is meant to increase enrollment for the Eastwood 4-H club, and will begin with a brief introduction to 4-H, followed by fun activities for the community. Participants will be building Marshmallow Catapults, making Seed Balls, and designing their plots at the Eastwood Community Garden. If you would like to register a plot in this community garden, or register for the Eastwood 4-H club, please contact Jim Goodacre at jegoodacre@gmail.com or Evan Granito at granitoe@anr.msu.edu for more information.

Youth who participate in the Feb 28th Art Workshop (held at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds) will be able to participate in the Westminster Art Festival from March 28th – April 25th. Winners of each age group will receive a prize of either; art supplies or up to $100 cash. This year’s Art Festival theme is “A Garden of Hope”, and submissions will focus on gardening, environmentalism, and the lessons to be learned from agriculture and nature.

Please consider coming by Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oshtemo during the festival to see some art made by local 4-H members!

Entrepreneurial 4-H programs are starting this April at the Northside Association for Youth Development and at Interfaith Homes Network Neighborhood Center. If you know anyone living in these communities, or if you would like to volunteer to help these new 4-Hers learn the life skills and business-savvy, please contact Evan Granito at the 4-H office for more information.

Congratulations to Ravennah Gray on her accomplishment at the 2015 4-H Rabbit and Cavy show held at MSU in January. She earned Best of Breed for her Peruvian Cavy, Best Opposite Sex for her Textile Cavy and 5th in Breed I.D. Contest. There were over 300 youth who participated, 1229 rabbits and 181 cavies entered into the show. There were a record number of youth participants in the Gold Clover Showmanship Contest with 31 counties being represented in the rabbit competition and 19 counties in the cavy competition.

Other participants were: Anna VanDeWeert, Rebecca Gray, Christopher Gray, Samantha Putman, Amelia Ruger and Kaylynn Ruger.
“Garden of Hope” Art Festival Invites 4-Hers to Show Their Skills

Have you ever learned a new Life Skill while planting a garden? Have you ever used gardening as a tool to connect with nature, or to help teach a loved one something new? In 4-H, we know that planting and tending crops from germination to harvest is a powerful learning experience for people of all ages. That’s why we’ve partnered with the “Garden of Hope” 2015 Art Festival, hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church, to give our 4-Hers a chance to explore the value of gardens and nature through artistic expression, develop and showcase their creative talent, and win awesome prizes!

From March 28th – April 25th, artwork focusing on the theme “A Garden of Hope” will be displayed by professional art gallery designers from the KIA at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Submissions are broken down into 5 age groups, and winners from each group are eligible for amazing prizes. Winners of the K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade age groups will win $50 of art supplies, paid for by Westminster Presbyterian Church, and older age groups can win up to $100 cash. Submissions are due by March 14th.

For submission information and event details, contact the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 269-344-3966 or email: westminsterp@wpcportage.org


A free Art Workshop led by local art teacher Jane Rettke was available for 4-H families on February 28th at 10:00am, at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds & Expo Center. This event was well attended by community members, who produced beautiful paintings of flower gardens with real seeds in the paint! Artwork produced at this event will be submitted in the 2015 “Garden of Hope” Art Festival!

Couldn’t make it to the free Art Workshop? Worry not!

You can still participate in this event! Stop by the 4-H office and borrow our painting/art supplies, then set up your own workshop at your next 4-H club meeting! Submissions aren’t due until March 14th, so there is plenty of time for clubs and individuals to submit their artwork. If you’d like to use county art supplies, just call Veronica or Evan in the 4-H office and tell us what you need. We’d like to see a whole wall of 4-H artwork this year at the event – let’s show off the talent of 4-H!
2015 4-H Renewable Energy Camp

This camp (http://bit.ly/1BmswAO) – a five-day, precollege program held at Michigan State University (MSU) – explores ideas, research and opportunities in the field of energy as they relate to natural resources and agriculture. Participants, while exposed to three primary tracks focusing on wind energy, solar energy and bioenergy, choose one track to provide heightened experiences with the renewable energy that intrigues them the most.

At this fun, interactive camp, youth:
- Conduct experiments
- Ask questions
- Brainstorm new ideas
- Work with leading researchers at MSU who are developing the latest innovations in biofuel production and technology.
- Make their own biofuel
- Visit companies turning the latest scientific discoveries into real products that impact our families, local communities and even the world.
- Earn a digital badge for the knowledge they learn and apply within their renewable-energy track.

Who: Youth participants must be between the ages of 13 to 19 by January 1.

When: July 6 to 10, 2015

Where: Michigan State University (http://msu.edu) campus (http://maps.msu.edu), East Lansing

How
Youth participants (those who meet the age-eligibility requirement given above) must complete the 2015 Michigan 4-H Renewable Energy Camp Application Packet (http://bit.ly/1AllkRk) and submit it by May 1 to Laura Potter-Niesen, 4-H Youth Development, 446 West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824. Space is limited! Campers will be selected on the basis of their applications.

Cost
The 2015 cost (that includes meals, lodging, field-trip transportation and materials) is $190 per young person (and $200 for youth who are not 4-H members). You may wish to check with your county MSU Extension office to see if scholarship funds are available.

More Information
Some ways to find out more about 4-H Renewable Energy Camp are:
- The one-page 2014 Impact Summary (http://bit.ly/1E6n2tK)
- 4-H staff in your county MSU Extension office (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county)
- Insa Raymond (raymon65@msu.edu) or 517-439-9301

Host a Japanese Visitor for Summer 2015!
Do you have a child between the ages of 10 and 15 years? Would your child like to share Michigan family life with a Japanese brother or sister? Michigan 4-H needs host families from July 24 to August 23 and two-week home placements for Japanese adult chaperones. For more information, see http://bit.ly/1DD205o

Host a High School Exchange Student!
International teens (ages 15 to 18) will arrive in August to join a Michigan family and attend school for a year. Host a student from Japan or Korea and earn a $1,000 credit toward your child’s 4-H trip. Or help the U.S. State Department by hosting a 4-H Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) scholarship winner from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, etc. Go to http://bit.ly/17raAaR for further details.

Applications for both programs are due May 1.
4-H Makes a Difference!
Did you know that youth who participate in 4-H get better grades, are more likely to go to college, are less likely to use drugs, cigarettes or alcohol, and are more likely to give back to their communities (http://bit.ly/1CJqZCM)?

Belonging to 4-H is just one way we can help our young people develop life skills, prepare for the future and enjoy experiences with their peers.

Opportunities abound for members and leaders and you can find them all on http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events

STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Workshops

April 24-25: Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshop
http://events.anr.msu.edu/4hshooting15
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

April 11-16: National 4-H Conference
http://www.4-h.org/4-h-conference/about
Washington, DC

April 17: State 4-H Horse Communications Contest
Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

April 17-18: 4-H Equine Educational Expo
MSU, East Lansing

April 18: Small Animals Day
Contact Carla McLachlan (mclachl2@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

April 25: 4-H Horse Pattern O Rama Warm Up Show
Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

State 4-H Goat Expo
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/state_4_h_goat_expo2015
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

May 6-8: 2015 Michigan Envirothon State Competition
http://cona.cc/1AVTkY5
Fort Custer, Augusta

May 16: Michigan 4-H State Poultry Show (formerly 4-H Poultry Palooza)
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_poultry_palooza
Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte

May 30-31: Michigan 4-H Companion Animal Camp
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/michigan_4_h_companion_animal_camp
Camp Tuhsmeheeta, Greenville

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events
# March 2015

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<td>2 <strong>Club Meetings:</strong> Galesburg</td>
<td>3 <strong>Club Meetings:</strong> Alamo</td>
<td>4 Cakes: Climax</td>
<td>5 <strong>Club Meetings:</strong> Oshtemo, Portage</td>
<td>6 Early sign up for Exploration Days 6PM, Georgian Room, Nazareth</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9 <strong>Club Meetings:</strong> Tri-United, Augusta, Teen Club</td>
<td><strong>Club Meetings:</strong> Climax, Fulton, Scotts</td>
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<td>17 Countywide poultry meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
<td>18 LSA, Room C, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
<td>19 Horse Council, Room C, Dog project meeting,</td>
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<td><strong>Horse council Tack Sale 5-9pm</strong> Volunteer interviews, 6pm &amp; Leader’s council, Room C, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
<td>24 Countywide swine, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
<td>25 <strong>Fair Council, Room C, 6:30 PM County-wide cat meeting, Room B, 7pm Fairgrounds 4-H Capital Experience</strong></td>
<td>26 Countywide sheep project meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
<td>27 Rabbit Agility practice, Room B, Fair-</td>
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<td>31 Countywide Rabbit meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
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**4-H Capital Experience—Lansing**
# April 2015

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<td>Club Meetings: Alamo</td>
<td>LSA - Room C, Fairgrounds, 7pm</td>
<td>Horse Council, Room C, Dog project meeting,</td>
<td>4-H Scholarship applications are due by 5pm, Rabbit Agility practice, Room B, Fairgrounds, 6:30—8:30</td>
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<td>Countywide Rabbit meeting, Room B, Goat project meeting,</td>
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<td>Scholarship interviews, 5pm, Small mammals, Room B, 6pm Leader’s Council,</td>
<td>County-wide swine meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>County-wide cat meeting, Room C, Fairgrounds, 7:00PM</td>
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