2017 LEADERS COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

The following youth were chosen as the recipients of the Leaders Council scholarships for 2017. Each youth will receive $250.00 to put toward their college expenses. Congratulations to each youth and their parents!

Abbey VanDongen
Daughter of Kyle & Pam VanDongen
Kalamazoo Christian High School
10 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending — GVSU

Payton DeYoung
Daughter of Dan & Pam DeYoung
Galesburg-Augusta High School
11 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending — KVCC

Linnea O’Neil
Daughter of Jeffrey & Roxanne O’Neil
Galesburg-Augusta High School
8 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending — KVCC

Emily Burbans
Daughter of John & Jennifer Burbans
Hackett Catholic High School
9 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending — MSU

Congratulations also to the following Upper-classman who received Scholarships:

Elizabeth Bolhuis — EMU

Welcome Anthony Frontiera—4-H Urban Program Coordinator

We are excited to share that we have hired a new 4-H Urban Program Coordinator. His name is Anthony Frontiera. He has an extensive youth development background and has recently worked at the Portage Community Center with their youth programs. You’ll be learning more about him in the new months newsletter. His first day on the job will be May 1, 2017. You’ll be able to meet him at several events over the next few weeks and months as he is learning more about the MSUE—Kalamazoo County 4-H program and seeing where he can best support positive programming for youth throughout Kalamazoo County. Please help to welcome him either through e-mail, phone or in person.

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Project News

StrkyeForce 4-H Robotics Club to hold Open House

A community open house will be held on May 22nd-24th, 5:30-7:30. Midlink, 3400 Tech Cir. Kalamazoo. (Follow the Yellow Signs in the Midlink Business Park)

Come check out our team at the community open houses to learn more about joining the robotics team.

StrykeForce 4-H Robotics Club Wins World Championships in St. Louis, MO

The 2016-2017 ended on a fabulous note with Stryke Force Robotics taking home the title of World Champions. Throughout the five day long World Competition, the Stryke Force team all worked hard together in order to soar above the crowd. Starting off on the Daly Division, one of the six divisions of 68 teams each, we did an excellent job distinguishing ourselves from the other teams with our amazing shooter, swerve-drive and pre-programmed autonomous routine. All of our efforts paid off when we finished the qualifying matches ranked first, then we allied ourselves with teams 254 the Cheesy Poofs, 862 the Lightning Robotics, and 1676 the Pascack Pioneers. From there we dominated the final matches, working our way to the top, and winning to prestigious Excellence in Engineering Award, sponsored by Delphi. Faced with mechanical breakdowns, stressful matches and long days, StrykeForce 4-H Robotics rose to the challenge and led the team to victory!

Winning the Daly Field promoted us to the coveted Einstein Field World Championship Finals, where the winning teams of each division faced off in a round robin. Stryke Force showed their capacity, first landing in second place in the finals round—winning the event. The determining final matches were best two out of three, the first match was a decisive Stryke Force victory. The second match was a nail-biting match in which we came out on top by a three-point margin. The stands erupted once the numbers came out. Tears mixed with laughing as the team contemplated how far we’ve come this season, and how hard we had worked to earn this distinction. With the help of wonderful sponsors, mentors, coaches and family members, StrykeForce took home the gold, solidifying ourselves as literally one of the best teams in the world.
Kalamazoo County Youth participate in MSUE Goat Quiz Bowl

Senior Quiz Bowl placings:
1 Oceana County
2 Ottawa County Team A
3 Kalamazoo County
4 Genesee County
5 Van Buren County

Individual Awards:
Junior Judging:
- Katelynn Delaney - 9th Place

Senior Illustrated Talk:
- Kyle Schmitt - 5th place
- Katherine Denney - 2nd place

Extemporaneous Speaking:
- Katherine Denney - 2nd place

Junior Educational Poster:
- Amelia Ruger - 9th place

Junior Other Art:
- Katelynn Delaney - 1st place

Junior Photography:
- Katelynn Delaney - 2nd place

Junior Skill-a-thon:
- Amelia Ruger - 10th place
- Katelynn Delaney - tied for 1st place

Senior Skill-a-thon:
- Katherine Denney - 3rd place
- Kyle Schmitt - 9th place

More Goat Fun Facts

Goats were one of the first animals to be tamed by humans and were being herd-ed 9,000 years ago.

Goat meat is the most consumed meat per capita worldwide.

The life span of a goat is about that of a dog.

Baby goats (kids) are standing and taking their first steps within minutes of being born.

Each kid has a unique call, and along with its scent, that is how its mother recognizes it from birth — not by sight.

Counter to the dominant stereotype about goats being willing to eat anything, they are actually very picky eaters. They have very sensitive lips, which they use to “mouth” things in search of clean and tasty food.

Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if kept without any goat companions.

Goats’ pupils are rectangular. This gives them vision for 320 to 340 degrees (compared to humans with 160-210) around them without having to move and they are thought to have excellent night vision.

Among the many pets that populated the White House during Abraham Lincoln’s time in office were two goats, Nanny and Nanko. They were particularly beloved by Lincoln’s son, Tad, who even used them for chariot rides around the White House.

According to an Ethiopian legend, the stimulating properties of coffee were discovered when a goat herder found his flock frolicking with extra verve after consuming the red berries of the coffee shrub. The plant had the same energizing effect on the herder himself—and with that, the tradition of drinking coffee was (supposedly) born.

Goats have accents. Just as human voices will vary in cadence and inflection by geographical region, a particular goat’s bleat will sound different from that of a goat in a different country.

The incredibly soft and expensive cashmere is made of the downy winter undercoat produced by certain goats. The price of cashmere is so high because the hand-wrought process of separating the silky material from the goat’s wiry outer coat is incredibly time-consuming. And, it takes at least...
**Project News**

**Swine Project News**

The only meeting is the countywide PQA meeting on May 23rd. If you are unsure if you need to complete this, or your certification is expiring in a couple of years, I recommend going to the meeting to get your certification completed. If you have not received your tags, please contact John Hecht @ masterjohn_99@hotmail.com to get yours. The pictures and forms need to be mailed to the 4-H office no later than May 20th. They can also be brought to the PQA meeting on May 23rd. Let John Hecht know if there are any questions.

**Rabbit Project News**

We are still looking for T-shirt designs for this year. We do not have a meeting in May so please email me your designs by April 30th for consideration.

Our next meeting will be our June 3 Mandatory Breed Check in and Fit-n-Show in the livestock arena beginning at 10:00 am. Please bring a passing dish and your own beverage and table service. The project will provide the hot dogs.

For new members, this is where we check your rabbits for good health and tattoos for fair. We ask that your bunny tattooed before the check-in. If you don't know anyone that can do it for you, please call Janelle Gray at 269-254-2411 and make arrangements to have it done. All 4-H members must have their rabbits in their possession by June 1st to enter them in the fair.

Market Rabbit Check in is July 8th also in the arena. Remember you must have possession of your Market rabbit no later than 4 weeks prior to fair (July 10th). Please contact us if you have any questions.

August 3rd is the Mandatory Livestock meeting at the Rabbit Barn starting at 6:00 pm. Please check the newsletter for the specific time for Rabbits.

Fair is almost here so start practicing your showmanship skills and getting your rabbit ready. We are very excited for this year and hope you are too!

Roxanne O'Neil (269) 317-1925 or Janelle Gray (269) 254-2411

**Beef News**

Next Meeting: May 18th, Room A, Fairgrounds- 7pm

**Beef Fun Facts**

- The hide from one cow can make 144 baseballs, 20 footballs or 12 basketballs.
- Disneyland (CA) sells over 4 million hamburgers each year.
- Hamburger meat from 1 steer would equal 720 quarter-pound hamburgers, enough for a family of 4 to enjoy hamburgers each day for nearly 6 months.

**Tri-United Clinic Pictures**

Tri-United hosted a clinic for riders with judge Kathy Motyka, and will begin outdoor practices in May. Yeah show season has begun!
International Visitors are coming to Michigan!

Every year, Michigan 4-H helps coordinate host families for young adults traveling to the U.S. from abroad via the IFYE program. This program is a great way to engage your family in a cultural exchange without the cost of traveling overseas. IFYE is unique because each visitor stays with three host families during the duration of their approximately three month stay in the state. This creates a system for exchange participants to see the diversity of the state, while providing a low risk opportunity for host families!

Michigan is hosting two IFYE inbound participants this year, and are looking for hosts!

- **William Griffiths**, male age 20, of Wales. He is particularly interested in Dairy, and though he requested to be placed in Illinois, National IFYE staff believe that his bio lends itself better to be placed with us in Michigan!

- **Pawan Kumar**, male age 37, of India. India is sending IFYEs for the first time in many, many years. While Pawan is beyond our typical IFYE age, I have been assured that he the maturity to adapt to any situation. Pawan is an IFYE who would be happy to spend his days visiting and shadowing various members of a community - National IFYE stated “perhaps be able to ‘farm him out’ to local businesses, community groups, 'shadow for a day' type environment in addition to the host family experience”

IFYEs are expected to join in almost all aspects of family life -- sharing quiet moments, enjoying family outings, and joining community activities, as well as doing household and family chores. Host families are expected to provide love and understanding, care and guidance, as well as food and housing for the hosting period. Families who volunteer to host participants receive no financial assistance.

**Be a Host Family**

IFYE is a two-way exchange program. Young adults 19 and older come to the United States to live with families who have a zest for sharing their homes and communities. Family living is at the heart of the cultural experience. IFYE representatives discover life in the United States as a member of the family, not as a guest or tourist. Host families must meet screening criteria and be willing to provide room and board to a person from another country for 3 to 4 weeks.

**For more information or to apply to be a host family, please contact MSU**

Extension IFYE coordinator: Makena Schultz schul430@anr.msu.edu (517) 432-7603
The Kalamazoo County Fair would like to say a huge thank you to Zoetis for coming back this year as a Grand Champion Sponsor for the fair this year. Their sponsorship helps to fund a portion of the fair for the week.

Kalamazoo Fair and Educational Opportunities

CAMPING DURING THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAIR

The Expo Center also wants to remind 4-H families that they will begin taking camping reservations for the Fair on May 1. Camping rates are the same as last year, $135.00 per week plus a $5.00 reservation fee. You can call the office at 383-8778 to make reservations. Parking passes, fair admission and ride wristbands can also be purchased at the same time as you make camping reservations. We are pleased to announce the Maple Leaf Amusements will be the new carnival company this year and they will be offering $10.00 pre-sale ride wristbands. https://www.facebook.com/MapleLeafAmusement

2017 Summer Discovery Cruises registration is now open!

Do you want to learn about the Great Lakes by being on the Great Lakes? If so, you will want to learn more about our 2016 Summer Discovery Cruises (www.discoverycruises.org) season!

For the 16th summer, Michigan Sea Grant Extension will provide Michiganders (and visitors to Michigan) with the opportunity to learn about the Great Lakes by being on the Great Lakes. Cruises depart from Lake Erie Metropark, with cruises on the lower Detroit River and Lake Erie, and Lake St. Clair Metropark, cruising Lake St. Clair.

The 2017 season offers more than 20 educational cruises around themes such as Fisheries, Wildlife, Wetlands, Shipwrecks, Lighthouses, Weather, Shipping and more. Cruises for educators wanting to enhance the use of Great Lakes content in their teaching are also provided, with stipends.

Some of the exciting cruises for the 2017 season include:

Lake St. Clair Fisheries - This is not a fishing cruise, but it definitely is a “fishy” cruise! Learn first-hand about the fish that are found in Lake St. Clair, many of which are available for hands-on examination during the cruise. We will be joined by a Michigan DNR Fisheries Biologist and rendezvous with their research vessel while out on the lake to observe fish tagging, measuring and other research operations.

Warfare on the Waterfront - The War of 1812, World War II, and even the American Civil War have all shaped the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. Long after the end of hostilities, remnants of this military presence can still be found. Join an Interpreter for an in-depth look at these conflicts, their sites and stories, and see how they impacted the region and the world.

Shipwreck at Sugar - Just under the waves off a crumbling Sugar Island dock lie the remains of a vessel sank in 1945. Travel with our resident historian to the wreck site to learn about the S.S. Seabreeze, the story of how it got there and the circumstances surrounding its mysterious sinking.

Great Lakes Science for Kids - Learn about the ecology of Lake St. Clair or Lake Erie, by using the tools a Great Lakes Scientist uses to determine water quality by studying the plants and animals of the lakes. Try your hand at using a plankton net, bottom dredge, water testing kit, underwater camera, and binoculars to discover the exciting nature of the lake and become a Great Lakes Scientist!

To learn about the Great Lakes by being on the Great Lakes, visit the Summer Discovery
PalletPalooza

Goodwill Industries is gearing up for our 2nd annual event and the are hoping that 4-H youth, clubs and projects will participate in their upcoming competition.

This is a recycled pallet creation competition. All ages can enter as well as teams. Entry period is May 22 – June 20, 2017. There is a $20 Entry fee and you get a PalletPalooza™ t-shirt with each entry.

PalletPalooza Day is August 12 which is a festival and the awarding of $2000 in cash prizes to our winners.

Their event website is PalletSWMI.com and people can sign up for emails to keep up to date with news and information at this link: palletswmi.com/contact-us

Create your own pallet, create one with your club or project. It can be entered in the PalletPalooza and in the Kalamazoo County Fair.

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration

Previously the 4-H Visual Arts, Crafts, Sewing, and Textiles Workshop

November 18-19, 2017

Kettunen Center in beautiful Tustin, MI for 4-H volunteers and teens ages 12 and over (4-H age)

Watch for complete registration packet by mid-August
Oh, the things you’ll see at the
Great Dairy Adventure!

Weds. July 19, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This “dairy” fun event takes place at the MSU Pavilion
located on the southwest corner of Mt. Hope Road and Farm Lane.

Free parking. Free admission.

• Milk is a local food—learn how fresh milk travels from the farm to your table within 48 hours!
• Pet different breeds of cows and calves!
• Milk a cow!
• Create fun take-home projects!
• Enjoy free dairy food treats, including ice cream!
• Participate in entertaining activities that teach the nutritional importance of consuming dairy products!
• Held indoors! Rain or Shine!

Free admission and fun activities for all ages!

The Great Dairy Adventure is part of the annual Michigan Dairy Expo, which takes place July 17-21. Students from 4-H clubs and FFA chapters across the state take part in educational skills contests during the week, and hundreds of cows will be exhibited by their owners in various breed shows.

Parking, admission and all activities are free. Picnic areas can be set up on the lawn around the MSU Pavilion and MSU Concessions will be open. All activities take place inside the Pavilion and all events are handicapper accessible. The entire event is held inside, rain or shine!

Are you bringing a group? Groups of 20 or more people should have a representative check-in first to receive a packet and additional instructions.

Are you a teacher or group leader? Teachers/leaders will receive packets of nutrition education materials that provide simple ideas for teaching children about the importance of including three daily servings of dairy in their diet and increasing physical activity to develop strong bones and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Do you need more information? Contact Carla McLachlan at (517) 432-5402 and visit the United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM) website at www.milkmeansmore.org.
STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Workshops

May 5-7: Outdoor Adventure Challenge Orientation
Manistee River near Kingsley

May 13: Michigan 4-H Agriculture Career Fair
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=1FE621BAB4FD36B0
Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center, Frankenmuth

May 13-14: 4-H Regional Shooting Sports Air Pistol Training
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_regional_shooting_sports_air_pistol_training
Demmer Center, Lansing

May 20-21: Teens as Teachers Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=3828E28B31BCA578
Kettunen Center, Tustin

May 26-29: Rock Climbing, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Level 3
Manistee River near Kingsley

June 3-5: 4-H Companion Animal Spring Camp
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_companion_animal_camp_1
Camp Tuhsmehta, Greenville

Other 4-H Events

May 11: World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=I94D71E9BDAF67A7
MSU, East Lansing

May 20: State 4-H Poultry Show
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=E025CAFF6B2A6962
Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte

June 3: 4-H Day at Michigan’s Adventure
https://www.miadventure.com/events/things-to-do/special-events/4H-Day
Michigan’s Adventure, Muskegon

June 10: State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Expo
Contact Katie Ockert (ockertka@msu.edu)
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

June 18: Michigan 4-H at the Tigers
http://m.mlb.com/tigers/tickets/special-events/4h
Comerica Park, Detroit

June 21-23: Michigan 4-H Exploration Days
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days
MSU, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events
2017 Michigan 4-H Companion Animal Camp

This exciting, hands-on training opportunity – presented by MSU Extension (http://bit.ly/1sdvYu8) 4-H Youth Development (http://bit.ly/12NxjLN) – will provide participants with opportunities to:

- Gain new ideas and information about companion-animal projects, while being able to work with their own companion animal
- Attend various sessions such as:
  - Ask a vet
  - Games to play with your dog
  - Learn hands-on skills from a veterinarian
  - Try out new training techniques
- Have an overnight workshop experience
- Share, learn and explore new information about companion animals with others 4-H'ers from around the state
- Practice skills such as team building and leadership
- Bring new programming and ideas back to their 4-H clubs, county programs and local communities
- Participate in activities such as:
  - Hiking trails
  - An evening campfire
  - A climbing tower
  - Make-it and take-it crafts and more

Remember, there will also be awesome sessions for your dogs in obedience, games, agility and much more!

Who Should Attend? Michigan 4-H'ers who are 5 to 19 years old, as of January 1, 2017. Cloverbuds are welcome with parent chaperones.

When Is the Workshop? June 2-4, 2017

Where Will the Workshop Be Held? Camp Tuhsmeheta (https://camptuhsmeheta.org) in Greenville. This facility offers various lodging options to participants. That is, lodge, tent or camper/RV sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

How Can Someone Register?
All camp registration forms (for 4-H youth members, 4-H volunteer leaders and 4-H parents) are available on the Michigan 4-H web site (http://bit.ly/2nhoqbk). Submit your registration form and payment to:

- Katie Ockert, Room 240, 446 West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Camp registrations must be postmarked by May 5, 2017.

What Is the Cost of the Workshop?
The $50 registration fee covers lodging and meals.

More information about this camp is available from:
- Katie Ockert (ockertka@anr.msu.edu), Michigan 4-H Animal Science Educator
- Your local MSU Extension county 4-H staff (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county)