4-H
New Member
Information Packet
Part 3
Dear 4-H Family,

It is hard to believe that your first year in 4-H is almost complete. This is the third and final new family packet. I hope that it helps to prepare you for the fair. The Kalamazoo County Fair is a time when 4-H’ers show the community what they have accomplished throughout the year. Youth receive ribbons and awards for their projects. Fair is a fun time for youth to meet and develop friendships with other 4-H’ers from other towns and cities in the county.

Competition at the fair is created to be fun. Please remember that only one person is judging the class. A different judge would place the class totally different. 4-H believes that the only important opinion when competing is the 4-H members. If you have done the best that you can do then you are a winner!

The Fair Board manages the Kalamazoo County Fair. The Fair Board members are elected from the general Kalamazoo County Agricultural Society membership. You may join the Ag Society on the pre-fair pass envelope that will be given out at your community clubs. The MSU-Extension 4-H Program is an important guest at the fair and everyone works together to make it successful.

Your Community Club Leader and your Superintendent are knowledgeable and will help you if you have any questions.

Good luck everyone at the fair. Please make sure that you stop the 4-H staff to say hi and to introduce yourself.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program Instructor

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4-H MSU EXTENSION OFFICE
Mailing Address: PO Box 42
Nazareth, MI 49074-0042

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 4-H staff may not always be present so please call ahead.

Phone: (269) 383-8830
Fax: (269) 384-8035

Guidelines, forms and information:
http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?page_id=611392&msue_portal_id=2

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com – look for Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth Development

Kalamazoo County Fair:
http://www.kalamazoocountyfair.com

CONTACT THE 4-H STAFF DIRECT

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4-H MSU EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATION,
DIRECTIONS & MEETING INFORMATION

4-H is a part of Kalamazoo County MSU Extension and is housed at the Nazareth Complex, 3299 Gull Road, 4th Floor, 2nd Wing, Room 410. Directions: the complex is located at the corner of Gull Road and Nazareth Road. Turn into the Nazareth Complex from Gull Road (there is a light) by the large blue sign for Borgess Health & Fitness Center, Kalamazoo County Human Services etc. The building and parking lot will be to your right, enter the building at the main front door and walk down the hall past the 1st Wing to the 2nd Wing (there is also a 3rd Wing). Turn left into the 2nd Wing and continue on to the elevator which you take to the 4th Floor. Office hours for MSU Extension are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 4-H staff may not always be present so please call ahead. For evening meetings the door to enter the building is controlled by a computerized lock. It is “only” unlocked ½ hour before the meeting start time until ½ hour after your meeting start time (1-hour total). The doors are only unlocked for meetings over 25 participants, adult members will be responsible for letting in other participants only.

4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The 4-H Family News is published six times a year. The newsletter will be available on line at http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?page_id=27606. Articles, from 4-H member, superintendants and leaders are due to the 4-H MSU Extension office by noon on the 20th of each month.
Community Club Responsibilities at Fair

To make the fair a pleasurable and learning experience for the public and for 4-H families it is important that every member of the community club and many parents help with the multitude of jobs that must be done. Every spring your Community Club Leader will ask you to help out at the fair. Please sign up to help.

**Flower Pots**
Flower pots will be provided to each community club to plant and care for until fair. The clubs will then bring the flowering pots to the fair to decorate the Livestock Mall. Clubs can enter the pots as a group exhibit.

**Set up the Still Exhibit Room**
½ of the community clubs are asked to set up the still exhibit room the Friday before fair. This includes putting together glass stands, covering the tables, putting up lattice and decorations for the room.

**Tear down judging room**
After the judges are though judging on Saturday please help us clean up.

**Tear down Still Exhibit Room**
Sunday after the fair the still exhibit room must be tore down and every thing put back away for next year.

**Clerking**
We ask older members or parents to help our judges on still exhibit day record the ratings that they give the youth. Volunteering for ½ a day or the entire day really helps us out.

**Food Booth**
Leaders Council makes over $5,000.00 a year on the food booth. We depend on each club to have a food booth coordinator and many volunteers to serve food during assigned shifts. The coordinator trains the volunteers for their shifts.

**Monitoring the Still Exhibit Room**
The Exhibit room is very hands on and friendly to the public. It lets them view up close what our 4-Hers have accomplished throughout the year. However it is very important that we have monitors to help watch over our exhibits and to answer any questions that people may have. Each club is assigned different times to monitor.
Fair Entry

Fair entries are different from 4-H enrollments. In the fall, winter and spring you signed up to take projects through the 4-H program. Now is the time that you enter those 4-H projects into the Kalamazoo County Fair. Filling out the fair entry form completely and having your Community Club Leader sign it is important.

4-H classes are designated in the Premium Book CD your Community Club Leader has or on the Fair website www.kalamazooCountyFair.com. Be sure you are signing up for 4-H classes, numbers 5000 and higher!

The fair book is divided into Departments, then Sections, and last classes with Descriptions, you must record all three categories for each entry on the fair entry form. Double check your accuracy, you do not want to enter your candy making under photography!

Members keep the goldenrod bottom copy of their entry form, Community Club Leaders keep the pink copy and turn the white and yellow copies into the Fair Board Office. Keep this form so you have a record of all of your entries. This will help you when it is time to fill out your exhibit tags.

All 4-H members must have their Community Club Leaders sign their fair entry forms.

Signed fair entries must be turned into the Fair Board Office (2900 Lake Street) by JULY 1ST. Late entries will not be accepted.

Fair Entry Tags

Tags are attached to all still exhibit entries. They help the public know who the project belongs to and what club the member participates in. They also help you when its time to pick up projects at the end of the week. So fill each tag out completely and don’t forget to circle your club name!

Exhibitor Name ______________________
Yr, In Age ______ Project _________

Department ________

Section ________ Class ________

Description: _______________________

Circle Club

Alamo Achievers

Climax Willing Workers
Still Exhibit Judging Day

Saturday before the fair is when all non-animal projects are judged. Judging takes place in the Hazel Gray Building at the fairgrounds. Please check the newsletter to find the time for judging that your club has been assigned.

Still exhibit judging is an important part of our 4-H Program. It gives all youth a chance to evaluate their projects and communicate to a judge what they have learned.

Place entry tags on all of your exhibits.

Judges will be at tables with signs indicating what department and class they are judging. Your exhibit tag and the judge’s sign should match. Wait patiently in line until your turn. Parents because we are giving youth an opportunity to practice their communication skills please stand back and do not participate in answering the judge’s questions.

Projects are judged in four areas;
1. Effort involved in the project. Let the judge know the amount of time and how hard you have worked on your project.
2. Knowledge. Know how and why the project went together.
3. Presentation of the project. Is it neat, clean, organized, tastefully displayed, etc.?
4. Verbal presentation. Be prepared to explain what you liked/dislike about your project, how you completed your project, what you did learn, etc.

Projects are judged not only on the item but also on the interview. Projects receive
“A”=Blue Ribbon-good in all of the above categories
“B”=Red Ribbon-average
“C”=White Ribbon-below average

A few projects receive a Merit or Best of Show ribbons; these are the best of the best.

Premiums
Premiums are cash awards to exhibitors based on their exhibit rating (A, B, C, ). Premium checks are paid by the fair board and are usually mailed within a month.

Cloverbuds
5 to 8 year olds do not receive ratings/premiums, but still interview with a judge. Only one judge talks to Cloverbuds on all of the projects that they have completed. Parents are welcome to help Cloverbuds with their presentation to the judge. Each Cloverbud project receives a participation ribbon, and the youth decides which project that they like the best for a special purple ribbon.

After your project is judged, place it in the proper location for display.

All Still Exhibits are picked up the Sunday after fair from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. If you are unable to pick up your projects at this time, please give written permission to a friend or your Community Club Leader to collect them for you.
**Buying Fair Passes**

Fair passes, parking passes and special ride passes may be all pre-purchased through your community club. Pre-purchased items may be picked up at mandatory livestock meeting from 6PM to 7PM or any time during still exhibit judging. You may also purchase your fair items during still exhibit judging.

For current fees check the Fairbook. Ride passes cost vary from year to year, please check the 4-H newsletter.

**Camping**

Camping on the fairgrounds is handled by the Fairboard. Forms are on their website. You can contact the Fair Office at 349-9791.
Animal Projects

Mandatory Livestock Meeting

All livestock project exhibitors must attend a meeting held the Thursday evening before fair. Check 4-H Newsletter for times. All exhibitors must meet with their specie Superintendents. Updates on fair procedures will be covered and the barns are readied at this time.

During the livestock meeting please make sure you have the following information for each species.

When is weigh in and the procedures for unloading?

Where do you store feed and equipment?

When are you expected to feed your animal?

When do the animals show?

What type of clothing should you wear to show in?

Livestock Auction- Pictures, buyers lunch and your lunch tickets, thank-you cards, what type of dress should you wear, times that you need to be in the barn, what is your responsibility for trucking.

What is your responsibility in barn clean up at the end of the fair?

When can you take your animal home?

How much time are you expected to be in the barn?

What are the Barn rules?

Youth are expected to be at their campers or with adult supervision by 11:00 PM through the week and by 12:00 PM on the weekend.
Bringing Animals to the Fair

UNLOADING YOUR ANIMALS
Before unloading all health papers must first be checked. DO NOT UNLOAD UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION.

Trailers are asked to enter the fairgrounds through the south gate at Lamont Street. Unloading is a congested time. Please do not block the drive and try to unload in a safe but timely manner. To leave the fairgrounds follow the traffic route on the map. Do not block the service road to unload.

Here is a handy list of what you need to arrive prepared for a week of showing animals at the fair. Check with your superintendent for individual specie needs. Keeping your animal well fed, watered and clean are mandatory of all youth.

4-H Member
• Show clothes
• Boots, hats, helmets
• Safety pins and travel-size sewing kit
• Lint brush
• Hair accessories
• Mirror
• Paper work
• Camera and film

Tack and Equipment
• Show halter and lead line
• Saddle soap and rag
• Special tack needed for your species

Grooming Aids
• Shampoo and sweat scraper
• Rags and sponges
• Combs and brushes
• Polishes
• Fly repellent

Animal Care
• Extra halter and lead rope
• First aid kits
• Feed and water buckets
• Bedding
• Wheelbarrow and manure fork
• Folding chairs
• Bathe animals
• Make sure all vaccinations and paperwork in hand
Preparation for Animal Projects to Exhibit at Fair

Please see individual project guidelines for complete requirements. This page is only a partial description of dates that if missed results in not participating, in a project area, as a 4-H member, at the current years fair.

All 4-H youth must belong to a 4-H Community Club and fulfill the requirements of their Community Club in addition to the requirements of the individual animal projects to show in 4-H classes at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

Fair Entry
Youth must have fair entries signed by their Community Club Leader and turned into the Fair Board Office by July 1st. No Exceptions to this rule will be allowed. Members who have participated in a livestock project must be enrolled in project by December 1.

Cats
Vaccinations required. Attend countywide meetings. Educational exhibit required.
Superintendent: Nancy Wheatley 657-2928.

Dogs
Youth must train own dog from June 1st. Vaccinations and License required. Attend project meetings. Educational exhibit required.

Small Mammals
Attend County wide meetings. Must have animal by June 1.
Superintendent: Andrea McCubbin 665-9036.

Carcass
Follow specie guidelines regarding ownership dates. Must sign up for carcass classes on fair entry form. Must attend “BOTH” Monday and Wednesday classes that are held 2 weeks prior to fair.
Superintendent: Andrea Simmons 342-2431.

Dairy

Feeder Calves
Calf must be born between January 1 and February 28. Cloverbuds only calves must be born between January 1 and March 31. Calf must be in member’s possession by April 1 and tagged by April 16. Tagging and taping will be done in April. Educational exhibit and profit/loss sheet required. Attend countywide meetings. Must have a TB tag, be castrated and dehorned.
Superintendents: Greg Baker 506-0465 and Sara Van Dyk 345-4410.
**Steer**
Animal purchased by December 31st. Tagging will be done in January. Weigh in for rate of gain will be held in December. Educational exhibit required. RFID tag as of March 1. Beef Steer Superintendent: Mike Moreland 746-4803
Dairy Steer Superintendents: Dave & Jane Dyer 665-9402

**Sheep**
Scrapie tags and paperwork required. Animals must be in member's possession by May 15th.

**Swine**
Animals must be in member's possession by May 1st and identification on record by May 15.
Superintendents: Jill Carlson 343-6604, Mike Dyer 345-7666.

**Goat**
Sign up for this project is each fall. Members are required to attend a minimum number of county goat meetings. All members must participate in showmanship. Educational exhibit is required. Scrapie tags or permanent tattoo and copy of registration papers are required as listed by State/Federal regulations. Member must be in possession of goat(s) by June 1. Superintendents: Chris Boettcher 806-7988.

**Poultry**
All market fowl must be ordered through Superintendents. Other birds must have a certificate of Pullorum testing. Attend countywide meetings.
Superintendents: Jackie Stasevich 629-9664 and Ann Hollister 685-2301.

**Rabbits**
Breed and pet rabbits must be in member’s possession by June 1st. Market rabbits in possession by July 1st. Rabbits must by tattooed in left ear. Attend project meetings.
Superintendent: Missi Foster (269) 979-7574.

**Horse and Pony**
Statement of Understanding to 4-H leader by February 16. Project animal and 2 additional back-up animals identified by June 1st. Non-premium fair class registration due July 1st. Coggins paperwork required. Must attend project meetings. Sponsorships due by May 1st. Superintendents: Tom Gansen 629-4773, Karina Kabel 629-5793.

**Mini Horse**
Educational exhibit required. Attend countywide meetings.
Superintendents: Sandra Owen 665-4365 and Marcia Wooden 271-1861.

**Draft Horse**
Ownership not required. Youth must be working with animal by June 1st. Can not substitute animal after July 1st. Daily care records to Superintendent by August 8th. Education Exhibit required. Attend countywide meetings.
Superintendent: Talija Woolley 671-5198