What I’m Working On

Good afternoon,

I hope you are all having a wonderful fall and preparing for the holidays. It’s a great time of the year. There are many upcoming events to start planning for in the new year, both in the county and throughout the state. As always, please read through the newsletter so you are aware of all upcoming opportunities and necessary information.

December 1 Deadline:
All club paperwork needs to be submitted by leaders. I am missing this from a lot of clubs still. All re-enrollments must be in. This means 4-H online profile and $10 participation fee or scholarship form.

Vet Med Talk:
There are new regulations coming out January 1. I am working with Sterner Vet Clinic to hold a night for 4-H members to learn more about this and ask questions. Hopefully it will be in mid-December. Keep an eye out for more information on this.

State Awards Workshops:
In January I will hold two workshops to help interested 4-H members with their state awards applications. More information will be sent about these when they are planned.

My schedule has changed now that I am taking classes. I only work 5.5 hours on Mondays and Tuesdays and the times can vary depending on meetings and other events. I know this will make it harder to get in contact with me but I return phone calls and emails as soon as I possibly can. Always make an appointment before coming in.

Thank you!
Haley McLean

We had a wonderful turn out for the Ionia County 4-H Celebration Banquet this year. Many 4-H members and volunteers were recognized. Thank you to all that participated and attended!!!
Ionia 4-H Endowment Match Campaign

The Ionia 4-H Endowment is an investment with the Michigan 4-H Foundation which benefits our county will help ensure that Ionia County 4-H will always be strong. This fund will last forever and each year Ionia County 4-H will receive the interest to be used to fund 4-H program expenses and help our 4-H members and leaders.

We have just 2 years left to raise the remaining $20,000 to meet our goal of $50,000 by June 30, 2018. Every donation made before December 31, 2016 is matched 1:1, that means your donation is doubled if you send it in before the end of this year!

4-H clubs and families can help contribute to this fund in several ways:

- Make a club donation. Consider a holding a fundraiser (bake sale, car wash, etc.) and donating the profits to the fund.
- Members may consider donating a percentage of their animal or milk sale proceeds.
- Make a family donation – every donation helps!

Please help Make the Match! Invest in 4-H and in the youth of Ionia County! Learn more or donate now at www.mi4hfdtn.org/countymatch!

Re-Enrollments

You are now able to re-enroll on 4-H online. Remember all previous members must have this along with their $10 participation fee or scholarship form turned into the office by December 1. This date will not be extended this year! The re-enrollment process on 4-H online is the same as last year but for complete instructions email me or visit the Ionia County 4-H website. You may contact me or your leader with any questions.

Facebook Pages

I do provide updates and information on the Ionia County 4H page. Please LIKE the page if you have not done so already. Also, if you have any videos, news articles, or pictures of the fair please share them on the page. We had great exposure during the fair and I was not able to keep up with everything that was done.

We have also created an Ionia County 4-H Alumni page in order to share information and memories and to reconnect with old 4-H friends. If you are an alumni of Ionia County 4-H please add that page.

4-H Day at the Breslin!

Join us as Spartan Women’s Basketball Team takes on Purdue Boilermakers Women’s Basketball Team Sunday, January 22, 2017

You’re ALL invited to attend the eleventh annual celebration of MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development at the Spartan Women’s basketball game at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 22, 2017. Last year more than 5,100 MSU Extension staff, 4-H volunteers, members and their families attended this exciting opportunity at the MSU Breslin Student Events Center.

Ticket Price: FREE for MSU Extension 4-H youth and their families, 4-H volunteers and MSU Extension staff and their families!

You must order through me before December 21 to get your free ticket in time!

Superintendent Process

Reminder that applications to be a superintendent are due November 28th. The positions that are open are sheep, goats, and still exhibits. You must be a current volunteer in order to apply. Please contact me for the guidelines and expectations and the application. Superintendents have a great role during the fair and are a huge help to the 4-H Program Coordinator and fair employees.

Exploration Days

Save the date for the 2017 Exploration Days: June 21-23! This is a great opportunity for 4-H members to check out MSU and learn many new skills. They also get to meet other 4-H members from around the state! Also, consider applying for the State Awards this year; it is great practice, can be used on applications and resumes, and if you qualify, significantly decreases the cost of attending Exploration Days. You also can win money!
Sterner Job Opening

Sterner Veterinary Clinic PC

Denise Young LVT
821 North Jefferson Street, Ionia Michigan 48846
616 527-3320

November 18, 2016

We are looking for a young person who might be interested in working 3 hours a day, after school, Monday through Friday.

The job consists of cleaning cages and kennels, taking out the garbage, vacuuming and mopping, and any other odd jobs we may find for them.

The hours would be:
Monday through Thursday 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Friday 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Anyone interested may contact me at the above number.

Thank you,
Denise Young, L.V.T.

Ionia County 4-H Teen Advisory Council

We are looking for new members for the Ionia County 4-H Teen Advisory Council to help make decisions regarding our program. This year they helped with the scavenger hunt, advised about sweepstakes, and making a plan for the sportsmanship awards. I very much value the opinion of this group and would like more teens to step up and help out! Please contact me if you are interested.

Animal Welfare

There are so many posts and articles about animals being mistreated on Facebook lately. Usually mine are about dogs because I “like” so many dog pages but there are ones out there about all animals. With our program dealing so much with youth working with animals this is definitely something that should be addressed. Parents and leaders please talk to your youth about how to properly care for your animals and focusing on their welfare; not just how to train and show. Maybe if youth are better educated on how to treat animals and respect them we will stop having the issues of animal abuse. Here is a great link to a series of articles about animal welfare, please share with your youth: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/animal_welfare_for_youth_part_1_what_is_animal_welfare

New Clubs

Let’s focus on growing this program and making it better. I’m looking for more clubs so we can offer more opportunities to our youth in different projects. There are many more projects we can offer to our youth that we aren’t right now such as robotics, shooting sports, etc. If you are interested in starting a club please contact me and we can start the process!

Ionia County Plat Books

2013 Plat books on sale for a discounted price of $10!
2016 Plat books are on sale for $25.
Visit Ionia County MSU Extension office, Greenstone, Farm Services Agency, or Register of Deeds to pick one up! These would make great gifts for the hunters, farmers, and map lovers in your family! All profits go to Ionia County 4-H Advisory Council.
Upcoming State 4-H Events

4-H Workshops

December 17: 4-H State Awards Application Preparation Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=3CFD4F16E07652E9
Sanilac County MSU Extension Office, Sandusky

January 10: 4-H State Awards Application Preparation Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=3CFD4F16E07652E9
Lapeer County MSU Extension Office, Lapeer

January 28-29: Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_youth_leadership_global_citizenship_spectacular
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 4-5: 4-H Winterfest
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_winterfest_2
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 17-18: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_veterinary_science_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 18-19: 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

January 22: 4-H Day at the Breslin
Contact Jane Love (lovejan@msu.edu)
Jack Breslin Events Center, East Lansing

January 28: State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=548EEEDFD1D9C7E0
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

March 11-12: Challenge U 4-H Funfest
Contact Michelle Neff (bydemic@msu.edu)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 19-22: 4-H Capitol Experience
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_capitol_experience
Okemos Conference Center, Okemos

March 26: Michigan 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_ffa_horse_judging_contest
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

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

It’s back! The overnight learning adventure at MSU Toll-gate Farm called Starry Night on the Farm: A Winter Sol-stice. Join us for this special program for kids ages 5-12 and their parents, grandparents, or guardians on Friday, December 16 – Saturday, December 17.

Celebrate winter on the farm
Investigate the night sky with the Oakland Astronomy Club
Play large group games or sled on the hill
Roast s’mores around the fire
Camp indoors
Enjoy hands-on learning activities
Wake to a farm fresh breakfast
Help with morning animal chores
Leave with new friends and good memories of your starry night on the farm!

Arrival 6 pm Friday evening, departure noon Saturday. Multi-child and group discounts

https://events.anr.msu.edu/TollgateStarryNightontheFarmDec16/

Attention all youth between the ages of 12-18 who are interested in traveling to Japan this summer 2017…due date to apply is Dec 1, 2016. The first $1,000 is due at this time too. Below is the link for more information about this adventure. If you have any questions please let me know. The $1,000 4-H Foundation scholarship application is being revised and will be available soon. The deadline for applying for the 4-H scholarship isn’t due until Spring. Only 4-H members may apply for this scholarship, there are 4 - $1,000 scholarships available.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/japan_summer_outbound_exchange