Good afternoon,

Fair is over! Remember that fair is only a small part of 4-H. It is only 10 days of the year when we have programming going on throughout the rest of the year. Time to forget who won or lost because all that matters now is what you learned and hopefully you learned something from those 10 days. If you have any feedback on the 4-H part of the fair, feel free to share that with me.

Re-enrollment starts September 1 for the next 4-H program year. This will all be on 4-H online again but now we are all pros on the system, right?

We have had some very successful events the past few weeks and I am looking forward to having more in the future. I need help though; I need people volunteer to help me and people to participate. I hold these events for the benefit of the youth and volunteers so please help me promote and help in whatever way you are able.

I’m taking some days off in August so please make an appointment with me before you come in. I also will be starting my Master’s August 29th, I am very excited for this! But it does mean that my schedule will be changed around a little for this. I have not exactly figured out how yet but Mondays and Tuesdays will be slightly different so please keep that in mind when contacting me.

Thank you!
Haley McLean
Ion 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.

Currently, we have $28,712 committed towards the endowment. Will you help us reach $30,000 this summer? Then, we have just 2 years left to raise the remaining $20,000 to meet our goal of $50,000 by June 30, 2018. In addition, every donation to the fund is matched 1:1, to have a total fund of $100,000.

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!

Volunteers

All individuals that have completed the volunteer process through Ionia County must be in 4-H online by August 31. This system is used to keep my records up to date; it is the only enrollment/re-enrollment system we have now. If a volunteer has not registered on 4-H online by the end of August and wants to continue being a volunteer they will have to start the volunteer application all over. Please make sure you are registered! There are many that are not.

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.

County Awards

The county award process is about to start again. Leaders will be receiving their nomination packets within the week. Youth that are interested in applying this year please talk to your leader or contact me. This is a great thing to put on your resume and to be proud of. It also provides experience in filling out applications. There is an award for every project area along with a few extras.

International Dinner

Thank you to all of the clubs that participated and brought food to the International Dinner. It was a success with amazing food! The clubs that helped this year were:

- World Wide Kids
- Grand Valley
- LeValley Clovers Foods
- LeValley Dairy
- Hoe Down Hogs
- Barnyard Bunch (North)
- Two Rivers Crafts

Also, thank you to all of the individuals that donated their time to either make the food or set up and tear down.
Ionia/Montcalm Leadership Academy

We had a very successful IM Leadership Academy for it being the first year. We had 4 different sessions for each age group on topics such as resumes and interviews, picking a college, and anti-bullying. Because the youth enjoyed it so much I am hoping to do another one next year so please keep this event in mind for next year! The focus of 4-H is on leadership and responsibility so events like these are very important. Thank you to everyone that came and participated or helped out!!!

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, shootings sports, etc. If you are interested in starting a club please contact me and we can start the process!
Upcoming State 4-H Events

Workshops

September 13: Explaining Environmental Education Webinar
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=156AC65DE21E3417
Your computer

September 14-16: Facilitative Leadership Workshop for Youth-Serving Professionals & Volunteers
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=EAB1845F2861118D
Louhelen Baha’i School Retreat and Conference Center, Davison Township

September 15: Explaining Environmental Education Webinar
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=156AC65DE21E3417
Your computer

September 17-18: 4-H Shooting Sports 101
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=89CAF2D7207B424D
Jay’s Sporting Goods, Clare

September 17: Michigan 4-H Poultry Expo
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=78FB376DDF5EE9F0
Anthony Hall, Michigan State University

September 19-20: 4-H Advisory Group Retreat
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_advisory_group_retreat_1
Kettunen Center, Tustin

September 29-30: 4-H Visual Arts, Crafts, Sewing & Textiles Workshop
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_visual_arts_crafts_sewing_and_textiles_workshop_1
Kettunen Center, Tustin

October 5-6: Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/cec
Port Huron

October 8-9: 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

October 15-16: Michigan 4-H Goat Workshop
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_goat_workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin

October 29-30: 4-H Visual Arts, Crafts, Sewing & Textiles Workshop
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_visual_arts_crafts_sewing_and_textiles_workshop_1
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

September 17: Michigan 4-H Poultry Expo
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=78FB376DDF5EE9F0
Anthony Hall, Michigan State University

October 2-8: National 4-H Week
Nationwide

October 5: 4-H National Youth Science Day
http://4-h.org/parents/national-youth-science-day
Nationwide

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