Good afternoon,

I hope the beginning of the new year has been good to all of you! There are some great opportunities coming up, around the state, that are mentioned in this newsletter so, as always, please read!

If you have any questions or issues you are always welcome to contact me or come in and visit. It gets lonely in this office :) Always call or email first, though!

Save the Date!
Scrapbooking Day-Long Event: Saturday, February 25 from 9am-midnight at the Ionia MSU Extension. Cost is $20. Food will be provided.

Horse Leaders' Committee Tack Sale: Saturday, March 25 from 10am-2pm at Ionia High School

4-H Alumni and Friends Dinner: Friday, May 5 from 6pm-8pm at the Floral Building on the Fairgrounds

Leadership Academy: Friday, May 12 from 8:30am-4pm (this is still pending)

My schedule has changed again now that I am taking classes, again. I will work 5 hours on Tuesdays and 5.5 hours on Fridays 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. I will also be gone from February 8-14 on vacation.

Thank you!
Haley McLean
State Award Applications

Applying for the State Awards provides many opportunities: it is great practice, can be used on applications and resumes, and if you qualify, you attend Exploration Days for free. You also can win money! The deadline for applications is February 1. We will be having a workshop to provide time for youth to work on their applications at noon this Saturday, January 28th at the Ionia MSU Extension office.

Exploration Days

Save the date for the 2017 Exploration Days: June 21-23! This is a great opportunity for 4-H members to spend time at MSU and learn many new skills. They also get to meet other 4-H members from around the state! Registration books will be coming out early March.

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.

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.

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

4-H Workshops

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
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=E6B7FF2B7A78D0A4
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 18-19: 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=E6B7FF2B7A78D0A4
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 22: Michigan 4-H Embryology Staff, Teacher and Volunteer Training
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=B4D2D654CB6AAA94
MSU Federal Credit Union, East Lansing

February 25: Teen & Adult 4-H Horse Leaders' Conference
http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

March 4: Spring Galaxy 4-H Horse Program Committee
Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

March 17-19: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference
Contact Melissa Elischer (elischa@msu.edu)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

February 3-4: 4-H/MQHA Clinic Weekend
http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

February 17-20: National Youth Summit on Healthy Living
http://4center.org/tours-programs/national-youth-summit-series/#healthy-living
National 4-H Conference Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland

February 18: Michigan 4-H Night With the Griffins
Contact Tarin Minkel (minkeltj@anr.msu.edu)
Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids

March 19-22: 4-H Capitol Experience
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_capitol_experience_3
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
Michigan 4-H Night
with the Griffins

What: Join us as the Grand Rapids Griffins take on the San Antonio Rampage. The first 2,500 fans at the arena will receive a free plush Griff toy.

When: Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Where: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, MI

How to get tickets:
Go to griffinshockey.com/promocode
Enter promo code “MI4H” to purchase your discounted tickets.

Cost:
A savings of up to $5.00 per ticket – plus no service fees!
Upper Level: $14
Lower Level: $18
Center Ice: $22

Questions: Call Tarin Minkel, Mecosta County 4-H Program Coordinator, at 231-592-0795

Come at 6 p.m. to visit 4-H activity booths and enter a drawing for a chance to win 4 tickets and a Zamboni ride for the Friday, March 17th Griffins Game!

Michigan State University Extension
Challenge U 4-H FunFest

When and where:
March 11, 2017 - March 12, 2017
Kettering Center, 14001 4-H Drive, Tunica, MI 49090

Who:
Any youth age 9-13 (as of Jan 1st) and霰peones.

What:
Are you ready to accept this challenge? Youth and adults who attend Challenge U 4-H FunFest will spend 2 days learning about food science and healthy living while meeting youth from around the state. Challenge U 4-H FunFest will challenge participants and霰peones in hands-on sessions that range from physical fitness, recipe making, dancing, and more.

Cost:
4-H Members and Volunteers – $70.00
Non-4-H Members and Volunteers – $119.00

Registration includes meals, lodging, and resources. Persons canceling without a replacement on February 24, 2017 will be charged a $40.00 cancellation fee. Persons who do not cancel within 48 hours prior to the start of workshops will be billed the full amount.

Not a 4-H member? Contact your county MSU Extension office today!

Registration information:
The deadline to register for this event is Friday, February 24, 2017.
To register, visit https://events.arc.msu.edu/challengeu4h

Find out more:
Visit the registration site for additional details. For more information, contact your county MSU Extension office or call Michelle Nul at 517-839-7753 or hytemes@michigan.edu. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested on your registration form.