Good afternoon,

There are some great opportunities coming up, around the state and in Ionia, 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!
Large Animal Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 15 at 7pm at the Extension office
Horse Leaders' Committee Tack Sale: Saturday, March 25 from 10am-2pm at Ionia High School
PQA: Saturday, April 8 at 10am at the Extension office
Spring Leader Meeting: Wednesday, April 12 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Administration Building at the Fairgrounds
4-H Bake-Off: Saturday, April 29 at the Extension office
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 at Clarksville Elementary

My schedule has changed now that I am taking classes, again. I will work 5 hours on Tuesdays and 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.

Thank you!
Haley McLean

Show your pride as a #4HGrown alum & encourage fellow alums to raise their hand to empower more kids: www.4-H.org/RaiseYourHand #MI4H
**Tack Sale**

The Ionia County 4-H New and Used Tack Sale sponsored by the Horse Developmental Committee is Saturday, March 25 from 10am to 2pm. This year it is in a new location: the Ionia High School (250 E. Tuttle Road, Ionia 48846). This is a great fundraiser for the Horse Committee and has a lot of vendors from around the state that attend. It is free to attend.

**PQA and Changes**

PQA training will be Saturday, April 8th at the Ionia MSU Extension office. There are many changes coming in the upcoming year:

The National Pork Board has announced the change of the Youth Pork Quality Assurance program (PQA) to the new Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). The National Pork Board was so successful at training youth swine producers that educators and livestock industry professionals felt the need for a multi-specie (beef, dairy, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine), science-based educational program. The YQCA program will offer training to every youth exhibitor ages 8 to 21 nationally. A group of educators and livestock industry professionals have been working on developing this program to meet the needs for a multi-species program. The national YQCA program will launch March 2017. Livestock shows held on or after June 2017 may decide to make completion of the YQCA program mandatory for their exhibitors.

Michigan Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) will continue in 2017 for its final year. The opportunity for youth to take the online Youth PQA training for free will finish the end of this year.

**So what does that mean for you?**

- Youth Pork Quality Assurance will no longer be available by the end of 2017. Those youth certified in YPQA will not need to earn Youth Quality Care of Animals certification until their YPQA certification expires.
- Michigan face to face PQA+ trainings (like the one on April 8) are free.
- Online PQA+ training will be free until the end of 2017.
- If youth are old enough (12+) they will be certified for one, two or three years, depending on their age.
- Youth that sell market beef, dairy, goats, poultry, rabbits, and sheep may be required to complete the new Youth Quality Care Program for Animals in 2018.
- All youth livestock exhibitors are invited to attend a face to face YPQA training or complete online.
- If you show market livestock other than swine (beef, dairy, beef, sheep, goat, poultry, or rabbit) you can take the Pork Quality Assurance training, test out, and be all set for the new program in 2018. Remember there will be a fee in 2018, but you can take the April 8, 2017 PQA training for free.

For more information on the Youth Quality Care of Animals program, you can visit the YQCA website at [http://yqca.org](http://yqca.org) or email sales@yqca.org.

If you have questions about the April 8 PQA+ training or to RSVP, please contact the office.

**Ionia County 4-H Bake-Off**

The Bake-Off is Saturday, April 29th from noon to 3pm. This is an exciting opportunity every year for all youth, ages 5-19, to increase their baking skills by making a certain baked item to present to judges. This is a free event, sponsored by the Still Exhibits Committee. Please contact the office for more information and instructions on how to register.

**Ionia County 4-H Alumni and Friends Dinner**

The Dinner will be held Friday, May 5th from 6-8pm at the Floral Building at the Fairgrounds this year. Last year was the inaugural event and was very successful so we are excited to hold it again. From clubs, we are asking for pictures of past members and events to be included in the slideshow. We are also asking for a donation from each club of a minimum of a $25 value for the silent action. Proceeds from the silent auction and the event go to the Ionia County 4-H Endowment so 4-H can continue for many, many years to come in Ionia County. Please watch for more information about this event and share it with your friends and family.
LEAD into the Future

The Second Leadership Academy is being held Friday, May 12. This event is available for all youth in middle school and high school. There are many exciting sessions taking place this year. I have spoken to many principals in Ionia County who are willing to excuse youth to attend this event. There is a cost to attend: $10 for 4-H members and $15 for non-4-H members. It is a day long event starting at 8:30 and ending at 4pm with breakfast snacks and lunch provided. Please look for the Facebook event or contact me for more information. I am still finalizing session leaders before registration opens in April.

Exploration Days

This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life! About 2,500 youth (ages 11-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually. 4-H Exploration Days registration starts March 14 and goes through April with session assignments made on a first-come, first-served basis. Sessions fill fast! Registration books are in the office, ready to be picked up, if you are planning on attending. Cost is $80 for the 3 days because Service Club covers the other $85 if you worked in the food booth this past summer. To learn more, contact the office or visit: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days

We are also looking for male chaperons for the event. Please contact the office if you are interested!

Record Books

I am in the process of updating and making final changes on all record books. They will be available online and in the office when they are finalized.

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 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.

Ionia County Plat Books

2013 Plat books on sale for a discounted price of $10!
2016 Plat books are on sale for $25.
1997 and 2001 Plat books are also available at the office for $1.
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.

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!
YOU'RE INVITED

COME JOIN THE
IONIA COUNTY 4-H SERVICE CLUB
IN A EUCHRE TOURNAMENT!

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Refreshments
6:30 p.m. Games start

WHERE: GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES
LOWER LEVEL

COST: $15.00 PER PERSON
$20.00 PER COUPLE

-EUCHRE WINNERS AWARDED
-DOOR PRIZES
-GOOD FOOD
-FUN TIMES

Remember to bring your quarters

Proceeds for this event will be donated to the Cover Our Cattle fund that will help rebuild the dairy barn at the Ionia Free Fair.

IONIA COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

We're Going To A Whitecaps Game!

April Dollar Deal of the Night:
$1 Hot Dog & $1 Small Drink!

4-H Family Night
Friday, April 21st, 2017
6:35 Game Time
Tickets: $11.50/person

Wear your 4-H apparel! Those that do will be invited to participate in a celebratory lap on the field during the pre-game festivities!

Details will be provided following your order. The first 100 seats filled at the game by 4-H members and their families will be given a 4-H hand fan to wave to show our 4-H Pride.

Ticket Order Form (Tickets will be mailed)

Payment Options:

Check: ____ (Payable to West Michigan Whitecaps)
Credit Card: _____ MC, _____ DISC, _____ AMEX

CITY/STATE/ZIP
Exp. Date: _____/____

PHONE
V-Code:_____

For more information regarding 4-H Night please call Melinda Peper at (810) 632-7666 or email her at peperm333@msu.edu

To order your tickets - Please return this form with payment to: West Michigan Whitecaps – Attn: Dru Kilcrease
PO Box 428, Comstock Park, MI 49321
Or call Dru at (616) 426-3672 (Be sure to tell her you’re with 4-H)

Legislative EVENT

Friday, March 24 | 9:00AM

Harrock’s Nursery Farms
1776 N State Rd | Ionia, MI 48846

Come and meet your elected officials and discuss important topics facing agriculture today.

Coffee and donuts will be served

Members are welcome to come and visit with their neighbors, share their ideas, and get an update from their elected officials.

Rsvp by March 22 to (616) 527-3981
or ioniacounty@ctyfb.com

IONIA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Upcoming State 4-H Events

4-H Workshops

April 11: The “Write” Stuff Communications Training: Your 4-H Market Animal Project
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=02C2B6A3D674F22B
Wexford County MSU Extension Office, Cadillac

April 28-30: 4-H Shooting Sports Adult & Teen Instructor’s Certification Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=4AC5F2D9F5BE2CEA
Kettunen Center, Tustin

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

June 2-4: Michigan 4-H Companion Animal Camp
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_companion_animal_camp_1
Camp Tuhsmehetia, Greenville

Other 4-H Events

April 8: Norma Agnew Memorial 4-H Hairy Horse Show
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/norma_agnew_memorial_4-h_hairy_horse_show
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

April 15: State 4-H Goat Expo
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=6549761B2168714F
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

April 22: Michigan 4-H Equine Educational Expo
http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

May 11: World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=194D71E9B0AF67A7
MSU, East Lansing

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

June 3: Iron Belle Trail Challenge
http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10369_55920---,00.html

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
# March 2017 Webinar Schedule

Brought to you by the Financial and Homeownership Education Team through video meeting technology called Zoom. Go to [zoom.msu.edu](http://zoom.msu.edu) for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<td>Rent Smart</td>
<td>March 1, March 15</td>
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<td>Retirement Planning</td>
<td>March 8, 15, 22 &amp; 29</td>
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<td>Money Management</td>
<td>March 13 to 31</td>
<td>12-1 pmET</td>
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<td>Homeownership</td>
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<td>Accessing and Applying for Student Loans</td>
<td>March 20</td>
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<td>Understanding Options for Student Loan Repayment</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>12-1 pmET</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Terry Clark-Jones</td>
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*Fee can be waived for those receiving DHHS benefits. Send the Trainer proof of assistance with the request.

Webinar Pre-Registration is required. Go to [mimoneyhealth.org](http://mimoneyhealth.org) Under Events, find the complete Events calendar!

Prefer a self-paced online class? Go to [www.ehomeamerica.org/msue](http://www.ehomeamerica.org/msue) and choose the Homebuyer Education Course or the Money Management Course. Both are available in English or Spanish. Both provide a certificate of...