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2017 4-H Exploration Days

June 21-23, 2017
Michigan State University

4-H Exploration Days is an annual state youth conference held on the campus of MSU that is open to all youth ages 11-19 by January 1. This event is meant to be a learning experience that will instill self-esteem, decision-making skills, independent thinking and leadership skills. The full time participant fee is $165 which includes meals, lodging, and a t-shirt. 4-H Council will pay half the fee for full time registration. We also have a limited number of $40 scholarships that are available, but youth have to fill out an application.

Registration begins on March 14 and sessions fill up very fast, so turn in your registration forms as soon as possible to the Extension office. A $35 deposit is due at the time of registration.

For a registration book or for more information, check out the Exploration Days website at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days

Attention ALL 4-H/FFA Members

Has 4-H made an impact on your life? Do you want to share your 4-H experience with others? If you answered "yes" then you should apply to be a 4-H Ambassador. This program is taking the place of the current 4-H Royalty program. As an Ambassador, you will have the chance to meet new people, represent the Isabella County 4-H program, have fun, and earn scholarship money!

Application packets for the 2017 Ambassadors will be available at the Extension Office on Friday, March 31. This program is open to all Isabella County youth, ages 9 - 19, male and female, who have participated in 4-H or FFA for at least two years (including Cloverbud participation). There will be a junior and senior division.

An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 4:30 p.m., First Church of Christ, 1610 E Broadway. The deadline to submit applications is Monday, May 1, by 4:00 p.m.
**CLUB CORNER**

**Country Kids Livestock** - During our February meeting, we covered multiple subjects. The first of these is the workshop called *Don’t Break Me* that will take place on March 1st. Secondly, the PQA training was discussed. This will take place on March 8th and March 27 from 6-8 for all youth pork producers. Also discussed was the beef fitting clinic that will taking place at the Isabella County Fairgrounds, May 20-21. We discussed good buyer gifts for the next fair. Lastly, we reviewed the by-laws for our club.

**Country Neighbors** - In February, we held a rabbit clinic with Lincoln Center 4-H Club.

**Evergreen** - We had a guest speaker at our January meeting, Dr. Rousseau, of Animal Health Associates. She explained everything from the new process of the Veterinary Feed Directive (V.F.D.) to the importance of properly caring for your animals and how quickly disease can spread through your herd. We hosted our annual spaghetti dinner on February 4th at the Rosebush United Methodist Church. The community is a huge support to the dinner and our club, which has allowed us to put on the dinner every year! On February 5th, the club promoted healthy living by having a physical activity-fun day at the local Northside Hansen Arena. The whole club was invited to come roller skate and spend a few hours together.

**Farm Hands** - At our February meeting, we had a guest speaker, Dr. Larry Judge, who spoke with us about the feed directive and raising feeder calves. Our members are gearing up for the feeder weigh-in as well.

**Pony Creek** – In February, we discussed livestock rule changes, fair improvements and upcoming events. Carnations were handed out to each member for Valentine’s Day. We discussed ideas for buyer gifts and will bring samples to the next meeting. The Incredible Dr. Pol will be giving a presentation at the March meeting and in April we will have a presentation on animal nutrition.

**Town & Country Maple Leaves** - In January we had our first meeting of 2017. During the meeting we went over some changes we will be making this year in order to help out our other members. At each meeting we decided that we will have a member in a specific project area do a demonstration or teach a lesson about that area, so that our other members can gain new knowledge and expand through 4-H. This month, Brittany Smith demonstrated how to make Fondant and how to decorate a cake. Next month we will begin teaching about various livestock projects. At our February meeting, we discussed upcoming events like weigh ins and shooting sports. We had a demonstration on swine showmanship, basic care, and how to pick your animal. The parents paid for some prizes and we played some games to end our meeting.

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**Mackenzie Purtill Awarded MSU Pre-College Scholarship!**

It is our pleasure to announce that Mackenzie Purtill of Farm Hands 4-H Club, is a recipient of the MSU Pre-College Program Scholarship.

The MSU Pre-College Scholarship is a one-time $2,000 award from MSU Admissions for use during a student’s first year at MSU (as either a degree-seeking incoming freshman or transfer student). The scholarship is applied automatically toward the student’s first year at MSU. The Pre-college scholarship program that she attended was Exploration Days.

Congratulations Mackenzie!!!

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**4-H Camp Clean-Up**

Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, May 7
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., both days

Please bring work gloves, rakes, tarps, leaf blowers, staple guns, hammers, extra people!

Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided.

Reminder - This is an Honor Club requirement.
Swine Project Members - PQA Plus Trainings
March 8 & 27, 2017
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Isabella County Building, room 320

All swine project members must be Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus certified in order to exhibit your animal at the 2017 Isabella County Fair. To register for a training, call the Extension Office at 317-4079.

Small Animal News
- If you do not already have your small animal purchase arranged, you should do so now. For example, there are only a couple of rabbit shows before the May 1 deadline and if you haven't placed an order or made contact with someone, it may be too late to get the breed you would like to have. If you wait until April 15 or later, it will be very difficult to have your animal(s) by May.

- Reminder, if you live outside of Isabella County and plan to sell in the small animal auction, you will need approval from the Small Animal Association. Plan to attend their next meeting on Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Isabella County Building. If you have already met with the Small Animal Association to sell in the auction and were approved, you do not have to do it again.

Broiler Chick Orders
Time to order your broiler chicks! Orders need to be placed at the Extension office by April 28. Approximate cost per bird including shipping is $1.80 each, if we are able to order 100 birds.

Call the Extension office to place your order. If you have any questions, call Darlene at 828-4618 or Wanda at 828-5833.

Dairy Feeder Weigh-In
Saturday, March 11, 2017
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Isabella County Fairgrounds

It’s required that by Fair, every feeder must have a RFID tag (radio frequency identification) in their ear.

If you have any questions, contact Mike Lattimer at (989) 513-7839.

What is a SPIN Club?
A SPIN club is a Special Interest Club that usually lasts for 6-8 weeks. It is centered around a specific activity for a short duration of time. This enables youth to develop skills in a specific area in a minimal amount of time. Volunteers are not committed for a long period, and can utilize their skills and interests in the 4-H Youth Development program. Examples of SPIN clubs might include food preservation, golfing, fishing, sewing, textile arts, jewelry making, wood carving, and fly tying to name a few. There is no limit to any ideas or hobbies that would make a successful and educational SPIN club for 4-H youth.

For more information, contact Kristi Schreiber at the Extension office at schrei61@msu.edu or (989) 317-4079.

Fair Trophy Sponsors Needed
There is a need for fair trophy sponsors for a few project areas.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a trophy, contact Eva Loudenslager at: loudenslagereva@yahoo.com.
2017 Isabella County Shooting Sports Events

Please call or email the Extension Office to pre-register for the event!

Shooting Sports Informational Meeting
Thursday, March 23
7:00 p.m.
Isabella County Building, Room 320

All members enrolled in shooting sports are invited! The 4-H Shooting Sports Programming Committee will do an overview of the shooting sports program and answer any questions you may have about the project. Please RSVP to the Extension office by if you plan to attend.

DATES FOR 2017 PROGRAM YEAR
April 8 – Qualifying Shoot
May 20 - Qualifying Shoot
June 3 - Qualifying Shoot
June 17 – County Shoot

Cost per event *may be subject to change based on market prices for supplies
$5.00 registration fee
$7.00 registration fee (if you are shooting trap & 22)
$3.00 registration fee for Cloverbuds (age 7 & 8)
Bring your own safety equipment (eye & ear protection)
4-H member is responsible for buying own shells for trap; they are available for sale at the shoots

4-H Shooting Sports Age Policies
- 4-H Shooting Sports Programs are open to young people aged 7 through 19. The “4-H age” will be determined by a young person's age as of January 1 of the 4-H program year.
- 4-H Cloverbud members ages 7-8 may participate in BB gun and basic archery training. Participation is at the discretion of the Certified Instructor and the participant must be under direct adult supervision (one on one). Cloverbuds do not participate in the County Shoot.
- Cloverbuds (4-H ages 5 & 6) must wait until they reach the 4-H age of 7 to participate in shooting sports.
- Hunter safety certification is required for members age 12 & older
- Members ages 9 – 11 are limited to shooting BB & archery at competitive events
- Youth must attend one qualifying shoot in order to compete at the county shoot

Qualifying Shoots and County Shoot are held at the Isabella County Sportsman’s Club at the Corner of Winn & Millbrook Roads, 2872 W. Millbrook Road, Mt. Pleasant - 989-866-2505.

Shooting Sports Instructors Needed
We are looking for volunteer leaders to become certified as 4-H Shooting Sports instructors in archery, rifle, and shotgun.

You will need to attend the April 28 - 30, 2017 workshop at Kettunen Center, in Tustin. At the workshop you will learn safe and proper use of guns and archery equipment that you can teach the youth. Please call the Extension office if you are interested or would like more information.

Spring Hunter Safety at the Isabella County Sportsman’s Club
May 6 & 7 - To register, contact Dave Randall at 989-304-1089 (cell) or 989-967-3355 (home). Please call between 5pm and 9pm. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.
Scholarship Opportunities

Isabella County 4-H Scholarship
Isabella County offers two $500 scholarships to 4-H members or former members each year. The scholarship recipient must be enrolled at an institution of higher learning and have been involved with 4-H in Isabella County. The scholarship is not limited to college freshmen.

To get an application, click here: Isabella County 4-H Scholarship or you may pick one up at the Extension office. Applications are due back to the office by April 20. The scholarship recipients will be notified by May 15.

Kathryn Methner Fike Scholarship
For high school seniors and current college students. Thank you to the family of Kathryn Virginia Methner Fike for establishing a $1000 scholarship in her name to benefit 4-H members in Isabella County.

Kathryn Virginia Methner Fike was born on the farm of her parents in northeast Wise Township, Isabella County on Nov 21, 1918. Except for a few winters in Florida, she spent all most 96 years within 5 miles of her birthplace. She married Lester Fike on March 29, 1936 and spent over 60 years on what became the Fike Centennial Homestead. In her childhood years, she was a member of a 4-H sewing club lead by her mother, Daisy Methner. After having children of her own, she became a leader, too. She served in this capacity for many years. Kathryn took great pride in the accomplishments of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in their 4-H activities.

4-H has been a top priority in Kathryn’s family for 5 generations and so it is with pride that her family is honoring Kathryn’s many years of dedication to 4-H education in Isabella County with this scholarship.

Application is available at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/isabella/isabella_county_4_h

4-H Camp - Available to Rent
The 4-H Camp on Coldwater Lake is available to rent this spring and summer!

There is not a lovelier setting to host graduation open houses, family reunions, receptions and youth groups. Situated on beautiful Coldwater Lake in Weidman, the 4-H Camp boasts a wonderful traditional style lodge, two dormitories, decking and steps to lake frontage.

If interested in renting, please contact: Linda Maeder at 989-644-6261 or 989-289-7653, or email: maederla@gmail.com

Skilled Trades Night - Energize Your Future
March 15, 2017
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
J. Ranck Electric, Mt. Pleasant

Find out how JRE employees energized their careers, see their work, and hear how the decision to enter skilled trades has led to successful and rewarding careers.

All students (grades 7-12) and parents are invited to join us for interactive tours, a crane simulation, career information, free pizza, and more!

Space is limited; reserve your spot today.
Register at: www.jranck.com/skilledtrades
**FAIR BOARD NEWS**

AMUSEMENT RIDE PASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON APRIL 29th!

The passes will be available to 4-H and FFA families and friends the months of May and June.

The price is $10.00 per pass and may be used any day of the fair.

One pass, per day, per person.

To order: call 989-465-6660, e-mail isabellacofair@yahoo.com, or send a check made out to Isabella Co. Fair, PO Box 28, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0028

and the passes will be mailed to you.

You may purchase as many passes as you would like.

We do accept VISA, MASTERCARD OR DISCOVER with a 3% processing fee.

THANK YOU MAPLE LEAF AMUSEMENTS for this special deal for our Isabella County 4-H & FFA Families & Friends!!

**Fair Camping News**

Registration letters will be mailed on March 20, 2017. Payment must be received by April 27, 2017. Watch your mail.

Open camping sign-up will be Saturday April 29th 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

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**4-H WORKSHOPS**

Registration fee for the below workshops is paid by the Isabella County 4-H Program Council for all enrolled teen (ages 13 and up) and adult 4-H volunteers.

To register, contact the MSU Extension office at 317-4079.

**Teens As Teachers Workshop**

May 20 - 21, 2017 at Kettunen Center

At the Teens as Teachers workshop, teen leaders (age 13-19) will gain facilitation and leadership skills that will prepare them to teach a FUN hands-on educational activity.

Each teen leader will teach the activity they learn at the training to a group of kids in their local community. As a teen leader, you will have the advantage of being able to make learning fun and relatable to the young people you teach; serving as a role model for younger 4-H members. Teens in each track will work together to prepare, implement, evaluate and report on the progress of their local implementation of the activity in one of four tracks: Ag Innovators, Money Skills, Leadership, or Science (more track details are provided on the back of the flyer). Training and all teaching supplies will be provided.

For more information: [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/teens_as_teachers_workshop](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/teens_as_teachers_workshop)
STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Workshops

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

Youth Business Guide to Success . . . . Training  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=7BB57C00B1B518BF  
Delta County MSU Extension Office, Escanaba

March 11-12: Challenge U 4-H Funfest  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=45166123621BDFFE  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 17-19: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=62E0A083A0F38132  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 18-19: 4-H Robotics Workshop  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=CFBB42F26791A2C6  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 20: Youth Business Guide to Success . . . . Training  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=7BB57C00B1B518BF  
Ottawa County MSU Extension Office, West Olive

https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=7BB57C00B1B518BF  
Lapeer County MSU Extension Office, Lapeer

March 25: Youth Business Guide to Success . . . . Training  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=7BB57C00B1B518BF  
Menominee County MSU Extension Office, Stephenson

Other 4-H Events

March 19-22: 4-H Capitol Experience  
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=087C25CC2694CBDF  
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

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

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/events/4_h
The purposes of this annual teen and adult leader workshop are to:

- Provide Michigan 4-H [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/4 h] youth and volunteers from across the state with the opportunity to learn about Michigan agriculture
- Increase attendees’ knowledge about the Michigan dairy industry
- Develop participants’ self esteem, self awareness and leadership skills
- Help those attending to become more knowledgeable about the many issues affecting agriculture now and in the future.
- Inspire conference participants to bring new programming and ideas back to their 4-H clubs and county programs


Who Should Attend?
This training is for Michigan 4-H’ers who are 13 to 19 years old, as of January 1, 2017, and volunteers who are interested in dairy cattle and dairy cattle reproduction science.

Where Will the Conference Be Held?
Kettunen Center [http://kettunencenter.org], Tustin

When Is the Conference? March 17 to 19, 2017

Theme This year’s theme is “Reproductive Science With Dairy Cattle”

How Can Someone Register?
Registration for the conference is available on the Michigan 4-H web site [http://bit.ly/2lch5Jj]. If a registrant’s county is offering scholarships, it is important to check with the county [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county], before registering.

What Is the Cost of the Conference?
The registration fee, which includes meals, lodging and resources, is $95 for 4-H members and volunteers and $191 for non-4-H members and volunteers

More information is available from:
- Melissa Elischer (elischer@anr.msu.edu)
- Your local MSU Extension county 4-H staff [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county]
2017 Ingham County
4-H Poultry Clinic

Saturday, March 25, 2017
Registration Starts at 9:30 am
10 am – noon
MSU Pavilion Classroom
(Signage Available Once Inside)
4301 Farm Lane
Lansing, MI 48910

Cost: $3 (Paid at the Door)
Participants will receive a
4H Poultry T-Shirt

Topics include:
Choosing Poultry for Breed Class Exhibition
• American Poultry Association Breed Standards
• Guide for Selecting Quality Breed Class Poultry
• Q&A Session with 4H Poultry Judges

Presenters are:
Poultry Experts
Amy & Lucas Gabbard

Please RSVP at Ingham County MSUE Office at Phone#: 517-676-7207
or email at msue33@msu.edu.
Registration deadline: Monday March 22, 2017

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Adventures in Outdoor Fun
4-H Outdoor/Environmental Workshop

Want to know more for leading youth about the outdoors? This workshop includes elements of adventure, outdoor and environmental education to provide youth leaders with some tools, strategies and activities to engage youth in some creative learning opportunities. Learn to lead activities such as Backstabber, Human knot, Fire in the Hole & Willow in the Wind. More importantly, discover ways to build confidence in youth so they can grow to be better citizens! In addition, your abilities to teach and mentor will be enhanced.

When: April 10th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Where: Mid Michigan Community College
Room CSS 234
2600 S Summerton Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI

Cost: FREE!

Participants will be provided resource materials and light snacks

To register please contact: Nick Baumgart at baumga75@anr.msu.edu or 906-774-0363. Registration deadline is April 5th.

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2017 Ag Innovators Experience Healthy Soils CSI Challenge Carbon Soil Investigation

The 2017 4-H Ag Innovators Experience Healthy Soils CSI Challenge will be delivered by 4-H teen leaders to over 1000 Michigan youth at events in local communities between March-July. Check out this video to learn more about this year’s challenge activity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsmRCx1pdvw

Teen leaders may choose to attend one of these training events to learn the activity and prepare to lead it. Teen leaders will be provided with all materials necessary to carry out the activity, mileage reimbursement, opportunity for Exploration Days scholarships, and support to teach this lesson in your community.

March 25, 2017 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thompson Community Center, Warren, MI
$10 registration fee, includes lunch
https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HAgInnExp2017/
Deadline March 21

May 20-21, 2017
Teens as Teachers Workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI
$45 registration fee, includes overnight lodging and meals
https://events.anr.msu.edu/TeenTeachers17/
Deadline May 1
Michigan State University Extension
Isabella County
200 N. Main Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: (989) 317-4079
Fax: (989) 773-1622
Website: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/isabella

SAVE THE DATES

Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Training
March 8, 2017

Dairy Feeder Weigh-In
March 11, 2017

Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Training
March 27, 2017

4-H Exploration Days
June 21-23, 2017

Camp Counselor Training & Camp Set-Up
July 10, 2017

4-H Summer (overnight) Camp
July 11 & 12, 2017

4-H Cloverbud Camp
July 18 & 19, 2017

Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair
July 22 - 29, 2017

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

- March 7: Teen Horse Leaders @ MSUE - 6 PM
- March 7: Horse Leaders @ MSUE - 7 PM
- March 8: PQA Plus Training @ MSUE - 6 PM
- March 11: Dairy Feeder Weigh-In @ Fairgrounds - 8:30 - 11:30 AM
- March 16: Small Animal Association @ MSUE - 7 PM
- March 23: Shooting Sports Informational Meeting @ MSUE - 7 PM
- March 27: PQA Plus Training @ MSUE - 6 PM
- March 28: 4-H Council @ MSUE - 7 PM

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"Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the MSU Extension office at (989) 317-4079 at least 5 days prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this time will be met when possible."

Kristi Schreiber, 4-H Program Coordinator
schreie61@anr.msu.edu

Nonie Gross, Secretary
Paul Gross, Extension Educator
Belinda Laughlin, Master Gardener Coordinator
Kara Lynch, Extension Educator
Sabrina McGee, SNAP-ED PI
David Rowley, Extension Educator