Dear 4-H Family:

Summer is in full swing and so are the 4-H activities in St. Joseph County!

There are a lot of opportunities in the next few months that you should be aware of. Be sure you read this issue of “4-H News You Can Use” so that you don’t miss anything!

Some of the highlights for July and August are County Wide work-out dates, several livestock shows, species pre-fair meeting dates, and still barn clean up dates just to name a few. If you have questions or would like more information on anything in the newsletter, be sure to call the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5521 or email me at beekere@anr.msu.edu.

Helping to “Make the Best Better”

Eva Beeker
4-H Program Coordinator

State Shooting Sports Tournament

The state shoot will take place on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at the Centerline of Calhoun County. Registration has closed but if you are interested contact your shooting sports instructor for more information.

St. Joseph County State 4-H Award Delegates

St. Joseph County had five individuals who participated in the State Awards process this year. Each of the delegates had successfully created a 4-H portfolio for Regional Awards selection and participated in the 2017 State Awards at Exploration Days this past June. Creating a 4-H Awards portfolio shows a lot of time and dedication to a project and keeping accurate records.

This year’s St. Joseph County 4-H State Awards senior delegates were:
- Hannah Harless for Companion Animal Science
- Erika Eggleston for Rabbits and Cavy Science

For the junior division St. Joseph County was represented by:
- Jacie King for Goats
- Andrew Rambadt for Swine
- Alyssa VanLoo for Biological Science

Congratulations go to Hannah Harless and Alyssa VanLoo for each winning the State Award for each of their project areas!

James A. Fairchild Volunteer 4-H Leader Award

We are honored to be able to once again recognize a special leader you feel is deserving of an award. This award was established in 2011 to honor a volunteer leader who demonstrates all that the 4-H pledge stands for as a role model.

If you know of a leader you feel is deserving of this prestigious award, contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5521 or go online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/st_joseph/st_joseph_county_4_h for an application and more information. All applications are due to the MSU Extension office no later than Friday, October 6, 2017.

MSU Extension Office update…..

As many of you know, Linda Towles (one of our office staff) retired at the end of April. Linda had been on staff at MSU Extension for over 20 years. We miss her wit, smile, and dedication but know she is very busy enjoying her grandkids and doing a little gardening! We will still see Linda around as she has committed to helping at fair time in the office. If you see Linda out and about be sure to say “hi” so she keeps in touch with the 4-H family!

Shooting Sports Update…

Shooting Sports meetings for shotgun, rifle, BB and .22 are held on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m. (target archery is on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.) at the Conservation Club on Featherstone Rd. Contact your Shooting Sports leader for more information!
**Goat Project Information**

**Countywide Work-Out/Skill-A-Thon Practice** at the Fairgrounds
- **Tuesday, July 25, 2017**
  - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 1, 2017**
  - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Don’t forget that there is a Goat Carcass Class! Check with your leader and the fair book for more information.

The theme for 2017 for the Goat costume contest is “Disney”. Use your imagination and join the fun!

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**Poultry Update...**

Turkey Hatch Date:
- **May 6, 2017**

Chicken Hatch Date:
- **July 22, 2017**

**Countywide Turkey vaccination ONLY**...Monday, July 10 and Thursday, July 13, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds.

**Countywide Turkey, Chicken & breeding stock tagging/banding**...Sunday, August 20, and Monday, August 21 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds.

Refer to the Fair book for updated requirements.

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**Sheep News...**

There have been some changes to the sheep project. Please be sure to read the “Livestock changes for 2017” at the end of this newsletter.

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**4-H Rabbit Project Information**

All St. Joseph County 4-H rabbits that will be at the fair need to be tattooed in the left ear by **Wednesday, August 15, 2017**. Check with your club leader to find out when your club tattoo date is scheduled.

If you are interested in sponsoring a new rabbit cage at the fair grounds, please call the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5521.

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**Swine Events and Announcements...**

There have been several changes to the swine project regarding evaluations. Be sure to read the fair book and check with your swine leader for updated information for 2017. Also be sure to check the “Livestock changes for 2017” at the end of this newsletter.

All swine registered for the 2017 St. Joseph County, MI fair will have a maximum starting weight of 105 lbs. as of June 15, 2017 and a minimum weight of 225 lbs. and maximum weight of 320 lbs. as of September 16, 2017.

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**2017 4-H Dairy Days and Dairy Expo**

This week long event is scheduled for July 17-21, 2017 at the MSU Pavilion. For more information go to: [www.midairyyouth.ans.msu.edu/days](http://www.midairyyouth.ans.msu.edu/days)

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**Important Livestock Dates & Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>WHAT/WHERE</th>
<th>WHEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Hatch Dates</td>
<td>Turkeys = May 6; Chickens = July 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>Initial tagging and registration - Place to be determined by club</td>
<td>June 1-15: Tagging/Weigh-in is organized and conducted by the Swine leader(s) for your 4-H Club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>June 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or June 10, 9:00 - 11:00 am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Feeder &amp; Sheep</td>
<td>Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>June 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or June 10, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
<td>Tattoo Dead Line - Place to be determined by club</td>
<td>August 15, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Countywide turkey vaccination - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>July 10, 2017, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and July 13, 2017, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Countywide tagging/banding for Turkeys, Chickens &amp; Breeding Stock - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>August 20, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and August 21, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For us to better serve you:

If you are planning a trip to the MSU Extension Office to pick up bulletins and/or publications you can call ahead at 269/467-5521 to let us know you are coming and we will have them waiting for you.

ALSO: If you have a change of physical address, e-mail address or phone number, PLEASE advise the MSU Extension office AND your organizational leaders so that all mailings are sent to the proper address and your contact information is up to date!

Thank You!

Pre-Fair Leader/Volunteer/Member Meeting Dates:

All meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the MSU Extension office unless otherwise noted.

- Goat...Thursday, July 20
- Sweepstakes...July 20, 6:00 p.m.
- Dairy...Tuesday, July 25
- Sheep...Wednesday, July 26
- Poultry...Thursday, July 27
- Rabbit...Wednesday, August 2
- Beef...Thursday, August 3
- Swine...Tuesday, August 8
- Superintendent...Wednesday, August 30, 7:00 p.m., St, Joseph County Grange Fair Grounds

Upcoming Workshops and Shows

- July 14-17, 2016 - Michigan Livestock Expo
- July 18-22, 2016 MI Dairy Expo and Dairy Days
- August 11-13, 2017 - State Horse Show
- August 11-13, 2017 Kayaking, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Level 2, Gladstone, MI
- August 18-20, 2017, Flat-Water Canoeing, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Level 2
- August 19, 2017 - State Dog Show
- August 20, 2017 - State Miniature Horse Show
- August 26-27, 2017, Global Village and Global Gateway Experience with 4-H, Howell, MI
- September 2, 2017, Michigan State 4-H Poultry Show
- September 22-24, 2017, Backpacking, Outdoor Adventure Challenge, Level 2, Free Soil, MI

Livestock Post-Fair Changes 2016-2017

On the last page of this newsletter you will find the Livestock changes that were presented and voted on at the post-fair meetings. Please be sure to read the changes that will take affect for the 2016-2017 fair season. The fairbook will also reflect these changes. Remember that all Livestock pre-fair and post fair meetings are open to ALL members, parents and leaders. Everyone’s input, thoughts, and ideas are important and welcomed.

Michigan 4-H Science Expo

This is a new, innovative, competitive event for youth with a passion for science. 4-H members to 9-19 years old will experience science activities such as forestry, wildlife habitat, and robotics. To register for the August 26, 2017 event go to the web site at: https://events.anr.msu.edu/ScienceExpo17/ by July 31, 2017. Registration fee is a nonrefundable fee of $15.00 with an optional lunch for $10.50. For more information, call the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5521.
Still Project Check-In Dates for 2017…

If you exhibit Still Projects at fair you will want to mark your calendar for the NEW dates for judging. Below you will find a detailed list of projects that will be judged one week earlier than in the past. PLEASE be sure to check the list and recheck it for your projects and when judging is scheduled. If you have questions as to when your project is judged keep this list close by. There will NOT be alternative judging dates.

**Saturday, September 9, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crocheting &amp; Creative Crocheting</th>
<th>Candle Making</th>
<th>Entomology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knitting &amp; Creative Knitting</td>
<td>Stenciling</td>
<td>Entomology-No Kill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewing &amp; Creative Sewing</td>
<td>Tin Punch</td>
<td>Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candlewicking</td>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counted Cross-Stitch</td>
<td>Wood Burning</td>
<td>Mammals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embroidery</td>
<td>Wood Carving</td>
<td>Rocks &amp; Minerals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needlepoint</td>
<td>Wooden Toys</td>
<td>Taxidermy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic Canvas</td>
<td>Other Folk Arts (not listed)</td>
<td>Wildflowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quilts</td>
<td>Woodworking (all)</td>
<td>4-H Club Banner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comforters</td>
<td>Puzzles</td>
<td>Career Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilting (Other than quilts)</td>
<td>Soap Making (melt &amp; pour, Lye)</td>
<td>Personal Appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuffed Toys</td>
<td>Scrapbooking</td>
<td>Creative/Illustrated Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Needlecraft</td>
<td>Rubber Stamping</td>
<td>Self-Determined Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Flower Arranging</td>
<td>Emergency Preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Fire Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand-Molded Pottery</td>
<td>Aquatic Science</td>
<td>First-Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cartooning</td>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>Pocket Pets</td>
<td>Physical Fitness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Horse Science</td>
<td>Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>Horse Judging</td>
<td>Substance Abuse Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wardrobe Personalization</td>
<td>Goat Science</td>
<td>Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball-Point Tube Painting</td>
<td>Poultry Science</td>
<td>Family Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caning</td>
<td>Rabbit Science</td>
<td>Genealogy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ink-On Glass</td>
<td>Aerospace</td>
<td>Home Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewelry Making</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Rugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latch Hook</td>
<td>Computer Graphics</td>
<td>Landscaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leathercraft</td>
<td>Electrical Science</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherwork</td>
<td>Engines (automobile, tractor, small)</td>
<td>Teen Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macramé</td>
<td>Model Construction (general)</td>
<td>Bicycle Care/Safety/Touring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macramé (life skills)</td>
<td>Model Construction (snap-together)</td>
<td>Fishing, Fun, &amp; Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint-by-number</td>
<td>Model Construction (specialty)</td>
<td>Fly Tying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Crafts (kits, original)</td>
<td>Diorama</td>
<td>Kite Flying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Wrapping</td>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>Recreation Ideas/Games Kit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Creative Arts (not listed)</td>
<td>Beekeeping</td>
<td>Sports (Individual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basket Making</td>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>Sports (Team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmithing</td>
<td>Conservation of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Sign up for all Demonstrations (Department 73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckskinning/Indian Lore</td>
<td>3R’s Creative Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calligraphy</td>
<td>Recyclable Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, September 16, 2017**

| Cake Decorating                  | Weeds and/or Crops (not listed) | Cloverbud Projects |
| Candy Making                     | Fall Ornaments                  | Sign up for all Demonstrations (Department 73) |
| Food Preparation                 | Decorated Pumpkins              | Rabbit Kindling Reports |
| Food Preservation                | Flower Gardening                | 4-H Club Display |
| Food Drying                      | Great Pumpkin                   | 4-H Club Promotional Display |
| Outdoor Meals                    | Indoor Gardening                |     |
| Photography                      | Vegetable Gardening             |     |
| Corn                             | Coin Collections                |     |
| Hay                              | Stamp Collections               |     |
| Small Grains                     | Other Collections (not listed)  |     |
| Soybeans                         | Shooting Sports - Notebooks     |     |
Post 2017 Fair Livestock Changes

**Beef/Dairy Beef:**
- Evaluations: No written evaluation books (forms) only interview. Will use a color coded 4x6 (age groups) notecard for each member for judge’s comments. Pictures of the member for display in the still barn for champions and honorable mentions.
- Feeder Steer: Eliminate “pure bred” calf rule, but all feeder steers must be either a purebred or a cross of one of the dairy breeds…Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey; may also include Line Back and Dutch Belt.
- Dairy Market Beef: Allow cross bred steers of the dairy breeds listed under feeder steers. (add Dutch Belt and Line Back)
- Carcass Contest: Yoder’s for 2017. Time from 6:30 to 6:00 p.m. If a Beef steer is disqualified and member requests steer to be shipped with other steers for butcher, the member will be responsible for all expenses of processing and steer will not be entered into the carcass contest.
- All Beef animals will have a destination on file from the auction by 5:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 24, 2017 or the animal will be shipped for resale.

**Dairy Cattle:**
- Milking time schedule will be 5:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for 2017.
- 2016 Show Order: Jersey, Any other breed (Dutch Belt, Milking Shorthorn, Lineback), Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein.
- 2016 Milk T-shirt’s - Royal Blue color with white lettering—Trish Ulsh will organize/order
- Dairy Products Basket will go to the top bidder at the Auction—Trish will organize.
- Bill to purchase two (2) sawdust forks/rakes for show day.

**Goat:**
- Evaluations: Will have a “scorecard” for feedback to 4-H members
- Show Order for 2017: Open Class, 4-H meeting, Showmanship, Market, Breeding Stock, Driving
- Goat Costume Class….Theme….DISNEY. Member and Goat must be dressed to match theme. Judging criteria TBA.

**Poultry:**
- Hatch Dates:
  - Turkeys: May 6 (18 weeks)
  - Chickens: July 22
- Tagging Date for Turkeys and Chickens (Mk and BS): August 20 (4 - 7 p.m.) & August 21 (4 - 7:00 p.m.)
- Educational Displays: Yes for 2017 - Each club will be expected to put together a display (may, but not required, use existing display with added materials for 2017. No Prize money for 2017.)
- Grand Champion Eggs will be added to the 2017 Small Animal Auction.
- NO parents will be allowed into the Turkey judging area. Only 4-H members or 4-H Leaders.
- No Vet will be used to check in poultry for 2017.

**Rabbits:**
- Donations still being accepted to purchase new cages.
- Need 2 additional larger cages for larger breeding stock rabbits (Flemish Giants) for 2017.
- Show Order for 2017: Clover Bud, Showmanship, Lunch, Breeding Stock, Market (Home Raised, Purchased)
- Only Six (6) rabbits may be tattooed PER 4-H MEMBER. Including cross tags.

**Sheep:**
- Evaluations:
  - Move to Sunday, September 10, 2017 (Carcass Sunday) 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  - Eliminate the written evaluations (Forms) Skill-A-Thon and Interview only (members may bring a 3-ring binder if desired)
  - Ryan Waltke will work on the Skill-A-Thon

**Swine:**
- **ALL TAGS MUST BE CLEAN PRIOR to unloading at fair.** If not clean, will NOT unload and sent to the end of the line. Will have a tag checker going along the line to be sure.
- **NEW for 2017:** All hogs will be weighed as unloaded. No reweighing will take place.
- Evaluations:
  - Age Group changes: 9-11, 12-14, 15-16, 17-19.
  - **ALL Evaluation reports have been rewritten for 2017.** New Evaluations are posted and should be downloaded from the website.
- Show Order for 2016: Barrows and Gilts
- Wash Rack changes: Each club will be assigned wash racks to be kept clean. ANYONE can use the wash racks, clubs will be responsible for their assigned wash rack(s) to clean.
- Clubs have been assigned to help with set-up and tear-down for show day and auction day and to help man the barns on show day. Schedules will be handed out at the Swine Pre-Fair meeting.