Dear 4-H Family,

As you can see we have a new look to our 4-H Newsletter! A lot is happening in St. Joseph County as well as around the state. Inside this newsletter you will find information and dates that will help you plan your schedules and maybe something new that you might be interested in! Be sure to note that scholarship information is included with all the deadlines. Grab your calendars and be sure to jot it all down so that you don’t miss anything! As always, if you have questions, please feel free to call the MSU Extension office and let us help.

Helping to “Make the Best Better”

Eva Beeker
4-H Program Coordinator
4-H Youth Development

Market Beef/Dairy Beef Tagging

Market Beef and Market Dairy Beef tagging and registration is March 24, at the fairgrounds from 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

4th Grade Conservation Tour

If you would like to help with the 4th Grade Conservation Tour please call the MSU Extension office (269) 467-5521 for more information. Please remember if you are a high school student you will need prior approval from your school to be released during the time you are helping. Community Service hours can be made available upon request. We need preparation help, tour guides, and speaker assistants. Dates for the Tour are April 17th and 18th. Location for 2018 Conservation Tour is at Covered Bridge Farm 56705 Covered Bridge Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093.

For us to better serve you: If you are planning a trip to the MSU Extension Office to pick up multiple copies, 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.

Michigan State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The 4-H Name and Emblem have special protections from Congress, protected by code 18 USC 707.
4-H Camp Counselors Needed

It's time to fill out your applications to be a camp counselor! 4-H Camp will be held July 10, 2018 — July 12, 2018 at Camp Fort Hill. Potential Camp Counselors must be 15-19 by January 1, 2018, currently enrolled in St. Joseph County 4-H and be able to work full-time during camp. Applications are due to the MSU Extension office by March 2, 2018.

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp

Registration is now open! 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp will be held August 5, 2018 — August 11, 2018 at Camp Chichagami in Presque Isle, Michigan. You can apply to attend if you'll be ages 13-15 or going into 8th-10th grade. For the online application and selection process go to: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/cost_and_how_to_apply. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2018. Space is limited to 70 campers.

Mark Your Calendars For 4-H Exploration Days

4-H Exploration Days will be June 20, 2018—June 22, 2018. At Michigan State University Campus, East Lansing, MI 48824. For youth ages 11-19. Registration is from March 13, 2018 — through April 30, 2018. 4-H Exploration Days give youth the chance to increase communication, responsibility, independence. Increase leadership and team work skills along with meeting new people that share the same interest. For more information contact the MSU Extension office or check out the county website.

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 19; Chickens = July 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>Initial tagging and registration - Place to be determined</td>
<td>June 1-15: Tagging/Weigh-in is organized and conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>Possession Deadline Friday June 1</td>
<td>Tuesday June 5, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Feeder &amp; Sheep</td>
<td>Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>June 5, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or June 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
<td>Tattoo Dead Line - Place to be determined by club</td>
<td>By August 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Countywide turkey vaccination/tagging - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Sunday July 15, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Monday July 16, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>County-wide tagging/banding for Turkeys, Chickens &amp; Breeding Stock - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Sunday August 19, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Monday August 20, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef/Dairy</td>
<td>Tagging/registration - Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Saturday March 24 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scholarship Opportunities

Youth Council will award up to three $750 each, plus $1,500 and $1000 scholarship for high school seniors, college freshmen and sophomores. The 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship in the amount of $1,500 will be awarded to an exceptional high school applicant. In Memory of Midge Bender Scholarship of $500 is available to high school seniors, college freshman and sophomores. Applications are due to the MSU Extension Office Friday March 2, 2018. Interviews will be Saturday March 24, 2018. Check out the county website for more information on these scholarships.

North Central CO-OP will be awarding ten $1,000 scholarships to college-bound high school students. Applicants must meet requirements of residing in their trade area, demonstrating leadership through 4-H, FFA or volunteering. Deadline to apply is Thursday March 1, 2018. For more information go to www.ceresllp.com

Green Stone Farm Credit Services will award graduating high school students up to $40,000 in scholarships in increments of $2,000 for students attending a four year college program and $1,000 for students attending a two year college program. Applicants must be planning to study in an agriculture-related field. Applications are due by Friday March 2, 2018. Visit www.greenstonefcs.com for application details and qualifications.

Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF) will be awarding scholarships up to $5,000. To be eligible for either the MYSLF general scholarship or the statewide scholarship the applicants must be a resident of Michigan and graduating high school senior or high school graduate continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year they are applying. Applicants of the general scholarship must also be a youth exhibitor of the Michigan Livestock Expo, the Michigan Dairy Expo, or former Michigan State Fair, for a minimum of three calendar years prior to the year of application. For the statewide scholarship applicants must be a youth exhibitor at a local, county, or statewide exhibition for a minimum of three years prior to the year of application. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 15, 2018. For more information you can go to www.michigan.gov/mda-mylsf

Junior Master Gardner Training

MSUE will be hosting a Junior Master Gardener volunteer training at the MSU Children’s garden on Thursday March 8th. The following link has all the details. Please share with anyone you think may be interested. This is not limited to those interested in the JMG program. Participants will have leave with lots of hands-on projects, learn about many resources and have fun. There is an added session on pollinators and how to garden for these small, but important partners our plants need. For more info and registering go to: https://events.anr.msu.edu/JMGChildrensgarden2018/ In addition to the MSU workshop the same workshop will be held in Kalamazoo at the fairgrounds on Wednesday March 14th.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Horse Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
<td>Member/Leader Goat Showmanship Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Leader Meeting Option 2 Glen Oaks CC, Nora Hagen Theater 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Required Meeting Option 10 (FINAL) - Dairy Cattle Centreville Elementary, 6:30pm</td>
<td>4-H Youth Council Scholarship Applications Due Summer 4-H Camp Counselor Applications Due</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Horse Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4-H Workshops and Events

February 16-17: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin
This workshop is designed for 4-H teens and adults who are fascinated by animal health and want to explore animal systems. Registration due Feb. 4.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_veterinary_science_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop2

February 17: 4-H Dog Project Leaders and Judges Workshop
Michigan State University, East Lansing
Learn how agility, obedience, rally and showmanship classes are evaluated. Registration due Feb. 9.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_dog_project_leader_and_judges_workshop_1

February 17-18: 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin
Take your beef, sheep or swine project to the next level by attending this workshop and learning about animal health, management, care and nutrition. Registration due Feb. 4.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_beef_sheep_and_swine_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop2

February 19: Youth Business Guide to Success: Make the Most of Your Market Livestock Project Workshop
Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, Frankenmuth
Spend some time learning about the business and entrepreneurial aspects of your livestock project. Register by Feb. 15.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/youth_business_guide_to_success_make_the_most_of_your_market_livestock_proj

February 24: Michigan 4-H Embryology Staff, Teacher and Volunteer Training
Grand Traverse County MSU Extension, Traverse City
This training is designed for educators who would like to learn how to implement an embryology program through classroom activities or 4-H SPIN clubs.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_embryology_staff_teacher_and_volunteer_training_grand_traverse

March 9-11: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference
Kettunen Center, Tustin
Learn about Michigan agriculture, increase knowledge of the dairy industry, and develop life skills!
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_dairy_conference_2

March 17-18: Challenge U 4-H FunFest
Kettunen Center, Tustin
Youth ages 9-13 will learn about food science and healthy living while meeting youth from around the state.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/challenge_u_4_h_funfest

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events.
STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

Capitol Experience registration now available!

All high school students have the opportunity to register for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, an annual four-day conference held in Lansing that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. Attend to experience state government in action and learn how you can influence policy issues.

Each participant will select and research an issue area, with topics ranging from animal agriculture, civil rights, education, technology, and more. Together, groups draft a bill related to the issue and move the bill through a legislative simulation. While spending time in Lansing, youth will interact with legislators, tour Michigan’s Capitol, discover how policy is made, explore potential politically-related careers and more!

Registration is available at [https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HCapEx/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HCapEx/) and is due by March 16.

World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute now accepting applications!

On May 10, Michigan youth passionate about addressing global food security will gather for the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFPMIYI).

This life-changing experience offers the next generation of globally-minded leaders an opportunity to address international challenges through the investigation of new technology, potential academic pursuits, and future careers that will impact food insecurity across the world.

This year, the WFPMIYI will be held in two locations: Michigan State University and the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham. Applications for the institute are due April 1. For more information, visit [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/wfpmiyi](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/wfpmiyi).

Youth Pork Quality Assurance roll-over information

For many years, the Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) Plus Program has been the core quality assurance certification program for youth who sell and exhibit their swine, including many Michigan 4-H’ers. In 2015, it was decided that the YPQA Plus program would be completely redesigned into an overarching, all-species quality assurance program known as the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Program.

The intended final roll-out date for the YQCA program was January 2018, however, delays in the platform development led to an extension of the existing YPQA Plus program until June 1, 2018. Youth with a current YPQA Plus certification will remain certified until the expiration date has passed; there will not be an extension for youth certifications. YPQA Plus certifications, as well as YQCA certifications, will be accepted by and could be required by processors and certain fairs and livestock exhibitions.

For more information about YPQA rollover, visit [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/youth_pork_quality_assurance_program_rollover_information](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/youth_pork_quality_assurance_program_rollover_information).