4-H NEWSLETTER
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4-H is a community of young people...across America...and the world who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

MSU EXTENSION-
PROVEN...RELEVANT...LIFE-CHANGING

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Happy New Year 4-H Family,

A new year has begun! And with it brings fun opportunities for our youth! Check out this month’s newsletter for all of the great events happening through MSU Extension on campus as well as great stuff right here in Lapeer. I look forward to a prosperous new year for Lapeer County 4-H. You gotta love being involved with an organization that just won the Rose Bowl! GO SPARTANS!!

Stay Warm,

Kathy George

Please see below for a list of all the Lapeer 4-H calendar and deadlines:

Next Year:
ALL County Awards Deadline
Visitor’s Open House
Visitor’s Open House
Mock Interview Workshop
Interview Night
State Awards Book Seminar
State Award Applications Due
Spring Achievement, N. Branch
4-H Celebrity & Spring Auction
Indoor Fair Judging
Fair Dates

January 8th
January 8th
January 9th
January 14th
January 27th
Early Feb. (TBD)
March 1st
March 22nd
April 4-5th
July 26th
July 29-Aug. 2
New Lapeer County 4-H Website!!
Check out our new website! Still the same address at www.msue.msu.edu/lapeer, you will find lots of helpful information, resources, documents and a NEW CALENDAR just for Lapeer 4-H! Hopefully, this puts things at your fingertips right in your own home! I hope you find it useful and convenient. If you have any suggestions or comments, just let me know.

Also, don’t forget our Facebook page “Lapeer County 4-H” for latest information! “Like” the page and if you have any suggestions about things you would like to see in the future on it, please let us know.

For those in the Horse Project Area:
Karen Waite, PhD, MSU Equine Extension Specialist, will be attending the next Horse Leaders Committee Meeting on January 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm (note the earlier time) to help the committee discuss a new ride test and levels placement for next 4-H year (one year from now). All 4-H youth, parents, and leaders of all Horse Clubs are invited to attend to learn how this strategy works and has been working in other counties already. To learn more about Karen Waite, click here to read her bio: http://www.extension.org/pages/13165/karen-waite-michigan-state-university#.UsWv1bREN6M

County Awards Interviews Are Around the Corner!!
“Mock” Interview Night is January 14th at 6:30pm to practice and ask questions. The Interview Night (the one that counts) is January 27th at 6:30pm. Look nice and bring your “A” game! If you have any questions, please call us at 810-667-0343. Applications are due Wednesday, January 8th, which was extended due to the power outage over Christmas break.
Good luck with completing your applications, and Leaders and Parents - please encourage our youth to complete the application process. These are a great start to building a state awards book, which can lead to state recognition at Exploration Days as well as college scholarships.

4-H State Awards
State awards are newly revised this year and are DUE March 1st!! Please click on this link for more information and to download the application: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/awards_scholarships/4-h_recognition_program. A State Awards Seminar, led by an MSU Educator specializing in this area, is currently being organized in early February to be held at the MSU Extension Office. Stay tuned for more information...
4-H Royalty Bake Sale at TSC – CLUBS NEEDED TO BAKE - GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Lapeer County 4-H Royalty is having two bake sales in February! The first is on February 1 at the Imlay City TSC from 10 to 2. The second is on February 8 at the Lapeer TSC from 10 to 2. Come out and support our Queen, Prince and Princess with their fundraiser! Funds raised will be donated to a local charity. If you would like to help bake a treat and drop it off at the office at the TSC before the event or at the MSU Extension office, they would really appreciate the extra support! This would be a great (and tasty!) opportunity for your club to do a community service project during the slower months of the 4-H year!

4-H Celebrity/Spring Auction Volunteer Open House

Due to a variety of circumstances, the number of visitors to collect auction items is currently only two people. We are seeking new visitors to go to businesses in their home towns to collect donations. The auction is Lapeer County 4-H’s sole fundraiser that supports all of the activities in the county, so finding new visitors is critical. Tiffanie Osburn, Fundraising Coordinator, has scheduled a Visitor’s Open House on two days coming up, January 8 at 10:00am-1:00pm and January 9 at 5:00-7:30pm. If you can find time to go to some businesses in your area in the next few months, please come to one of these open houses. If you know someone who would like to help out, bring them! We are giving a prize to the first 20 people who sign up!

Spring Achievement

Spring Achievement will be held once again in North Branch on March 22 at the North Branch American Legion Hall and North Branch Methodist Church. 2014 Spring Achievement theme is “4-H: Life’s Stepping Stone”. So plan to come and show off your talent as you bring in projects for evaluation and display as well as attend the annual awards ceremony in the afternoon. Registration and cover design contest information will be coming out shortly, so watch for the email.

We are looking for Judges, Clerks, and Superintendents for many areas, so if you know someone with knowledge in one of the judging areas, please call the office so that we may invite them to participate. Areas in need of a superintendent are as follows:

- Photography
- Vet Science
- Conservation/Entomology
- Leisure Ed./Safety/Engineering

Judges should not know the youth whom they are judging. If you know anyone who has an expertise in the Spring Achievement projects areas, please call the office. If you would like to help set up, we will be doing so on Friday, March 21st between 6-8pm at the hall. **We are asking all families to stay after the program is finished to assist with returning chairs and tables to original places.**
Spring Achievement con’t…
Listed again this year are many ways in which you can use your talents or learn new skills by helping at Spring Achievement. Please look over this list and remember any amount of time or help you can lend will be greatly appreciated. Questions, comments or to help out in any way, please call Kathy or Jean at 810-667-0343.

Use your talents or learn new skills by helping at Spring Achievement:

- Help find judges and clerks
- Chair the event
- Be a clerk
- Count the number of projects entered and assign final categories
- Manage the information table
- Arrange for educational demonstrations and displays that day
- Oversee the 4-H office table
- Put up signs for judging
- Decorate for the evening program
- Announce the awards
- Make award certificates
- Be a hospitality specialist and take coffee, water, etc. to the judges
- Be a publicist for Spring Achievement – write press releases; call the papers and radio stations with information
- Promote Spring Achievement – visit clubs to talk about the day
- Organize and advertise the public open house at Spring Achievement
- Do the sound and lights for the evening program
- Hand out ribbons
- Take down the judges’ chairs and tables and set up for the closing program.

Camp Counselor Training
It’s never too early to think summer camp, and plans will soon be underway. I will be sending out letters and notices via Facebook in January for all who may be interested in being part of camp staff, both teens and adults. So if you are between the ages of 13 & 14 and enjoy working with young kids, then being a junior camp counselor for our day camp (kids kindergarten and first grade) program might be a good fit for you. Come to our informational meeting January 24th at 7:00 pm to hear all about the opportunity. And for those of you who are 15 and older come join in the fun as a camp counselor for our overnight camp program (kids second thru sixth grade). And if any adult would like to help as camp staff either as a chaperone or session leader, please call or email me for more information. Notice will go out soon with date, time and place of an informational meeting for teens and adults. Hope to see you there! – Jean Kreiner (kreiner@anr.msu.edu)

Lapeer County 4-H Mini Grants Available!!!!
4-H Council would like to remind everyone that there are funds available to clubs and committees to purchase supplies for new programs or activities. It needs to be educational and either an entirely new project or a new aspect of a current program. If you are interested, please attend a Council Meeting on 3rd Mondays at 7:00pm to submit a request for this mini-grant. We also have options of the grant disbursement so that you will NOT have to pay out of pocket and then request reimbursement.
Waiver Forms
If youth enrollments are being turned in at the 4-H Office with a request for a Participation Fee scholarship, then a completed Participation Fee Waiver Form, signed by parent, must accompany it. Enrollments on scholarship will not be accepted in the office without the waiver. If you are a leader and need more waivers, please call Brenda and one can either be emailed to you or ready for you to pick up at office.

Fair Dates
As most of you may have already heard, the fair dates have changed to July 29 – August 2, 2014. This new date is expected to stay the same for a few years, at least according to the Fair Board.

We are looking for a new Performing Arts and Demonstrations Superintendent. If you are well-organized and would like to take on this position for this year’s fair, we can show you how it’s run at Spring Achievement. It’s fun and a great way to a part of the action! Call the office or email at msue44@msu.edu for more information.

4-H Day at the Breslin Lady Spartans vs. Purdue
You’re ALL invited to attend the ninth annual celebration of MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development at the Spartan Women’s basketball game at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, February 2, 2014. Last year over 5,400 MSUE staff, 4-H volunteers, members and their families attended this exciting opportunity at the MSU Breslin Student Events Center.

Ticket Price: FREE for MSUE 4-H youth and their families, 4-H volunteers and MSU Extension staff and their families!

Date: Sunday, February 2, 2014

Time: Game starts at 1:30 p.m. Gate D will open at NOON and is the gate you need to enter if you are picking up tickets from the 4-H Registration Table. (DO NOT go to the Breslin Center “will call” entrance).

Tickets must be ordered through the Lapeer MSU Office. This would be a great activity for clubs to go together! Tickets ordered AFTER January 17th will need to be picked up at the 4-H Registration table inside Gate D at the Breslin Center on game day. Orders before 1/17 will be mailed to Lapeer 4-H office for pick up. The last day to register online for tickets is Monday, January 27, 2014.
FROM MSU EXTENSION: Plan a community service project in the winter months
Looking for things to do with your club or children in the winter months? Consider giving back to the community through some fun community service projects.

Posted on December 10, 2013 by Michelle Neff, Michigan State University Extension

With the holidays right around the corner it is important to think about what we as individuals, clubs and communities can do to give back. Below are some easy steps to follow to get a community service project started.

1. Pick a project! Brainstorm as a family or group and discuss different ideas or interests that you or your club might be interested in. Some other ideas on how to choose a project would be watching the news for events or conduct a survey in your neighborhood.

2. Plan your project and get some publicity! Good planning is crucial to any community service project. While developing your plan, consider your ultimate goals, who will be helped by your service and if the project is needed. In addition to planning, it is important for you to inform the public of your planned community service-learning project.

3. Carry out your project! This is the exciting part of the project because you get to put your plan into action. Remember the key word “community” in community service. This is a team effort. Everyone in the group should know his or her responsibilities and play their part so things run smoothly. Do your best and have fun!

4. Time for reflection! As a result of your project, many of your club members should have experienced new things. It is important that you take the time to let the participants share their thoughts and feelings with one another. Here are a few questions that could get your club thinking and reflecting: What exactly was accomplished? What were some of your thoughts and feelings as you carried out the project? Did it go the way it was planned?

5. Celebrate! Be sure to find a way to let club members, key volunteers and funders feel appreciated. Some ideas include providing refreshments, thank you notes or passing out mementos of the day.

Here are a few suggestions on winter community service projects:

- Host a coat drive to collect coats, hats and mittens for needy families.
- Volunteer at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Collect toys for families who are in need.
- Shovel snow in the driveways of elderly neighbors.
- Host a food drive for a local food bank.

To learn more about community service and how to get youth involved in giving back to the community, contact the 4-H program at your local Michigan State University Extension office. This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit http://www.msue.msu.edu.
From Julie Thelen, MSU Extension 4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science Educator…

4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
The 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop will be held February 21-22, 2014 at Kettunen Center. Explore animal systems and learn about animal health for a broad array of animal species while attending the workshop beginning with dinner Friday evening and ending Saturday afternoon. Come prepared to learn from others, share information and experiences, ask questions and quiz veterinarians about their careers. You will also participate in hands-on demonstrations that will teach you how to help members recognize healthy, sick, or injured animals. Meet other youth that have developed outstanding veterinary science projects and gain ideas to help others start their own vet science projects. The workshop is open to adult and teen volunteers ages 13 (as of January 1, 2014) and older and is supported by Greenstone Farm Credit Services. Registration is now open and can be made by individuals, families, and county staff. Go to http://events.anr.msu.edu/4HVetWksp2014/ to register.

4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
The 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop will be held February 22-23, 2014 at Kettunen Center. This workshop is designed for both teen and adult leaders who are involved with beef cattle, sheep and swine projects. Topics include animal health, handling, evaluation, marketing, biosecurity, state awards and more. The workshop offers ways to enhance communication and teaching skills, and learn about the many opportunities available for those interested in the beef, sheep and swine industries. The workshop begins with dinner Saturday evening and ends Sunday afternoon and is open to adult and teen volunteers ages 13 (as of January 1, 2014) and older. Support for the workshop is provided by Greenstone Farm Credit Services and the Michigan Pork Producers Association. Registration is now open and can be made by individuals, families, and county staff. Go to http://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBeefSheepSwine14 to register.

4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
The Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is a new five-day pre-college program held at Michigan State University (MSU) in partnership with the MI 4-H Youth Development, MSU Department of Animal Science, and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Youth will explore fields relating to animal and veterinary medicine as well as participate in numerous hands-on learning activities. Participants will also gain animal handling experience while also having the opportunity to visit and explore MSU farms and facilities. Throughout the week, youth will work their way through a veterinary science case study as a team and will create a presentation to be critiqued by veterinarians. This is a fun and interactive camp that will allow youth to conduct activities, ask questions and problem-solve. Additionally, this camp will help youth explore various animal related career fields while also reflecting on their experiences and community programs. Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp will be held June 23-27, 2014 on the campus of Michigan State University is for youth ages 13 to 16 years of age (as of January 1, 2014). For more information and to download the application, visit the Michigan 4-H Veterinary Science webpage: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/animal_science/veterinary_science. Space is limited to 30 youth, and applications are due to the State 4-H Office by April 25, 2014 by 5 p.m.

Michigan Pork Producers Scholarship
Michigan Pork Producers is currently accepting applications for the Pork Industry Scholarship. There is one scholarship available for students pursuing a four year degree at any university and another scholarship for students who are in or planning to be in the swine tech program at Michigan State University. Please read the eligibility requirements on the application and acquire the application here: http://bit.ly/PorkIndustryScholarship. The application deadline is January 17 and interviews and presentations will be conducted on Saturday, January 25 at the Green and White Hog Show.
Would you like to post something in our newsletter?
We are currently reorganizing our newsletter layout into a monthly newsletter and will be offering a section for our 4-H families to send me things to put in our newsletters, such as animals for adoptions, employment opportunities, items for sale, etc. If you would like to submit something, please email me at george92@msu.edu by the 15th of the month.

Toot Your Own Horn!!
In upcoming newsletters, there will be a section for showing what an amazing club you have (or an individual 4-H’er’s achievements), as well as what you’re doing at meetings, events and in the community. Please email me at george92@msu.edu by the 15th of the month. Go ahead, you know you’re awesome, tell us about it!

Monthly Ongoing Meetings

1st Wednesday  Fair Board – held at Imlay City Hall, 7 pm – during winter months, moves to fairgrounds during the summer
2nd Monday     4-H Fair Board Meeting-MSU Extension, 7:00 pm
2nd Monday     Livestock Developmental Committee – MSU Extension, 7:30 pm
TBA            Dog Leaders Developmental Committee – MSU Extension
3rd Monday     4-H Council – MSU Extension, 7 pm
TBA            Sheep Leaders Developmental Committee
4th Wednesday  Horse Leaders Developmental Committee – MSU Extension, 7 pm
TBA            Rabbit Leaders Developmental Committee; call Glenda Weiss 989-795-2730
TBA            Goat Leaders Developmental Committee
TBA            Swine Leaders Developmental Committee
Quarterly      Poultry Leaders Developmental Committee-MSU Extension, 7 pm
TBA            Beef Leaders Developmental Committee

County Developmental Committee meetings are usually cancelled in December and August and may be cancelled at other times...please call ahead to confirm. If Lapeer Community Schools are cancelled due to weather, any meeting held at the MSU Extension is cancelled.

Lapeer County MSU Extension Staff
- Kathy George, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development
- Jean Kreiner, Program Aide, 4-H Youth Development
- Tiffanie Osburn, Fundraising Coordinator
- Brenda Patrick, Office Manager/4-H Secretary
- Tina House, Receptionist/F&CS and Ag Secretary
- Phil Kaatz, Extension Educator, Forages/Field Crops
- Chris Venema, Extension Educator, Food Safety, Financial Literacy & Housing
- Sarah Carpenter, Program Instructor, Health & Nutrition

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