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Information on the following events & issues may be found in the January 31, 2014 newsletter:
Young Innovators Competition – due January 31
State 4-H Awards Workshop – February 17
4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest deadline – February 22
2014 4-H Horse Performance Levels – March 4, 11 & 18
4-H Renewable Energy Camp – June 23-27

IN THIS ISSUE:
Exploration Days Scholarships Available
Exploration Days Scholarships are available through the county Extension office. We currently have five, $40 scholarships available to put towards the Exploration Days participation fee. To apply, write a letter requesting a scholarship and tell us why you want to go to Exploration Days. These scholarships are given on a first-come-first-served basis. First-time attendees are given priority. If you have any questions, contact Sarah at mckin166@msu.edu.

NEW! UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/EVENTS/MEETINGS:
State 4-H Awards Application deadline approaching!
This is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth. This program is for 4-H youth aged 13 and up with at least three years of 4-H experience. All youth who meet these requirements are encouraged to apply. Youth compete in 19 different award areas showcasing their knowledge, skills and experiences.

To apply, youth submit the State 4-H Awards application to State4HAwards@anr.msu.edu by March 1. Applications are carefully reviewed by selection committees and delegates are announced by April 1. Delegates are invited to participate in either an advanced leadership development program (juniors) or competitive interviews (seniors) during 4-H Exploration Days.
on June 18. State 4-H Award winners will be announced at the 4-H Recognition Program, held at the prestigious Huntington Club in Spartan Stadium, June 19 during 4-H Exploration Days.

State 4-H Award winners become a part of an elite group of 4-H youth who have demonstrated the highest level of excellence. While all State 4-H Award winners receive a plaque, seniors receive a $200 cash award, while juniors receive a $50 cash award. Please encourage 4-H youth to apply and be recognized!

For more information and the application please see: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/awards_scholarships/4-h_recognition_program.

4-H Environmental and Outdoor Education/Plant Science and Entomology
March 1-2
Kettunen Center
This workshop will focus on “hands-on" activities for adult and teen leaders 12 years (as of January 1, 2014) and up who are interested in Environmental and Outdoor Education and Plant Science/Entomology 4-H projects. Many projects will be highlighted during this workshop including Outdoor Challenge, Gardening, Insect Collecting, and Archery as well as how science relates to these project areas. Other topics will include leadership, service learning, and volunteer development. This will be a fun filled educational weekend for all participants.

Please visit the 4-H Environmental and Outdoor Education/Plant Science and Entomology registration page for more information.

2014 USDA Farm Crop Insurance Seminar
March 6  9:00am-3:00pm
Monsanto Research Farm
You are invited to join a free educational program on crop insurance. Based on the experiences of the 2013 season, there is renewed interest in the virtues of crop insurance. 2014 commodity prices and revenue generation outlook may not cover total cost of production. The increased cost of production along with the potential revenue makes the need for RISK MANAGEMENT much greater.

Monsanto Research Farm is located at 474 S. Onondaga Rd. Mason, MI 48854 just 1 ½ miles South of W. Columbia Rd on the west side of road. Lunch will be served at noon.

Tentative Agenda – Subject to change
9:00 a.m. Registration and Welcome/Coffee and Snacks – M.C, Dr. Jake Wamhoff
9:30 a.m. The Basics of Today’s Crop Insurance– Roger Betz, MSUE Senior Farm Management Educator
10:45 a.m. Farm Service Agency and Crop Reporting- Linda Rector, Co. Exc. Dir.
11:15 a.m.Agricultural Banking Trends & Requirements– Tim Walling, VP- Union Bank
Noon-Lunch - Catered by Gladys Welker and Friends
1:00 p.m. New Economic Realities – Greenstone Services-Larry Sheridan, Sr. Financial Services Officer
1:40 p.m. Farm Bill Update-Crop Insurance Terminology & Policies- What Direction To Go - Roger Betz, MSUE Senior Farm Management Educator
2:45 p.m. Discussion- Ideas and Comments on Crop Insurance- Participant Sharing

**You need to be registered for the lunch count. To register, please call 517-676-5578 or send an email dgreenm@fbinsmi.com.**

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**4-H Poland Exchange – 2014 Outbound Experience Scheduled**

Grab your map, camera and a pair of shoes, it is time to travel! Attention teens around the Michigan area ages 14 to 19 as of January 1, 2014! Here is an exciting offer for you! An invitation to travel to **Poland tentatively from June 26 to July 24, 2014**. This travel opportunity is coordinated by Michigan State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development Global and Cultural Programs. Global and cultural programs help young people explore, appreciate and value what people next door, across town and around the world have in common and what makes them unique. Youth who travel to Poland this summer will stay with a Polish host family. They will have the chance to make life long international friends and experiences as they explore the Polish culture and a topic of interest.

Would you like to spend a month with a host family in Poland from late June until late July this summer? This life changing opportunity can happen and become a reality by contacting your local county MSU Extension Office 4-H Coordinator. You can also contact the 4-H Poland Exchange Outbound Coordinator, Insa Raymond, at 517-439-9301, or by e-mail at raymon65@anr.msu.edu to get an application today.

Send your application along with a deposit of $ 750.00 payable to Michigan State University by April 1, 2014, to Insa Raymond, MSU Extension Educator, Hillsdale County MSU Extension, 20 Care Drive, Suite B, Hillsdale, MI 49242. The total estimated cost is approximately $ 2000.00. Some counties offer scholarships as well as help with fund-raising ideas. An orientation for travelers will be held in May 2014. The location will be based on the distribution of students in the state.

So what are you waiting for? Do not let this exciting global education opportunity pass you by!

You can find out more about 4-H International opportunities like this one for youth, adults and families and the application forms at: [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/global_cultural_education/international_exchange_programs](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/global_cultural_education/international_exchange_programs)

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**Host a youth from Japan!**

Summer 2014
This coming summer 25 Japanese students between the ages of 12 and 16 will travel to Michigan along with 4 adult chaperones. These young people are excited to learn about the customs, culture, values, foods, clothes, and lifestyles of Michigan families, but mostly, they want to meet other young people, make friends, and try communicating in English!

The exchange will take place July 26 to August 22, 2014. **Michigan 4-H is looking for host families** that represent the broad diversity of Michigan families, including families from rural and urban communities, single-parent families, and families from all religious, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

The youth will be visiting the United States as part of a 4-H Exchange Program. Families do not need to be currently involved with 4-H to host, they just need a willingness to share their lives and their friendship with a young person from another country.

The program is open to families who have a child close in age (within two years) to the Japanese youth. One Japanese visitor will be matched to a family based on the host sibling’s gender, age, and interests. The homestays are only for a month during the summer, but the experience will last a lifetime!

There are also opportunities to host adult chaperones for either 2 or 4 weeks. Families who host chaperones are not required to have children in the home.

For application materials, delegate profiles, or more information, please visit the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs website: [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/international_exchange_programs](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/international_exchange_programs)

The deadline to apply is May 1st. Students are placed on a first come basis to host families who have successfully completed the application process. If you are interested in becoming a Host Family for a youth from Japan, please contact the MSUE Livingston County office at 517-546-3950.
4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp 2014
July 27 – August 2, 2014
Presque Isle
Not Your Ordinary Summer Camp – 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp Combines Fun with Science Literacy! 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is an annual three-time national award-winning camp that mixes summer camp fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 27 to August 2 on the northern shores of Lake Huron at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle. This MSU pre-college program is for teens aged 13 to 15 or those who’ll enter eighth through tenth grade in the fall. The Michigan residence fee is $345 for 4-H members and $355 for nonmembers. The fee includes meals, snacks, lodging, a T-shirt, and program and activity costs. Michigan Sea Grant Extension and donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation generously offset the real $450-a-camper cost. Out-of-state campers will be accepted with a $450 fee if space is still available after May 1. Scholarships are available through the county Extension office.

During this enriching educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. The hands-on learning includes exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, sailing, fossil hunting, archery, photography, and evenings around a campfire. First-time campers also go charter fishing and learn to fillet their catch. Not only does the camp get kids outside enjoying nature and learning to be good environmental stewards, the sessions incorporate four of the five Michigan Department of Education science curriculum standards in earth science and three of the five standards in biology. Campers also have fun and make friends with people from different backgrounds and areas.

Following their involvement, campers are eligible for nomination to apply for a $2,000 MSU Pre-College Scholarship based on criteria such as attitude, behavior and active participation. The scholarship is applied toward each recipient’s first year at MSU as a degree-seeking student.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis February through May 1 or until all camper spaces are full. Space is limited to 70 campers so early application is encouraged. For more
information and to apply for the camp, visit http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/glnrc. You can also call 1-888-MSUE-4MI.

**MSU Pavilion calendar**
http://www.ans.msu.edu/facilities/pavilion/events_calendar

**Kettunen calendar**
http://www.kettunencenter.org

**Livingston County 4-H calendar** http://www.livgov.com/msue/4h/Pages/default.aspx