Fall Achievement Awards
November 12, 6:00 PM

Fall Achievement is a time to recognize our 4-H members for their accomplishments during the past year. This year’s award celebration will be held in the Georgian Room at the Nazareth Complex on Thursday, November 12 at 6:00.

We have already passed the deadline to turn in your Member Award Record Books. The awards committee has met to review the materials they have received. Letters to award recipients will be mailed early in the week of November 1. We look forward to seeing you at the banquet. Good luck to you all!

November at a Glance:
November 1 — Re-enrollments due in 4-H Online registration system
November 3 — Community Club Officer/Leader Training, Fairgrounds Room B, 6:30
November 5 — Heart of Community Volunteer Training, Fairgrounds Room C, 7:00
November 12 — Fall Achievement and Awards Program, Georgian Room, Nazareth Complex, 6:00
November 13-15 — North American International Livestock Expo—Louisville, KY
November 16 — Dog Council Meeting, Panera Bread, West Main St., 7:00
November 17 — Countywide Poultry Meeting, Fairgrounds Room B, 7:00
November 18 — LSA Meeting, Fairgrounds Room B, 7:00
November 19 — Dog Project meeting, Fairgrounds Room B, 7:00
November 20 — Rabbit Agility Meeting, Fairgrounds Room B, 6:30
November 23 — Volunteer Interviews, Fairgrounds, rooms and times vary
November 24 — Countywide rabbit meeting, fairgrounds room B, 7:00
November 26-27 — Thanksgiving Holiday, MSUE Offices closed
Kalamazoo County 4-H youth from the cavy and critter project, along with the rabbit project, shared their animals with youth, parents, WMU students and athletes, and Buster Bronco on Saturday, October 27th. Youth helped explain animal care and wellness to participants. There was also an opportunity for the community to learn about engineering through STEM activities provided by 4-H staff and volunteers.
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED OUT AT HARVEST FEST!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Kalamazoo County 4-H Harvest Festival. It was a wonderful night of fun for many youth and families throughout Kalamazoo County. We also collected xxx pounds of donated food and it was given to the Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes Program. According to Feeding America, that is over xxx meals! Loaves and Fishes is an amazing facility that works with a few paid staff but mostly volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact either myself or Marv at Marvin@kzoolf.org. This can be talking to buyers about donating part of their livestock purchase to them, you or your club planting a row in your garden for them, or donating time packing food in meal boxes or backpacks for families and children in need. Marv and I will be working together to talk to businesses about coming to buy livestock or donate money toward the processing. If you have a business you would like us to approach please let us know. If you have a personal connection with a business feel free to contact them, Marv and I would be happy provide you with talking points or attend a meeting with you. Thank you again for all your hard work!

Join us as the Lady Spartans take on Northwestern!

Save the Date!

You’re ALL invited to attend the 11th annual celebration of MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development at the Spartan Women’s basketball game Sunday, January 10th, 2016.

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

More information will follow in the December newsletter!
2015 North Central Region 4-H Volunteer e-Forum

Get energized as you network with volunteers, county-based staff and state specialists from the 12 states in the North Central Region! Leave with new ideas you can use to infuse heart into your 4-H programs! Each session is offered twice.

**The heart of Belonging**

Learn how to guide youth in developing a list of club or group expectations that accommodates all members, to support youth with special needs, and discover resources to help you in your role as a caring adult. Leave with activities that will help you foster positive behavior, belonging, and inclusion in your club!

- October 8, 2015.................7:00 p.m. (ET)

**The heart of Community**

Volunteers in this session will be prepared to help youth find their voices as they become actively engaged in their communities. The session will include resources and models to incorporate mastery, belonging, generosity, and independence as you include citizenships activities in 4-H settings.

- November 5, 2015..............7:00 p.m. (ET)

**Encouraging the heart of Leadership**

Young people do not magically become leaders at age 13! Leadership is nurtured from their first 4-H experience. You'll receive tools to help inspire youth of all ages to discover and develop independence and mastery.

- December 3, 2015..............7:00 p.m. (ET)

**Find the heart of 4-H at:**

October 8 & December 3 @ Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Room C 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo

November 5 @ The Nazareth Complex, 3299 Gull Rd., Kalamazoo

To register for the e-Forum, contact Veronica Bolhuis at 269-383-8867 or bolhuisv@anr.msu.edu no later than 3 days before each event. The 2015 4-H Volunteer e-Forum has been developed and provided by the 12 states of the North Central Region.

MSU 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.
Tractor Supply created our new Neighbor’s Club program to give you rewards, special offers and knowledge exclusively for life out here. It’s our way of saying thanks for being our neighbor and visiting Tractor Supply for the supplies and practical advice you need. This is a free program that will track your purchases and provide other rewards. Just sign up at either your local Tractor Supply store or online at www.NeighborsClub.com. (If you are a tax-exempt customer, you can only sign up in the store.) All we need is your name, phone number, and a valid email address.

**Rewards**

1. **Seasonal Rewards**
   - Earn new rewards every 3-month season. (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec)
   - With just 3 qualifying visits of $10 or more.
   - Or, when you spend $150 or more in a season.
   - Rewards are selected every season to give you something useful, like savings on tools, pet food, livestock feed, and other things you need for life out here.

2. **TSC Personal Credit Card rewards**
   - Earn even more rewards every 3-month season.
   - Our TSC Personal Credit Card holders enjoy extra rewards as a Neighbor’s Club member.
   - For every $150 you spend with a TSC Personal Credit Card, you’ll earn a $5 TSC Reward.
   - Choose between special financing offers or earning toward a TSC Personal Credit Card Reward.

Provide your phone number every time you make a purchase in a participating store, and start earning rewards right away. (Earn online too; simply login to your Neighbor's Club account before you check out.)

Along with Seasonal Rewards and TSC Personal Credit Card Rewards, our Neighbor’s Club members receive great benefits just for joining.

- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BENEFIT**
  - Enjoy a surprise offer during your birthday month.

- **MEMBER-ONLY OFFERS**
  - Receive extra savings available only to members.

- **PERSONAL PURCHASE SUMMARY**
  - Keep track of your TSC purchases online.

- **RECEIPT-FREE RETURNS**
  - No paper receipt needed for returns within 30 days of purchase.

- **KNOW-HOW**
  - We’ll send hand-picked stories and advice about life out here to your inbox.

For additional information visit [www.NeighborsClub.com](http://www.NeighborsClub.com) or call your local Tractor Supply Store.
Kettunen Center

You have may heard 4-H staff, volunteers, parents or youth talk about the Kettunen Center, but don’t know what or where it is. The Kettunen Center is 160 acre conference center owned by the Michigan 4-H Foundation on a beautiful lake in Tustin, MI, just south of Cadillac. The facility is a full service conference center with lodging, food service and meeting rooms along with beautiful trails, canoe and kayaking equipment – a peaceful place to hold meetings, conferences and workshops. The facilities are often used by MSU Extension staff to hold workshops for volunteers and members, many times at a discounted price.

For more information on the Kettunen Center check out their website at http://www.kettunencenter.org/ or their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Kettunen-Center/153683764660849?fref=ts.

Carcass Project News

We had our first Carcass Project meeting on October 26th. If you weren’t there, you missed out! We began building our judging skills and practiced giving reasons to support our judging decisions. We also worked on identifying retail cuts that come from the loin wholesale cuts.

November 23rd will be our next meeting. We will watch a group (on video) place a class of pork cuts, then practice doing the same thing live, on our own. We will also continue our identification of retail cuts.

If you missed signing up for the carcass project when you re-enrolled, it is not too late. Look for it under MEAT SCIENCE and add it to your list of projects.

The Carcass Project meetings give 4-H members the opportunity to practice evaluation and reasoning, two skills they can use in many life situations—in and out of 4-H. Additionally, at the competition before fair, members get to see the results of their animal-raising practices first-hand, just as packers and FDA inspectors would evaluate them.

Carcass Project meeting will be held this year on the 4th Monday of the month, EXCEPT for the months of December and January. If you have any questions, contact Kevin or Cindy Rose at kevintherose@aol.com or text or phone at (269) 317-3462.
Hello everyone! Welcome to a new year. Here are our regular meeting dates for this year: Oct 27, Nov 24, Feb 23, Mar 29, April 19. The Fit-n-Show/ Breed check-in will be on June 4, and the Market check-in will be on July 9th. Both are Mandatory to be eligible to show at fair. Each 4-H member is required to attend 3 county meetings to be eligible to show at fair. All meetings at the fairgrounds with start time of 7:00 pm.

Rabbit Agility meetings: Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 25, April 15, May 20, June 10, July 5. All meetings at the fairgrounds with start time of 6:30 pm.

There are 3 upcoming ARBA and 4-H Rabbit/Cavy shows. Please consider going as it is a great opportunity to learn about ARBA Shows and get experience with showing your rabbits. Show dates:

November 7th – Mason, MI – ARBA show
November 21st – Frankenmuth, MI – 4-H Show
January 30th – MSU 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show

Rabbit Superintendents
Janelle Gray 269-254-2411
Roxanne O’Neil 269-317-1925

Rabbit Facts

- Rabbits can sleep with their eyes open
- In Japanese tradition, rabbits live on the moon
- Rabbits can't see directly in front of their nose but can see behind them
- Rabbits lick each other and humans as a sign of affection
- The Aztecs worshipped a pantheon of four hundred rabbit gods
- Rabbit whiskers are as wide as the body
Poultry Project Update

You may have seen the pictures in the last newsletter---the old poultry barn is GONE. And construction for the new barn is well under way. That means we have some planning to do for our fair in 2016. With any luck, there will be no more trouble with Avian Influenza and we will be able to have fun with our birds at the fair. Come to the November meeting and be part of the plans. That's scheduled on **Tuesday, Nov. 17th at 7pm in room B of the expo center.**

Since we need to start planning for birds at the fair, those families that might want to be part of a group order for breed/show birds, need to take a look at the McMurray Hatchery website and call or email your selections to Jackie by Friday, Dec. 11th. If I can get the order in early, we have a much better chance of reserving the birds that you want.

Winter is coming and if you are keeping birds over the winter, you need to prepare them now. Make sure that their coop is clean and pest free. Now is the time to medicate them for internal and external parasites. Those bugs are looking for a warm place to spend the winter and get a free meal---and you birds fit the bill. If you provide some additional light during the dark months, your hens will likely keep laying during the winter, too. See you at the meeting for more winterizing tips and if you have any questions, call Jackie Stasevich at 629-9664.

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Avian Flu

The fall migration of wild birds can cause an increase the risk of domestic poultry exposure to the avian influenza virus. Backyard poultry owners should take precautions to prevent contact between their birds and wild birds. This includes:

- Restricting outdoor access, including access to open ponds
- Using well water or municipal water as drinking water for your birds
- Keeping poultry feed secure so it's not accessible to wild birds or rodents

Although no cases of the highly pathogenic avian influenza were detected in domestic birds in Michigan, the virus is actively circulating in the environment, and practicing proper husbandry is essential to prevent its spread.
Goat Project Update

Bake sale at TSC October 17th went well. We had 6 members bake and help sell on a very cold morning. At our meeting this month October 22nd we will start getting our dates put together for quiz bowl practices. If you were unable to make the meeting and want to be on a team please call me. It is a big commitment so be sure you're willing to put in a lot of time with your team. We think it is well worth it. Last years team had a blast.

Pam Beilby-Miller
STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Workshops

December 3: North Central Region 4-H Volunteer E-Forum
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/north_central_region_4_h_volunteer_e_forum
Online

December 8: North Central Region 4-H Volunteer E-Forum
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/north_central_region_4_h_volunteer_e_forum
Online

January 8-10, 2016: Michigan 4-H Horse Judges & Show Superintendents Conference
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_horse_judges_and_show_managers_conference1
Kettunen Center, Tustin

January 30-31: 4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_youth_leadership_global_citizenship_spectacular
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 5-6: 4-H Horse Judging Workshop & Mini Contest
Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

February 6-7: 4-H Winterfest
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_winterfest16
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 19-20: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
http://bit.ly/1Ia1bOW
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 20-21: 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
http://bit.ly/1Ia8BoV
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 26-28: Teen & Adult 4-H Horse Leaders Workshop
Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

January 10, 2016: 4-H Day at the Breslin
Contact Gail Hebert (hebertg@msu.edu)
Breslin Center, MSU, East Lansing

January 29-31: Green & White Youth Event & Open Hog Show
Contact Carla McLachlan (mclachl2@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

January 30: 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_rabbit_and_cavy_show
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events
School Gardens: The New “In” Thing for Schools

School gardens are making headlines as they become the new “in” thing for schools.

While school gardens were once thought of as an “extra” busy activity and only for schools in warm climates, today they are in the mainstream, as research is demonstrating that, among other things:

- Schools are using gardens in creative ways to improve academic test scores in science, math, social studies and art (http://bit.ly/1VS0rF5).
- Other benefits that school gardens provide to students include:
  - Improved classroom behavior
  - Valuable life skills such as higher-level conflict resolution, problem solving and thinking and
- School garden programs have a positive effect not only on students, but also on school staff, families and communities (http://bit.ly/lhEAtuo).

One of these new programs is Texas A & M University’s (http://www.tamu.edu) Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! (LGEG) (http://jmgkids.us/lgeg) program. LGEG is the new research- and evidence-based curriculum project of the International Junior Master Gardener® Program (http://jmgkids.us). It is an interdisciplinary program that combines academic achievement, gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity, and school and family engagement.

Join us at Kettunen Center (http://kettunencenter.org) from March 11 to 12, 2016 for a special, fun-filled, information-packed training for Extension staff, teachers and volunteers that features the Learn Grow Eat & Go curriculum to use in schools, after-school programs, 4-H and partner programs. Find out more about this exciting new program and the training from your local 4-H staff (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county) or Extension Specialist Dixie Sandborn (dixie@msu.edu).

Additional information about the benefits of school gardens is available from:

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| 1 Tri-united club meeting  
Re-enrollments due in 4-H online registration system | 2 Galesburg club meeting | 3 4-H community club officer/leader training, Room B, Fairgrounds, 6:30 PM | 4 | 5 Oshtemo & Portage club meetings  
The Heart of Community Volunteer training, 7pm Room C, Fairgrounds | 6 | 7         |
<p>| 8 Augusta &amp; Scotts club meetings | 9 Climax, Fulton &amp; Richland club meetings | 10 Alamo club meeting | 11 | 12 Fall Achievement Awards Program, Georgian Room, Nazareth, 6pm | 13 North American International Livestock Expo—Louisville, KY | 14 North American International Livestock Expo—Louisville, KY |
| 15 North American International Livestock Expo—Louisville, KY | 16 Dog Council, Panera Bread, West Main St., 7pm | 17 Countywide Poultry meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm | 18 LSA, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm | 19 Dog Project meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm | 20 Rabbit Agility, Room B, Fairgrounds, 6:30 pm | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Volunteer interviews, 6pm, Leaders council Room B, Carcass, Room A, Cooper Cavaliers, Room D, Fairgrounds, 7pm | 24 Countywide rabbit meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7pm | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving—MSUE offices closed | 27 Thanksgiving—MSUE offices closed | 28 |
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<td>3 Oshtemo &amp; Portage club meetings, Encouraging the Hearts of Volunteers training, Room C, Fairgrounds</td>
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<td>Galesburg &amp; Schoolcraft club meetings</td>
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