New Program Coordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; I am Chris Thompson the new 4-H Program Coordinator. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you. I am an alumni of Montcalm County 4-H, have been a club administrative leader for Kids, Critter and Crafts for the last 8 years and I have also been a fair superintendent in the Still Exhibit and Swine project areas. I have also been active in Outdoor Adventure Challenge.

My office hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday 9-5 and Thursday 9-4. I will try to maintain this schedule as much as possible but with evening meetings and fair coming up it may be adjusted frequently. Please have patience as I learn the position and balance the upcoming fair.

I would ask that you would be patient with us at the office as we prepare for fair and adjust to the new position.

I am looking forward to fair and getting to know all of you better!

Sincerely,

Chris Thompson, 4-H Program Coordinator

New Newsletter Format and Delivery

We are going to try this new format for our newsletters. I understand it is another change but we are trying to be as efficient as possible and this format should make assembly and delivery of newsletter smoother.

First, there will only be one newsletter per month, urgent updates will be emailed and posted to Facebook as needed. The newsletter is divided into sections; the Cover Page, County News, County Calendar of Events, Statewide News and Statewide Calendar of Events. This should make it easier to find the information you are looking for.

Your email will only include a link to the newsletter where it is located on the MSUE 4-H website. The newsletters will be archived on the website so you can look up past and present editions as well as any attachments.
MONTCALM COUNTY 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 25  MSU Montcalm Extension office CLOSED due to County Holiday!

May 28  Surviving the Fair! 6:30 pm Ash Building, Montcalm County 4-H Fairgrounds

May 30 - 31  State 4-H Companion Animal Camp - Camp Tuhsmeheta, Greenville.

May 31  Deadline to order discounted ride passes.

June 1  4PM Deadline for the following forms

   Award Sponsorship Forms
   Non-Market Feeder Beef Registration Forms
   Early Release Request Forms
   Livestock Exhibitor Agreement Forms
   CLUB Cage, Pen and Stall Request Forms
   Small Animal/Pocket Pet Registration Forms
   Still Exhibit Judges Clerks Sign-up Forms
   Still Exhibit Judging Report Request Form

   Follow this link to access forms on MSUE Montcalm 4-H website
   http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/montcalm/4_h_calendar_1

June 1  4PM Deadline for the following record books/class sheets

   Horse Record Books
   Horse Fair Class Sheets
   Dog Record Books
   Dog Fair Class Sheets

   Follow this link to access class sheets on MSUE Montcalm 4-H website
   http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/montcalm/4_h_fair_information

June 3  Montcalm County 4-H Council Meeting, Montcalm County 4-H Fairgrounds, Concession Stand. 6:30 pm

June 6  Fairgrounds clean up 8 am to 12 noon

June 10  Horse/Pony Substitution Request Form Due by 4pm

June 14  Club booth setup will take place on Sunday, June 14th from 1 to 6 p.m.

June 20-28  Montcalm County 4-H Fair

June 21  The weigh-in for the 2015 Montcalm County 4-H Fair will take place on Sunday, June 21st from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

July 3  MSU Montcalm Extension Office closed, County Holiday.

Saturday, May 30:

Greenville TSC is looking for a club to do some activity at the store on Saturday, May 30th during Purina Days Pet Day. Please contact the MSU Montcalm Extension Office if your club is interested in this opportunity! There may also be an opportunity at the Cedar Springs TSC store too.

Sunday, May 31:

MMUSA is hosting its annual Youth Hunting and Trapping Day at Flat River Conservation Club.
2015 4-H Fair Theme
The 2015 4-H Fair theme is “We’ve Got a Good Thing Growing”. This theme idea was suggested by North Central 4-H Club.

4-H Promotional Material
Is your 4-H Club doing a fundraiser or an activity? Would you like information to have available for anyone that is interested in 4-H? If so, simply call the extension office a few days in advance of needing the material and I will provide brochures and fliers. Promoting 4-H is not something I can do by myself so I would appreciate it if everyone pitched in and helped out.

The Livestock Committee is looking for a deputy treasurer. The current treasurer would like to “retire” from the position next year and they are looking for someone to work with her this year and take over next year. If interested, please attend the next Livestock Committee Meeting.

The Small Animal Committee is looking for a secretary. If interested, please attend the next Small Animal Committee Meeting.

New Red Tag Policy
A red tag policy has been adopted by all project areas for the 2015 Montcalm County 4-H Fair. This policy reads,

“All animals must be kept clean, fed, and have access to clean, fresh water throughout the day. The first time your pen is not cleaned and/or there is no food or clean water the youth will receive a warning. They will have until the next check to remedy the situation-the expectation is that youth will be checking their projects every 3 hours (9a.m. as stated in the fair book, noon, 3p.m., 6p.m., 9p.m….). The second time the pen will be red tagged and the exhibitor will not be eligible to exhibit that species in the following years fair. Only the superintendents of each species can red tag pens (ex: sheep superintendent can only tag sheep pens).

Warnings and red tags will be placed on pen cards.”

The idea behind this practice is to give youth a fair warning there is a problem and time to resolve the issue. The warnings and red tags will have instructions on how to contact the superintendent so a face-to-face conversation can be had on how to resolve the issue.

Club Fundraising Opportunity
Here is the link for 4-H clubs and volunteers to sign up to work at Summer Horsefest. Summer Horsefest will be held at the Montcalm County Fairgrounds on August 28-30, 2015. 4-H clubs have the opportunity to earn a minimum of $5/hour per individual for the time they work at this event. The below link has times and descriptions of the positions that need filled.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044CAEA62DA3FE3-summer

Fair Book Updates and Changes
There are some updates and clarifications that missed the print deadline, details are in the online version, areas effected are; class numbers and clarifications for horses, clarifications for goats and the Llama and Alpaca show is moved to Wednesday at 5pm.
Fair Week Award Sponsorships
A new form has been released from the Fairboard for collecting sponsorships for awards this year. The new form includes class sponsorships for $10 and trophy sponsorships for $25. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to collect sponsorships this year because 75% of the collected funds are used towards paying for awards and trophies and 25% of the funds are going towards a bath house in the campground! Who doesn’t want bathrooms in the campground? This effort was made possible by the help of all committees and the Fairboard working together! I challenge all of our 4-H’ers to collect at least 5 class sponsorships.
Please fill out the form when collecting sponsorships and mail it along with payment to the address on the form. The form can be found on the MSUE Montcalm County 4-H Website.

Horse Stall Cleaning for Club Fundraiser
There is an opportunity to clean horse stalls at the fairgrounds after the horse shows this summer. If your club is interested, please contact Shari Potter directly at 616-550-7184.

2015 Montcalm County Fair Clean-up Dates
Fair clean-up will be June 6th from 8 a.m. to noon. A list of clean-up items will be provided by the Fairboard in advance, so everyone can bring the proper equipment and know the tasks to be completed. There are other projects to help with including spraying, mulching and assisting with other projects. If you would like to help with something as an individual or a club, please contact Lisa Johnson for more information at 231-598-8083 or by email at: lisainable@gmail.com

4-H Archery Certification Training
We have another opportunity for shooting sports certification in archery on Saturday, May 30th - Sunday, May 31st. This training will take place at Traverse Region Conservation Club, 4452 Norton Rd., Grawn, MI. Cost is $60. Contact the MSU Montcalm Extension office if you would like more information on this training. Spaces are limited, so do not wait.

4-H Early Bird Carnival Passes
Follow the link below for more information, deadline is May 31st. http://www.montcalmcountymfairgrounds.com/fair-week/carnival-schedule-and-prices/

Straw Bale Removal
There are straw bales in the grandstand area of the fairgrounds that need to be removed, free mulch? Please contact Lisa Johnson if you are interested, 231-598-8083 or by email at: lisainable@gmail.com.
Parents and Caring Adults Matter in 4-H!

Parents and other caring adults are vital to 4-H youth development programs and they serve many important roles. When adults of all ages, backgrounds and professions come together to support young people in their communities, great things happen!

The adults may be registered 4-H volunteers or they may provide assistance for a club, a program or an event they are attending with their child or friends. Parents can help leaders by offering to bring refreshments, set up for events, help plan activities, be supportive of club goals, assist with transportation, or by considering service as a project leader, and so much more.

4-H Workshops

July 17-19: 4-H Mentoring Weekend
http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=mentoring15
Kettunen Center, Tustin

August 15-16: 4-H Family Fun Weekend
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_family_fun_weekend2015
Kettunen Center, Tustin

August 19: Be SAFE: Addressing Bullying in Youth Settings
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/be_safe_addressing_bullying_in_youth_settings
Hannah Community Center, East Lansing

Other 4-H Events

July 6-10: 4-H Renewable Energy Camp
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4_h_renewable_energy_camp
MSU Campus, East Lansing

July 16: Michigan 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/resources/2014_state_4_h_ffa_livestock_judging_contest
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

July 20-24: Michigan Dairy Expo and 4-H Dairy Days
Contact Melissa Elischer (elischer@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

July 24: Michigan 4-H Meat Judging Contest
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_ffa_meats_judging_contest
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

August 2-8: 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp
Camp Chickagami, Presque Isle

August 7-9: State 4-H Horse Show
Contact Carla McLachlan (mclachl2@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

August 10: World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/world_food_prize_michigan_youth_institute
MSU Campus, East Lansing

August 15: 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_state_shooting_sports_tournament
Blue Water Sportsman’s Association, Kimball

August 15: State 4-H Dog Show
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/state_4_h_dog_showl
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

August 22: State 4-H Miniature Horse Show
Contact Karen Waite (kwaite@msu.edu)
South Barn, MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events
2015 4-H Mentoring Weekend: Live 360°!

4-H Mentoring Weekend brings together members of the mentoring community (mentees, mentors, program staff and volunteers) from across Michigan for a weekend of fun, learning, laughter and memories. The weekend is designed for adults and youth who are in a mentoring program through 4-H or another youth-mentoring organization. 4-H Mentoring Weekend offers mentoring matches relationship-strengthening activities that focus on science, outdoor education, healthy living and meaningful service. The weekend (with its theme of “Building Life Skills”) will also feature structured mentor training that aims to build the mentoring relationship.

Weekend highlights include:
- Relaxing by the campfire
- Telling ghost stories
- Eating s’mores
- Competitions (with prizes!) between mentor-mentee matches
- Mentor training from Ready to Go, the Michigan 4-H mentor-training curriculum
- A carnival (featuring Wii games, karaoke, board games, a photo booth and more)
- Fun, hands-on mentee science activities
- Workshops (for example, archery, kickball, the famous Jell-O War, creativity with paper)

Who: Mentees aged 11 to 19 by July 17, 2015 and their mentors or chaperones
When: July 17-19, 2015
Where: Kettunen Center (http://kettunencenter.org), Tustin

How
Each participant is required to complete registration forms (http://bit.ly/IGKxSZh) found on the web or register on the 4-H Mentoring Weekend registration page (http://bit.ly/IERjYEs) by July 1, 2015. Staff and mentors in attendance must have completed a volunteer-screening process (including a criminal-background check) through their mentoring program.

Cost
The full cost (including all meals, lodging, activities and a t-shirt) is $200 per mentor or mentee. Participants without funding from their mentoring program pay $50. A limited number of volunteers may attend for free.

More Information
Find out more about Michigan 4-H Mentoring Weekend from:
- The 4-H Mentoring Weekend web site (http://bit.ly/IHRy3AG)
- The 4-H Mentoring Weekend Facebook page (http://on.fb.me/IJT6O7L)
- The 4-H Mentoring Weekend flyer (http://bit.ly/IGKxSZh)
- YouTube videos (https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mi4hmentor)
- The 4-H Mentoring Weekend registration page (http://bit.ly/IERjYEs)
- Your local MSU Extension 4-H staff (http://bit.ly/IuUf9E3)
- Taylor Deleeuw (deleeuwt@anr.msu.edu) or 517-353-3425

Volunteers Make a Difference!

Volunteers are the heart of 4-H youth programs and they offer the best of who they are to members across our state.

When adults share research-based information with youth and work with them to apply the experiential-learning model to their projects, youth learn by doing. This process allows youth to develop their analytical skills and gain confidence as they build expertise in their project areas.

Experience is life’s greatest teacher, and when we combine it with caring adult volunteers who support our young people through successes and disappointments, we see the heart of 4-H programs!

Volunteers pledge their head, heart, hands and health right along with our youth to improve our club, our community, our country and our world.