



CHANNEL 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension - Isabella County

January 2009

4-H Central Region Volunteer Leadermete

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Comfort Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant

No charge - registration fee covered by 4-H Council

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Session Topics:

Livestock Learning Labs, Technology in 4-H, State Awards, Teen Leadership, Club Development, Crafts, Scrapbooks and Stamps, Poultry, Animal Science, Shooting Sports, Dogs, Cake Decorating, and much more.

Call the Extension office to register!

Livestock Producers Meeting

January 12, 2009

8 pm

Isabella County Building, Room 145

The annual dues are \$5 per person and must be paid before the meeting on the 12th. As a paid member you have the ability to vote on what Livestock Producers will do for the upcoming year. As you might know, in the last few years they have purchased pens for the hog barn and the sheep barn, lights for the large animal pavilion, and a wagon for the sheep gates.

It would be nice to see new members to express your ideas or complaints. We want to make our fair a better one. If you have any questions call Jerry McDonald at 772-7160.



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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H Day at Lady Spartan Basketball Game

January 25, 2009

2 pm (gates open at 12:00 pm)

FREE to 4-H members and their families

Breslin Center, East Lansing



Come out and cheer on the Lady Spartans as they take on Wisconsin. Call the Extension office by January 16 to reserve your tickets!

"Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the MSU Extension office at (989) 772-0911 ext. 302. at least 5 days prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this time will be met when possible."



CLUB CORNER

Lincoln Center - At their December meeting, Emily Willoughby and Bailey Powelson presented information on Exploration Days. Members made homemade ice cream and Christmas ornaments. During the holidays, members and their families will be volunteering at the Toys for Tots Distribution Day.

Isabella County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Enter day of show by 8 am

West Intermediate, Mt. Pleasant

This is an excellent opportunity for rabbit and cavy members to brush up on their showmanship skills. We understand many members do not have their animals yet. Please do not let that stop you from participating in this beneficial event. We have a program called "borrow a bunny" to meet this need. All you need to do is contact us to let us know the breed of rabbit you usually show (or plan to show at the fair) and we will track something down for you to use. All you have to do is come dressed in your showmanship "uniform" of a long sleeved white shirt with black pants and register for the appropriate class.

Another option for participation is to enter an educational exhibit. Evaluations are done and awards are given. It is also something that can then be exhibited at the fair. We also will have an excellent silent auction with high quality animals available for purchase and a raffle with varied items. It would be very helpful to have items donated for this raffle. We will accept items from members, families, clubs, and any businesses that you may ask. If you would be willing to ask a business for a donation, please call to let us know so we don't ask the same businesses.

Anyone willing to help with our show is more than welcome! We need a lot of volunteers to help things run smoothly and efficiently. Set up is scheduled to take place from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Friday night (2/27) and we generally begin cleaning up as the show is winding down around 4:00 pm Saturday. There are many different tasks that can be done during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday as well. Even if you are only available for an hour or two, please consider assisting us. The hours you spend do count for community service.

This year we will celebrate our 20th annual show. We have a few special events planned, but we are seeking input from those of you who may have participated in past year's shows. Any photos or facts you would like to pass on would be helpful and appreciated. We hope to see a large Isabella County group for this special year.

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Coldwell (828-6229), show secretary or Tammy Brecht (828-6394), show superintendent.

Mini-Grants Available

Each year, the Isabella County 4-H Program Council awards mini-grants of up to \$500 to 4-H clubs and programming committees. The money can be used for new programs or enhancement of existing programs.

If you have an idea for 4-H programming, and if you would like to implement it but need some funding, please contact Vera at the MSU Extension office for more information.

2009 State Awards and Mark of Excellence Opportunities...Please Consider This!!!!

The Michigan State 4-H Awards Program is an opportunity for 4-H'ers aged 13 and up, with three or more years of experience in 4-H, to meet new friends, gain leadership skills, increase their interviewing skills, improve their writing skills, build their self-esteem and compete for recognition in more than 30 different project areas.

The Michigan State 4-H Awards Program includes county, regional, and state-level competition. Awards program participants submit completed individual or group awards application forms to the county MSU Extension staff by March 1. The applications are evaluated on the county level and submitted for regional competition. Regional winners are selected by early April. Regional winners can compete for state-level honors in one project area.

The 2009 4-H State Award Forms are available on line and can be downloaded from the Michigan 4-H State web page under Awards and Recognition. web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/staward.html

State winners are selected during the 4-H Awards Assembly, held at MSU during 4-H Exploration Days in June. Selection is based on the awards application and an interview. Winners are announced at the 4-H Awards Celebration, which is held on Thursday night of 4-H Exploration Days.

Regional winners in the 4-H Awards Program receive certificates of accomplishment. State winners receive \$100 cash awards and plaques. The State 4-H Awards Program is a great way to meet others from across the state who are active in the same 4-H projects.

2009 4-H Mark of Excellence Award

Theme: *"Because of 4-H I can..."*

To be eligible for this contest you must:

1. Be a 4-H member between the ages of 11-12.
2. Essays should be written focusing on the theme – "Because of 4-H I can..."
3. All essays must be computer generated, typed or handwritten in blue or black ink on 8 ½ x 11" paper, single sided, in 500 words or less. Please put your name and county in the top right-hand corner of each sheet of paper. Do not include photos or other graphics in your essay! Essay must not be more than 2 pages in length. If typed, you must use a 12 pt. font.
4. Your essay **must be attached with a paperclip**. Please do not staple your essay. Do not put essays into binders or folders.
5. You must include your name and county in the upper right hand corner of your first page of the essay. **Do not use a cover page.**
6. All essays must be turned into the Extension office by Friday, February 27.
7. Individuals may only be selected for this award once.

Please Note for Mark of Excellence participants:

- * Participation in 4-H Exploration Days is not required but is strongly encouraged.
- * Winners will receive special recognition during the State 4-H Awards Celebration held at 4-H Exploration Days on the stage of Wharton Center that includes a special certificate signed by the State 4-H Leader and the Director of Extension. Winning essays will also be displayed at the 4-H Kettunen Center and the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Attention Teens!

Are You Interested In Serving as a Teen Superintendent?

Applications are being accepted for teen superintendents. You may pick up applications at the Extension office or visit our web site and look under 4-H forms. Applications need to be completed and returned to the Extension office by Monday, January 12, 2009.

Prospective Teen Superintendents will be interviewed by the Superintendent of the project area they are interested in being a Teen Superintendent in. Teen superintendents must have taken the project they are interested in for at least 2 years. Applicants must be enrolled in the Teen Leadership Project and be a teen leader in the project that they would like to be a teen superintendent in. Responsibilities may include assisting with instructional demonstrations, workshops, or clinics; assist in preparation and set up before fair and tear down after fair; and attend pre and post fair meeting. If you have questions, please call the Extension office.

Central Michigan Animal Science Seminar

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

\$10/person or \$20/family

Gratiot/Ithaca RESD, Ithaca

A special meeting for:

- 4-H & FFA Families participating in Market Hog, Lamb, Beef, and Feeder projects
- Adult leaders and volunteers
- Farms that produce and sell club beef, feeder, sheep, or swine

This is a unique advanced level educational opportunity for Central Michigan farms and 4-H families to attend. Farms will find this program valuable as they prepare to market their club livestock sales. Youth and their families will draw on this information as they select and raise their livestock projects.

Selection, specialized diets, and health concerns, as they relate to breeding and raising club livestock, will all be discussed.

Call the Extension office to register. Space is limited so register early!

Attention Camp Counselors

There will be a meeting for summer camp counselors and staff on March 23rd! We want to give the counselors more opportunities to take leadership for the camp program and activities so advance planning is needed. If you want to be a teen counselor for the overnight camp, please submit your application by March 1st! Those who can commit early will have the best experience!

“So You Wanna Rabbit” Workshop

Saturday, January 31

10 am

Isabella County Building, room 320



This workshop is for **new** rabbit members only. If you are interested in owning a rabbit, or think you might be, this workshop is for you! We will be covering how to select the right rabbit for you, rabbit care, showmanship, opportunities available through 4-H and more, along with a Question & Answer time.

To sign up for this workshop please call the Extension office.

Bi-State Poultry Clinic

Saturday, February 21

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

4-H youth of all ages, parents, and volunteers are welcome to attend! This is an exciting opportunity to come and discuss your poultry projects with 4-H youth and experts from across Michigan and Ohio!

Experts from both states are ready to teach fun, hands on sessions that may cover topics such as: Poultry Management, Nutrition, Anatomy, Exhibition and Market Birds. There will also be a keynote speaker during lunch. Call the Extension office if you would like more information.

State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, January 31, 2009

9 am - show begins (Onsite registration at 6 am)

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

Open to 4-H members ages 9-19. A non-competitive Cloverbud division for 5-8 years of age is also available. Cost per class is \$2.75. Judging is conducted by ARBA Standards (breed, fur, meat).

For more information contact the Extension office or visit the web site at:
web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/aniscipr.html#ra

Save These Dates

4-H Exploration Days - June 24 - 26

4-H Summer Camp - July 7, 8, & 9

4-H Cloverbud Day Camp - July 13, 14, & 15

4-H Outdoor Adventure Challenge Leader Training Program

The 4-H Outdoor Adventure Challenge uses the biggest classroom available — the outdoors — to lead young people in activities that are both physically and mentally stressful. Through Challenge, participants learn canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, outdoor survival and safety skills. Most importantly, they learn to communicate with other group members to plan, organize and conduct their own activities in the outdoors. The program teaches youth the skills necessary to deal with stressful situations which may occur in any setting in their lives. It also gives young people a greater sensitivity, understanding and appreciation for both themselves and the outdoors. Contact the Extension office for more information.

2009 MQHA/4-H Horse Judging Workshop

February 6 & 7, 2009

MSU Pavilion, Michigan State University

An opportunity to work our youth judging teams, or to just get an idea what a judging team is all about. Friday evening's oral reason clinic will provide information basics of evaluating Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle. Saturday morning, participants will have a chance to judge high quality Quarter horses and deliver a set of reasons. Registration is \$10 per youth and \$12 per coach/adult. Deadline to sign up is Feb 4.

Michigan Week Photo Contest

Get out your camera and photograph a favorite Michigan historic site while you still have lots of sun. A historic site can be a building (such as a firehouse, house, or barn); a structure (such as a bridge); an area (such as a neighborhood or fairgrounds); or an object (such as a monument) that is 50 years old or older. All Michigan youth are invited to participate in the 2009 Michigan Week Youth Photo Contest.



Youth aged 9-19 are eligible to submit up to two photos of a historic site. These photos can be two different perspectives of one historic site or two different historic sites.

Submission deadline is February 15, 2009. For more information, contact the MSU Extension office.

SMALL ANIMAL REMINDERS:

- All Small Animal Teen Supt. applications are due to the Extension office by Monday, January 12, 2009. Forms can be accessed on the 4-H website or from their leaders. Questions may be directed to any small animal superintendents.



Green & White Swine Show

January 30-31, 2009
MSU Pavilion

New for 2009 - on Friday evening the AoE Extension Swine Team will host a planning and priorities "Town Meeting". Help shape the future of the show pig industry in Michigan. The Green & White will also offer youth educational contests including a Quiz Bowl -- along with the annual market hog show.

4-H Capitol Experience

March 22-25, 2009

4-H Capitol Experience is an annual 4-day conference that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. High school students who are at least 14 years of age that are interested in gaining skills and knowledge to develop their leadership, citizenship, and community service skills are invited to attend. Teens will:

- Discover how to be actively involved in influencing policy decisions
- Understand the responsibilities of a citizen
- Explore different aspects of a policy issue that may affect individuals and communities
- Explore various careers in public policy
- Learn about the policy process at the state level
- Bill writing session
- Network with teens from around the state

Applications are due at the Extension office by February 6. Rate: \$275 Adults and current 4-H members; \$285 Non 4-H members. Scholarships available from 4-H Council. For more information go to:

web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/capexp.html

Opportunity to Travel to Japan

Travel to Japan, live with a Japanese family, and experience a world that tourists never see!

Michigan 4-H will be sending a delegation of youth to Japan in the summer of 2009. The trip will be from July 8th to August 6th with an approximate cost of \$4000 per person. Applications are due January 26th with a \$350 deposit.

Youth who have hosted Japanese delegates for the one month summer program or the year long high school program are eligible for grants to help cover the cost of the trip.

For more information or an application, contact: Vera Wiltse, Isabella County MSU Extension Educator at wiltsev@msu.edu or 989-772-0911 ext 302

Communications Day 2009

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Youth ages 9-19 are invited to participate in contests that will showcase and expand their communication skills and knowledge through public speaking, demonstrations, art, exhibits, cookery, graphic design, web design, citizenship and more!

The objectives of Michigan 4-H Communications Day are to:

- Allow youth to share ideas and demonstrate their skills and knowledge about topics and issues that interest them.
- Provide opportunities for youth to practice and strengthen their communication skills.
- Help youth gain self-confidence, persuasiveness and the ability to convey ideas, concepts and information.
- Recognize youth who excel in communication skills.

CASH AWARDS! This year there will be a presentation of five \$100 individual awards and two \$250 county awards!

More details are available at the Extension office. Entry deadline is January 21.

4-H Workshops

Registration fee for these workshops is paid by the Isabella County 4-H Program Council for all enrolled teen (age 13 and up) and adult 4-H volunteers. To register contact the Isabella County MSU Extension office at 772-0911 ext. 302.

4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop

February 27-28, 2009 - Kettunen Center

Explore animal systems and learn about animal health by sharing information and experiences, asking questions and quizzing veterinarians about their skills. You can also participate in hands-on demonstrations that teach you how to help members recognize healthy, sick or injured animals. Meet 4-H'ers who have developed outstanding veterinary science projects and gain ideas to help others start their own vet science projects.

4-H Beef, Sheep, & Swine Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop

February 28 - March 1, 2009 - Kettunen Center

If you're interested in beef cattle, sheep or swine projects, this workshop is for you. You'll learn about animal health, management, care and nutrition. In addition, you can sharpen your livestock judging and evaluation skills. By sharing ideas and interacting with others, you'll find ways to improve your county 4-H livestock program. The workshop also offers ways to enhance your communication and teaching skills, and to learn about the many opportunities available for those interested in beef cattle, sheep, or swine projects.

4-H Family Science Weekend: SET Exploratorium

March 15-16, 2009 - Kettunen Center

Explore a weekend of 4-H science curriculum that covers topics ranging from robotics to plant science to going green and so much more! The workshop will get your family talking, doing and thinking about SET! (That's science, engineering, and technology.) Kids and their families will power up with an exploratorium of activities! This workshop is very hands-on and encourages family togetherness. Designed for and open to families with children aged 5 to 12.

4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Volunteer Workshop

March 21-22, 2009 - Kettunen Center

Gain ideas, project resources and activities to help kids enjoy the outdoors and care for the environment. Sample a variety of interest areas within the 4-H environmental and outdoor education program. Sessions will feature GPS (global positioning satellite systems), wildlife, environmental stewardship, water testing, fisheries, forestry, outdoor recreation and leadership, and how to start a 4-H environmental and outdoor education club. Open to adults and youth aged 13 and up.

4-H Rabbit & Cavy Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop

April 4-5, 2009 - Kettunen Center

Gain new ideas and information about the rabbit and cavy project areas. You'll choose from a variety of learning opportunities including management, health, nutrition, breeding, animal evaluation and fun 4-H club program. You'll have the chance to exchange ideas, make new friends and explore new areas with other individuals who are just as excited about rabbits and cavies as you are! You'll be encouraged to develop plans for sharing your learning experiences in your county.

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Isabella County 4-H Calendar

January		
6	CHARACTER COUNTS! Meeting @ MSUE	4 pm
6	Teen Horse Leaders @ MSUE	6:15 pm
6	Horse Leaders @ MSUE	7 pm
12	Livestock Producers @ County Building in Roomm 145	8 pm
13	Camp Association @ MSUE	6:30 pm
14	Shooting Sports Committee @ MSUE	7 pm
14	Fairboard @ County Building, Room 145	8 pm
15	Small Animal Association @ MSUE	7 pm
19	OFFICE CLOSED	
27	4-H Council @ MSUE	7 pm

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