



CHANNEL 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension - Isabella County

February 2008

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Attention Swine Project Members - New Fair Requirement!

All Swine project members are required to attend a Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) meeting in order to exhibit your animal at the 2008 Isabella County Fair.



Isabella County will be hosting a PQA meeting on Tuesday, April 15 in room 320 of the County building beginning at 7 pm. There will be another meeting in Isabella County in May (the date should be set by the next newsletter). Please call the Extension office to RSVP for the April 15 meeting or if you have questions.

Isabella County 4-H Scholarship

Isabella County offers one \$1,000 scholarship to a 4-H member or former member each year. The scholarship recipient must be enrolled at an institution of higher learning and have been involved with 4-H in Isabella County. The scholarship is not limited to college freshmen.

Applications are online at: www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue/forms.html or at the Extension office and are due back to the office by March 30. The scholarship recipient will be notified by May 15.

Benefit dinner for Mike Crampton

Mike has been a shooting sports line coach for the Shooting Sports program for several years. His wife Becci and daughter Micca are also involved with 4-H in a variety of project areas. Mike has recently been diagnosed with renal cell adenocarcinoma (cancer of the kidney) as well as complications with diverticulitis.

A benefit dinner with live and silent auctions will be held April 12th at the Coleman VFW hall. Proceeds will help with medical expenses. For more information please contact Lynn Brugger at 989-465-6979 or Craig & Joan Dow at 989-560-3644.






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"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

-  **Aim High** - They canceled their December meeting because of weather, but in January they stressed getting ready for the 2008 fair week with several teen leaders applying to be Teen Superintendents. They are also doing some community service projects by helping Commission on Aging pay for Valentine boxes (and made 150 cards for senior citizens) and also made a donation to assist the McDonald family with medical expenses. Several members & parents will be assisting with the Isabella County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show on Feb. 23 here at West Intermediate.
-  **Barrel Benders** - In December several members enjoyed helping with fruit basket assembly and gift wrapping at the Shepherd Fire Department.
-  **Lincoln Center** - At their December meeting, they had a Christmas party and made various crafts. On December 22, club members and their families volunteered with the Toys for Tots Distribution Day. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to give back to the community by assisting families search for toys and other gift items for their children. Next regular meeting is in February.

Dairy Feeder Weigh-In

Saturday, March 29

9:00 - 11:30 am

Isabella County Fairgrounds

All feeders must be dehorned, castrated, and not weigh over 250 lbs.

Beef, Sheep, Swine & Goat Showmaster Clinic

Thursday, February 21

Open to the public

6:30 pm—chicken dinner served followed by program

West Wind Feeds (3223 E Rosebush, 1 mile west of Rosebush)

- After-dinner program: learn about nutrition, grooming, and general care of all market animals.
- Special guest speaker: Ben Bobell, Livestock judge & Show Feed Specialist
- Drawing for free animal feed.

Please call the Extension office to register by February 14.

Stained Glass Workshop

Saturday, February 9 & 16

There is still room for 3 or 4 individuals. Please call the Extension office to sign up.

Attention Poultry Members

Time to order your broiler chicks! Orders need to be placed at the Extension office by April 30. Approximate cost per bird including shipping is \$1 if we are able to order 100 birds. Call the Extension office for order forms. If you have any questions call Darlene at 828-4618 or Wanda at 828-5833.

4-H Woodburning Class

April 5

9 am - 12 noon

\$5 cost (payable at the door)

Isabella County Building, room 320

Please call the Extension office to register. You can bring a small picture that you would like to try. Your finished project will be put on a cutting board that you can hang.

4-H Flower & Vegetable Garden Contest

Plan now to grow your own garden to be judged prior to the fair. You must have your own designated area of garden and must be responsible for planning, planting, and keeping the garden free of weeds. Contest guidelines are at the Extension office.

If you are planning to grow vegetables or flowers to exhibit at the fair, guidelines for specimen preparation are also available.

State 4-H Award Program

Calling all 4-H members 13-19 years old! Have you ever wanted to challenge yourself as a 4-H member? If so, you are encouraged to consider the State 4-H Awards Process. There are several different individual project areas that encompass most every aspect that 4-H has to offer and we also have group awards for dedicated 4-H clubs and other groups. The first phase of the State 4-H Awards process is to complete a portfolio of your work which is due by February 29. Participants who qualify for the first phase will be invited to participate in the Awards Assembly portion of 4-H Exploration Days. Contact the Extension office for more details.

4-H Mark Of Excellence Award

For those 4-H members that are 11 or 12 years old you are able to participate in the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award. To apply, you need to obtain a very simple form from our office and write a 500 word or less with the first line "Because of 4-H I Can..." Essays are due to the MSU Extension office by February 29. Winners will receive special recognition during the State 4-H Awards Celebration during 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.

4-H Camp Counselors

Applications are being accepted for 4-H Camp Counselors for the following camps this summer:

Summer Camp (9-13 yr olds)
June 30, July 1, & 2

Cloverbud Day Camp (5-8 yr olds)
July 8, 9, & 10

First Aid Training Offered

4-H members aged 12 and up including adults, can receive first aid, CPR, and AED (defibrillator) training at no cost.

This would be especially helpful for camp counselors, teen leaders, fair superintendents, and community club leaders. Please call the MSU Extension office to sign up for a session. All classes will be held in the Isabella County Building, room 320. Time and dates are as follows:

February 23 - 9 am - 3 pm
March 15 - 9 am - 3 pm
March 22 - 9 am - 3 pm

VETAVISIT 2008

Saturday, March 29
9 am - 4 pm
Michigan State University

Vetavisit 2008, the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine's annual open house, will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Allow several hours to tour--there is a lot to see and do. Allow even more time if you plan on attending an educational seminar (for students interested in a career in veterinary medicine). The exhibits and displays are age-appropriate for all ages.

Free admission, no need to register, this is a self-guided tour.

You can get an idea of what is offered at Vetavisit by going to our old site:

<http://www.vetavisit.com/>

The 2008 Isabella County 4-H Leader Directory is now available at the Extension office. If you would like one, please call us at 772-0911 ext. 302.

Isabella County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, February 23

Enter day of show by 8 am - West Intermediate School Gymnasium

Show flyers are available at the Extension office. 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.

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 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Friday night (2/22) and we generally begin cleaning up as the show is winding down around 3:00 pm Saturday. There are many different tasks that can be done during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 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. We hope to see many Isabella County faces there to help host our out of county exhibitors.

Angie Coldwell (828-6229), show secretary and Tammy Brecht (828-6394), show superintendent

Isabella County 7-9th Graders to Participate in Essay Contest

The 2008 Isabella County CHARACTER COUNTS! Essay Contest is now open to all 7th-9th grade students! This contest encourages students to explore character and ethics, offers relevant and meaningful writing assignments, and creates opportunities for student and school or club recognition at local and national levels! The local contest for 2008 will correspond with a national contest - Foundations for Life. FFL is coordinated by the national CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition and endorsed by the American Association of School Administrators and the National Association of Secondary Principals. For more information, go to: <http://www.ffl-essays.org/>.

First prize in the local contest is a \$250 savings bond. \$100 savings bonds are given to the writers of five essays selected as honorable mention and all essays will be published in the *Morning Sun*. Interested students should contact their teacher for information or go to MSU Extension to pick up a packet! The local contest deadline is February 14

2008 4-H Exploration Days

June 18-20 - MSU

4-H Exploration Days is an annual state youth conference held on the campus of MSU that is open to all youth ages 11-19. This event is meant to be a learning experience that will instill self-esteem, decision-making skills, independent thinking and leadership skills. The full time participant fee is \$165 which includes meals, lodging, and a t-shirt. 4-H Council will pay half the fee for full time registration. Registration booklets will be available at the Extension office after March 7.

Choose from sessions such as: adventure education, animal science, arts, leadership, and much more! For more information visit the Exploration Days website at: web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/expodays.html

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. Contact the Isabella County MSU Extension Office at (989) 772-0911 ext. 302 to register.

4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Workshop

February 29 - March 2, 2008 – Kettunen Center

Come sample a variety of interest areas within the 4-H environmental and outdoor education program! Gain ideas, projects and activities to help kids enjoy the outdoors. Enjoy a variety of fun, hands-on activities and leave with many ideas and resources. Sessions will feature environmental stewardship, fisheries, wildlife, forestry, outdoor recreation and leadership, and how to start a 4-H environmental and outdoor education club.

4-H Poultry Volunteers Workshop

March 8-9 2008 – Kettunen Center

Gain new ideas and information about the 4-H poultry project. You'll choose from a variety of learning options, including egg judging, carcass evaluation, showmanship, nutrition and housing, breeding and genetics, Avian flu update and education, fitting, and many other topics. The workshop will give adult and teen volunteers the chance to exchange ideas, meet new friends and develop new networks with others in the 4-H poultry area. Open to adult and teen volunteers aged 14 and up.

4-H Family Science Weekend: Jump Into Food, Fitness & Family Fun!

March 15-16 2008 – Kettunen Center

Jump into a Family Science Weekend that has you striving to reach the top of the pyramids! Not the Egyptian pyramids - the healthy food and fitness pyramids. This workshop will get your family moooving into motion and giving high fives for health! Kids and their families will power up with nutrition activities to learn more about healthy decisions and choices. This workshop is very hands-on and encourages family togetherness. Designed for and open to families with children aged 5 to 12.

4-H Dairy Conference

April 11-13, 2008 – Kettunen Center

If you'd like to know more about the dairy industry, sign up to attend this conference. You'll learn about dairy management topics including dairy cattle nutrition, health, reproduction and cattle evaluation. Practice for state and dairy management contests such as the skillathon and quiz bowls that will focus on dairy cattle nutrition. You'll also tour area farms. Open to youth aged 13 and 19.

4-H Shooting Sports Train-The-Trainers Workshop

April 17-21, 2008 – Kettunen Center

This workshop gives experienced shooting sports instructors a chance to develop and improve your skills in facilitating Michigan 4-H shooting sports instructor workshops for adult and teen volunteers. The workshop will cover best practices in youth and adult education, implementing 4-H goals and policies, and effective facilitation skills. You may become certified as a 4-H shooting sports trainer in rifle, shotgun, archery or muzzleloading. You'll also be expected to become part of the state 4-H shooting sports training team, offering at least one shooting sports instructor training session a year. Admission to this workshop is based on your qualifications and potential to successfully fulfill the role of a state 4-H shooting sports trainer, in addition to geographic and disciplinary needs.

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Isabella County 4-H Calendar

February		
5	CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition @ MSUE	4:00
5	Teen Horse Leaders @ MSUE	6:15
5	Horse Leaders @ MSUE	7:00
6	Shooting Sports Committee @ MSUE	7:00
9	BLT @ MSUE	9:30 -
16	BLT @ MSUE	9:30 - 11:30
18	OFFICE CLOSED	
21	Small Animal Association @ MSUE	7:00
23	Isabella County Rabbit & Cavy Show @ West Intermediate School Gymnasium	8:00
23	Shooting Sports Workshop @ Sportsman's Club	10 - 2
26	4-H Council @ MSUE	7:00

Dear Friend of Extension:

The Isabella County MSU Extension is pleased to present you with the enclosed material. The purpose of the Extension Service of Michigan State University is to provide educational resources in Agriculture and Marketing, Home Economics, 4-H Youth Development, and Natural Resources/Public Policy. These services are financed jointly by County, State and Federal funds. Michigan State University programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. If our staff can be of further assistance, we invite you to contact us by mail, phone, or visit us at the office.

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