

# CHANNEL 4-H NEWS

February 2009

## Isabella County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Enter day of show by 8 am

West Intermediate, Mt. Pleasant

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We hope you have marked your calendar for Saturday, February 28, to attend the Isabella County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show at West Intermediate School on Bradley Street. There are show fliers at the 4-H office and if you have questions that are not covered, please feel free to contact Angie Coldwell (828-6229 / [jandacoldwell@verizon.net](mailto:jandacoldwell@verizon.net)) or Tammy Brecht (828-6394). We are also looking for volunteers for Friday, February 27, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for set up and all day long Saturday with various tasks.

We are still looking for memorabilia from past Isabella County Rabbit Shows. If you are willing to loan old trophies and/or photographs, we are trying to put together a display for our 20th annual show. Please label your items and drop them off at the 4-H office. We will get them back to you right after our show. Better yet, feel free to come to the show and see what we have in store for the day. Towards the end of the day (3:00 or so) we will begin clean up and you can take your item(s) home. We will be having a special cake to help celebrate our 20 years along with several special competitions including our annual educational exhibit competition. Remember, you can use your entry for one of your fair projects.

Remember, borrow a bunny is available to anyone that does not yet have their rabbit and/or cavy that would like to participate in showmanship. Call to let us know what breed you need and wear your showmanship clothes. Register before 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning (\$2.50 entry fee) and we will get you put in the appropriate class. We are hoping for a very large attendance this year. If you have raffle items to donate (or can acquire something from a local business), please also drop them off at the 4-H office or bring them to the show by 9:00 a.m. on show day.



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## Attention Camp Counselors

There will be a meeting for overnight camp counselors on March 23rd at Shepherd High School in room 211, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. 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!

## CLUB CORNER

**Aim High** - At their January meeting several cloverbuds and first year members made their first fleece pillow and lots of Valentine cards were made for the Commission on Aging. We discussed all large and small animal deadlines and upcoming events. Teen superintendents for fair were also introduced.

**Country Kids Livestock** - In December, the club visited the Coleman Senior Center to share some Christmas cheer and members decorated the dining hall. Together, the seniors and the youth decorated Christmas cookies and played Bingo. This has become an annual event and it is enjoyed very much by everyone who participates.

**Country Plus** - At their November meeting they discussed sending cards to soldiers over seas that are wounded in hospitals and they planned their Christmas party. They also agreed to donate hats, scarves, and mittens to people in need that don't have enough money to buy them.

**Rural Routers** - For their January meeting they had a taco/nacho party with a regular business meeting. They also made Valentines for Vets.

**Wise Workers** - In November they hosted a harvest dinner and members made holiday cards for the Commission on Aging to distribute with their home delivered meals. In January they had a bowling party to celebrate the New Year.

## Shooting Sports Dates

April 18 - Fun Shoot

May 16 - Fun Shoot

June 13 - Fun Shoot

July 11 - County shoot (with the 18th as a back-up)

Shooting sports members should plan to attend one or all of the above events to be held at the Isabella Sportsmen's Club in Winn. In order to participate in the County Shoot members must have participated in at least one fun shoot.

Shooting sports leaders are available to visit your club meeting to give a presentation or answer any questions your parents or members might have about the shooting sports program. Contact the MSUE office for names of leaders willing to speak.

## China Art Exchange

4-Her's in grades K - 6 are encouraged to participate. As part of the art exchange program, children have the opportunity to experience artwork from youth in China who have sent their pictures to Michigan. These beautiful pictures are part of the 4-H Children's Art Exchange Teaching kit which can be borrowed from the Extension office. In turn, you are invited to send "visual letters" (artwork) to the children in China. Please call Monica if you decide to borrow the kit or have any questions.

## Attention Poultry Project Members!

It is recommended that no poultry be vaccinated for Marek's disease.

Also, 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.

## 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](http://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.

## **BLT Course - 3rd Edition (Building your Leadership Toolbox)**

This edition of BLT is open to any 4-H member wanting to learn more about these four areas. We have redesigned the sessions so everyone will gain new information with hands-on instruction.

All sessions will be held on a Saturday from 9:30 am - 12 pm in room 320 of the Isabella County Building. Morning refreshments will be available.

### Dates & Topics:

- Saturday, February 21st - Recreation for Small Groups (participate & practice leading)
- Saturday, March 21st - Presenting Yourself, Interviews, Judging & Public Speaking
- Saturday, March 28th - Your Leadership Style (Real Colors—personality assessment)
- Saturday, April 4th - Graphic Design and Fair Exhibits (make a fair poster)

Participants who attend all 4 sessions will be able to participate in a fun day at Spring Hill at no charge. More details about this activity will be given at the last session.

Must pre-register by calling the Extension office or send an email to: [grossn@msu.edu](mailto:grossn@msu.edu)

## **Swine Project Members - Fair Requirement**

Swine project members are required to be PQA certified in order to exhibit your animal at the 2009 Isabella County Fair.



Youth 9-11 years of age (Beginner) must recertify annually by attending an approved Youth PQA Plus education program. Youth 12-14 years of age (Intermediate) and 15-18 years of age (Advanced) can certify/recertify by attending an approved Youth PQA Plus education program or can certify by completing and passing an examination at the appropriate age level. Once certified by examination, the youth is not required to recertify until the next age level is reached. 19 year old and older must be Adult PQA Plus certified at the commercial level.

Gratiot County will be hosting a PQA certification meeting on Monday, March 16 at the Gratiot RESD in Ithaca at 6:30 pm. Isabella County will be hosting a PQA meeting on Monday, April 13 in room 320 of the Isabella County Building at 6:30 pm.

Please call the Extension office to register for one of these meetings if you need to be certified this year.

## **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.

## **Garden Contest**

The Isabella County Master Gardener judges would like to set up a meeting to review the judging criteria for planting a vegetable or flower garden for the fair. Please call the Extension office if you plan to participate in this. Master Gardeners would be willing to answer questions or be a source of information during the gardening process. They cannot help you with the garden but will be available to answer questions.

## 2009 State Awards and Mark of Excellence Opportunities

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 2. (contact Monica at the Extension office if you plan to submit a portfolio) 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](http://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.

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## 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 Monday, March 2.
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.

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## 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.

## **4-H Polish Hosting Opportunity**

Teens, ages 14 to 19 as of January 1, 2009, are invited to host students traveling here from Poland from June 26 to approximately July 21, 2009. This hosting 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 host students this summer will have the chance to make life-long international friends and have the opportunity to travel to Poland in 2010.

For a host family application or more information contact the Extension office or contact the Polish Exchange trip coordinator, Bethany Prykucki at 989-731-0275 or at [prykucki@msu.edu](mailto:prykucki@msu.edu).

If you would like more information about all the opportunities 4-H offers for kids and adults to learn more about our global community visit: [web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/culture.html](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/culture.html)

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## **2009 4-H Exploration Days**

June 24-26

Michigan State University

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 in early March.

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

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## **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.

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## **State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Events**

**State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Expo:** June 13, 2009 (Note the date change)

**4-H Rabbit & Cavy Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop:** November 14, 2009 (Note the date change)

More information is available at: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/aniscipr.html#Rabbits>

## 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](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/capexp.html)

## Michigan Livestock Expo

July 17 - 19

Ingham County Fairgrounds, Mason

The Michigan Livestock Expo is a multi-species livestock event including beef, sheep, swine, and goats, designed to enhance the livestock industry, educate youth and showcase Michigan's agriculture industry. The dairy industry will also be holding the Michigan Dairy Expo July 20-24 at the MSU Pavilion. Champions in each species will be sold at a special industry sale-abration. Additional award winning animals will be chosen in each specie for the sale.

The show begins with check-in on Friday, July 17 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. The beef, sheep, swine, & goat showmanship and market shows will be held July 18 & 19. The dairy show and showmanship will take place on July 21 at the MSU Livestock Pavilion. The Michigan Livestock Expo will conclude the evening of July 21 with a reception and sale of champions.

Open to all youth between the ages of 9 and 20 as of January 1. To register or for more information visit: [www.milivestock.com](http://www.milivestock.com)

## 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!

# 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 Family Science Weekend: SET Exploratorium**

March 14-15, 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.

## **Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference**

April 17-19, 2009 - Kettunen Center

If you would 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, health and cattle evaluation. Practice for state dairy management contests such as the skillathon and quiz bowls that focus on dairy cattle health. You'll also tour area farms. Open to youth aged 13 to 19.

## **4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training**

April 24-25, 2009 - Kettunen Center

This workshop offers a variety of training sessions including riflery, shotgun, archery, hunting and wildlife. Completing the course does NOT guarantee that participants will be certified; they must demonstrate proficiency on written and range assessments at the workshop, then complete paperwork (including approval by county staff) before obtaining certification. Join us and see all that the 4-H shooting sports program has to offer! Shooting sports instructors seeking recertification in a discipline should fill out a recertification application. You do NOT need to retake the training unless you've been inactive for more than 3 years. Open to new and veteran adult volunteers and youth aged 16 and up.

## **4-H Rabbit & Cavy Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop **\*\*date change\*\*****

November 14, 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

February		
2	Livestock Producer's Association @ County Building, Rm 145	8 pm
3	CHARACTER COUNTS! Meeting @ MSUE	4 pm
3	Teen Horse Leaders @ MSUE	6:15 pm
3	Horse Leaders @ MSUE	7 pm
7	Leadermete @ Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant	9 am
10	Camp Association @ MSUE	6:30 pm
11	Shooting Sports Committee @ MSUE	7 pm
16	OFFICE CLOSED	
19	Small Animal Association @ County Building, Rm 225	7 pm
24	4-H Council @ MSUE	7 pm
25	Animal Science Seminar @ RESD, Ithaca	5:30 pm
28	Isabella County Rabbit & Cavy Show @ West Intermediate	8 am

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