

CHANNEL 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension - Isabella County

February 2010

2010 4-H Exploration Days

June 23-25
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.

For more information check out the Exploration Days website at:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/expodays.html>



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Livestock Judging Team Organizes

Are you interested in learning more about livestock, competing in livestock judging contests, or making new friends? Join us on February 20 from 10 am - 11 am in room 320 of the Isabella County Building for an organizational meeting. Stacey Johnson and Jeff Bleumer have offered to be advisors for an Isabella County 4-H livestock judging team.

This is a great opportunity to explore careers related to livestock production, travel to judging events, develop judging skills, and to learn more about your livestock project.

If you are interested, but cannot attend this meeting, call the Extension office prior to February 20.

New Leader Orientation

Wednesday, February 24
9:30 am - 11:30 am
County Building, Room 320

Thursday, February 25
6:30 - 8:30 pm
County Building, Room 320

All new volunteer leaders are required to attend an orientation. Please call the Extension office by February 22 if you plan to attend.



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CLUB CORNER

Aim High - In January they talked about all the local and state small animal events coming up in the next few weeks, how/where to purchase the animals needed before May 1st, a few fair entry changes for 2010, and upcoming community service events. Each leader and teen leader explained what projects they could help with. Lots of pop cans were turned in for the food stand and Christmas cards for the W.E.S.T. 4-H club.

Broomfield Valley - Had their first official meeting by enjoying breakfast at Ponderosa in Mt. Pleasant. They discussed doing a fundraiser of selling candy bars to get the club going. A February meeting is scheduled at Ponderosa in Mt. Pleasant on the 21, at 10 am.

Evergreen - At their January meeting a date was set for going tubing at Snow Snake in February. Stacey Johnson spoke to them about starting a judging team for Isabella County 4-H members. They set a date with Bowen Busy Bee's to have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on February 27 at the Rosebush United Methodist Church to help raise money for the 4-H food stand. We will be having a speaker about rabbits at our next meeting.

Pine River - At their January meeting plans were made for a Valentine's Dinner in February. We had a pizza party and game night so we enjoyed playing some of our favorite games and eating pizza after the meeting. On the 9th some of them went and watched the MSU Girls Basketball game!

Dairy Feeder Weigh-In

Saturday, March 27

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Isabella County Fairgrounds

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

Graphic Design Presentation Available for Your Use!

Now available on the Extension web page (www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue/index.html) is a graphic design powerpoint open for you to use. The powerpoint will be great for group meetings, to give lessons, and even for school work! It presents ways to create the perfect project and also ideas for future careers for those of you who take an interest in graphic design. We hope you find the powerpoint educational and helpful!!

Teen Service Club Opportunity

Hey teens! Looking for more leadership opportunities? Love to volunteer? Isabella County is working on organizing a Teen Service Club to promote service learning and to address areas of need in our community. This club will be a "bonus" club, so you can be a part of it in addition to your current club. If you are interested in joining, contact the Extension office or email Caitlin Gilmore at: caitlingilmore@hotmail.com

Look for more information in the next newsletter!

Broiler Chick Orders

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 \$1.20 each 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 Shooting Sports Dates

- **March 20** - Kick Off
Introduction to Shooting Sports, Review of equipment needed, Rules for competitions, etc. Door prizes for everyone! Refreshments provided, 2 pm - 4 pm in Room 320, Isabella County Building
- **April 17** - Fun Shoot
- **May 15** - Fun Shoot
- **June 26** - Fun Shoot
- **June 22 & 28** - Practice Shooting, evening
- **July 10** - County Shooting Competition (July 17, alternate date)

Mini-Grants Available

Each year, the Isabella County 4-H Program Council awards mini-grants of up to \$250 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.

Isabella County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, February 27

Enter day of show: Rabbits & Educational Exhibits by 8 am, Cavies by 1 pm
West Intermediate School, 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." 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.

There will be breed identification and skill-a-thon competitions and the Educational Exhibit class. Evaluations are done and awards are given. The educational exhibit can 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 do not 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 (2/26) 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.

Even though May 1 (deadline for owning your small animal for fair) sounds a long way off, you should seriously consider using this show as an opportunity for making contact with local breeders about your choice of animal. Some of them have limited numbers of animals for sale as the deadline approaches. At least come and decide what breed you want to take to fair. Then make arrangements to stay in contact with a breeder so you are completely prepared for May 1. If you have any questions, please contact Angie Coldwell (828-6229), show secretary or Tammy Brecht (828-6394), show superintendent.

Clare County Rabbit Show

Saturday, February 13
9 am (register by 8am)
Farwell High School

This is a trophy and ribbon show only. Entry fee of \$2.50 per rabbit or cavy showmanship \$2.50. No refund of entry fees if you do not show your rabbits.

For more information contact Carol Forkum (show superintendent) at 588-9257 or cforkum@yahoo.com.

Montcalm County Rabbit Show

Saturday, March 13
9 am (register by 8am)
Montcalm Community College

Open to youth ages 5 - 19 years old. There will be showmanship classes, educational poster/exhibits, and breed identification. A cage dealer will be present and concessions will also be available.

For more information contact Tom Gittus at (989) 807-0349.

Recruiting Camp Counselors

If you would like to be a counselor for 4-H Cloverbud Camp or Summer Camp, please complete an application form now! The form is available on-line: www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue/forms.html

There will be a meeting for summer camp counselors on April 12, at 6:30 pm, at Shepherd High School. All counselors should plan to attend this organizational meeting for the summer camp session. Counselors will be able to volunteer for specific camp opportunities at this meeting.

Camp Counselor Training

(hosted by Mecosta & Shiawassee County 4-H Youth Programs)

March 27 -28

For Cloverbud and Summer Camp Counselors

\$60.00 per person (includes: lodging, meals, insurance, all program materials, T-shirt and notebook)
CranHill Ranch, Mecosta County

This specialized workshop is designed to be energetic, fun and hands-on as teen leaders prepare for positions in summer camp programs as camp counselors. Emphasis will be placed on:

- 1.) Developing leadership skills
- 2.) Program skills
- 3.) Making good decisions
- 4.) Keeping kids safe
- 5.) MAKING IT FUN!

Contact the Extension office by February 22 if you would like more information.

Essay Contest

We are pleased to announce the 2010 Isabella County CHARACTER COUNTS! Essay Contest for 7-9th graders. Students are asked to write about a person of character. The contest allows students to identify people who behave in ways worth following, spend time thinking about ethical concepts, enhance writing skills, and maybe even receive recognition for themselves and their school. Winning essays will be published in an upcoming edition of the Morning Sun! Furthermore, in order to acknowledge the efforts of more students, we will also recognize all students whose essays scored in the top 25% of essays submitted. Deadline to enter is March 2.

More information, including links to the application and student information page for this local contest can be found at: <http://www.isabellacounty.org/msue/character/index.html>.

Host Families Needed

Now is the time to start thinking about being a host family during the coming summer. It takes time to complete paperwork so don't wait! Host families need to be identified by the first of May.

Host family requirements vary according to the program. Most opportunities are for one month and require the family to have a youth of the same gender and approximate age as the exchange delegate.

Our 4-H members have several opportunities to travel to other countries also. Japan, Poland, Belize, Australia, Finland are just some of the countries youth can visit. Hosts are needed this year for delegates from Belize, Japan, and Costa Rica.

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 the following website: web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/culture.html
Please contact Vera at the Extension office if you have any questions or if you would like more details.

Bi-State Poultry Clinic

Saturday, February 20

9 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: Incubation and hatching, poultry housing/equipment, animal welfare and behavior, pigeons, and ask the experts. There will also be a keynote speaker during lunch. Call the Extension office if you would like more information.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

All you can eat spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages, and dessert!

Saturday, February 27

4 pm - 7 pm

Rosebush United Methodist Church

\$8 adults

\$4 children (ages 4-12) and seniors

\$30 families of 5+

Free for children 3 and under

Proceeds will help purchase new equipment for the 4-H Foodstand at the fairgrounds.

4-H Ski Day

Sunday, February 21

10 am - 4 pm

Apple Mountain, Freeland

The annual Apple Mountain 4-H Ski day draws 4-H youth and their families from various 4-H clubs throughout Michigan. Ski and snowboard packages are available beginning at \$28; all packages include a lift ticket, rental pass, and a complimentary lesson. In order to receive this special pricing, pre-registration is required.

The registration form can be found at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/member/cool.html> under "Events". Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Kathryn Schofield directly at 888-781-6789, ext. 202.

PQA meetings

May 3 - Gratiot County @ the Gratiot/Isabella RESD in Ithaca @ 6:30 pm

May 19 - Isabella County @ the County Building (rooms 320 & 225) @ 6:30 pm

Save These Dates

4-H Summer Camp - July 6, 7, 8

4-H Cloverbud Day Camp - July 12, 13, 14

Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair - August 8 - 15

Horse Clinic

Saturday, February 20

2 pm - 5 pm

Tractor Supply Company, Mt. Pleasant

There will be a presentation by a professional dentist, a farrier, and a trainer. This is free and open to anyone who wants to learn about horses. Refreshments will be provided.

Remember that the Isabella County Teen Horse Leaders are always looking for horse members between the ages of 13 and 19 to join their team. If you are interested in becoming a teen member, please contact Megan at (989) 400-1681.

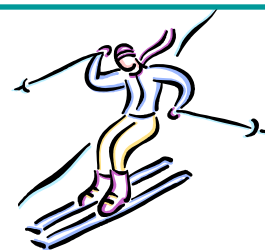
Spartan Stampede Rodeo

February 19 - 21

Livestock Pavilion, MSU

Tickets can be ordered through the Breslin Center by calling 800-968-2737. Tickets can also be ordered on-line at: www.breslincenter.com

More information can be found on the club's web-site at: <http://www.msu.edu/~rodeo/>



2010 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 1. (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 2010 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.

2010 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 1.
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.

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 MSU Extension office at 772-0911 ext. 302.

4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop

February 26-27, 2010 – Kettunen Center

Explore animal systems and learn about animal health for a broad array of species 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. Open to adult and teen volunteers aged 13 and up.

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

February 27-28, 2010 – Kettunen Center

If you're interested in 4-H 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 learn about the many opportunities available for those interested in beef, sheep or swine projects. Open to adult and teens aged 13 and up.

4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Volunteer Workshop

March 19-21, 2010 – 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 (EOE) program to share with your 4-H club or group. Sessions will feature GPS, wildlife, environmental stewardship, water testing, fisheries, outdoor adventure challenge recreation and leadership, energy, and forestry. Open to adult and teen volunteers aged 13 and up.

4-H Plant Science & Entomology Workshop

March 19-21, 2010 – Kettunen Center

This workshop offers a variety of plant- and insect-related activities. This is a very hands-on opportunity to explore many horticulture and entomology projects through games, crafts, science applications and career exploration. There's something for everyone, so come and join the fun! Open to adults and teens aged 13 and up.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference, April 16-18 - Bayshore Camp

4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop, April 23-25 - Kettunen Center

4-H Companion Animal Teen & Adult Leader Workshop, May 15-16 - Kettunen Center

4-H Youth Development
 Michigan State University Extension
 Isabella County
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 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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Isabella County 4-H Calendar

February

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|----|--|---------|
| 2 | CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition @ MSUE | 4 pm |
| 2 | Teen Horse Leaders @ MSUE | 6:15 pm |
| 2 | Horse Leaders @ MSUE | 7 pm |
| 10 | Shooting Sports Committee @ MSUE | 7 pm |
| 15 | OFFICE CLOSED | |
| 18 | Small Animal Association @ MSUE | 7 pm |
| 20 | Livestock Judging Team Meeting @ MSUE | 10 am |
| 23 | 4-H Council @ MSUE | 7 pm |
| 27 | Isabella County Rabbit & Cavy Show @ West Intermediate | 9 am |

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