

CHANNEL 4-H NEWS

February 2012

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Channel 4-H News is Going Electronic!!! This is the last direct mailing.

March will be the month we begin to implement our electronic newsletter delivery. ***If you do not have access to a computer, please contact our office to make other arrangements!***

We will continue to produce Channel 4-H News monthly. An email will go out to members, leaders and families with a link to access the newsletter. Channel 4-H News will be posted on our website:

www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue/index.html

Please continue to provide us with information (clubs & programming committees). We will continue to share local 4-H program information plus the news from the State 4-H office and other multi-county opportunities.

Isabella County Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, February 25
West Intermediate School, Mt. Pleasant

We are still in need of volunteers to help run the show. We will be setting up for the event Friday, February 24, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at West Intermediate. Even if you can only volunteer for an hour or two, we would appreciate your help. We are also seeking donations for our silent auction -- rabbit supplies, food items, crafts, school supplies, etc. The wider the variety the better. If you are unable to bring the items to the show on the 25th by 8:00 a.m., feel free to drop them off at the Extension Office by Thursday, February 23, and we will pick them up. There will be quality animals for purchase, concessions, educational classes to enter, and lots of fun with other 4-H families from across the state.

Questions? Call Angie or Alissa Coldwell (828-6229) or Tammy Brecht (828-6394).



Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign

Help is needed for the spring Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Campaign that will run May 2 - 13. We are asking members, families, and clubs to help promote the event at our local Tractor Supply Store. They are very open to 4-H booths, bake sales, small animals on display, etc. TSC is a great supporter of 4-H! It was also suggested that we create photo collages to hang around the store. Please contact our office if you can help with this promotion!

CLUB CORNER

Aim High - At our January meeting members made several Valentine Cards to be delivered with Commission on Aging meals. All members were encouraged to attend upcoming events, especially the Small Animal Class on January 30 and the Rabbit/Cavy Show on February 25. We have several young members and the teen leaders teach them what to do for different projects they will take to the fair.

Barn Yard Kids - Had a great meeting in January. Discussed several upcoming events including MSU Basketball game, sledding, birthday recognition, honor club member award given to James Smith, state and county rabbit show, and Teen Leadership Conference. Reminded members that dairy feeder weigh-in is March 24.

Evergreen - For our January meeting we had Dr. Pol, from Pol Veterinary Services in Weidman come in and talk to our group about animal care. We voted on our winter fun activity and we are going tubing at Snow Snake in February. We decided to put together care packages to send over seas to soldiers at our February meeting.

Farm Hands - At their November meeting we discussed weigh-in dates for large animals and community service projects. We also painted Christmas tree ornaments to take home. Some of the members discussed attending the December beef show at MSU.

Pine River - In December our club enjoyed a potluck Christmas party. We decorated baskets of fruit, cookies, hot cocoa, etc. that were then handed out to elderly neighbors. In January we had a pizza and game night. We also attended the MSU women's basketball game.

Rural Routers - We had a can/bottle fundraiser for the club and made valentines for the soldiers at our January meeting. We also volunteered at the Special Olympics Basketball Games that were held in Shepherd on the 21st.

Town & Country Maple Leaves - We had a fundraiser at La Senorita in December. We also sent a package over seas to a service man in need of some Christmas cheer.

Dates to Remember

- ▶ 4-H Overnight Camp: July 10 & 11
(Camp Counselor Training: July 9)
- ▶ Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair: July 21-28
- ▶ 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp: August 7 & 8

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 \$1.51 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.

Trophy Sponsors Needed

Sponsors are needed for the following awards at fair:

Champion Pony - \$18.00
Champion Sewing - \$14.00
Champion Basket - \$14.00

Many individuals, families, clubs and businesses graciously support our awards and trophies at the fair. Thank you for your support! If you are interested in sponsoring one of the awards listed, please contact the Extension Office by March 15th.

New Plat Book for Sale

New Isabella County Plat Books are for sale for \$25. They may be purchased at the Extension Office, Farm Service Agency, Jays Sporting Goods, & the Farwell Trading Post. This is a major fundraiser for our local 4-H program! Special thanks to the sub-committee of 4-H Council who worked on this project — Linda Maeder, Darlene Misenhelder, Bob Travis, & Julie Willoughby. Congratulations to Ali Arteciki, whose artwork from fair was chosen for the cover!

Small Animal News

- 8 teens applied to serve as Teen Superintendents with Poultry, Rabbits and Goats. All were accepted since enrollment for this year has increased quite a bit! Later in Spring newsletters Small Animal Showmanship clinics will be published.
- Members and leaders are welcome to attend our next Small Animal meeting on Thursday, February 16 (monthly dates are posted in the 4-H Calendar).



4-H Royalty News

Timing of the royalty competition is a bit different for 2012. For those girls aged 9 - 19 that are interested in applying for the 2012 court, packets will be available at the Extension Office March 6. There will also be a meeting for applicants on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. We will explain some of the changes, have past court members present for information, and give you an opportunity to ask questions. Completed packets will be due back to the Extension Office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1. Interviews will be scheduled for Sunday, June 24 beginning at 2:00 p.m. and the Announcement Reception is set for Sunday, July 8. The 2012 court will reign over fair week activities and events beginning Saturday, July 21.

Isabella County Quilt Barn Trail

Currently in Michigan there are 4 Quilt Barn Trails and we are currently seeking input if you are interested in participating in the Isabella County Quilt Trail. If you live in Isabella County or know of a person or business who may be interested in being a part of the Quilt Trail, please have them fill out our very short survey on our website at www.isabellaquiltrail.wordpress.com. We also have a facebook page set up – Isabella County Trail. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, February 27th at 7 p.m. at the Isabella County Farm Bureau office. We are also interested in having local 4-H'ers help in gathering of information from the property owners. So if you or a member of your 4-H group is interested please contact Cathy McCune at mccunefamilyfarm@yahoo.com or 989-681-2753.

Rent the 4-H Camp

The 4-H camp on Coldwater Lake is available to rent for numerous events:
4-H club camping, school activities, nature groups, reunions, company picnics, weddings, weddings, receptions, open houses, church camps, athletic training camps, and more!

For more information, rental rates, or to reserve the camp, contact Linda Maeder at 989-644-5261.

4-H EXPLORATION DAYS @ MSU

Come to 4-H Exploration Days and...

JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Michigan State University
June 20-22, 2012

Come join the fun!

Choose from many action-packed learning sessions in areas like:

- Adventure Education
- Food, Nutrition & Fitness
- Animal Science
- Environmental & Outdoor Education
- Visual & Performing Arts
- And more!

Enjoy evening recreational activities and experience living on a college campus!

You'll appreciate the fun, the friendship and the learning.

Don't wait...

Registrations are due to your county MSU Extension office by April 30, 2012.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_exploration_days

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Clare County Rabbit Show

Saturday, February 11
9 a.m. (register by 8 a.m.)
Farwell High School

This is a trophy and ribbon show only. No premiums will be awarded. Entry fee of \$2.50 per rabbit or cavy, showmanship \$2.50, and educational poster contest at no fee. Cloverbuds can participate in showmanship only.

For more information contact Don Dietsch at 560-5088 or djd4300@hotmail.com or Carol Forkum at 588-9257 or cforkum@yahoo.com.

Project Record Binders

If you are in need of a 3 ring binder for project records, please stop by our office. We have gently used binders available. They would be perfect for project record books. Administrative leaders may come in and get some for your club. We will give 2 per member while supplies last.

Swine Project Members - PQA Training

March 3 - Mecosta County - 10:00 a.m. at Chippewa Hills High School

To register, please call (231) 592-0792. (We are in the process of scheduling a training in Isabella County).

All swine project members must be Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus certified in order to exhibit your animal at the 2012 Isabella County Fair. If you attended a meeting last year, check your completion certificate for your certification deadline date. If you cannot find your certificate, contact the Extension Office.

The Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus program teaches 4-H members in the swine project (& their families) about food safety and animal well-being.

- Youth 8-11 years of age (Beginner) must recertify annually by attending an approved Youth PQA Plus education program.
- Youth 12-14 years of age (Intermediate) and 15-19 years of age (Advanced) can certify/recertify for one year by attending an approved Youth PQA Plus education program OR can certify by completing and passing an examination at the appropriate age level. To certify by examination, a minimum of 70 percent of questions must be correctly answered. Certificates by examination are not to exceed three years.

State 4-H Awards Recognition Opportunities for 2012

• 4-H Mark of Excellence Award

This is an opportunity for Isabella County 11 & 12 year old 4-H members to receive recognition at the county, regional and state levels by participating in a 4-H essay contest. The contest is designed to recognize these members for their involvement in Michigan 4-H Youth programs, as well as their ability to express their experiences through an essay. The theme for the 2012 essay contest is: "Because of 4-H I can...." Essays are due March 1, 2012. Contact Monica at the Extension office for contest guidelines or visit the State 4-H website: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4-h_recognition_program

• State Awards

If you are a 4-H'er aged 13 and up with at least three years of 4-H experience, the State 4-H Awards Program might be your chance to gain leadership skills, practice interviewing, improve your writing skills, build your self-esteem and compete for recognition in more than 30 project areas. Members must be able to participate in Exploration Days at MSU on June 20-22. The State 4-H Individual Award Portfolio and the State 4-H Club Award Report form are due to the Extension Office by March 1, 2012. For more information, contact Monica at the Extension office.

Announcing!

2012 High School Student Exchange with Okaya, Japan

Applications are currently being accepted for the Sister City exchange with Okaya, Japan. In 2012 we will be sending a delegation of six students with one chaperon for about 12 days during the first two weeks of August.

The exchange is in its 22nd year. In odd numbered years, students from Okaya visit Mt. Pleasant and stay with host families for 10-12 days. In even numbered years, our students travel to Japan for a host family stay.

The cost of travel is approximately \$1500. The International Relations Council Mt. Pleasant Area will pay \$600 of the cost for each student.

All 10th and 11th grade students residing in Isabella County are eligible to apply for this opportunity. Applications are available at the International Relations Council office located at 200 East Broadway in Mt. Pleasant or on-line at: <http://ircmpa.org> Applications are due March 1st, 2012

Students will be selected after an interview and will be confirmed as delegates when a completed information form has been submitted with a deposit. An orientation will be held prior to the trip. There are no language requirements for delegates. They only need a willingness to be flexible and represent the Mt. Pleasant area in a positive manner. If you have questions or would like an application sent to you, please call: Vera Wiltse at (989) 465-1216 or email at vera@wiltse.com

4-H WORKSHOPS

Registration fee for these workshops is paid by the Isabella County 4-H Program Council for all enrolled teen (ages 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 Leader Workshop

February 24-25, 2012 – Kettunen Center

Explore animal systems and learn about animal health for a broad array of animal species. Come prepared to learn from others, share information and experiences, ask questions and quiz veterinarians about their skills. You will also participate in hands-on demonstrations that will teach you how to help members recognize healthy, sick, or injured animals. Meet other youth that have developed outstanding veterinary science projects and gain ideas to help others start their own vet science projects. Open to adult and teen volunteers ages 13 and older.

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

February 25-26, 2012 – Kettunen Center

If you are 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 will also offer ways to enhance your communications and teaching skills, and learn about the many opportunities available for those interested in the beef, sheep and swine industries. Open to adult and teen volunteers ages 13 and up. *This workshop is presented with support from the Michigan Pork Producers Association.*

4-H Science Teen & Adult Volunteer Leader Workshop

March 10-11, 2012 – Kettunen Center

This workshop is for teen and adult volunteers ages 13 and up. All staff and education providers are welcome. Whether you are interested in animal science, plant science, environmental science, robotics, alternative energy, engineering, film making or technology, this workshop has something exciting for you! Learn about new, hands-on educational opportunities in both new and existing 4-H project areas. Conduct experiments and learn how to develop the next generation of problem solvers. Hands-on sessions for beginners and advanced will be provided.

4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education, Plant Science, & Entomology Workshop

March 16-18, 2012 – Kettunen Center

This is a hands-on opportunity to learn about many environmental & outdoor education, horticulture and entomology projects through fun lessons and activities. Gain ideas, project resources and activities to get kids outside, inquire and explore the world and to gain knowledge, all while having fun. Sessions will feature wildlife, natural resources, plant science, entomology, outdoor adventure challenge recreation and leadership. Learn about science applications and career exploration related to these subjects and how to use the information with 4-H clubs or classrooms. Open to adults and youth ages 13 and up.

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

Phone: (989) 772-0911 ext. 302
 Website: www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue/index.html
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Isabella County 4-H Calendar

February		
7	Teen Horse Leaders @ MSUE	6:15 pm
7	Horse Leaders @ MSUE	7 pm
8	4-H Shooting Sports Committee @ MSUE	7 pm
16	Small Animal Association @ MSUE	7 pm
25	County Rabbit & Cavy Show @ West Intermediate, Mt. Pleasant	7 am
28	4-H Council @ MSUE	7 pm

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