



Cass Clover

4-H Family News

March 2016

Dear 4-H Family and Friends,

Can you believe it is March? I certainly can't. Spring is almost here and with spring comes an increase in programming! With our annual awards banquet, fundraiser auction, and more on the horizon, we are planning on an exciting year. Check out our dates on the calendar page.

With spring, summer follows and so does our beloved fair season! Lots of preparations are in the works for a great 2016 program and we look forward to seeing you all there. There are some fair related updates, so be sure to look for that information that is important to you and your species!

Also check out some new programming items in this newsletter. 4-H Livestock Judging Team, Rabbit Clinics, and more!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Consford
4-H Program Coordinator



Contact Us

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"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

- Sir Winston Churchill



4-H Livestock Judging Team

Are you interested in learning more about judging livestock? Consider joining us March 31st at 6:00 p.m. in the MSUE Conference Room for an informational meeting about a possible 4-H Livestock Judging Team for 2016. By participating in livestock judging, you will gain skills that can enhance your handling, knowledge, and showmanship skills. You will learn how judges come to their conclusions and will walk away with a deeper understanding of your own species. Join the team for 2016 and you won't be disappointed!



4-H News, Events and Information Right in Your Inbox!

Did you know *MSU Extension's News* digests deliver the latest news, information and events right to your inbox?

Sent once a month, these electronic newsletters feature recent articles and events published on the MSU Extension web site (<http://msue.anr.msu.edu>) and they are available in more than 60 interest areas! We recently added new 4-H and youth newsletter topics. These include 4-H animal science, youth arts, youth environmental and outdoor science, and youth money management.

If you already receive *MSU Extension News* digests, update your subscriber settings to add these new topics. However, if you're a new subscriber, simply text "MSUE" to 22828 or visit <http://msue.anr.msu.edu> and click on "Newsletter Sign-Up."

STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Workshops

March 11-13: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/Michigan_4-H_Dairy_Conference

Beechpoint Christian Camp, Allegan

March 12-13:

4-H Robotics Workshop

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=4HRobotics16>

Kettunen Center, Tustin

Teens as Teachers Workshop [http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?](http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=TeenTeachers)

[folder=TeenTeachers](http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=TeenTeachers)

Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 19: 4-H Day at the Palace and Leadership Workshop

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_day_at_the_palace_and_leadership_workshop

The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills

March 19-20: Challenge U 4-H FunFest

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=challengeu16>

Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

March 20-23: 4-H Capitol Experience <http://events.anr.msu.edu/4hcapex>

Lansing

April 6: 4-H Night at the Joe (Red Wings)

<http://redwings.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=108326>

Joe Louis Arena, Detroit

April 10: 4-Hairy Horse Benefit Show <http://bit.ly/1PpoSKW>

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

April 16:

4-H Pattern-O-Rama Horse Show <http://bit.ly/1PpoSKW>

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

State 4-H Goat Expo <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=goatexpo>

Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

April 22-23:

2016 Equine Educational Expo bit.ly/20ONFjW

Anthony Hall & MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

Small Animals Day Contact Carla Mc Lachlan (mclachl2@msu.edu)

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>

STATEWIDE NEWS

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Being a Michigan 4-H International Exchange Host Family

Michigan 4-H Youth Development (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/4_h) needs families to host international students, teachers and chaperones. Hosting can be for a period of a month or as long as 10 months for an academic school year. For an overview of Michigan's 4-H International Exchange Programs, go to http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/international_exchange_programs.

Academic-Year Hosting Program (AYP) (August 2016 to June 2017)

Would you like to host an international high school student who will attend grade 10, 11 or 12 grade in



Michigan? Through the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program, the U.S. Department of State sponsors students, who are finalists in the top 2 to 4 percent of a competitive scholarship program. FLEX students come from Armenia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan. We also place students from Japan, Korea and Mexico through other programs. Host Families volunteer to provide friendship, support, and room and board (3 meals a day). Health insurance is covered by the program. Personal expenses are paid by the student.

More information and applications are available on the Michigan 4-H AYP web page (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/academic_year_hosting_programs). You may also contact Jan Brinn by email at brinn@anr.msu.edu or by phone at 269-673-0370, Ext. 2555.

International Youth Exchange (IFYE) Program

This program, formerly known as the International Farm Youth Exchange, was founded on the premise that through understanding each other, our world could become a more peaceful place. The program brings college-age youth, usually from Europe, to live and work at Michigan farms for three weeks in the summer. Since family living is at the heart of the cultural experience. IFYE representatives discover life in the United States as a member of the family, not as a guest or tourist. During the hosting period, host families are expected to provide love and understanding, care and guidance, as well as food and housing. For more information about this opportunity, visit the Michigan IFYE web site (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/international_4_h_youth_exchange_ifye). You can obtain further details about hosting for summer or fall 2016 or for application forms, from Makena Schultz by email at schul430@anr.msu.edu or by phone at 517-432-7603.



Japanese Summer Inbound Exchange (July to August 2016)

Do you have a child between the ages of 10 and 17? If so, we can match your son or daughter with a Japanese host sibling for four weeks this summer. The students will join your normal summer schedule. Funds are available for the student to join your child at camp. Alternatively, you may host an adult Japanese teacher or college-age chaperone for two weeks, either July 24 to August 7 or August 7 to August 20. These adult leaders are bilingual in English and Japanese. More information and applications are available on the Michigan Japanese Summer Inbound Exchange web page (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/japan_summer_inbound_exchange). You may also contact D'Ann Rohrer by email at drohrer@anr.msu.edu or by phone at 231-757-4789.

Find out more about the various national 4-H international exchange programs from: National 4-H International Exchange Programs (www.states4hexchange.org) National AYP (<http://www.states4hexchange.org/year-long>) IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. (<http://ifyeusa.org>)

And the Winners Are!

The inaugural Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Awards went to Mary Adams, a Calhoun County 4-H leader who has been involved in 4-H for more than 30 years and Cassie Holladay, a 10-year Oceana County 4-H'er. It was clear to the selection committee that both Mary and Cassie exemplify the spirit of sportsmanship.

According to Mary's nominators, she's an energetic, dedicated leader who helps all youth, no matter what 4-H club they belong to.



Cassie, whose project areas include beef, dairy, horse, teen leadership and community service, is a member of the 4-Star and Rough Riders 4-H Clubs. While Cassie's nominators made it clear she is a fierce competitor, they also stressed she never hesitates to help teach someone less experienced.



Read these articles for more information about: (1) Mary (bit.ly/248fUte), (2) Cassie (bit.ly/1PZzKk9) and (3) the award-selection criteria (bit.ly/1OezfgH).

4-H Leaders' Association

Are you looking to help the county 4-H program? The 4-H Leaders' Association is the place for you! Come to our next meeting on Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the MSUE Conference Room to see what we are all about!

Questions? Visit our webpage at <http://www.casscounty4hleaders.org/> for more information.

Horse Superintendent Position Available

The Horse Superintendent Position for the 2016 Cass County Fair is available. If you are interested, please apply using the application available at <http://mycasscountyfair.com/forms/Superintendent%20Policy%20&%20Application.pdf>.

Applications are due to Brian Kuemin at brian@griffinpest.com by March 28th.

March

- 10 Rabbit and Cavy Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Kincheloe Room
- 12 Equine Test, 9:00 a.m., MSUE Conference Room
- 16 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room
- 23 YPQA, 6:00 p.m., Dowagiac Union High School Cafeteria and Media Center
- 24 New Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m., by appt., MSUE Conference Room
- 24 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room
- 28 Awards Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Dowagiac Conservation Club
- 31 Livestock Judging Informational Meeting, 6:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room

April

- 7 Leaders' Skate Party, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Ramona Skate Park, Sister Lakes
- 16 Leaders' Association Auction, 5:30 p.m., Dowagiac Conservation Club
- 19 YPQA, 6:00 p.m., Van Buren ISD,
- 20 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room
- 28 New Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m., by appt., MSUE Conference Room
- 29 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room

May

- 18 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room
- 21 Rabbit 101 Workshop, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., TBD
- 26 New Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m., by appt., MSUE Conference Room
- 27 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room
- 30 Memorial Day, MSUE Office Closed

Rabbit 101: Basics of your Rabbit Project

Saturday, March 19, 2016 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. @ MSUE Conference Room

A continuation from February, the Rabbit and Cavy Association are holding another workshop dedicated to introducing some more topics that are relevant to your 4-H rabbit project! Consider joining us to enhance your knowledge.

Pre-registration is required by emailing consford@anr.msu.edu or calling the MSU Extension office at 269-445-4438 Ext. 3. When registering you will need to provide the following information: Name (First and Last), Club, Phone, Email (optional), Age, Year in Project. If you signed up at the last meeting, no need to call, you are already registered!

Sessions will automatically be cancelled if there is a winter storm warning for the county and be rescheduled for the following month.

Fair Swine and Dairy Feeder Schedule Change

New to the 2016 Cass County Fair, the youth swine show will combine the showmanship and market portions to hold a one day show! This means that on Tuesday of fair week, (August 2nd 2016) all youth swine classes will take place. Due to this change, the Dairy Feeder Show will be moved to Monday afternoon of fair week (August 1st 2016). Check the 2016 Fair Book for specific times when it becomes available.

Mechanicsburg 4-H Club News

At our February meeting, Mechanicsburg 4-H club discussed our Little Caesar fund raiser. Order forms are due back at the next meeting with product pick up on March 17 at Mrs. Bowman's home, time to be announced at March 4-H meeting.

Fair dates were verified. Next meeting will be March 7 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Tharp, Reporter

Farm Bureau Supports Capitol Experience

Each year, the Michigan 4-H Youth Development Program partners with Michigan Farm Bureau to host the 4-H Capitol Experience Program. This year, 3 youth from the Cass County 4-H Program are fortunate enough to go to 4-H Capitol Experience to learn about state legislation and to represent our community. A big THANK YOU goes to our local Cass County Farm Bureau who were able to provide full and partial scholarships to these youth to make this opportunity possible!

World Food Prize

The [World Food Prize - Michigan Youth Institute](#) is an experience designed to inspire and engage youth as the next generation of researchers, scholars, policymakers and leaders in addressing the vital topic of global food security. Michigan high school students select, research and write a paper about a global food security topic in a developing country of their choice. Students will present their research to peers and experts, and experience how [Michigan State University](#) leads the way in addressing global food security, during an exciting day on the campus of MSU on May 12, 2016. The youth with the best research projects will be eligible to represent Michigan at the [World Food Prize - Global Youth Institute](#) in Des Moines, Iowa (October 12-14, 2016) and may qualify to apply for scholarships and prestigious paid internships which will have them working side-by-side with leading food security researchers in the United States or around the world!

Companion Animal Camp

The Michigan 4-H Companion Animal Camp will be held on June 3-5, 2016 at Camp Tuhsmehta in Greenville, Michigan. Campers and their dogs will have the opportunity to attend various sessions such as games to play with your dog, learn from a veterinarian, new training techniques, and crafts! Campers will also have many opportunities to partake in camp activities such as an evening campfire, a climbing tower, and hiking trails! Check out the event page for more information and directions on how to sign up!

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_companion_animal_camp_1

2016 Brian McMillen Scholarship

Brian McMillen, of Adrian, Michigan, was a brother of Alpha Gamma Rho who exemplified characteristics such as leadership, responsibility, philanthropy, and commitment to agriculture and the environment. This scholarship seeks to reward these characteristics in other individuals wanting to pursue a degree in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University. Please see the website for details about applying.

<http://agrtau.com/brian-mcmillen-scholarship>

DeKalb County 4-H Horse and Pony Judging Invitational

The DeKalb County 4-H Horse and Pony Club is hosting a judging competition on April 2, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Waterloo, Indiana. It is \$15.00 per person, lunch included and concessions available for coaches and patrons. If you would like more information, please contact Brenda at 260-908-1070. For registration forms, contact me at 269-445-4438 Ext. 3.

Flyers

SPRING EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Dr. T.K. Lawless Park

(South of M-60 between Jones and Vandalia, Michigan)

March 19, 2016

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fun for you
and your family:

\$2.00 per person

Eggs-traordinary Egg "Scramble" for ages 2-10

Ages 2-4 11:30 a.m. (approx.)

Ages 5-10 12:30 p.m. (approx.)

Mesko Farms Petting Zoo

Face Painting

Crafts

Games

Wagon Rides

Bon Fire

Inflatable Slide

Special Appearance from the Easter Bunny

Refreshments available for purchase.

Sponsored by:

Cass County Parks and Recreation
The Friends of the Cass County Parks

Scott Wyman, Director

scottwy@cassco.org

269-445-4456

www.casscountymi.org/countyParkds.aspx

Like us on Facebook!



 Join us for a
Wheelbarrow



Auction

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Auction begins at 6:30 p.m.

Auction, Silent Auction & Dinner

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Dowagiac Conservation Club

54551 M 51

Dowagiac, MI



Sponsored by the Cass County Leaders' Association

To preview action items go to casscounty4hleaders.org

For more information call 269-445-4438

**Available before and during
the auction**

Pulled Pork Basket \$5.00*

Hot Dog Basket \$4.00*

(Baskets include sandwich, chips, side
& cookie)

**Pre buy dinner tickets by
April 8, 2016 from 4-H Youth
or by contacting MSUE of-
fice at 269-445-4438**

***Prices at the door are higher**