

*Cass Clover*

4-H Family News

November 2016

Dear 4-H Family and Friends,

'Tis the season to be thankful! While we all should be thankful all year round, now is the time that you will begin to see people going out of their way to show appreciation towards each other. For 4-H members, this may be your club leader, project leader, parents, siblings, or friends. There are many people who make a difference in our lives and until we take time to reflect and acknowledge these people, they may never know how much they mean to you.

Therefore, I am challenging each of you to write one appreciation card a week throughout the next two months. Say thank you to your project leader who has taught you how to decorate a cake. Say thank you to your mom and dad who drove you to meetings. Say thank you to your fellow 4-H members for being supportive. Just start saying thank you to all those who have made an impact in your life. You never know who's day you will brighten with a simple thank you!

As always, please take the time to read about the many programs we have locally and statewide. Feel free to contact us with any questions!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Consford

Stephanie Consford
4-H Program Coordinator



Youth PQA Training Changes

With the new Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program beginning in 2017, there are some upcoming changes to the Youth Pork Quality Assurance training normally held in March and April. To better prepare our youth in Cass County, we have tentatively scheduled our two annual trainings for January 19, 2017 and February 13, 2017. A flyer will be sent out in December confirming dates, times, locations, and registration information. If you are unable to make one of these training dates, please be sure to go online *before March 1st* to complete your training.

Any youth showing pigs at the Cass County Fair are required to complete this training and receive their certification. Please make note of your PQA number so this can be filled out during fair registration in May/June. If you have any questions, please call Stephanie at the MSU Extension office.

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Goat Superintendent Position Available

The Goat Superintendent position for the 2017 Cass County Fair is available. If you are interested, please apply using the application available at http://mycasscountyfair.com/forms/Superintendent_Policy_Application.pdf

Applications are due to Brian Kuemin at brian@griffinpest.com by November 29, 2016.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2

Looking Ahead...

February 4-5: 4-H
Winterfest

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/
events/4_h_winterfest_2](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_winterfest_2)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 17-18: 4-H
Veterinary Science Teen &
Adult Leaders Workshop

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/
events/4-
h_veterinary_science_teen_a
nd_adult_leaders_workshop](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_veterinary_science_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 18-19: 4-H Beef,
Sheep & Swine Teen &
Adult Leaders Workshop

<http://bit.ly/2ceXN18>
Kettunen Center, Tustin

For the most up-to-date
events listing, go to
[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/
events](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events)

2016 Harvest Fest/Trunk or Treat a Success!

A big thank you to our volunteers and sponsors who helped make our first Harvest Fest/Trunk or Treat partnership a success! Thank you to Cass County Farm Bureau, Midwest Energy, and Niles Scream Park for donating towards the event. Thank you to all of our amazing trunks for participating. Thank you to the many volunteers assisting with the days events! And thank you to all those who brought canned goods. We collected approximately 640 canned goods that will be donated to various local food pantries.

November

- 7 Holiday Mail for Heroes due
- 10 Auction Planning Meeting for Leaders' Association, 6:00 p.m., MSUE Conference
- 11 Veteran's Day Observed, County Building Closed
- 16 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 17 Leaders' Association Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 17 Leaders' Association Regular Meeting, MSUE Conference Room 210
- 19-20 4-H Advisory Group Retreat, Kettunen Center, Tustin
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Observed, MSUE and County Building Closed
- 25-29 National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, Georgia

December

- 3 Mandatory Beef Weigh-In, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Poultry Barn
- 12 State 4-H Awards Training, 6:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 13 Expansion and Review Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 23-Jan 1 4-H Program Coordinator out of office
- 26-30 MSUE Office Closed

January

- 18 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 19 PQA Training, 6:30 p.m., Van Buren ISD
- 22 4-H Day at the Breslin
- 26 Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m. by appointment, MSUE Conference Room 210
- 26 Leaders. Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 28 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show, MSU Pavillion, East Lansing
- 28-29 Youth Leadership and Global Citizenship Spectacular, Kettunen Center, Tustin



Thank you Harvest Fest/Trunk or Treat Sponsors!

This airplane was able to enjoy this event because of you! Thank you!

Have You Heard of the Michigan 4-H China Project?



In the 27 years since the *Michigan 4-H China Project* (<http://bit.ly/2d0qaRM>) began, it has impacted 350,000-plus young people. One of the secrets of its amazing success is that this Michigan 4-H (<http://bit.ly/12NxjLN>) global-education program, conducted in cooperation with the People's Republic of China (<http://bit.ly/1LdhT7g>), uses the arts to achieve cross-cultural exchanges.

Through this project, participants:

- Realize the many similarities between their lives and youth their age halfway around the world;
- Develop awareness, understanding and appreciation of other cultures;
- Gain a sense of being part of one world, whether they live in Michigan or in Shandong Province (<http://www.travelshandong.com>);
- Have a significant learning experience that includes language, social studies, natural science and the arts;
- Receive in-depth information about a country that (1) has the world's oldest (3,500-plus years) culture, one rich in the arts, science and philosophy, (2) is home to the world's fastest-growing economy, (3) has a fifth of the world's population and (4) is the world's third largest country.



The *Michigan 4-H China Project* is comprised of the following.

Discover the Children of China Audiovisual Program (Ages: Kindergarten through 4th Grade)

This six-minute long audiovisual program, which contains a discussion guide, encourages children to think about the daily lives of children their own age who live in China. Visits to elementary classrooms, playgrounds and after-school art activities are included.

The Michigan 4-H Children's Art Exchange (Ages: Kindergarten through 6th Grade)



In this popular program, Michigan youth create "visual letters" representing their story, life and reality to be sent to Chinese youth of the same age. The "letters" use young people's creative skills and abilities while, simultaneously, reducing and often eliminating language barriers between the children. Usually in early May, a selection of Michigan artwork is sent to as a gift to the children of China.

Teaching Kits

Unique kits are available to facilitate teaching about China and making art. Each kit consists of nine or 10 original pictures by Chinese children, a study guide (<http://bit.ly/2db131C>) and a description of the pictures in the kit. The description of the pictures in Kit A can be found here (<http://bit.ly/2cpr0b8>). Kits are available for year-round use.



Visual Letters – The Art of Michigan Children (Traveling Art Exhibit)

To view a selection of Michigan artwork from past *4-H Children's Art Exchange* traveling exhibits, click on the year found on the web (<http://bit.ly/2d0qaRM>). (Note: In *Internet Explorer*, *Adobe PDF* files will open in full-screen mode. To advance or go back, press the right and left arrow keys. Press escape to leave full-screen mode.)



Chinese Children's Ribbon Dance Kit

This kit consists of 12 ribbon wands, dance instructions and an audiotape of music and dance. The dances are easy to learn and the ribbon sticks are also fun for children to use in creating their own dances.

Discover Chinese Dance Activity Kit (Ages: Kindergarten through 6th Grade)

The kit, filled with silk dance costumes, *papier-mâché* masks, rice straw hats, ribbon sticks and music for the *Chinese Children's Ribbon Dance*, helps youth learn about Chinese classical and folk dance.

For more information about participating in the *Michigan 4-H China Project*, contact your local MSU Extension 4-H staff (<http://bit.ly/1u0f9E3>).

Veterinary Feed Directive

What it means for Exhibitions, Shows, and Fairs

To ensure a safe food supply, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the use of animal medications. Some medications have been approved for use without a veterinarian's permission, while others require permission. Recently, the FDA changed how some antibiotic medications, which are important to human medicine, are used for animal feed. After January 1st, 2017, these medications will require a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) order to be used in a medicated feed.

This is important to our livestock exhibitors because this could affect the feed you are purchasing for your animal. Medicated feeds used for therapeutic reasons, as a growth promotant, or for feed efficiency will be affected. If you have concerns, please review the information at: www.michigan.gov/vfd.

If you need further assistance, contact your veterinarian or MSU Extension's Swine Educator, Beth Ferry, at 269-445-4438 or by email at franzeli@anr.msu.edu.

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, November 17, 2016 at the MSUE Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. to see what we are all about!

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

Annual Club Reenrollments

Please remember that all members and leaders must fill out new enrollment forms every year. These forms were available beginning September 1, 2016! Please visit mi.4honline.com and login or register to complete the necessary forms. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MSU Extension office.

High school graduates are eligible to enroll in 4-H if they are 19 on January 1st of the current program year (2017). Annual fees need to be returned to your club's Key Leader for them to turn into the MSU Extension office.

4-H Awards and Recognition Program

Whether you're a 4-H'er or an adult 4-H volunteer, if you're doing great 4-H work in Michigan, there are lots of ways to be recognized for it! There are 5 kinds of youth recognition. They are listed in order of age eligibility. References to the 4-H web site below are located at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_awards_and_recognition_program

Prudential Spirit of Community Award

If you are a 4-H'er in 5th to 12th grade and you are an active volunteer, you may want to apply for a Prudential Spirit of Community Award, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. You can apply online at <https://spirit.prudential.com/>. Applications must be submitted to a county 4-H program coordinator by November 1.

4-H Mark of Excellence Award

4-H'ers who are 11 or 12 years old are eligible to apply for the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award. To enter, a young person needs to write an essay on the theme, "Because of 4-H I can..." Counties select their representatives, and submit names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. For more information and instructions, see the "Overview and Instructions" link listed on the [4-H web site](#). Deadline for submission is February 1.

County Medals

Outstanding members between the ages of 11 and 19 (strongly encouraged for ages 11-13 applicants) are considered for one of these medals that celebrate excellent work in a particular project area. County nominations are done by Key Leaders and submitted to the 4-H program coordinator in November. Nominees will be mailed a letter with information on where to locate an application. Applications are due by the second Friday in January of the current year and sent out of county for review and selection. Recipients are awarded their county medals at the Awards Program held in the spring.

State 4-H Awards Program

The State 4-H Awards program, the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth, is for 4-H youth aged 13 and up who have at least three years of 4-H experience. Youth compete in 19 different award areas showcasing their knowledge, skills, and experiences. To apply, youth submit the application to State4HAwards@anr.msu.edu by February 1. Applications are carefully reviewed by selection committees. Delegates are invited to participate in either an advanced leadership development program (juniors) or competitive interviews (seniors) during 4-H Exploration Days. State 4-H Award winners are announced at the 4-H Recognition Program, during 4-H Exploration Days. Complete instructions (including an overview and webinar) and the application, are on the [4-H web site](#).

Michigan 4-H Key Club Award

The 4-H Key Club Award is intended to be the top county 4-H honor and selections are made at the county level. To be eligible, a 4-H member must be 15 years old by the beginning of the project year (September 1). Other eligibility requirements are listed on the application, which may be found at <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/files/Application.pdf>

Mechanicsburg 4-H Club News

The October meeting was held on 10/10/16, 1 new member was added. Thank you everyone for helping with road clean up. We voted to adopt a family for thanksgiving everyone will bring the thanksgiving food they signed up for at the meeting. The next meeting will be on November 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Tharp - Reporter

Congratulations Horse Judging Team on National Placing!

The Cass County Horse Judging Team represented Michigan 4-H Horse Youth Programs at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio this past month. After earning their spot by competing at the Michigan 4-H Equine Educational Expo, MSU sent Amy Wyse, Allison Ives, Emily Prugh, and Cameron Hayden (not pictured) competed against 4-H, FFA, and Breed Association teams from around the nation. The team placed Top Ten in both Team Halter and Overall Team! Another great year for the Michigan 4-H Horse Program. We couldn't be more proud to have these youth in our organization and here in our local community! Way to go team!



Are you interested in being on the 2017 Horse Judging Team? If so, or you would like more information, please contact Robin Brennehan at (574) 849-6888.

2017 Equine Test

The equine test is scheduled for March 11, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Location will be the MSU Extension Conference room 210 in the county building in downtown Cassopolis. The address is 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

If we are having inclement weather on March 11th, the snow date will be Saturday, March 18, 2017, same time and place. Members will be required to register with their leader in order to take the test. Copies of the tests will be made only for members that are pre-registered.

Leaders will not be given the test to be taken at your convenience. The test may only be taken at the MSU Extension office on the test date unless you are participating in a confirmed 4-H or school event. In order to take the make-up test, a note on proper letterhead confirming the event must be turned in by February 17, 2017 to the Extension office. The makeup test will be the following Monday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Cass District Library. There will also be a test for Cloverbuds.

Please see the upcoming December newsletter for specifics on what you should be studying and what resources to use to be successful.

Outstanding Cass County 4-H Leaders

As we finish one year and start a new one, we would like you to be thinking about 4-H leaders that have made a difference in your life. The 4-H Leaders' Association will be honoring our leaders in the spring and would like nominations for "outstanding" 4-H leaders. The requirements to win the awards are:

- Minimum of 5 years as a 4-H leader
- Involved in club and county events
- Civic or community involvement

A winner is only eligible once. If you would like to nominate a leader, please contact the office *in writing* by January 31st!

Mandatory Beef Weigh-In

The beef weigh in will be Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the poultry barn at the Cass County Fair.

Please make sure your calves have an electronic ID provided by the breeder. It's mandatory by Michigan law. If the calves don't have them in their ear then the exhibitor needs to have them so we can put them in at weigh in. Exhibitors will not be able to weigh in without them.

If you have any questions about weigh in call Jeff Peterson at 269-240-7181.

MSU Extension in Cass County

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4-H Program Coordinator

Patty Dohm
Office Manager

Beth Ferry
Swine Educator

Nora Lee
SNAP-Ed Program

Wendy Walker-Dyes
Government and Public
Policy Educator

Erin Young
Support Staff



Above: Getting ready for the costume contest sponsored by Niles Scream Park.



Above: Chad and Carlee Burger giving hayrides to kids.

Right: Trunk or Treat trunk decorations.



Below: Mary Poppins and 2 chimney sweeps.



Below: Harvest Fest attendee getting her face painted.

