

*Cass Clover*

4-H Family News

September 2017

Dear 4-H Family and Friends,

What is the benefit of 4-H? As we begin the program year, I like to reflect back on how much I have gained from being part of the 4-H program. As volunteers, members, parents, and peers, we all have the pleasure of gaining something very special from this organization. The main focus we talk about throughout the year are life skills: teamwork, responsibility, civic engagement, leadership, etc. I look back and see the growth measured in these life skills each year, which produce some well-rounded and terrific kids, leaders, and staff!

But I also see passion and desire. I see love for a project so deeply ingrained, making you eager to be the best you can be. I see summertime friendships developing into everlasting confidants. I see people connecting their own skills and knowledge to help others. I see kids excited to share their experiences with their peers. I see kids having new, sometimes once in a lifetime, experiences. Most of all, I see communities being built from within existing communities.

So, what is the benefit of 4-H and how do you sum it up in just a few words? As simply as it can be put, 4-H is family and I am so grateful to belong to this family.

To go along with the new program year, there are several changes to the Clover, so please be sure to look through each page for information that could pertain to you!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Consford

Stephanie Consford
4-H Program Coordinator



New Cloverbud Page!! Check it Out!!

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msu.casscountymi.org/4HYouth

Senior and Still Exhibit Leftovers

Items that were not picked up during check-out at fair, including senior bios and pictures, are now available at the MSU Extension office. We will hold these items until September 30th, 2017. After this date, the items will be discarded.

Office hours are Monday -
Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00
p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2

Fair Exhibitor's Premium Checks

No premium checks will be issued in amounts of \$4.99 or less. Premium checks have been mailed to exhibitors. Exhibitors have the choice to sign off and return any premiums they would like to donate back to the fair.

Any auction checks are processed by the fair. Please call 269-445-8265 if you have any questions.

Senior Scholarship Opportunities

Looking for ways to fund your college education? You may be eligible for one of several scholarships available through Michigan State University, MSU 4-H Youth Development, or the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Eligibility varies by scholarship. You may visit the following web address for details regarding each scholarship. http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships

Many of these scholarship applications are typically due by November 1st and need to be sent to the county Extension office for approval before going to the state office for review. Be sure to start these early and get them in to the Extension office by October 20th to ensure enough time to process at the county level.

September

- 4 Office Closed, Labor Day
- 9 Outdoor Experience Day, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., T.K. Lawless Park
- 12 Social Media for 4-H Club Leaders, Webinar

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/social_media_for_4-h_club_leaders

- 13 New Club Orientation, 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 13 New Leader Orientation, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 20 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 23-24 Small Animals Workshop, Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_small_animals_workshop

- 28 New Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 28 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210

October

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 5-17 Paper Clover Campaign at Tractor Supply Company
- 12 Leader Update, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 13 Leader Update, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 18 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 26 New Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m. by Appt., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 26 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 21 Trunk or Treat, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., T.K. Lawless Park
- 31 Happy Halloween!

November

- 10 Office closed in observance of Veteran's day
- 15 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 16 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 23-24 Office Closed due to Holiday

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

Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat

Looking for a safe place to take your kids Trick-or-Treating? The Cass County 4-H Youth Program partnered very successfully in 2016 with the Cass County Parks Department to combine their Harvest Fest and our Trunk or Treat programs into one event! We are again hosting these activities together on October 21, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the Trunk or Treat portion being hosted from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in having a trunk at this event, please contact the 4-H Youth Program by phone at 269-445-4438 or by email at consford@anr.msu.edu.

New Club Orientation

Are you a 4-H leader interested in starting your own club? Maybe there is a need for a new club leader within an existing club? Come to our 30 minute presentation about what it takes to be a Key Leader! We will go over annual paperwork, MSU financial policies, and 4-H Online. This training is geared towards leaders who have been in their leadership for 1 year or less, however all leaders are welcome to attend. If you are looking to start your own club it is highly recommended you attend this training on September 13th at 6:00 p.m.

New Leader Orientation

Are you interested in becoming a new leader for our 4-H program? Consider joining us at 6:30 p.m. for our New Leader Orientation on September 13th. Topics covered will be introduction to 4-H, working with youth of different ages, conflict resolution, how to be involved, and more. This training is geared towards leaders who have been in their role for 1 year or less, however all leaders and potential leaders are welcome!

Youth Leadership Academy

Youth ages 14-18 wanting to learn more about government should consider applying for our new Youth Leadership Academy Program. The Cass County 4-H Youth Leadership Academy will serve as a 6 week program designed to have commissioners, other county officials, and MSU Extension staff mentor 8 Cass County high school students in the area of government/citizenship. The students will also represent Cass County at Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience. From September through April, the students will learn about the purpose of tribal, county, and state governments, engage in identifying public issues, and learn first-hand how citizens work within government to accomplish public objectives and meet community needs. Applications are available at the MSU Extension office. Applications are due by September 15th. Cost of program is \$25 for 4-H members and \$45 for non-4-H members.

Please contact us by phone at 269-445-4438 or by email at consford@anr.msu.edu for more information.

Annual Club Reenrollments

Please remember that all members and leaders must fill out new enrollment forms every year. These forms will be available online beginning September 1, 2017. Please visit mi.4honline.com and login or enroll to complete the process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us in the MSU Extension office!

High school graduates are eligible to enroll in 4-H if they are 19 on January 1st, 2018. Annual fees need to be returned to your club's Key Leader for them to turn in to the MSU Extension office. Annual participation fees are \$20 per member or \$60 per family.

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, September 28, 2017 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.

Don't Forget Your Thank You's

As a friendly reminder to all youth exhibitors who participated and sold animal(s) or items in the auctions at the fair, or won a trophy, please send a thank you card or letter to your buyer or trophy sponsor.

Also, don't forget about your leaders, parents, and peers! A big thank you to those that have helped get you to the fair to exhibit and taught you all of the necessary skills to show your project will put a smile on their face. Help brighten someone's day and thank your sponsors, buyers, and leaders for everything they do to make your exhibition possible! You couldn't have done it without them, so be sure to send those thank you's!

**Thank you
Cloverbud leaders
for making the
commitment to
educate our
Cloverbud youth
with these fun,
hands-on
activities!**



NEW CLOVERBUD CURRICULUM

If you are working with youth ages 5-8 (K-2) this new curriculum, *The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities* by Ohio State University is for you! There are several categories with multiple activities under each topic. To name a few of the topics the book contains: Science and Technology, Healthy Lifestyle, Plants and Animals, Personal Development, etc. Pick an activity to complete with your kids at your next club meeting and make it fun and educational! Call our office if you would like more information about borrowing or obtaining your own copy of this curriculum.

Cloverbud Activity of the Month

Beginning in September, there will be a new Cloverbud Activity of the Month posted in the MSU Extension office for leaders, parents, and teen leaders to pick up to use with their Cloverbud kids. This month's activity is themed for school being in session. Whether you're sending your kids to school for the first time or you're an old pro at getting them ready and onto the bus, this activity will help your 5-8 year old begin or continue thinking about the age old question, "What do I want to be when I grow up?" This activity has a hand out that will be available at the MSU Extension office for pick up. If you would like an electronic version, we can send you a pdf of the activity as well. While there is a handout, the activity is designed to be conversational and centers around asking open ended questions such as "What do you want to be when you grow up?" "What will you need to do to become what you want to be?" "Who can help you?" and more. The worksheet includes their name, what they want to be, and a place to draw a picture of what they think that will look like. This is another great Ohio State University resource for your use.

CALLING ALL CLOVERBUDS

In the space below, write two sentences or more about why you love 4-H! Return it to the MSU Extension office by September 25th for a prize and a chance to see your sentences in the upcoming October Clover!

Name: _____

Age: _____ **4-H Club:** _____

Accepting Nominations for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year

Again in 2017, Michigan 4-H Youth Development will be awarding a [Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award](#). If you know an adult or youth that has exemplified the definition of good sportsmanship in any of the 4-H animal science project areas, please consider nominating them by filling out the nomination form by Oct. 1, 2017. Help us to recognize deserving youth and adults in the 4-H program going above and beyond!



Please be sure to include the following with your submission:

Nomination Form found at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.

Nomination Letter

Letter of Support from County Staff

Congratulations to the 2017 Michigan 4-H Mark of Excellence Award Winners

Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth ages 11 and 12 the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. As part of the contest, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension staff members select up to two youth essays from each county to be recognized as award winners.

The essay theme for 2017 was "Because of 4-H, I can..." and the youth referred to their 4-H experiences as ones that have allowed them to make new friends, try new projects, explore new places and help their dreams come true. Some credited 4-H with helping them increase their public speaking skills, confidence and time management skills. Other 4-H'ers wrote with excitement about their club meetings, events, exhibits and community service projects.

Overall, 31 youth from 18 counties were honored as 2017 Mark of Excellence county winners.

Branch County: Kathleen Bailey and Jacob Reif

Cass County: Benjamin Shelby and Madison Weedon

Cheboygan County: Thomas Tafoya

Eaton County: Javelynne Bowels and Ryleigh Mauk

Ionia County: Cassidy Cashen and Peyton Hoppes

Kent County: Grace Richmond

Macomb County: Taylor Frazier and Teagan Lake

Marquette County: Halle Graves and Hayden Graves

Mason County: Ryann Rohrer

Menominee County: Malorie Baumler and Kara Solander

Monroe County: Griffin Linn and Jaren Schmidt

Oakland County: Samantha Conlon and Khamani Potts

Oceana County: Beckett Newell and Alexis Settler

Sanilac County: Emily Martinez and Riley Wallace

Shiawassee County: Emma Challenger and Veronica Gross

St. Clair County: Gwyneth Glombowski and Douglas Modrich

Washtenaw County: Quinn Hilla

Wayne County: Carlene Armstrong

Each recipient received a medal, and their winning essays were added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. The essays are also on display at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, Michigan.

Michigan 4-H Small Animals Workshop



This workshop will be held at Kettunen Center (<http://bit.ly/2lHuDdk>) on September 23-24, 2017. 4-H adult leaders and members (11 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2017 and older) interested in rabbits, cavies and/or poultry projects are encouraged to attend to:

- Gain fun, hands-on experience.
- Learn new ideas for projects and other fun activities.
- Explore science-based information in rabbit, cavy and poultry management.
- Enhance knowledge and skill in the rabbits, cavies and/or poultry project areas.
- Share ideas with others from around the state.

Visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_small_animals_workshop to register by September 13.



2017 Harvest Fest

& Trunk or Treat



October 21, 2017

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Dr. T.K. Lawless Park

Admission: One canned food item or \$1 per person

The Friends of the Cass County Parks
will have concessions
available for purchase

Looking for a safe place to take your kids Trick-or-Treating??
The Cass County 4-H Youth Program had a blast partnering our Trunk or Treat programming with the Cass County Parks!!! So we are partnering again to bring you Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat all at one location! If you are interested in having a “trunk” at this event, please complete the reservation form below. Help make this an event to remember for our youth!

Note—“trunks” should arrive at T.K. Lawless Park between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The “Trunk or Treat” portion of this event will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



2017 Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat

Trunk Reservation

Please complete and return as soon as possible to: Michigan State University Extension— Cass County 120 N. Broadway, Suite 209, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031. Reserve your space early!

Name: _____
Check one: [] 4-H club/group [] Individual /family [] Business [] Organization [] School
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Please RSVP by Monday, October 9, 2017)

