

*Cass Clover*

# 4-H Family News

December 2016

## Dear 4-H Family and Friends,

The end of yet another 4-H year has me breathless and speechless as I look back and reflect on the amazing youth accomplishments in our little county of Cass. Looking towards the new year, with new changes, 2017 is bound to be another extraordinary year for Cass County and our youth.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy, safe, and joyous holiday season! I hope your start to 2017 is FANTASTIC!

As always, remember to read the rest of the Clover for important updates!

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Consford*

Stephanie Consford  
4-H Program Coordinator



## New Fair Enrollment Processes

Beginning in 2017, youth will be able to register for the Cass County Fair through an online system! While this won't be a requirement, youth, families, and clubs will be strongly encouraged through multiple training opportunities, to input this information themselves into the online system. Benefits include:

- Submitting your registration from the comfort of your home!
- Can't get to the office between 8:00 am and 5:00 p.m. on deadline day? You'll have until 11:59 p.m.!
- Have an electronic receipt with you at all times (be sure to print for your record books!)

You can see there are some great positives to registration being conducted online! We do understand that we may face some challenges when transferring over to this new system. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and patience as we make this transition.

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## Contact Us

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### Email

[consford@anr.msu.edu](mailto:consford@anr.msu.edu)

### Web Site

[msu.casscountymi.org/](http://msu.casscountymi.org/)

### Newsletter Web Site

[msu.casscountymi.org/4HYouth](http://msu.casscountymi.org/4HYouth)

## Rabbit Superintendent Position Available

The Rabbit 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](http://mycasscountyfair.com/forms/Superintendent_Policy_Application.pdf)

Applications are due to Brian Kuemin at [brian@griffinpest.com](mailto:brian@griffinpest.com) by December 16, 2016.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### Looking Ahead...

**March 4: Equine Test**  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
MSUE Conference Room  
210

**March 11-12: Challenge U  
4-H Funfest**  
Contact Michelle Neff  
([hydemich@msu.edu](mailto:hydemich@msu.edu))  
Kettunen Center, Tustin

**March 19-22: 4-H Capitol  
Experience**  
[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/  
program/  
info/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_capitol_experience)  
Okemos Conference Center,  
Okemos

**March 20: Awards Banquet**  
6:30 p.m., Dowagiac  
Conservation Club

**March 25: Leaders'  
Association Auction and  
Dinner Fundraiser**  
6:00 p.m., Dowagiac  
Conservation Club

**March 26: Michigan 4-H &  
FFA Horse Judging  
Contest**  
[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/  
events/  
michigan\\_4\\_h\\_ffa\\_horse\\_jud  
ging\\_contest](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_ffa_horse_judging_contest)  
MSU Pavilion, Lansing  
**Are you interested in being  
on the Horse Judging Team  
and competing in 2017? If  
so, or if you would like  
more information, please  
contact Robin Brennehan  
at (574) 849-6888.**

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

### 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 YPQA Training, 6:30 p.m., Van Buren ISD
- 22 4-H Day at the Breslin
- 24 Officer Training, 6:00 p.m., Van Buren ISD
- 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
- 30 Officer Training, 6:00 p.m., Dowagiac Union High School

### February

- 4-5: 4-H Winterfest, Kettunen Center, Tustin
- 13 YPQA Training, 6:30 p.m., Dowagiac Union High School Cafeteria/Media Center
- 15 Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 17-18: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop, Kettunen Center, Tustin
- 18-19: 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop, Kettunen Center, Tustin
- 23 Leader Interviews, 5:30 p.m. by appointment, MSUE Conference Room 210
- 23 Leaders' Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., MSUE Conference Room 210
- 25 Teen & Adult 4-H Horse Leaders' Conference East Lansing, MI

### 2017 Equine Test -NEW DATE

The equine test is scheduled for March 4, 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 4th, the snow date will be Saturday, March 11, 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. **Documentation of your absence must be received by the deadline or you will not be allowed to take the make-up test.** 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 back page for more details.

### A Very Special Event for Younger 4-H'ers



While Michigan 4-H Youth Development ([http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/4\\_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/4_h)) offers many educational opportunities for youth of all ages, there is a special, award-winning workshop for younger 4-H'ers (aged 8 to 12).

#### What and Why

4-H Winterfest ([http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4\\_h\\_winterfest\\_2](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_winterfest_2))

At this event, participants will:

- Spend two days learning new skills from experts in six different, action-packed sessions of their choice. Project areas may include crafts, science and technology, dance movement, shooting sports, healthy living, animal science and international education. Through such 4-H projects, young people enjoy hands-on activities, while developing life skills (<http://bit.ly/1PVDm1X>). For example, by allowing 4-H'ers to choose the sessions in which they want to participate, they learn decision-making skills and independence. At 4-H Winterfest, youth also learn communication, cooperation and teamwork. All in all, participants learn to make "the best (themselves) better."
- Experience some outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, outdoor cooking, tubing, snowshoeing and possibly hiking in the woods along the trails
- Enjoy an overnight workshop experience
- Meet other 4-H'ers from around the state



#### Who Should Attend

4-H'ers who are 8 to 12 years old as of January 1, 2017



#### Where

Kettunen Center (<http://www.kettunecenter.org>) in Tustin

#### When

February 4 to 5, 2017 (begins Saturday morning and ends before lunch on Sunday)

#### How

The Winterfest schedule and registration will be available in early December on the 4-H events web site ([http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/events/4\\_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/events/4_h)). The \$70 registration fee includes overnight housing, three meals, all session supplies and a special gift.

While you wait for 4-H Winterfest registration information to be posted on the Michigan 4-H web site, you can check the following for **more information**:

- Your local MSU Extension county 4-H staff (<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county>)
- The Winterfest Facebook page (<http://bit.ly/2eOnF2x>)
- Start Thinking About 4-H Winterfest Coming in February (<http://bit.ly/2fgW36S>)



*This workshop fills up quickly, so keep your eye peeled for registration information!*

### 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](http://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](mailto: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, January 26, 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.

## 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](http://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 Programs

### 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](mailto: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](#). Training for completing the application will be held on December 12th at the MSU Extension office at 6:00 p.m. RSVP required by December 9th.

### 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>. Applications are due to the County office by the second Friday in January of the current year.

## Cass County 4-H Leaders' Association Scholarship

The Cass County 4-H leaders' Association will award two college scholarship awards to two outstanding 4-H seniors from Cass County. Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2017.

If you are interested in applying for this award, go to <http://msu.casscountymi.org/4HYouth/4HDocumentsandForms.aspx>. You may also call the office to request a mailing or emailing of the application be sent to you.

Interviews will be scheduled with selected individuals once all applications have been submitted. Remember to dress in 'business/interview' type apparel if possible.

### Mechanicsburg 4-H Club News

At the 11/14 meeting roll call was taken and 1 new member was added. All the members brought the food for adopt a family. Thank you Lizzy Tharp for leading the pledge at the Jefferson township hall. We voted to have a Christmas party at the next meeting, December 12, 2016.

*Respectfully, - Lizzy Tharp, Reporter*

### Legacy 4-H Club News

Our club community services projects for this month were a non-perishable food drive for Helping Hands Pantry and new toy donations for Toys for Tots. Our club had a great turn out! Our 4-H families pitched in for two very worthy causes. The next Community Service Project will be New Socks for the Homeless in December and new non-food hygiene products for Helping Hands Pantry in January. Upcoming club events are two winter outings to Eby Pines roller skating and laser tag in January and the YMCA swimming and pizza party in February.

### Holiday Mail for Heroes

The Holiday Mail for Heroes program is an American Red Cross program that helps deliver holiday mail to U.S. troops, veterans and their families during the holiday season. This year, Cass County 4-H was able to submit over 400 cards to this organization for them to send on. A big thank you to all that participated including Sleepy Hollow 4-H Club, M-40 Hustlers 4-H Club, Drafted 4-H Club, and North Red Hill 4-H Club. A shout out to Erin Kramer for making 291 cards to send out this holiday season.

### Youth PQA Training Changes - NEW DATES

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 scheduled our two annual trainings for January 19, 2017 at the Van Buren ISD and February 13, 2017 at Dowagiac Union High School. Both programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. 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.

### 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!

## The Cass County MSU Extension Staff...

Stephanie Consford  
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

## Wish You A Very Happy Holiday Season!

# 2017 Equine Test



The equine test is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Location will be the MSU Extension Conference room 210 in the County Building (formerly known as the courthouse annex) in downtown Cassopolis. The address is 120 North Broadway, Cassopolis, MI.

If we are having inclement weather on March 4th, the snow date will be Saturday, March 11th, same time and place. (The test will only be given on the 11th if we have to cancel on March 4th.)

Members are 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 conference room 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 letter head confirming the 4-H or school 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. until 7:30 p.m. at the Cass District Library. (No test will be handed out after 7:00 p.m.)

There will also be a test for Cloverbuds. Cloverbuds members ages 5-8 can take the test **BEFORE** March 4th by getting it from their club leader **OR** they can take the test on March 4th. **ALL CLOVERBUD TESTS MUST BE TURNED IN BY TEST DAY!**

Cloverbuds need to indicate to their leader if they are **Cloverbud I** (first year), **Cloverbud II** (second year), **Cloverbud III** (third year) and put that information on their sign-up sheet.

Eight year old members will now be part of the **Level I** test if they want to.

Questions for the test will be taken from: "**HORSE SCIENCE**" (HS), and "**HORSE AND HORSEMANSHIP**" (HH). The HH & HS books were revised in 2001 and the test will be on the revised issues.

These books are no longer available for sale at the MSUE office. Each **club** now has a set of these

books for their members' use. Contact your key leader to see if they are available to use as a study guide. Additionally, the books can be ordered from [www.4-Hmall.org](http://www.4-Hmall.org).

The test will be specific questions on the following subjects for each age division:

## AGE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2017

**Level I** (8, 9, 10 yr olds) – Color and Color Markings (HH), Colic (HS)

**Level II** (11, 12, 13 yr olds) – Show Ring (HH), Health and Sanitation Principles, Colic (HS)

**Level III** (14, 15, 16 yr olds) – Gaits of the Horse (HH), Behavior and Nature (HS)

**Level IV** (17, 18, 19 yr olds) - Horse Judging, what to look for (HH), Unsoundness and Blemishes (HS) and Western Horsemanship (Rules and Regulations, 2011). (Rules and Regulations can be downloaded from the county website at [www.msu.casscounty.org](http://www.msu.casscounty.org).)

**Levels III and IV** will also be tested on the article "9 Ways to Keep Your Horse Cool." **Level III** will be tested on #1-4 and "Management, pg. 6" and **Level IV** will be tested on the entire document. (This article is available from your club leader or can be downloaded from the county website at [www.msu.casscounty.org](http://www.msu.casscounty.org).)

In order to receive a placing ribbon, a member must have 70% of their test correct.

The equine test is not mandatory to participate in fair, but **it is mandatory for 4-H High Points Traveling Trophies.**



Contact your club leader or the MSUE office with any questions.