



2009-2010 County Awards Information

The 2009 County Award forms have been distributed to the general leaders in their 4-H Club Manuals and are available on line at <http://www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/4hforms.htm> Applications are due in the 4-H office on Monday, November 16, 2009. The judging will take place on November 19, 2009. The County Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6 p.m. at the Macomb Intermediate School District, located on Garfield Road in Clinton Township. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan on joining us at the Awards Banquet for an enjoyable evening.

This is a great opportunity to recognize members and volunteers for their outstanding efforts, and all General Leaders are asked to encourage their members to participate. It also gives members experience in filling out forms and gathering information that would be helpful in applying for State Awards. (Please note: youth do not have to win at the County level to participate in State Awards Program.)

A workshop has not been scheduled due to lack of demand over the last couple of years. Karen Hakim would be happy to provide individual or small group help for anyone needing help.

If you would like to be part of the judging team or if you have any questions concerning the County Awards process, please contact Karen Hakim at (586) 469-6431.

Club Officer Training

Club Officer Training will take place on Tuesday, December 1st, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. Dinner will be provided. The following breakout sessions will follow a short general session:

- (1) Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Sgts.-at-Arms;
- (2) Secretaries/Clerks;
- (3) Treasurers and their adult helpers;
- (4) Historians and Reporters.

Please have one person RSVP to (586) 469-6431 by November 24th for your whole club. We need to know the name and session for each person who is attending. DUE TO STAFF CUTS WE WILL NOT BE OFFERING A JANUARY MAKE UP SESSION.

4-H Welcomes Vickie Hart...



Vickie Hart

The Macomb County MSU Extension 4-H office welcomes Vickie Hart to its ranks. Hart will be serving as a 4-H Youth Educator, replacing longtime employee Tina Fleming. Hart taught children in the Head Start program for 18 years before coming to MSU Extension in 2002 to train child care providers and parents in the 4C (Community Coordinated Child Care) office.

Hart has worked with many volunteer groups during her career and enjoys the outdoors, nature and animals. She is looking forward to a new challenge working with the 4-H Youth Development Program.

...And Says Good-Bye to Tina Fleming

It is with considerable sadness and regrets that we say good bye to Tina Fleming, a member of the 4-H staff since 1992. Tina worked part-time for 12 years until 2004, when her position was expanded to full time. At the County level, Tina coordinated the Horse, Mini Horse and Outdoor Education and Recreation programs, the Volunteer Selection Process, the Fair Subcommittee of the 4-H Council, Expo Days and National Congress and was the staff liaison to the 4-H clubs at Bovenschen and Peters Schools.

At a state level, Tina was active in the Michigan Association of Extension 4-H Youth Staff and wrote the proposal establishing the state Mini-Horse Program. She served as the State Military Liaison for 10 years, and when Michigan was invited to become a participant in Operation Military Kids, Tina wrote the grant to fund the program and served as the State Program Director until earlier this year.

Tina's awards as a passionate and zealous advocate for youth programming include several Certificates of Appreciation for serving as State Military Liaison, and three awards for her OMK work: A State Team Award, a Presidential Citation and a National Commendation Award from the Secretary of Defense.

In addition she received a State Team Award for the NATURE (New Adventures Together Using Our Environment) program and the Michigan and National Distinguished Service Awards for her overall work in 4-H.

Tina gave generously of her time in evenings and on weekends to insure the quality and success of the projects and activities with which she was involved. She was an accomplished "people person" who gained the respect of staff, volunteers, members and their families for her ability to handle difficult situations with poise and tact. Her kind-heartedness, helpful demeanor, and loyalty to job and community truly embodied the four H's. She will truly be missed and we wish her the best in the next phase of her life.



Tina Fleming

Club & Committee News

Volunteer of the Month: Karie Richardson



Karie Richardson

Karie Richardson, General Leader of Hoofbeats & More 4-H Club, is our November 2009 Volunteer of the Month. She was nominated by Nancy Davis of Macomb Clown Arounds 4-H Club. Davis wrote:

“On very short notice, Karie pulled her family together and tackled setting up the 4-H craft barn at the Armada Fair without assistance from anyone (but me). Without real knowledge as to how the barn should look, what equipment should be used and what should not be used, how much space was required for each section, etc...in other words, with total ambiguity, Karie worked tirelessly to put risers up, clean the area, put plastic down on all the tables, risers, etc. She hung tubes from the ceiling, had the 4-H banner moved from the other building and had that mounted and otherwise did everything

she possibly could, and then some, to set up the barn just right for all the projects, and the club displays. She meticulously worked through the many challenges we faced.

Several times when it looked like we might be done with the initial set up, she would anticipate another possible risk and make adjustments to the layout to accommodate/resolve the problem. She was quite concerned that the setup would adequately accommodate whatever might be brought into the barn (ie. the large garden display, the 4-H King and Queen displays, photo area, etc.).

I would love to work with Karie and her family again. I can tell you, first hand, anything that they put their mind to will be done with perfection.”

Congratulations, Karie. You're an asset to 4-H!

Act of Kindness Initiative

The 4-H Council started a new project called the “Act of Kindness Initiative” at the Armada Fair. Ten 4-H Council members were given five bracelets each to pass out to 4-H youths who were caught doing an unusual act of kindness. The names of these kind deed doer's were then submitted to the 4-H office and were placed in a drawing to win one of three gift certificates from local businesses. The three lucky winners were; Liz Brockert, Mya Brown and Heather Verfaillie.

Others who were caught being kind were:

Jonathan Kovalcik	Evan Senyk	Megan Grobbel
Samantha Colombo	Kori Kirskey	Kaitlyn Clough
Jonathan Eckout	Dylan Falker	Katherine Landis
Cody Pagan	Rebecca Konapaski	Emily Fleming
Jake Gregory	Jonathan Mueller	Jake Gregory
Zachary Douglas	Brianna Wilkinson	Ashley Cerku
Sidney Pallas	Maria Smith	Joshua Eckhout
Ryan Cerku	Troy Wilkinson	Kyle Smith

Congratulations! And thanks to all of you for spreading your kindness.

Dogs Evaluated for Canine Good Citizenship

On September 1 the Macomb County 4-H Companion Animals Committee held Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluations at Camp Rotary. Fourteen handlers brought dogs to be tested. The event was open to the general public as well as 4-H members, and three dogs that are not in 4-H families were among those evaluated. The AKC certified evaluator was 4-H leader Nancy Duemling.

The CGC test was developed by the American Kennel Club to offer an opportunity for people to show that their dog can consistently perform a set of basic manners, from walking nicely on lead to sitting and laying down on command. In Macomb County, we require 4-H dogs to have CGC (or Therapy Dog International) recognition in order to participate in nursing home visits.

4-H members who earned the CGC with their dogs this year were Cody White, Hannah Kwiecinski, Zachary Kwiecinski, Renee' Kolleth (with 2 dogs), Allisha Humenny and Kaylee McKenna.

Thanks to the Kwiecinski, Klena, Humenny, and Wichman families; Cody White, Renee Kolleth, Carole Castle and Barbara Gates for their assistance in providing the tests.

Submitted by Nancy Duemling, 4-H Volunteer



Allisha Humenny of K-9 & Kompany 4-H Club uses a wheelchair during a Canine Good Citizenship test.

Club & Committee News (continued)

Community Service Club Contest

During the 2008-09 4-H Program Year, each club had an opportunity to participate in a county wide contest to demonstrate their involvement in their community. Community service activities ranged from an Easter Egg Hunt, roadside clean up, collecting items for Ronald McDonald House, doing crafts with nursing home residents, helping fill baskets for Capuchin's Soup Kitchen, and helping out during various activities at Wolcott Farm. On September 24 at this year's Club Leader Update Meeting, all clubs who turned in a record of their community service activities to the office were recognized with a certificate and a received a book entitled "A Kid's Guide to Service Projects." We want to congratulate and thank the following clubs for their outstanding service and offering such a helping hand to their communities:

- Ray Community had a total of 291 community service hours with an average of 12 per youth member
- K-9 and Kompany had a total of 463 community service hours with an average of 14 per youth member
- Ambassador club had a total of 660 community service hours with an average of 17 hours per youth member
- School Section had 1089 community service hours and won the grand prize of \$200 for having an average of 19 hours per youth member. Bravo!

Make sure to keep track of you club's community service so your club can show off their spectacular work and win prizes. The record form is in your leader's club manual as well as online under 4-H forms.

Ambassador Club and the African Shoe Project

The Ambassador Club is planning on painting and donating canvas sneakers for children in Africa. This activity will take place at the VerKuilen Building in Assembly Rooms A & B on December 3, 2009 from 6:30-8 p.m.

If you or your club would like to participate in this new community service activity or would like to donate shoes, please contact Karen Hakim at (586) 469-6431.



Clever Clovers Make Piñatas for Folk Festival



The Clever Clovers with the help of the Trail Blazers worked for three days on a large community service project. Our goal was to make 600 piñatas for the MSU Great Lakes Folk Festival. On July 20, 21, 22 we met at the Kirksey's house to work on our messy papier-mâché balloons. We used 80 pounds of flour to make the 400 piñatas we got done. The MSU gave away the piñatas to children to decorate for the fiesta portion of the festival. Our clubs were happy to get messy for community service.

Submitted by Rachel Clough

Local 4-H members made piñatas for the MSU Great Lakes Folk Festival. Pictured, from left to right, are Haley Waterstraat, Ashley Brodacki, Liz Crawford, and Neva Kirksey. All are members of Clever Clovers 4-H Club.

Upcoming Events

Horse Leaders Conference

This workshop at Kettunen Center is designed for adult leaders who are involved with county 4-H Horse Programs. Topics include updates on current subject matter in the horse area and information to assist leaders in youth development, leadership skills for youth, youth activities, and opportunities beyond a county program. Interaction with leaders from different counties is encouraged, to exchange ideas and programs and meet other volunteers who share this same interest. The workshop will be held November 20-22, 2009, and is open to adult 4-H horse project leaders. The cost is \$67. Register by November 6.

Citizenship, Leadership & Service Conference

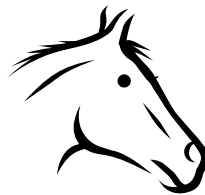
This exciting conference will take place January 23-24 at Kettunen Center. Teens ages 14 years old and up and adults will learn leadership and civic engagement skills to use to make a difference in their communities. The conference has sessions for both the 4-H and non-4-H member. There are several tracks to choose from. Teens and adults sign up for a track to attend when they register.

Contact the MSU Extension office at 586-469-6431 or Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov for an information packet, which contains complete descriptions of each track.

4-H Cultural Diversity Life Skill Training

Please join us on Tuesday, December 22nd, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the 4-H office for a Life Skills Training on Cultural Diversity. We are asking that you bring a dish to pass that represents your culture or family traditions. We live in a very diverse world and it is important to understand, accept, and respect others. Please RSVP to Rachel at (586) 783-8163 by Friday, December 18..

Zuccaro's Hosts 4-H Horse Banquet



The annual Horse Banquet will be held at Zuccaro's on Sunday, November 15th. Doors open at 1 p.m. The banquet will begin at 1:30. Reservations

must be made with Faye Cerku, 586-731-6487, by November 5th. Participants should bring a non-perishable food or hygiene item for donation to a local shelter.

On Target!



The Macomb County 4-H Shooting Sports/Archery program is seeking participants from more clubs. If some members of your club are interested in adding this activity, please contact LeRoy Mikolowski at 586-255-0505. He'll set up a time for you to try out the activity, get an organized program started if you like it, and help a screened volunteer from your club become certified in the activity.

4-H Essay Contest:

What it means to be a Good 4-H Sport

Being a good 4-H sport can mean many things. It all depends on the situation. When I think of a good 4-H sport, I think of someone who is all about the experience of 4-H, and does not have their mind set on winning or losing. They are proud of who wins and do not take out their struggles and frustrations on other people.

4-Hers with good sportsmanship have patience with themselves and others. They genuinely give compliments to those who might not have done as well as them, as well as those who have done even better than themselves. They take time to wish others 'good luck' if they are about to compete to show an animal and congratulate others after they have already shown their animals.

Finally, those with good sportsmanship are respectful towards others and focus on doing their best rather than paying attention to how good or bad they think others are doing. At the end of the day, they are proud of themselves and that is all that truly matters to them. They aren't going to waste their energy by becoming jealous of others or putting themselves down.

*By Michael Scarsella, 4-H Member
Ray Community 4-H Club*

People, Pets & Vets



People, Pets & Vets is a FREE hands-on, interactive educational program designed for children of all ages to learn about animals and proper animal care.

At this unique program, children can see and touch a variety of different animals and talk to veterinarians, veterinary technicians and other animal care providers and service groups. Dentistry, ophthalmology, cardiology, anatomy, parasitology, dogs with jobs, pet first aid and other topics will be presented. Bring your stuffed animal for a free check-up and surgery if needed. The event will be held at Macomb Community College, Building E, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, November 7th. Several 4-H clubs will be participating.

Notes from the 4-H Office

Club and Office Communications

MSUE 4-H staff receives announcements from various sources daily. We want to make sure you are receiving information that is important and of interest to you. **Everyone** can help this process by doing the following:

- Designate at least two people to be the **club's communicators**. These people would be responsible for sharing information with families who are not on e-mail. This is especially important in the fall when new families are not in the database yet or if the leader does not have e-mail. The 2009-2010 database will not be completely updated with new enrollment information until January.
- Make sure to read the E-mail updates and the "Family Notes;" they are packed with information. E-mail updates go out approximately every two weeks and the Family Notes comes out every other month (odd numbered months ie, January, March, May, etc.) and is mailed or e-mailed to everyone registered with 4-H.
- Make sure your e-mail, address, phone numbers and enrollment form are up-to-date. If your contact information changes or you add/ delete project areas, contact Roberta so she can make sure you receive information of interest.
- If your club or family would like to share information with other 4-H groups, send it to Macomb4h@macombcountymi.gov or fax (586) 469-6948 or mail, attention to Roberta.
- Check out our website: http://www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/4h_index.htm. With just a click or two, everyone can view the calendar of events, forms, flyers, and many other resources. The website is currently undergoing major renovations which should be completed by the beginning of 2010.

It is **everyone's** responsibility to stay informed. The information is out there—in the newsletters, e-mails, county website, calendar, and club manual. Given the reduction in staff hours, budget cuts, and personnel changes, everyone needs to take a larger role in keeping themselves and others in their club informed to ensure no one is left out.



Kathy Jamieson	Jan Gwozdz
Anne Crotser	Rachel Calcaterra
Karen Hakim	Roberta Busquaert
Vickie Hart	Marcia Bloomfield

County Offices Closed

Macomb County offices, including MSU Extension, will be closed on the following dates:

Veterans' Day

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26, 2009
and Friday, November 27, 2009

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2009

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2009

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1, 2010

2010 4-H Children's Art Exchange and Teaching Kit



Every year, through the Michigan 4-H Children's Art Exchange, kindergarten through sixth grader students are invited to send "visual letters" to children their own ages in China. Free teaching kits are available to facilitate teaching about China and creating artwork. A selection of Michigan artwork is then sent to China as a gift to the children of China. The Kit is available here in Macomb County in January, February and March of 2010. If you would like to reserve the Chinese Art Kit for use with your club or for more information, contact Karen Hakim at the MSU Extension 4-H office (586) 469-6431.

Macomb County 4-H Staff

Kristen Grifka, County Extension Director	Roberta Busquaert, 4-H Secretary
Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Youth Agent	Jan Gwozdz, 4-H Mentor Coordinator
Anne Crotser, 4-H Youth Educator	Rachel Calcaterra, 4-H Youth Educator
Vickie Hart, 4-H Youth Educator	Marcia Bloomfield, 4-H Mentor Prg. Secretary
Karen Hakim, 4-H Youth Educator	

Macomb County MSU Extension, 21885 Dunham Road, #12, Clinton Twp., MI 48036
Telephone: (586) 469-6431 Fax: (586) 469-6948
E-mail: Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov
Web: <http://macombcountymi.gov/msuextension>



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Macomb County 4-H Calendar of Events - November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Annual Summary Financial Reports & Club Inventory Reports due 4-H Club Enrollment Meetings, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration Deadline for returning 4-H members who plan on showing 4-H projects at the 2010 Armada Fair	3	4	5 New Volunteer Orientation 6-8:30pm MSU Extension	6	7 People, Pets & Vets Macomb Community College Center Campus, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12 4-H Companion Animal Program Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MSU Extension	13	14
15 4-H Horse Banquet, 1:30 p.m., Zuccaro's, RSVP required	16 4-H County Award Applications due	17	18	19 4-H County Award Judging	20 4-H Horse Leaders Conference, Kettunen Center, Nov. 20-22	21 4-H Horse Leaders Conference, Kettunen Center, Nov. 20-22
22 4-H Horse Leaders Conference, Kettunen Center, Nov. 20-22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Macomb County 4-H Calendar of Events - December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Club Officer Training 6-8:30 p.m., MSU Extension	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Cultural Diversity 6:30-8:30 MSU Extension	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		