Macomb County 4-H E-mail Announcements for January 5, 2011

COUNTY NEWS

*** Become a 4-H Youth Conservation Council Member***

The Macomb 4-H YCC is an environmental leadership opportunity for teens aged 13 to 19 that includes:

- A learning experience working with conservation decision-makers in local government.
- The chance to improve presentation and public speaking skills.
- Time spent researching and presenting conservation issues to local legislative committees.
- The opportunity to organize and/or participate in environmental community service projects.
- The chance to be formally recognized as a youth leader in conservation.
- Networking opportunities with teens, agency professionals and government officials through meetings, training sessions, and civic participation.
- The chance to gather valuable information on career opportunities.

For more information contact MSU Extension: Mary Gerstenberger --- 586-469-6085, or gerste10@msu.edu

Cultural Diversity Potluck Life Skill Training

On Wednesday, December 22, the 4-H Youth Mentor Program will be having our annual potluck holiday dinner at the 4-H office from 630-830 p.m. We are asking that each match/family bring a dish to pass that represents their cultures. The 4-H program will provide the main course. We will start off with dinner and afterwards we will share our own cultures and traditions. We live in a very diverse world and it is important to understand, accept, and respect others. We will also have different activities to participate in. Please RSVP to Rachel Calcaterra by Tuesday, December 21 at 586-783-8163 or rcalca@macombcountymi.gov

4-H Horse Judging Team Looking for Members

The Macomb County 4-H Horse Judging Team is looking for members. The team meets locally about 2-3 times a month from January through April and attends some events at MSU as well. State competition is at MSU in April. There are some small scholarships awarded to the top placing individuals at the state competition, and there is the possibility of going on to compete nationally. The meeting schedule has yet to be finalized. Meeting times and dates will be based on the availability of all interested parties. Anyone interested in the Macomb County 4-H Horse Judging Team should call Lucy Brown at (810) 326-0897 or send e-mail to lamckier@yahoo.com.

STATE NEWS

4-H Mark of Excellence Awards

4-H members ages 11 and 12 may participate in this 4-H essay contest. 4-H members will have the opportunity to share their 4-H experiences with other 4-H youth in their county and across the state. Interested 4-H'ers will write an essay focusing on the theme **"Because of 4-H, I Can…".** Each county may select up to two representatives to be recognized during the State Awards Celebration at MSU in June during 4-H Exploration Days. Although participation in 4-H Exploration Days is not required, it is strongly encouraged. Essays will be due to the county office **March 1st.** For more information, go to the following website: http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/staward.html .

*** State Awards***

The Michigan State 4-H Awards Program is an opportunity for members 4-H age 13 to 19 years with three or more year of experience in 4-H, to meet new friends, gain leadership skills, increase their interviewing skills, improve their writing skills, and compete for recognition in more than 30 different project areas.

Program participants must submit completed individual or group awards application forms to their county office by **March 1st.** The applications are evaluated on the county level and submitted for regional competition. Regional winners are selected by early April. Regional winners can compete for state-level honors in one project area.

State winners are selected during the 4-H Awards Assembly, held at MSU during Exploration Days in June. Selection is based on the awards application and an interview. Winners are announced at the 4-H Awards Celebration, which is held on Thursday night of 4-H Exploration Days. For more information visit the State Awards website at http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/staward.html.

MSU Horsemen's Weekend

The MSU Horsemen's Association will host a weekend of horse related activities January 15-16, at the MSU Pavilion. The 15th will offer a Horse Judging clinic, a Dressage clinic and a Polo match. In addition, club representatives will be available to answer questions about equine extra curricular activities at MSU. On January 16 the MSU Equestrian Team will host 2 Stock Shows. Come and cheer on those Spartans. There will also be several vendor booths and club merchandise for sale. For more information, please go to: https://www.msu.edu/~msuha/Announcements.html.

***4-H Equine Communications Contest Rules/Entry Information Available**

The rules and entry information for the upcoming 4-H Equine Communications Contest are available on the Animal Science Youth Extension website - Upcoming Events, http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/events.html

4-H Ski Day at Apple Mountain

Apple Mountain Resort in Freeland Michigan will be holding their annual 4-H Ski Day for members and their families on Sunday, January 30, 2011. Ski and snowboard packages begin at $24 and include lift ticket, rental pass, and a complimentary lesson. Pre-registration by January 23, 2011 is required. A registration form can be obtained Apple Mountain at 888-781-6789 or www.applemountain.com.

*** Capitol Experience ***

Capitol Experience is a 4-day "State Government Camp" that focuses on leadership, civic engagement and public policy held in Lansing March 20-23. To learn more about this extraordinary event from a former youth participant's point of view, check out comments by Marquette County's Gentian Waller at http://www.upriders.com/Archives/2010/03/CapitolExperience.htm

The cost for 2011 Capitol Experience is $295 for 4-H members and $305 for non-4-H members. The event is open to high school age youth and adult participant chaperones. 4-H Council scholarships covering up to 50% are available to eligible members. Applications, which are due to the county 4-H Office by February 4, 2011 are now online at http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/capexp.html. Contact Anne Crotser at 586-469-6431 or anne.crotser@macombcountymi.gov for more information.

*** Polish Exchange Program***

Host families with teens are needed for about 20 youth, ages 15-17 and two adult chaperons from Poland who will be in Michigan for 4 weeks from mid-June to mid-July. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a life-long international friend, learn about Polish culture, and share American culture. Hosts can choose to visit Poland on a return exchange in 2012. The deadline for applying to host is April 1, 2011. For more information and an application, contact Anne Crotser at 586-469-6431 or anne.crotser@macombcountymi.gov. For more information about all of the international opportunities 4-H officers, visit the following web site: http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/culture.html.

4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop

February 26-27, 2011 - Kettunen Center

If you're interested in 4-H beef cattle, sheep or swine projects, this workshop is for you. You'll learn about animal health, management, care and nutrition. In addition, you can sharpen your livestock judging and evaluation skills. By sharing ideas and interacting with others, you'll find ways to improve your county 4-H livestock program. The workshop will also offer ways to enhance your communications and teaching skills, and learn about the many opportunities available for those interested in the beef, sheep and swine industries. Open to adult and teen volunteers aged 13 and up. Call the MSU Extension 4-H office at 586-469-6431 or send e-mail to Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov for more information or to register.

4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Volunteer Workshop

February 25-26, 2011 - Kettunen Center

Explore animal systems and learn about animal health for a broad array of animal species by sharing information and experiences, asking questions and quizzing veterinarians about their skills. You can also participate in hands-on demonstrations that teach you how to help young people recognize healthy, sick or injured animals. Meet others who have developed outstanding veterinary science projects and gain ideas to help other young people start their own vet science projects. Open to adult and teen volunteers aged 13 and older. Call the MSU Extension office at 586-469-6431 or send e-mail to Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov for more information or to register.

NATIONAL NEWS

CALENDAR

*** Calendar of Events ***

For additional information about events listed above and more, visit the Macomb County MSU Extension 4-H Calendar online at http://www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/events/index.htm.

MSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.