Spring has sprung and summer feels like it’s just around the corner! Luckily, the Clever Clovers Club came up with this excellent Fair theme, ‘Get Carried Away with 4-H!’ Sometimes we all get carried away with our daily tasks, like homework, chores, and other obligations. Isn’t it a refreshing challenge, to ‘get carried away’ with a project that you really enjoy? Whether you are into archery or sewing, livestock or dance, we dare you to take your project, and club, to the next level! If you are up to the challenge, there are lots of ways to get there… If your club doesn’t already keep an updated scrapbook of all your events and accomplishments, start one. Chances are, your 4-H Club already participates in some sort of community service activity, but have you ever helped plan one? Start now by asking a club leader what you can do to help, or offer a service project idea, like bringing your pets to a local nursing home for pet therapy. You can do the research, call, and schedule a visit yourself! Also, if you don’t already complete a 4-H Record Book, ask your leader for one, or contact the 4-H Office. Record Books are a great way to keep track of goals and achievements! Lastly, come to the Fair on July 31st & August 1st. But don’t just show up; get involved, and get carried away with 4-H!

Chad Ripberger
County 4-H Agent

Kaitlin Everett
4-H Program Associate

**UPCOMING 4-H EVENTS**

**RECORD BOOK & SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT** THURSDAY 4/15

**RUTGERS DAY @ RUTGERS UNIVERSITY** SATURDAY 4/24

**COUNTY PUBLIC PRESENTATION NIGHT** FRIDAY 5/14

**FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND** FRIDAY-SUNDAY 5/21-5/23
The South Jersey Teen Conference was held from March 5-7 at the Trenton Marriott, and was a huge success! The highlight of the weekend was the ‘Great 4-H Race’ which took place on Saturday and included downtown Trenton sights, like the NJ State Museum and the Old Barracks, and a service event (sewing hats for the needy). Other highlights included the dance, voting for a South Jersey Teen Rep., and making new friends from all over the state! Teens from ten counties attended. The Mercer County reps. were: Ajee, Ameerah, Ananeis, Emily, Jasmine, & Tim.

The Presentation Workshop was held March 15th. In attendance were members from the Animal Palace and Hot Shots Clubs. We watched the 4-H Public Presentation video, and discussed topics, parts, and tips. There was a demonstration on presenting do’s and don’ts using the easily replicated ‘How to Make a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich’ topic. At the end of the workshop, 4-H’ers snacked on PB&J sandwiches while watching others present, because everyone knows how to make a good PB&J! At right, Olivia, a first year 4-H’er, gives presenting a try. Great job!

The NJ Junior Breeder Symposium was held March 20th at Rutgers University Cook Campus. 4-H members from the Clever Clovers Club took part in the day-long livestock workshop. They learned about large & small ruminants, animal health, and cheese making.

The National 4-H Conference took place from March 20th-25th in Chevy Chase, MD. Delegates focused on citizenship, visiting their Representatives on Capitol Hill, sight seeing in downtown D.C., and brainstorming with teens from across the country.
Catherine Jesson, known to many as C.J., was involved in 4-H as a child, and was an active member of the 4-Leaf Clover Club. She continued her love for all that 4-H stood for, and acted as a leader for the Clowns with a Cause Club as an adult. Many 4-H members, volunteers, and staff meant so much to her over her years, and she would never miss the 4-H Fair.

C.J. will be missed by her many 4-H friends. The Jesson and Post families have made a generous donation to the 4-H Club Program in C.J’s memory.
Shades of Pemberley Club
meets on Monday afternoons to practice English Country Dances. Though we usually try to do 10-12 dances each week, we shortened it to 6-7 in January and February to take advantage of the weather and do some sledding. Club members also took part in county 4-H events, like the Club Officer Training.

The club has also taken time to plan field trips. In January, we took a field trip to Grounds for Sculpture. January and February also provided several opportunities to attend dances in Lambertville and Princeton. The highlight of these dances was the “February Fling”. While there, members posed for a picture that featured two more generations of dancers! In addition, Monday meetings are usually followed by card games or ‘Apples to Apples’.

Community service isn’t for the birds! Well, not usually...

The club has been active in community service. The group became “Ambassadors” for the Great Backyard Bird Count. GBBC is an event that occurs every President’s Day weekend and is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell. In addition to doing our own counting and reporting, we got the word out through e-mails and put up flyers in 3 counties!

The ‘Hot Shots’ 4-H Shooting Sports Club got a fresh name and new club officers at a recent club meeting. Among the 2010 club officers are:
President—Jack O. / Vice President—Eddie F.
Secretary—Mary Catherine S. / Treasurer—Ray S., Other club news includes: Club members continue to track their progress in archery by keeping score of points and distance. The club plans to focus on air rifle in May and will host a shooting sports tent at the Fair. Club members are excited to meet and practice their sport outside now that the weather is warm! Below, members of the ‘Hot Shots’ Shooting Sports Club steady their bows at the shooting line at practice, while Coach Vince offers advice and support.

The Animal Palace Small Animal Club has elected the following as club officers:
President - Tess K.
Vice President - Leah G.
Secretary - Maura F.
Treasurer– Olivia L.
Health Officer– Paige K.

In other news, club members have recently participated in the Public Presentation Workshop, held a meeting about healthy foods for people and pets, and plan to do a field trip now that the weather is cooperating. Keep up the great work!

2010 Shades of Pemberley Club Officers are as follows:
Social Chairmen: Emma K. & Ian L.
Field Trip Chairmen: Rachel J. & Tim S.
Community Service Chairmen: Alex & Evan
Historian: Melissa K.
Web-master: Andy M.
**The Clever Clovers 4-H Club**

has been busy! Members have recently attended 4-H Winter Camp, South Jersey Teen Conference, National 4-H Conference, and NJ Junior Breeders Symposium at Rutgers University! During recent club meetings they have held a potluck dinner, club presentation days, and a bake sale fundraiser at a Tree Farm. In addition, members have made and donated crafts to ‘Meals on Wheels’, and have written nearly 50 holiday cards to send to deployed soldiers overseas! Great job Clever Clovers!!!

**The Snip & Stitch Sewing Club** has been busy with new patterns! Check out these cool sleep pants sewn by Adeline!

**Congrats Boltin’ Colts 4-H Horse Club!**

Club members worked hard to prepare for the NJ 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Event that was held in Cape May County from April 10-11, and it paid off! This was their very first competition and members had just a few short months to practice! Results are as follows:

**Jr. High Individual Halter Division:** Nikki (1st), CJ (2nd), and Sarah (6th);

**Jr. High Individual Oral Reasons:** Nikki (5th);

**Jr. High Individual Overall:** Nikki (7th), CJ (8th), and Sarah (10th);

**Jr. High Oral Reasons** (3rd); and **Jr. High Team Overall** (3rd)! Way to represent Mercer County 4-H!

**The Hamilton Anime Club (HAC)**

will be visiting Rutgers University Mason Gross School of Arts for a specialized Anime Drawing Class offered to NJ 4-H Anime Clubs on Saturday, May 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. An instructor will show the 4-H’ers basic drawing techniques, as well as cartooning and Japanese Anime style tips. Club members are excited to take part in the workshop and to see a university drawing studio for the first time!

**The 4-H Diversity Club is back!** This club is for 4th-7th graders who are looking to make a difference in their communities and within themselves! Come join us at the 4-H Office on the 1st & 3rd Thursday’s of the month from 6:30-8:00pm. Recently, we learned how to make a healthy chicken fajita salad and planned for our upcoming meetings. Our plans include: a ‘dress for success’ mall trip, attending the Trenton Youth Film Festival, and completing a community service event and club fundraiser. Join us at our next meeting!

**Mobile Text Donations Support State 4-H Programs**

On April 1, National 4-H Council kicked off the 4-H Give2Vote Challenge, a month-long fundraising campaign to benefit state 4-H programs through mobile & online donations.

Read more: [http://4-h.org/news/?p=1084](http://4-h.org/news/?p=1084)

Donate now: [http://n4h.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=donate_landing&autologin=true](http://n4h.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=donate_landing&autologin=true)
### April

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For more information about 4-H and other Extension events, check out the Extension Website at: [http://mercer.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://mercer.njaes.rutgers.edu)

### May

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<td><strong>County Public Presentations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rutgers Science Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gorgeous Container Creations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family Camp Weekend at 4-H Camp</strong></td>
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Record Books, like Presentations, are an important part of the 4-H experience. If you have a 4-H Record Book handy, flip through the pages. You'll see, the questions and topics are simply highlighting all you've learned over this past year with your club. Your Record Book is like a journal, if you complete a little at a time, it doesn't become an overwhelming task! When you are done, you'll be proud of your accomplishments.

Did you know that there are 4-H Record Books for nearly every project area? There is also a General 4-H Record Book available at the County 4-H Office for use for all other projects. You can really make your 4-H Record Book your own by completing the 4-H Story section, adding in pictures of you and your 4-H club working on your projects, and finishing it off in a binder that has your name and project area on the front cover.

If you aren't sure what your project is, here are some examples:
Which of the following designs will be chosen as the official NJ Cloverbud Logo? The decision is up to you, as long as you are currently a registered Cloverbud member, in grades K-3! Simply go to http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/logo-contest/ to vote for your favorite. But hurry, voting is only open until April 19th! Tell your Cloverbud friends!

The Rutgers Geology Museum was transformed into a living laboratory on April 10th for 45 middle school youth who joined Rutgers professors to explore research in interactive activities, gaining a better understanding of opportunities available in science, engineering, and technology. Part of the ongoing Rutgerscience Saturdays program launched by Rutgers 4-H Department of Youth Development, the middle school students worked with university scientists in hands-on lessons and demonstrations involving exploring the fundamentals of geology, how we apply our knowledge of geology to drill for oil, and the paleontological history of the Earth and the human species. Join us next time!

For more information on Rutgerscience Saturdays, go to: http://4hset.rutgers.edu.

Upcoming Rutgerscience Saturdays will be held on May 15th & June 5th. The upcoming Rutgerscience Saturday topics will be Microbes and Entomology.
Top 10 Reasons to be a 4-H Volunteer:

10. Low cost solutions to community problems
9. Improve goal setting & decision making skills
8. Develop skills to succeed in the workplace
7. Make change happen for the better
6. Tap into new talent and energy
5. Become a community leader
4. Meet new, interesting people
3. Take part in activities you enjoy
2. Support a community program you believe in
1. Create opportunities for your kids & others!

***Please remind club members to send in club photos and reports!***

1st Annual Public Service Photography Contest

In celebration of Public Service Recognition Week 2010, the Alliance 4 Public Service from Rutgers-Newark School of Public Affairs & Admin. is sponsoring a public a photo contest.

They are seeking photo submissions of public service activities & public servants, including: fundraising, environmental clean-up, community events, and public workers like teachers.

They hope to see interesting, creative snapshots of public service in action. Winners will be displayed at the School of Public Affairs & Administration building, on the web, and in Civic Engagement magazine.

Criteria
Submit digital photos of public service in either black and white or color. Photos sent should be in JPEG form or TIFF form and at least 300 dpi.

Judging & Prizes
Judging is based on how well the photo portrays public service in a visually interesting way. Photos should be creative/compelling. Prizes will be awarded in the following photo categories: Public Servant at Work, Volunteering, Fundraising, and Service Project.

Submission
A maximum of 3 photos may be submitted. The deadline is Friday, April 23rd.
Digital photos as well as any questions may be emailed to: pubserve@newark.rutgers.edu
An application form must be sent with photos. Please download it here: http://publicservice.newark.rutgers.edu

April Service Idea

Did you know that April is the Month of the Military Child?
Get started on a service project to benefit military kids! Operation: Military Kids (OMK) is a nationwide 4-H/Army Youth Development Program which supports military families dealing with deployment.
OMK facilitates many service projects throughout NJ each year, including the assembly of Hero Packs - backpacks stuffed with goodies to support military kids.
For more info, check out: www.operationmilitarykids.org
If your club is interested in service projects for military kids, or just looking for new ideas, contact the 4-H Office.
All 4-H Members *including Cloverbuds* are encouraged to participate. Please arrive at 6:00 p.m. to check in. Presentations will being at 6:30 p.m.

4-H’ers Name: ___________________ Club: ___________________

Email Address: ___________________ Phone #: ___________________

Grade: _______ Birth date: __________ Years in 4-H: ___

Cloverbud Member: Yes / No # of Past Presentations: _______

Title of Presentation: ______________________________

Brief Explanation: ______________________________

Type of Presentation:
___ Demonstration ___ Illustrated Talk ___ Formal Speech ___ Performing Arts

Length of Presentation: ______ minutes. Suggested times:
Cloverbuds: 1-5 minutes; 4th-7th graders: 5-8 minutes; 8th grade & up: 8-15 minutes

Will you need equipment? The 4-H projector, laptop, kitchen, etc., are available for use. Call the 4-H Office at 609.989.6833 to reserve these items in advance.

Return by: Monday, May 3rd
Return to: The Mercer County 4-H Office
930 Spruce Street, Trenton, NJ 08648
Fax: 609.396.9573
Email: keverett@njaes.rutgers.edu
92nd Annual Mercer County 4-H Fair
July 31 & August 1, 2010
Howell Living History Farm

Get Carried Away with 4-H!

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive

*Create a Cover Design using this Fair theme & return it to the office by July 1*
MERCER COUNTY 4-H

930 Spruce St.
Trenton, NJ 08648
Phone: 609-989-6833
Fax: 609-396-9573
E-mail: keverett@NJAES.Rutgers.edu

Record Book & Scrapbooking Night 4/15
Rutgers Day @ Rutgers University 4/24
County Public Presentation Night 5/14
Rutgerscience Saturdays - 4/10, 5/15 & 6/5
Becoming an Outdoor Family Camp - 5/21-5/23
92nd Mercer County 4-H Fair - 7/31 & 8/1

For more 4-H information, check out: http://mercer.njaes.rutgers.edu & http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/

4-H STAFF

Chad Ripberger, County 4-H Agent; Sharon Gore, Program Associate
Miss Harmon, Program Associate; Kate Everett, Program Associate
LouAnn Mastromarino, Program Assistant; Adele Dinges, Secretary