The 93rd annual Mercer County 4-H Fair was a remarkable showcase of the productive year experienced by Mercer County 4-H’ers. Congratulations to all of you for taking what the 4-H program has to offer and making it the very best.

This issue has a pull-out of fair photos and results that you may keep in your 4-H scrapbook or record book. Speaking of record books, you will be getting yours back at the annual achievement night which will be held on November 4th this year. Enjoy the fall and the start of a new 4-H club year.

Chad Ripberger  
County 4-H Agent

Altaira Bejgrowicz  
4-H Program Assistant

4-H EVENTS

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is held each summer at the National 4-H Youth Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This past summer Mercer County sent Emily Dallas of the Clever Clovers and Hot Shots Shooting Sports clubs.

Emily created a great blog to follow during her trip. If you have not yet had the chance to visit her site, check it out at http://edindc2011.blogspot.com/

If you would like to learn more about CWF, visit the website at: www.4hcwf.org. or talk to Emily!

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- 4-H Events
- 4-H Fair in Photos
- Club Reports
- New Clubs
- A Fond Farewell
- Upcoming Events

2011 Fair Art Design Winners

Winning Fair Tee Shirt Design: Brianna Fitzpatrick, Boltin’ Colts

Winning Program Cover Design: Maggie Emley, Clever Clovers

Winning Exhibit Catalog Cover Design: Kristie VonThun, Clever Clovers

GREAT JOB Artists!

(l to r) Maggie Emley, Kristie VonThun, Brianna Fitzpatrick
Forty-one 4-H members from three counties (Hunterdon, Mercer, Salem) exhibited 117 goats at the 2011 New Jersey 4-H Goat Show held at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Ag. Fairgrounds.

**Dairy Goat Novice Showmanship and Fitting (8 entries)**
Placing 1st - Lee Sortore

**Dairy Goat Junior Showmanship and Fitting (15 entries)**
Placing 1st - Kellie VonThun

**Dairy Goat Senior Showmanship and Fitting (8 entries)**
Placing 1st - Tim VonThun
Placing 2nd - Kristie VonThun
Placing 3rd - Alex Potosky

**Best in Show, Senior Doe**
Kristie VonThun (LaMancha)

**Kohr’s Trophy**
Tim VonThun (Oberhasli)

**Dam and Daughter-Dairy**
Kristie VonThun (LaMancha)

**County Herd**
Mercer County

**Breed Junior and Senior Champions**

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**Congratulations to all of our County Participants!**
On April 30th, our club, Science 4-Communities, participated at the Rutgers Day event and set up a robotics tent that gave young scientists and enthusiasts an opportunity to learn more about robotics in general and more about our club. But before the start of the event the club members had to work diligently to create an original and out-of-the-box robot. Instead of just doing a show and tell with the robot, we have created an interactive shooterbot to make it fun and interesting for children and adults by providing an opportunity to try using it. As soon as we arrived at the tent we had to get to work right away, since people were already pouring into the campus. A leader of another 4-H club from Somerset County was already there to help us. We have had a huge interest and response from the attendees and made the day go by very quick. During the presentation of the shooterbot, we let the attendees take control of the touch sensors that allowed it to turn and shoot the balls at the cup. Overall, the Rutgers Day event has provided all the club members with an opportunity to share the work with the attendees, young and adult alike, and to spread the support of Mercer 4-H club to Science-4-Communities, 4-H club. There was a lot of interest in understanding where one can get a robot from and how to make it work the way we presented.

This was a great learning experience for all of the club members and we are looking forward to making new and improved robots to show others and to bring to competitions.
4-H EVENTS

County Presentation Night, it's about...

the presentations….

the judges and audience…

ribbons and recognition ...

going to the state public presentations!

but it's also about…

Congratulations to those who attended County Presentation night 2011. We had several well prepared 4-H members make their presentations that May evening. It was a pleasure to see so many of you comfortable and confident with your topic and in front of an audience!

learning by doing! If you haven’t taken the opportunity to challenge yourself and see what you are capable of achieving, please consider coming to County Presentation Night 2012.

Look for details about this upcoming event in the winter newsletter or ask your club leader what it’s all about!

Great job Mercer County 4-H!
The Fair in Photos!
FAIR RESULTS

**Sheep Show:**
George Stillwell 1st Place intermediate & Champion Showmanship
Samantha Cattani 1st Place Senior Showmanship
Nate Byrnes 1st Place Junior Showmanship
George Stillwell Best in Show

**Costume Contest:**
1st Place Maggie Emley (SuperRab)
2nd Place Eli Byrnes (Harry & Hermione)
3rd Place Katie Carter (Sandy & Danny)
4th Place Lizzie Elliott (Farmer Teeny)
5th Place Lee Sortore (Sgt Periberly)

**Goat Milking Contest:**
Kristie VonThun Master Milker
Alex Byrnes Amateur Milker

**Goat Show:**
Alex Potosky 1st Place Senior & Champion Showmanship
Kellie VonThun 1st Place Junior Showmanship
Kristie VonThun Best Senior Doe in Show
Tim VonThun Best Junior Doe in Show

**Poultry Show:**
Maggie Emley Best in Show
Gabe Andrei 1st Place Senior & Champion Showmanship

**Sheep Show:**
George Stillwell 1st Place intermediate & Champion Showmanship
Samantha Cattani 1st Place Senior Showmanship
Nate Byrnes 1st Place Junior Showmanship
George Stillwell Best in Show

**Caretakers:**
Emily Dallas
Lee Sortore
Nate Byrnes

**Club Booth Display Winner**
Hot Shots Shooting Sports Club

**Rutgers Against Hunger food drive**
734 lbs. of food and $30.00 was collected at our fair this year! All food and cash was donated to the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank in Ewing!
The Boltin Colts Horse Club and the Clever Clovers Livestock Club arranged to meet and together make a 4-H presence at the Allentown Memorial Day Parade. Thanks for getting out there and showing your 4-H Spirit!

The Rusty Bolts Club achieved their goal of having the club project tractor at the 2011 4-H fair! As evidenced by these before and after photos, they've made great progress since early spring. Keep up the hard work! We are all looking forward to the next phase.

The Hotshots Shooting Sports Club made a kind monetary donation of $50.00 to the Rusty Bolts Club at the closing ceremony of the fair! The money came from proceeds the Hot Shots earned running their archery and air rifle stations. Way to go Hot Shots...this is what pledging your hands to greater service is all about! Your generosity toward a fellow club is greatly admired and appreciated.
Nate Byrnes wins Honor Camper Award this Summer - The Head Award

Each week at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Summer Camp, four campers who exemplify the spirit of 4-H Camp are chosen to receive one of four honor camper awards. The campers chose four candidates from their group. Then the counseling staff team reviews the list and recommends campers for the following awards:

**The Head award** - Awarded to campers who exhibit clear thinking & good decision making.

**The Heart Award** - Awarded to someone who cares for others and tries hard in everything they do.

**The Hands Award** - Awarded to campers who reach out to help others and serve camp.

**The Health Award** - Awarded to those who strive to make themselves and others better through participation in a healthy camping experience.

*Congratulations Nate!*

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Science 4-Communities Club promotes Community Service at the Fair

By: Akhil Dondapati (Secretary) & Walli Kazi (Communications Officer)

Every year, before school begins, HomeFront, a non-profit organization, has a Back-to-School Drive where people sponsor children. They sponsor them by purchasing various essentials for school like backpacks, school utensils, notebooks, and also buy them new shoes and clothes. This year, the 4-H club Science 4-Communities decided to help HomeFront with their cause. At the annual 4-H Fair, held at the Howell Living History Farm, the club ran an obstacle course at the fair. Each run at the course cost fifty cents, with all proceeds being used to purchase goods for the HomeFront children. Along with the games, other members went around the fair asking visitors for donations. After a week of preparation, as well as two days of hard work, Science 4-Communities raised funds equaling almost $300.00 and have chosen to sponsor four school going kids! Science 4-Communities would like to thank all members of 4-H who encouraged, visited, and donated, making this event a success!

*Way to go Science 4-Communities members!*
NEW CLUBS

The Nifty Knotters will meet twice each month at the Mercer County Extension Office. Meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Sharon Kubiak and her daughter Adrienne are the co-leaders of this exciting new club!

Fiber arts such as those listed in the box below will be introduced during the first half of the 4-H year. Beginning in February, members will then concentrate on a single project of their choice.

Come on out and give it a try! This club is open to members K-13.

Macramé
Embroidery
Sewing by hand
Tablet weaving
Lucet
Tatting

The Back Yard Farmer 4-H Club will be lead by Denise and Michael Kamer. The club will primarily focus on chickens and chicken showmanship but will also include topics like local farming, plant science and animal husbandry. Details about meeting dates, times and location are still to be worked out for the new 4-H year. If you are interested in joining, call or e-mail Altaira at the office to be added to the membership list.

A new 4-H Cooking Club will be meeting each month on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Mercer County Extension Office. A meeting start date will be announced soon. This club is for grades 2-7. If you are interested in joining, call or e-mail Altaira at the office to be added to the membership list.

A FOND FAREWELL

Mercer County 4-H would like to say farewell to one of our most esteemed members, Mr. Tim VonThun! We wish Tim all the best in the years to come. Surely he is leaving 4-H with many wonderful memories as he embraced all that the 4-H Program has to offer. Congratulations Tim on all your 4-H achievements, including being a great role model for younger 4-Hers. You will be missed and thought of fondly in the future!
Website Calendar Reminder

Please visit our websites for more information on upcoming events.

mercer.njaes.rutgers.edu & nj4h.rutgers.edu

When searching the calendar, be sure to make selections for both county and statewide pages. Most animal related events are listed on the statewide calendar.

Submissions for the 4-H Forum Newsletter

Please forward articles that you would like included in the Club Updates section of the newsletter. You may e-mail submissions to me at: bejgrowicz@njaes.rutgers.edu or call me at the office number given above.

Upcoming Events

National 4-H Week ~ Oct. 2-8 ~ Wear your club or fair tee to let others know you are a 4-Her!
National 4-H Conference applications are due in the 4-H office by October 18th
Achievement Night ~ Nov. 4 ~ Hollowbrook Community Center, Ewing, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
NJ 4-H Goat Extravaganza ~ Jan. 7, 2012 ~ Hunterdon County Senior Center
Teen Winter Camp ~ Jan. 27 - 29, 2012 ~ Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp ~ 8th grade & up
SJTC (South Jersey Teen Conference) ~ March 2 - 4, 2012 ~ Swedesboro, NJ ~ 8th grade & up
NJ Junior Breeder Livestock Symposium ~ March 31, 2012 ~ Campus Farm

4-H Staff

Chad Ripberger, County 4-H Agent
Miss Harmon, Program Associate
LouAnn Mastromarino, Program Assistant

Sharon Gore, Program Associate
Altaira Bejgrowicz, Program Assistant
Adele Dinges, Secretary