This year was an exciting one for the Mercer County 4-H Program. We celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Cooperative Extension System at our 4-H Fair and at our recent Open House. Both events were educational and just plain fun! We also had several members graduate High School. We wish Alex Byrnes, Katie Elliott, Scott Hoffman, George Stillwell and Chelsea Thomas of the Clever Clovers, Dhara Mehta of Treasuring the Trash, Connor Rittley of the Hot Shots and Krishna Sasank Mallem of Science 4-Communities all the best as they move on to college and other opportunities.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Achievement Night Celebration on November 7, 2014!

Renee Stillwell of the Clever Clovers Club was one of a small group of youth invited by the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture to speak at the USDA symposium commemorating the 100-year birth anniversary of biologist and humanitarian Norman Borlaug. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his life’s work of finding a way to feed a hungry world.

Renee credited the 4-H Program for helping her develop leadership and public speaking skills, giving her the skills to participate in the symposium!
Club Updates

Meredith Dauphars of the Boltin Colts and Clever Clovers Clubs competed in her first horse show with her 11 year old Thoroughbred William T at Glenearye Farm in Lumberton New Jersey on April 6th 2014. This was Meredith's first horse show at a different farm and she got a first, second, third, reserve champion and she also got a ribbon from the Jockey Club for points for riding and showing our ex-racehorse William T. The Jockey Club is sponsoring the Thoroughbred Incentive Program which gives out awards to the top Thoroughbreds in certain classes. This incentive program is only for off the track thoroughbreds and highlights these wonderful horses and showcases them in their new careers off the track.

By: Karen Dauphars, 4-H Leader

Maggie Emley of the Back Yard Farmers 4-H Club participated in the State 4-H Rabbit, Cavy, Small Animal, Herpetology & Poultry Show held in Gloucester County. The show had 91 registered individuals, 89 4-H members from 14 New Jersey counties! The following are Maggie’s results:

- Reserve in show for her Havana Rabbit
- Best in Show and Reserve in show for her Silver Fox Rabbit
- Reserve in show for her Waterfowl
- Best in show for her Poultry Pair

Congrats Maggie!

Faith Berenato of the 4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club plays “Ode to Joy” on her recorder for her public presentation. Faith also played the recorder at the spring concert held at her school.

Tony Potts of the 4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club roots some house plants to show at the 4-H Fair.
Members of the Mercer County Teen Council participated with several other teen groups to do an early season beach cleanup! The teens enjoyed snacks and good company as they cleaned up in Asbury Park, NJ.

Great job!

Club Updates

NJ 4-H Jr Air Rifle Shooting Sports Match open to all 4th-8th Graders was held on April 5, 2014 at the Hunterdon County Range. Three members from the Hot Shots competed: Eliese Ottinger, Joey Schiano and Sarah Szwed

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational was held in Grand Island, Nebraska. Three members of the Hot Shots qualified and competed on the NJ State Team. Connor Rittley was on the NJ State Muzzleloader team along with two members from the Hunterdon Deadeyes, Harley Peterson and Anthony Razzano. Nathaniel Tettemer and Jesse Szwed were on the NJ State Shotgun Team along with one member from the Hunterdon Deadeyes, Jake Peterson.

Mercer County Shooting Sports Instructor, Jay Ottinger attended the Invitational in Nebraska as the shotgun team's coach. Nathaniel's Dad, Rich and I both went out there. It was a great experience for the boys. I don't know about muzzleloader but in shotgun, each boy was put on a squad with four other boys, each from a different state. I think it is safe to say they all had a blast. Before the competition started, the team went on a guided tour of the Case Hew Holland combine factory and also to the Hornady bullet factory. They also went to a water park which stayed open late one night for all the 4-H kids out there.

By: Joe Szwed, 4-H Leader
This spring we had an interesting variety of Public Presentations from which to learn and enjoy! Topics ranged from chicken health to evergreen trees. We even had several Cloverbuds participate!

Everyone did a great job and three of our members, *Nate Byrnes, CJ Mozeika and Khushi Nigam* went on to represent Mercer County at the State Public Presentation Event. Congratulations to all our presenters!

4-H Shooting Sports Spring Training took place at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in late May. Instructors trained in the following shooting sports disciplines: Muzzle loading, Rifle, Shotgun, Pistol and Archery!

It was a challenging weekend with great people at a relaxing venue!
2014 Fair in Photos!
**Club Booth Display Winner**

Infinity 4-H Club

**Rutgers Against Hunger Food Drive**

Hundreds of pounds of food and $50.00 were collected at our fair this year! All food and cash was donated to the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank in Ewing.

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**Goat Show:**

- **Kellie Von Thun** Sr & Champion Showmanship 1st Place, Exp
- **Lee Sortore** Jr Showmanship 1st Place, Exp
- **Meredith Dauphars** Jr Showmanship 2nd Place, Exp
- **Liam Ripberger** Jr Amateur Showmanship, 1st Place
- **Adeline Ripberger** Intermediate Amateur Showmanship, 1st Place
- **CJ Mozeika** Sr Amateur Showmanship, 1st Place
- **Kristie VonThun** Best Senior Doe in Show
- **Kellie VonThun** Best Junior Doe in Show

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**Costume Contest:**

- **1st Place** Lee Sortore (Let it Goat)
- **2nd Place** Eli Byrnes (Grad-ewe-ate)
- **3rd Place** Collin Scibilia (Bunny Buffet)
- **4th Place** Jessica Romero-Silver (Officer Hop)
- **5th Place** CJ Mozeika (Batman & Robin)

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**Rabbit Show**

- **Holly Potter** Sr Showmanship 3rd Place
- **Liam Ripberger** Jr Showmanship 1st Place
- **Collin Scibilia** Jr Showmanship 2nd Place

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**Sheep Show:**

- **Renee Stillwell** Champion Meat Ram
- **Renee Stillwell** Champion Meat Ram Reserve
- **Renee Stillwell** Champion Meat Ewe
- **George Stillwell** Champion Meat Ewe Reserve
- **Nate Byrnes** Champion Wool Ram
- **Alex Byrnes** Champion Wool Ram Reserve
- **Scott Hoffman** Best Fleece
- **Renee Stillwell** Best of Show
- **Renee Stillwell** Champion Fitting and Champion County Showmanship (Stephen P. Dey Memorial Award)

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**Poultry Show**

- **Maggie Wiedau** Best in Show
- **Maggie Emley** Reserve in Show
- **Maggie Emley** Sr Showmanship 2nd Place
- **CJ Mozeika** Sr Showmanship 4th Place
- **Dylan Joye** Sr Showmanship 5th Place
- **Jenny Booth** Jr Showmanship 1st Place
- **Francesca Fusco** Jr Showmanship 2nd Place
- **Camille Ricci** Jr Showmanship 3rd Place
- **Sara Hoplock** Jr Showmanship 4th Place

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**Champion Round Robin**

Lee Sortore

**Club Booth Display Winner**

Infinity 4-H Club
RUTGERS IS PART OF THE BIG 10

Robert Barchi, Rutgers University President expressed his view in an article published by a Gannett Company Newspaper "entrance into the Big Ten will improve the visibility of our athletic programs, and our membership in the Big Ten's academic counterpart, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation - a consortium of 15 top-tier universities - will enhance our research and educational opportunities, further increasing the university's prominence."

In the spirit of environmental conservation, two rain barrels will be placed outside the Mercer County Cooperative Extension Building for use by the Master Gardeners.

Participants of the 4-H Summer Day Camp, Eco Arts, designed and painted the 4-H Barrel. Visitors at both our 4-H Fair and our 100 Anniversary Open House signed the celebration barrel. The Anniversary barrel was painted by Kyra Dayon, an intern who worked with the 4-H Staff this summer.
Mercer County 4-H Summer Day Camps

Robotics

Eco Arts

Science and Food

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