This year we have seen so much growth among our 4-H members! Physically you all surprise me every time I see you...an inch here and there. But I am referring to the maturity and poise so many of you have developed this year. It is a wonderful feeling to witness this positive process and know that although you have grown in leaps and bounds there is so much more to come! For those who are teens and have taken advantage of the wonderful options 4-H offers, I applaud you and ask you to take it one step further. Encourage those who are younger than you to stay with the 4-H program. Tell them of the knowledge you have gained and about the attitude building events that have helped you become the person you are today!

Mercer County 4-H offers a fond farewell to Emily Dallas, a member who embraced the many opportunities that 4-H has to offer. Congratulations Emily on all of your 4-H achievements, including being a great role model to younger 4-Hers in your clubs and at 4-H Camp.

You will be missed by all. Please be sure to visit. We know that you will continue to contribute to our program.

All the best to you for an exciting and fulfilling future!

Winners of the 2013 Fair Theme and Artwork Contests are:

Fair Theme: Elly Merrit, Clever Clovers
Fair Tee-Shirt Art: Adeline Ripberger, Snip n Stitch & Clever Clovers
Fair Program & Map: Jenny Booth, Clever Clovers

Congratulations to all of our creative 4-Hers!
The Backyard Farmers 4-H club presented John Hart of Rosedale Mills and John Hart Farms in Hopewell, with the Friend of 4-H Award. John generously donated animal cages to the club. He also enthusiastically supports Mercer County 4-H by honoring our requests to post flyers and signs for our Fair and other 4-H events at his store.

This past summer, the Earth Keepers 4-H club did a community service project at the Kingsbury Towers Summer Camp in Trenton. Anthony and Joy Leone did a great job teaching the campers about their animals and what it takes to care for them and about what it takes to be a 4-H member.

The Clever Clovers club showed their 4-H pride during National 4-H week by making and wearing these popular woven bracelets!
The shooting sports program is pleased to announce the results of the junior air rifle match held on April 13, 2013 in Hunterdon County.

Congratulations to Mercer County Hot Shots members Gabrielle Feinstein, Gianni Vecchiarelli, Sadia Vaughn, and Eliese Ottinger who participated in the State Junior Air Rifle Match on April 13, 2013. Out of a pool of 45 shooters, Gabrielle placed 9\textsuperscript{th}, Gianni (10\textsuperscript{th}), Sadia (16\textsuperscript{th}) and Eliese (36\textsuperscript{th}).

The Mercer County Hot Shots had the 3\textsuperscript{rd} highest team score behind Hunterdon and Sussex Counties who brought much larger teams to the competition. A special acknowledgment goes to Gabrielle who finished in a three-way tie for 3\textsuperscript{rd} place on Silhouette targets. Clearly, our Mercer County Team has what it takes to someday make the state and national teams.

By: John Rittley, Hot Shots Co-Leader

4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club—Busy as Always!!

Allen Potts demonstrates how to make strawberry trifle.

Tony Potts with his corsage (club project)

Packing silverware packs for TASK --500 packs Completed!
The Shades of Pemberley
The Shades of Pemberley 4H Club, in conjunction with the Hopewell Borough Public Library presented a second beginners’ English Country Dance workshop this spring.

The workshop was planned for 5 Tuesday evenings in April, but the participants were enjoying it so much they asked us to extend it through May.

By: Lindsay Lowry, Club Leader

Alek calling “I Care Not for These Ladies”

Siding
Arming
“Leah’s Waltz”
Group shots

Photos by Claire Gutierrez

Science 4-Communities 4-H club creates a website and publishes a monthly newsletter

The Science 4-Communities 4-H club was busy this year creating both a website and a Healthy Living Newsletter! One of the club founders, Akhil Dondapati helped to create the website and hopes to set a monthly publishing schedule for the newsletter. Club members will contribute articles for their assigned topics.

The club is working on approvals to distribute their newsletter to various libraries. Currently you may obtain a copy at the West Windsor Library or take a look at their website and read it there! The site is: www.science4communities.org.

Way to Go 4-Hers!
2013 Fair in Photos!
**Sheep Show:**
- Renee Stillwell: Champion Meat Ram
- Renee Stillwell: Champion Meat Ewe
- Alex Byrnes: Champion Wool Ram
- Alex Byrnes: Best of Show
- Renee Stillwell: Champion Fitting
- George Stillwell: Champion Showmanship (Stephen P. Dey Memorial)

**Goat Show:**
- Trent Potosky: 1st Place Senior & Champion Showmanship
- Lee Sortore: 1st Place Junior Showmanship
- Kristie VonThun: Champion Senior Doe in Show

**Club Booth Display Winner**
Backyard Farmer 4-H Club

**Goat Milking Contest:**
- Trent Potosky: Master Milker
- Renee Stillwell: Amateur Milker
- Francesca Fusco: Peewee Milker
- Ellen Sortore: Alumni

**Rutgers Against Hunger food drive**
Approximately 700 lbs. of food and $55.47 was collected at our fair this year! All food and cash was donated to the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank in Ewing!

**Costume Contest:**
1st Place CJ Mozeika (Biker Chick-en)
2nd Place Lee Sortore (Lions & Tigers & Goats, oh my)
3rd Place Eli Byrnes (Wild Zebra Safari)
4th Place Liam Ripberger (Bunnie & Clyde)
5th Place Holly Potter (Boxer Bunnies)

**Champion Round Robin**
Trent Potosky
Dhara Mehta, founding member of the Treasuring the Trash 4-H club represented Mercer County this past year at the New Jersey Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City. Dhara engaged the public about her composting project and what the 4-H program in Mercer County has to offer its youth!

Great job Dhara!

National Youth Science Day!

Alex Byrnes, Nate Byrnes, Katie Elliott, Ryan Howell, Brandi Johnson and Quenten Couch were among 10 New Jersey 4-H teenagers from Essex, Mercer, Passaic, and Union counties who represented 4-H at National Youth Science Day (NYSD) on October 9 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. These ten youth were selected to attend the NYSD VIP Breakfast where they educated administrators, partners, sponsors, and prospective funders about 4-H and the Maps & Apps activity. In addition, they facilitated the Maps & Apps activity with about 150 youth in three 90-minute sessions following the breakfast. Alex served as emcee for this part of the program. Their efforts are featured in the 4-H Today Blog at:

http://www.4-h.org/4-H-Today/Photo-Recap--4-H-National-Youth-Science-Day/.

Congratulations Mercer County Teens!
The NJ State Shooting Sports Team for the 4-H National Invitational consisted of 4 team air rifle competitors, 2 individual archery competitors, and one individual small bore competitor. The four team coaches are shown below. The Competition was held in Grand Island, Nebraska the week of June 24th. Most of the state teams fly in and register on Sunday, and Monday is a practice day for all shooting disciplines participating. The shooting competition is held Tuesday - Thursday, with each discipline experiencing a different course of fire each day.

For the two Mercer County Hotshots club members participating in Compound Archery, Zach Helm (rear, 2nd from left) and Connor Rittley (rear, 2nd from right), this meant Tuesday was a Field round, Wednesday was a FITA round, and Thursday was 3D round. The 3D Round was mostly new this year, with giant bugs and aliens to shoot at.

The entire team had great fun, enjoyed the camaraderie of the trip and the event, and worked hard and competed strongly. The trip went smoothly, due in part to exceptional planning by the experienced leaders, and in part by the good nature and friendly attitudes of the participants. It was a great learning experience.

By: Jay Ottinger, Hot Shots Co-Leader
Ten participants from the Mercer County 4-H Club Program qualified and attended the State Public Presentations event held on June 8th at Rutgers. The attendees were CJ Mozeika of the Clever Clovers Club, Renee Stillwell - Clever Clovers and Rusty Bolts, Scott Hoffman - Clever Clovers, Kristie VonThun - Clever Clovers, Alex Byrnes - Clever Clovers and Rusty Bolts, Maggie Emley - Backyard Farmer Club, Nate Byrnes - Clever Clovers and Rusty Bolts and Kellie VonThun – Clever Clovers. Zach Helm of the Hot Shots and George Stillwell of Clever Clovers and Rusty Bolts are not pictured.

Special congratulations to CJ Mozieka who won her room!

Two 4-Hers from our Backyard Farmers 4-H club placed well at the 2013 NJ 4-H State Rabbit, Cavy, Small Animal, Herpetology and Poultry Show held on September 7th at the Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds

Maggie Emley and Holly Potter were awarded the following:

- **Maggie:** Poultry, Best in Show for her Purebred Standard Chicken
- **Holly:** Cavy, Reserve in Show for her American Guinea Pig

Citizenship Washington Focus

Congratulations to Alex Byrnes and Scott Hoffman of the Clever Clovers Club. Both teens were chosen as delegates to attend the 2013 Citizenship Washington Focus trip which was held July 7-13. Delegates are selected to attend the conference based on their history of being an outstanding 4-H members and their interest in learning more about being contributing citizens in their communities.

Ask Alex and Scott about their once in lifetime trip when you see them!