Just a note….

This year the Mercer County 4-H Fair will be held on August 3rd and 4th. Please begin thinking about a theme for the 95th annual 4-H fair. An official call to submit entries will be made in February. Once the theme is voted upon, members will then be asked to design and submit artwork to compliment the selected theme. Three of the designs will be used. The winning artwork will be used for fair tee shirts, second place will be the cover design for the fair program/map and third place will be the cover for our county exhibitor catalog. We are looking forward to the many creative entries we will receive. Happy 2013!

Dhara Mehta and Kristie Von Thun, Members of Mercer County 4-H clubs were honored with leadership certificates and savings bonds by the Princeton Agricultural Association at an awards dinner held in December. The teens were nominated to receive the awards for success in leadership and club projects.

Congratulations Kristie and Dhara!
We all learned something at the 1st annual “Just for Fun” and service event. Some learned that heights are not for them (or vice-versa), and others learned that baking is fun and so is making centerpieces. The one thing I think we all experienced is that it is a good thing to come together as a group and support people who may not be as fortunate as we are. I am proud to say that our 4-H members along with their families collected enough gifts to make a happy holiday for a family of 7 children!

In addition to the many gifts received for our sponsored family, two clubs teamed up under the guidance of their club leader, Sharon Gore. The Snip n Stitch sewing club created a handmade stocking for each child in the family and the Teen Council club provided all the stocking stuffers!

Way to go 4-Hers!
Super Storm Sandy forced us to postpone our event but she couldn’t keep Mercer County 4-H from celebrating its achievements for long! The first available night was chosen, and although everyone couldn’t make it (we missed you), we managed to enjoy a night of fun and recognition.

Shades of Pemberley Historic Dance

Clever Clovers Livestock

Hot Shots Shooting Sports

Rusty Bolts Tractor Restoration

Continued…..
Teens from the Clever Clovers Club took on the challenge of selecting and completing 4-H Teen Leadership Project Record Books in addition to their individual project books. All four 4-H members set and completed their goals! If you are interested in completing a leadership record book check out:
http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/teens/
Read about the project and download the book.

Record Book Winners: Renee Stillwell, Clever Clovers, Emily Dallas, Clever Clovers, and CJ Mozeika, Clever Clovers. This year there were so many outstanding 4-H stories that 3 additional members were chosen for honorary mentions, they are Zach Helm and Sam Ryder of the Hot Shots and Kevin Veno of Earth Keepers

Clever Clovers members surprised their leaders with matching club jackets in honor of the support and dedication they give to the club!

Mercer County Club Updates

The Boltin Colts attended the Keenan/McAlister Equine horse health day held at Rhythm and Blues Stable in Allentown NJ. The club watched different medical procedures that included a leg dissection from a cadaver horse, lameness demo, viewing digital X-Rays and dental work.

Submitted by Karen Dauphars, Club Leader

The Boltin Colts helped out the Salvation Army Red Kettle fundraiser this year by doing two hour shifts ringing the bell for a great cause.
STATE 4-H GOAT EXTRAVAGANZA ------- SATURDAY, JANUARY 5
Come, test your knowledge and learn new things! This event has something to interest everyone, including a mixed-county team poster-presentation contest, eight-station skill-a-thon, team quiz bowl contest, goat-themed art show, ice cream social, and awards ceremony.
A morning workshop will be held for the adult participants. See http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/goats/extravaganza/.

STATE 4-H MODEL HORSE SHOW ------ SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
The Model Horse project is a great opportunity for 4-H members who do not own real horses. 4-H members "show" model horses and tack that they have purchased, made, or customized.
The contest is open to all 4-H members enrolled in the horse project.

STATE 4-H ANIMAL SKILL-A-THON--SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
This event is designed to help you learn and practice skills from a variety of animal project areas. For more info, contact Annette Devitt at devitt@njaes.rutgers.edu.

STATE 4-H HORSE BOWL --------------- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
The horse bowl is based on the collegiate bowl contests that used to be on TV. Contestants are asked questions which have been assigned a point value. Contestants use buzzers to be recognized to respond. 4-H members gain knowledge about animal science and horsemanship.

STATE 4-H EQUINE ARTS SHOW ----- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
The 4-H Equine Arts Show is a creative and instructional program that invites 4-H members to display their artistic talents and imaginations, while developing life-time skills and abilities. Participants are able to express their appreciation of the horse through various art mediums, while they are expanding their cultural knowledge.
Art projects enable 4-H'ers to learn the value of developing visual exhibits in areas of specific interest.

STATE 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL------SATURDAY, MARCH 16
Through a quiz bowl format, 4-H'ers have an opportunity to learn about all aspects of the dairy industry and to form lasting friendships with their teammates. This invitational competition gives 4-H'ers throughout New Jersey a chance to interact somewhere other than the show ring.

STATE 4-H EQUINE PRESENTATIONS ------- SUNDAY, MARCH 17
The New Jersey 4-H Equine Presentations Project is a project area that is beneficial to the total 4-H Horse Program. By learning to give presentations and demonstrations, 4-H'ers gain self-confidence and speaking abilities that are valuable in many life situations.

STATE 4-H DOG BOWL ------------------------------- SUNDAY, APRIL 14
The dog bowl is based on the collegiate bowl contests that used to be on TV. Contestants are asked questions which have been assigned a point value. Contestants use buzzers to be recognized to respond. 4-H members gain knowledge about animal science and the dog project. Event will be held in Burlington County.

General 4-H Events on back
2013 Mercer County 4-H
Events List Jan. - May
For a complete list of events see http://mercer.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/
MercerCtyGeneralEventList2013.pdf

PUBLIC PRESENTATION WORKSHOP ----- FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
7:00 PM AT THE 4-H OFFICE
Does public speaking make you feel uneasy? Are you new to 4-H and Public Presentations?
Have you given lots of club presentations, but never performed on the county level?
If so, this event is for you! Come learn more in preparation for County Public Presentations.

TEEN WINTER CAMP ------------------------ FRI-SUN, JANUARY 25-27
All Mercer County 4-H Teens (8th grade and up) are invited to join teens from around the state at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Sussex County, NJ for a fun & frosty weekend!
Snow tube or sit by the fire and sip hot chocolate, it’s up to you…(transportation provided)

4-H SCIENCE SATURDAYS------------FEbruARY 9 and MAY 4
A great opportunity for 6-9th grade youth to visit Rutgers New Brunswick and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Cook Campus to participate in hands-on activities and learn from RU scientists about food science (February 9) and genetics (May 4). See http://4hset.rutgers.edu/programs.html for more info.

SOUTH JERSEY TEEN CONFERENCE ---- FRI-SUN, MARCH 1-3
Join teens (8th grade and up) from Mercer County, and 10 other southern NJ counties, to participate in leadership and citizenship building activities! Many different workshops are offered, and you get to pick what interests you most! This year, SJTC will be held in Atlantic County – please join us – it is a lot of fun!
(transportation provided)

RUTGERS DAY (INCLUDES AG FIELD DAY AND THE STATE 4-H DOG SHOW) ------
-------------------------------------------- SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Attend this event with your club or family! Explore the University that keeps NJ 4-H running! This very large university-wide event in New Brunswick includes Ag Field Day (visit the campus farm and animals along with exhibits from all departments) and the State 4-H Dog Show – come join the fun! Visit http://rutgersday.rutgers.edu/

*COUNTY PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS ----------- FRIDAY, MAY 10
All 4-H members are expected to give public presentations. All standard members (4th grade or above) are encouraged to give presentations at the county level in order to participate in other county and state 4-H events. Any 1st year 4-H members and Cloverbud (K-3rd grade) youth who wish to participate in County Public Presentation may present non-competitively and receive a participation ribbon. Types of presentations include: illustrated talks, demonstrations, performing arts, and formal speeches. 4-H’ers may present on any appropriate topic of their choice.

BECOMING AN OUTDOOR FAMILY CAMP-- FRI-SUN, MAY 17-19
Bring your entire family out to join members of the 4-H Camp staff, as well as other 4-H families from around the state, to take part in a relaxing camp weekend. You have the option of participating in whatever workshops you wish. (transportation provided through Mercer 4-H if enough local 4-H families sign-up – register with camp, but also let us know)

*All Clubs & Club Members are EXPECTED to attend!
This fall The Shades of Pemberley 4-H Club, in conjunction with the Hopewell Borough Public Library, offered to the community a free, 4 week workshop in English Country Dancing.

Everyone seemed to have a great time!

Dancing “The Gay Gordons” at the end of each session  Tim calling “The Hop Ground”

Several workshop participants had such a good time they joined us for the annual dance with “Bare Necessities,” the fabulous English Country Dance band from Boston.

By Lindsay Lowry, Shades of Pemberley Leader

We breed and raise Silver Martens, Havanas, Silver Fox and Americans. My daughter (Maggie Emley) got Best of Breed with her Silver Martens and Havanas at the Ocean County 4H rabbit show on January 5, 2013. She got Best of Breed and Best Opposite of Breed with her Americans and Silver Fox. All the breeds had about 7-13 rabbits showing. The funny thing is the Best of Breed American doe was a last minute change because the original doe we were going to bring, had ear mites.

It was so nice to have great competition with our SF and AM. Well.......... out of over 240 rabbits, about 39 on Best of Breed row.... our Silver Fox intermediate buck won......BEST IN SHOW!! This is Maggie’s first Best In Show. I have never seen a rare breed win Best in Show or Reserve in Show at any show, 4H or ARBA.

By: Denise Kamer, Backyard Farmer Club Leader

Congratulations Maggie!
The mission of the Science 4-Communities club is to help communities by bringing health awareness and motivating the younger generation to include physical activity in their daily routine. During Thanksgiving, the club has brought cheer to seven families in 2010 and 12 families in 2011 by providing baskets filled with canned goods, juices, desserts, and a gift card for turkey. During the summer, the club has provided back-to-school supplies including clothes, shoes, school supplies, and backpacks to four students in 2011 and six students in 2012. This year the club created 14 Thanksgiving food baskets for families helped by Home-Front.

Submitted by Vani Kodandaram, Science 4-Communities Leader

Exciting new addition to the Backyard Farmer Club!

The club has welcomed a special new member this year...Gloria, who is a horse!

Members are excited to have the opportunity to learn about this animal in addition to their chickens, ducks and rabbits.

Faith Berenato does her public presentation, demonstrating how to make a duct tape hair bow.

Submitted by Anne Marie Potts, Co-leader 4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club

Nice job Faith!
On December 1st the Seeing Eye Puppy Club went on what could be a very important outing for the puppies. The pups went on an outing to tour the new University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro (UMCPP). According to member Lisa Tusay, the purpose of the trip was “to expose our puppies to the unique and potentially-frightening sights, sounds and smells in a non-threatening, low stress manner.” Submitted by Lisa Tusay, Seeing Eye Puppy Club

Forty (40) 4-H members representing nine clubs from seven counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Somerset, Warren) participated in the 2013 NJ 4-H Goat Extravaganza held January 5th in Flemington. The event included 87 goat themed art exhibits, a poster-presentation contest (10 teams), skillathon (8 stations), and a quiz bowl (32 questions per match – one-on-one and toss-up).

Rebecca Potosky, Dairy Goat Advisor of the Clever Clovers club helped to judge the poster-presentation contest and chaired the skillathon. Thanks Rebecca!

Trent Potosky of the Mercer County Clever Clovers Club was on the winning Senior Division Quiz Bowl Team. Below he is pictured (second from left) with his team for the Poster Presentation Contest.