Hello Leaders!

Thank you for the hard work and care you continue to put into this program to benefit our youth!

A special thank you goes out to all who participated with their clubs in recent events! 4-H events are most fun when they are well attended. Thanks for putting in the time & taking advantage of these opportunities!

Please remember to forward club photos and write-ups to the office for publication in the newsletter. For questions, suggestions, or event registration, contact Kate at: keverett@njaes.rutgers.edu or call the office at 989.6833.

Congratulations!

Timothy Von Thun, CWF delegate

Congratulations goes out to Tim Von Thun of the Clever Clovers 4-H Club for being selected as the 2009 Mercer County delegate to Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)! In July Tim will travel to Washington, D.C. to meet other outstanding 4-H’ers from across the nation, where he will learn leadership & citizenship skills. Contact the 4-H Office for more information on how your club can get involved in national opportunities next year!

Community Service

Junior Master Gardener Camp
Lawrence Nature Center

August 3-7 & 10-14, 8:30am-4:30pm

Part-time Nature Camp volunteers are needed to assist in running craft times and exploration hikes. The day camp consists of two week-long sessions. Week one covers ecology-based subject matter, while week two focuses on the lives of insects! The camp is run by the 4-H staff, and is provided to youth in grades 2-5 at a very low cost. Only 20 youth per week will attend.

If you have any skills or interests in either topic, are into nature walks or crafts, this will be a fun and fulfilling volunteer event for you! Any amount of time you are able to volunteer, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kate to coordinate a volunteer position, or for additional information.

Leader’s Forum

4-H Office: 930 Spruce Street
Trenton, NJ 08648

2nd Tuesday / Month (May, June, July), 7:00pm

You are invited to the Volunteer Leader’s Forum! As a leader, or parent helper, your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions are important to us. You know your club kids better than the rest of us, so join us and be their advocate! How can we best grow the program? What else might we be able to offer at the fair? We’ll keep it a fun & light brainstorming session... remember, its about the kids! The first meeting will be held at the 4-H Office on May 12, at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fundraising

NJ State 4-H Association
50-50 Sale Continues

The NJ State 4-H Association is holding a 50/50 fundraising raffle. We are asking our club leaders help by selling 10 tickets per club at only $1 per ticket. The goal is attainable, so let’s do it! The deadline is June 15.

Fair Book Ad Sales

Please see enclosed Ad Sales information. Ad Sales can begin immediately, and will be due to the 4-H Office by July 17. If you are new to 4-H, or just new to ad sales, no worries! We will discuss ad sales at the leader’s forum. If you have any pressing questions, please call or email Kate.

Club Project Proposal Contest

Please refer to the front page of your 4-H Ledger for rules and regulations. This contest aims to develop club members’ brainstorming abilities, as well as creativity & attention to detail. You, as leaders and parents, should guide them. Ask them important questions about their chosen project (How will you do that? How much do you think that costs?), but please do not take over. The prizes are up to $200.00 (which in children’s eyes, is a pot of gold), so let them earn it! The ownership they feel from working hard on this and being awarded a prize will be confidence-building! Proposals are due no later than July 17. Prizes will be awarded at the fair!
Recent Events

South Jersey Teen Conference
The 2009 SJTC was a success! Four teens from our county participated. This year’s theme, ‘S.E.T. Your Mind to 4-H’, was a major hit. Please send your teen members next year! Also, see the write up in the Ledger!

NJ Junior Breeder Symposium
The event was held at Rutgers on March 21. It covered a range of topics concerning large and small animals. A veterinarian spoke & answered questions. Please bring your members next year to learn more about their animals, or to expose them to livestock and small animals!

Presentation Workshop
The workshop was held on Friday, April 3 at the 4-H Office. Club members from the Boltin’ Colts Horse Club and Snip & Stitch Sewing Club were present, along with 4-H Stars leader, Trish Long. The How-To DVDs screened at the workshop will be made available to clubs. Watching this DVD with your clubs will make presenting less frightening and more fun! Kate will be distributing this DVD in the near future.

County Public Presentations
Friday, April 24 & May 1, 7:00-9:00pm
REMINDER: Motivate your youth to present at a county level in addition to club presentations. This will build their confidence and benefit them in school and other aspects of their lives! Late registrations are welcomed.

Rutgers Day
Saturday, April 25
Formerly ‘Ag Field Day,’ Rutgers Day is held annually. The day’s activities include: free performances, demonstrations & hands-on activities. The event coincides with the NJ Folk Festival and the State Dog Show, also held at Rutgers. For more information, please refer to: http://rutgersday.rutgers.edu/booklet.php

Upcoming Events

4-H Middle School Conference
Saturday, May 16, 9:00am-4:30pm
Your eligible club members received registration information in the mail weeks ago. Please remind them to register (late is better than never) and to attend! For clubs with younger members, keep this event in mind for next year.

4-H Family Fun Night
Thursday, May 21, 6:30-8:30pm
Come ‘Get Moving, Get Healthy.’ This 4-H initiative aims to educate youth and their families about nutrition & exercise, ultimately promoting healthy living. The night will indeed be fun, filled with activities that will keep your family moving, cooking & crafting! Please RSVP by May 15.

4-H Family Camp Weekend
L.G. Cook Camp, Sussex, NJ
Friday, May 29 - Sunday May 31
Come with your family, hang with your club! This could be a great way to get to know your club members’ parents better and engage them in 4-H activities!
L.G. Cook Camp is beautiful, located in Stokes State Forrest in Sussex, NJ. This location also hosts 4-H Summer Camp, so this event might be an ideal time to check it out. It is a bit of a hike, but well worth it! The best part is, at just $100.00 for a family of four, its affordable family fun! That includes daily activities, workshops, and one dinner! Camp accommodations consist of your choice of cabin or tent. For more information, please see: www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/Outdoor_Family.html

4-H Field & Ropes Day
Saturday, July 18, 9:00am-3:00pm
Mercer County 4-H will be hosting its 1st-ever Field & Ropes Day on Saturday, July 18, from 9:00am-3:00pm. Youth should wear comfortable, outdoor clothes and bring their sense of adventure! Lunch will be provided by the 4-H Office, just make sure to return the registration form (in the newsletter), at least one week in advance!

Mercer County 4-H Fair
Saturday, August 1 & Sunday, August 2
Clubs set up Thursday, July 30 & Friday, July 31. There will be a potluck dinner, night hike and campfire on Friday. Fair hours are Saturday, August 1, 10:00am-8:00pm & Sunday, August 2, 10:00am-4:00pm. Cleanup starts after 4:00pm.