



Alcona County

4-H Family News

Fall 2015

A Letter from Les

Warmest Fall wishes to you and yours– I hope you are able to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather as well as prepare for the marathon that is the impending Michigan winter. Personally, this is my favorite time of year as it offers a chance to replace the lawnmower with the chainsaw, the golf clubs with the hunting gear and the Tiger ball cap with the stocking hat. For me, fall is also cider presses, jack-o-lanterns, maple leaves, football (and futbol) and spending time in the woods.

In 4-H, Fall is a time for getting re-started– it's the revival of 4-H club meetings, the renewal of completed projects and the start of new ones. Some clubs will wait until the winter or spring months to start and some clubs have already finished for the year. Regardless, Fall is a wonderful time to look at where you're headed and decide the best way to get there. But don't forget to stop and enjoy today– and so whatever your passion this fall, make time to pursuit it.

Best wishes for the new 4-H Year,

Les

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OF RESPONSIBILITY

2015 4-H Showcase in Stores Across the County!

The newest Alcona 4-H Showcase has recently finished production and is turning heads as it features a new and improved format. This year's annual 4-H promotion tool boasts a clean, super-shiny magazine format and is 28 pages of Alcona clubs, events, awards winners and sponsoring businesses.

The production is the result of the effort of numerous club volunteers that took and submitted photos, as well as 4-H staff at events and ultimately is reflective of the hard work (and fun) that the youth of the program had all year.

The cost to create the publication was covered mostly with local advertising– as well as a contribution from the 4-H Advisory Council. We want to be sure to thank those businesses and individuals that supported the piece that is offered to you, free of charge.

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info/alcona



The 28-page Alcona Showcase is free of charge and available at numerous locations around the county as well as the MSU Extension Office in Harrisville.



Help MSU Extension Sharpen Its Focus!

Michigan State University Extension has long been a source of information and education for Michigan residents. To help define the needs and priorities of those residents, MSU Extension professionals throughout the state are asking Michigan citizens to help them determine where they should place their future emphasis through a short online survey.

Michigan 4-H parents, alums and volunteers (anyone over the age of 18) are encouraged to take the survey, located at (<http://bit.ly/1QtthL6>). Although not collected in the survey, input from youth will be solicited through a series of face-to-face meetings.



4-H Workshops

December 8: North Central Region 4-H Volunteer E-Forum

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/north_central_region_4_h_volunteer_e_forum
Online

January 8-10, 2016: Michigan 4-H Horse Judges & Show Superintendents Conference

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_horse_judges_and_show_managers_conference1
Kettunen Center, Tustin

January 30-31: 4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_youth_leadership_global_citizenship_spectacular
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 5-6: 4-H Horse Judging Workshop & Mini Contest

Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

February 6-7: 4-H Winterfest

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_winterfest16
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 19-20: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop

<http://bit.ly/1GalbOO>
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 20-21: 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop

<http://bit.ly/1JS8BOv>
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 26-28: Teen & Adult 4-H Horse Leaders Workshop

Contact Taylor Fabus (tenlenta@msu.edu)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

January 10, 2016: 4-H Day at the Breslin

Contact Gail Hebert (hebertg@msu.edu)
Breslin Center, MSU, East Lansing

January 29-31: Green & White Youth Event & Open Hog Show

Contact Carla McLachlan (mclachl2@msu.edu)
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

January 30: 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_rabbit_and_cavy_show
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>

School Gardens: The New “In” Thing for Schools

School gardens are making headlines as they become the new “in” thing for schools.

While school gardens were once thought of as an “extra” busy activity and only for schools in warm climates, today they are in the mainstream, as research is demonstrating that, among other things:

- Schools are using gardens in creative ways to improve academic test scores in science, math, social studies and art (<http://bit.ly/1VSOrF5>).
- Other benefits that school gardens provide to students include:
 - Improved classroom behavior
 - Valuable life skills such as higher-level conflict resolution, problem solving and thinking and
 - Increased self-esteem (<http://bit.ly/1k5exc3>).
- School gardens are reportedly helping combat childhood obesity (<http://bit.ly/1joJcks>).
- School garden programs have a positive effect not only on students, but also on school staff, families and communities (<http://bit.ly/1hEAluo>).

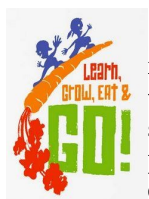


Michigan 4-H (<http://4h.msue.msu.edu>) and the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden (<http://4hgarden.cowplex.com>) are eager to embrace this innovative trend, and to work with county Extension staff, schools and partners to:

- Share the research behind this growing movement
- Inform others about tried and true best practices, and
- Introduce exciting new programs.



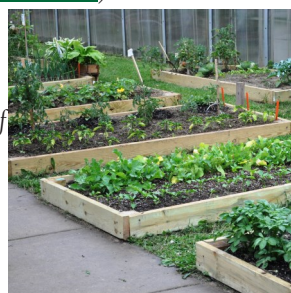
One of these new programs is Texas A & M University's (<http://www.tamu.edu>) *Learn, Grow, Eat & GO!* (LGEG) (<http://jmgkids.us/lgeg>) program. LGEG is the new research- and evidence-based curriculum project of the International Junior Master Gardener® Program (<http://jmgkids.us>). It is an interdisciplinary program that combines academic achievement, gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity, and school and family engagement.



Join us at Kettunen Center (<http://kettunencenter.org>) from March 11 to 12, 2016 for a special, fun-filled, information-packed training for Extension staff, teachers and volunteers that features the *Learn Grow Eat & Go* curriculum to use in schools, after-school programs, 4-H and partner programs. Find out more about this exciting new program and the training from your local 4-H staff (<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county>) or Extension Specialist Dixie Sandborn (dixie@msu.edu).

Additional information about the benefits of school gardens is available from:

- GreenHeart Education. (2015). *The Value of School Gardens* (<http://bit.ly/1DNfvPm>).
- Idaho State Department of Education. (n.d.) *How Our Gardens Grow: Cultivating Nutrition & Learning Through Idaho School Gardens*. (<http://bit.ly/1hEAluo>).
- National Gardening Association. (2015). *Research Supporting the Benefits of School Gardens* (<http://bit.ly/1X4g6oU>).
- Emily J. Ozer (2007). “The Effects of School Gardens on Students and Schools: Conceptualization and Considerations for Maximizing Healthy Development” in *Health Education & Behavior* (<http://bit.ly/1K9qaDH>).
- Carina Storrs. (2015). *The Blossoming Health and Academic Benefits of School Gardens*. Special to CNN (<http://cnn.it/1MsKp62>).
- Tampa Bay School Gardening Network. (n.d.). *Benefits of School Gardening* (<http://bit.ly/1MB7WRH>).



All this talk of gardening has me looking forward to summer already! Did you know that Alcona 4-H in partnership with Alcona Schools, the North East Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and the Alcona Health Center has an opportunity to maintain and grow in a community garden? We are always looking for youth to help with the garden space, located at the Alcona Elementary School.

For more information, please contact Hope Smith at 471-2972.

Alcona County 4-H'ers Earn Recognition at County Fair

Though it seems like months and months ago (because it was) an awards ceremony was held at the Alcona County Fair to recognize the efforts of some awesome youth members. The program opens with recognition of Project medals—awards won for work in a specific project area—like shooting sports or poultry. These recipients must be at least 9 years old and have a full year of experience in the area prior to being nominated. A youth cannot be awarded in two consecutive years for the same award.



This year's project winners were: **Beef**—Matt MacMaster, Trenton Schnabel and Autumn Schwarz **Sheep**—Abby Lobaugh and Jennifer Tait **Goat**—Seth Tulgetske **Dairy**—Sara Sweet **Archery**—Patrick Bates, Andrew Gull, Hazel Gull and Chris Kamischke **Rabbit**—Chyenne Appleton, Nelson French, Emily Lobaugh, Trenton Schnabel and Autumn Schwarz **Horse**—Chyenne Appleton and Maddie Lane **Arts and Crafts**—Victoria Burns, Abby Lobaugh, Emily Lobaugh and Amanda Phillips **Community Service**—Emily Lobaugh and Ben Thomas **Poultry**—Gracie Brittain, Nelson French, Matt Good, Alex Stephenson and Zach Stephenson **Swine**—Gracie Brittain, Victoria Burns, Layla Carriveau, Kayla Escareno, Daniel Fulsher, Maddie Lane, Abby Lobaugh, Maire MacMaster and Amanda Phillips.

The highly contested County Awards can only be given to a youth once in their lifetime and are acknowledged with a golden medallion and in some cases, a cash prize. This year's top winners included: **Leadership**—Alex Stephenson (top left) **Citizenship**—Maire MacMaster (l) and Victoria Burns (r) (middle right) and **Achievement**—Chyenne Appleton (middle left).



This year's 4-H'er of the Year honors went to Seth Tulgetske, son of Melissa and James June of Glennie. Seth's accomplishments throughout his 4-H career include mastery of various livestock projects, completion of countless hours of community service, participation in numerous statewide events and providing leadership at 4-H camp for two years. His medallion was accompanied by a check for \$50, courtesy of the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council.

Matt MacMaster, son of Dr Jaci Fitzgerald and Dr. John MacMaster of Harrisville, was named the **Junior 4-H Member of the Year**. Matt's involvement in the county program has been in several areas of interest, including livestock, shooting sports and Amateur Radio. In 2014, Matt became one of the youngest HAM radio operators in Alcona county and is currently a volunteer member of the Alcona Amateur Radio League (AARL). In addition to his medallion, Matt will receive a \$25 cash award, courtesy of the 4-H Advisory Council.



Matt MacMaster (left) and Seth Tulgetske were named Junior 4-H'er and 4-H Member of the Year respectively in a ceremony during the Alcona County Fair.

The first step to winning an award is getting involved! Contact the MSU Extension Office to find out how!

4-H'ers are:

- **Four times** more likely to make **contributions to their communities** (Grades 7-12);
- **Two times** more likely to be **civically active** (Grades 8-12);
- **Two times** more likely to make **healthier choices** (Grade 7);
- **Two times** more likely to participate in **Science, Engineering and Computer Technology programs** during out-of-school time (Grades 10 – 12); and

4-H girls are **two times** more likely at grade 10 and nearly **three times** more likely at grade 12 to take part in **science programs** compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

Source: *The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development*

4-H Online Re-enrollment is a Snap!

As families all dived in to enrolling youth through the new 4-H On-line system last year, we knew the reenrollment process would prove to be very easy when that time came around. I am pleased (and a little relieved) to say that it was very true! Re-enrollment in 4-H clubs really is a snap and can be completed in a few easy steps:

1) Log-in to: <https://mi.4honline.com> using the name and password you created last year. Do NOT create a new one. If you forgot your password, please follow those directions to have it reset.

2) Chose a member (or leader) to re-enroll and follow the prompts through the screens. Remember to update phone numbers, email address, mailing address as well as any health information that may have changed since you first registered.

3) There are once again spaces for digital signatures where the youth and/or adult will need to type in names in the blank. Some options you can refuse, but you will still need to type in your name.

4) Check the clubs that you were in last year— if you are not making any changes, leave that alone. If you are, add or delete the clubs from the drop down menu.

5) Add any projects that you are working on in your club(s). This is a very important step and it's important to add ALL of the projects you are involved in, in each club. You do not need to add any groups or activities to your record.

6) Simply hit "submit" and I will get a notice that you have re-enrolled. Once I receive notice from your leader that you have paid your member fee (or if I receive it directly from you) I will approve your record and everything will be set for another year!

It is crucial that you register (or re-enroll) before your **second** club meeting. If you have an issue with payment of the Michigan 4-H enrollment fee, please do not hesitate to contact me. Scholarship support for the \$10 fee is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is available to any family that is eligible to receive free or reduced lunch. It is not our intention that the fee will be a barrier to anyone participating in our programs.

Did you know that 4-H is the nation's largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering **six million** young people in the U.S.

In partnership with 110 universities, 4-H life changing programs are research-backed & available through 4-H clubs, camps, after-school & school enrichment programs in every county & parish in the U.S.

4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System & USDA.

Source: *National 4-H Website*
<http://www.4-h.org/>

Club Name	Projects	Ages	Dues	Meeting Location	Start Time	Primary Leader	Phone
Alcona Archery Club	Shooting Sports	9-19	\$2/wk	Lincoln	Jan 7th	Tom Keerl	(989)724-6804
Ace Riders	Horse & Live-stock	9-19	None	Lincoln	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	Shannon Rifenbark	(989)464-9307
Alcona Softball	Softball, leadership	6th-8th grades	tba	Alcona Schools	tba Mar-Apr?	Ed Schmitz	(989)736-8447
Alcona Strikers	Bowling	7-14	\$6.00/wk	Harrisville Bowling Alley	Jan 7th	Frank Belloli	(989)724-6433
Alcona Soccer	Soccer, Leadership, Nutrition	10-19	\$35/season 20/second season	Lincoln	April/May	Kristin Hoffman	(989)335-0398
All Around Horses R Us	Horse & Home Arts	9-19	None	Lincoln 12:00	2nd Sun Dec 2015	Sue Schmitz	(989)736-8447
Apple Hill Variety	Beef & Livestock	5-19	None	Mikado	Beef starts in Oct; Live-stock starts in Jan	Jaci Fitzgerald, Lisa Stephenson	(989)370-1833
Bird Brains	Woodworking & Comm Service	5-19	None	Mikado	Jan	Kevin and Deb Boyat	(989)335-0307
Crafts & Critters	Beef & Livestock	9-19	None	Glennie	Beef starts in Oct; other projects tba	Elaine McGuire	(989)735-2094
Dairy Heirs	Dairy	5-19	None	Harrisville		Katie Dellar	335-0879
HAM Radio	Emergency Radio	9-19	None	Harrisville EOC Bldg	Jan-tba	Stan Darmofal	(989)724-5550
Horsin' Around	Horse, Livestock	5-19	None	Glennie		Jen Petty, Melissa June	(989)735-3585
Jolly Rogers	Rabbit, Recreational	6-19	None	Harrisville		Judy French	(989)335-1601
Rolling Hills Variety	Livestock	9-19	None	Mikado		Sandy Labeau	
Shoot What 4-H Variety Club	Pellet gun/Small Livestock	9-19	tba	Glennie	Pellet coming soon!	Jennifer Harte	(989)305-2139
Student Stewards	Environmental Stewardship Community Service	9-14	None	Harrisville	FULL- Contact leader to be added to wait list.	Tracy D'Augustino	(989)724-9909
Alcona 4-H Advisory Council	Leadership, fundraising	11-adult	None	Lincoln		Advisor Les Thomas	989-724-6478



4-H Summer Fun!

Summers are never long enough, but you can make the most of them when you attend a 4-H summer program! Youth attend various events and programs either on a local, regional or statewide scope and always make lots of memories. **Above**— Summer camp Fur, Fins and Feathers participants had a great time learning about various animals and their habitats. **Right**- Youth and adults stayed three days and two nights on the campus of Michigan State University during the annual statewide Exploration Days program; taking classes, making new friends and learning about the life of a college student.



Alcona 7th graders spent one of their last school days on the grounds of Negwegon State Park last June. The students learned about the various natural elements while taking part in an invasive species eradication— pulling Spotted Knapweed in the dune and parking lot areas.

Participants in the 2nd Annual Dodgeball tournament during the Summer 4-H Expo had to duck and dodge their way through a double elimination tournament bracket. The recreational program was held during the 4-H Expo— designed to connect the 4-H program as a whole to the public. In addition to club and community displays, the day offered free event t-shirts, children's books as well as lunch— all provided by the 4-H Advisory Council.

