

Alcona 4-H Newsletter

Winter 2013

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OF RESPONSIBILITY 

Alcona County
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Alcona Office Hours
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**We're on FACEBOOK at:
Alcona MSU Extension**

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A Letter from Les

Good cold, snowy morning 4-H faithful! It's February and I'm looking forward to a great year in Alcona County. For those of you that haven't heard, the millage that the county citizens passed last August to support MSU Extension will allow me (starting January 1st) to solely focus on Alcona County in my work duties, not to mention that it will also increase access to the MSU Extension Office— from 8 hours/week to 28! Needless to say that I will miss the staff, volunteers and families in Iosco, but I am VERY HAPPY to be back in my home county. Though the 18 month period with the split assignment was not a favorable situation, the upside is that it made me a better programmer. I have seen the program through a different lens and I would like to start to use that new perspective to make our program in Alcona better. One of my goals for the upcoming year is to be very intentional about showing the community that their investment in MSU Extension is money well spent. I want to not only expand what we are doing, but also, more importantly, strengthen and grow the programs we already have in place. Inside that goal, I have a few specific goals:

Increase the number of youth taking advantage statewide and regional programs, trainings and shows. I can accomplish this by helping youth with scholarship dollars, arranging chaperones, promoting opportunities and making sure that all these opportunities are open to everyone.

Increase the visibility of club programming. This will be the one I will need help from club leaders, parents and members. Clubs continue to be the 4-H outlet that creates the most amount of impact. For example – Before I learned about it in my 4-H club, I didn't know how to sew a button on my shirt. You can throw any example in the sentence— sheer a sheep, bake a cake, show a horse, teach a skill; but the important thing is to get the community to realize that this program does (or can do) all of those things. I can accomplish this goal by submitting press releases, having better communication with clubs and asking for **photos** for our upcoming 4-H SHOWCASE magazine.

Increase support and opportunities for volunteers. This is crucial because volunteers are the ones that are making the most difference in the lives of youth. They are often times working directly with youth and are heavily invested in that process. For me, accomplishing this also requires help from volunteers. If you are struggling with something club related, let me know. If I can't fix it myself, I will help find the resources to make sure it gets fixed. If you would like to attend a training, I can help you get there.

In short, I need to communicate better (more often) with volunteers and families, the community at large as well as stakeholders and community partners. We need to tell the great story of 4-H in Alcona County and tell it to anyone who'll listen.

By the way, this newsletter will help with the communications goals— enjoy!

Best wishes for the New Year,



Les

Alcona Fair Photos Available

As in past years, the photos that were taken at the Alcona County Fair last year will be available on DVD for personal printing, promotion or club projects. Just print them on your home printer, or take them to any photo processor that prints digital photos. If you would like a DVD, please contact me via phone, email or Morse code. This benefit is for 4-H families only! New this year, we will send you all of the Fair photos on one DVD that will still allow you to print and use the photos while only storing one disk. Call 989-724-6478 or email—thoma322@msu.edu



Abigail Lobaugh, 2012 Junior 4-H Member of the Year is an active youth member of the Rolling Hills Variety Club as well as Born in a Barn where she studies a variety of livestock species including poultry, horse and rabbit. Abby has also been very quick to promote the 4-H program by talking to her friends about her experiences.

For her efforts, Abby received a gold medallion as well as a \$25 cash prize, both courtesy of the 4-H Advisory Council.

If you would like an Exploration Days book mailed to you, please contact Les at the MSU Extension Office 989-724-6478



4-H EXPLORATION DAYS @ MSU

*Come to 4-H Exploration Days
& share the magic of 4-H!*

**Michigan State University
June 19-21, 2013**

Come join the fun!

Choose from many action-packed learning sessions in areas like:

- Animal Science
- Environmental Education
- Food, Nutrition & Fitness
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Technology
- And more!

Enjoy evening recreational activities and experience living on a college campus! You'll appreciate the fun, the friendship and the learning.

Don't wait...

Registrations are due to your local MSU Extension office by April 30, 2013.

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http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_exploration_days

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This year's winner of the Community Service Award went to the members and volunteers of the Rolling Hills 4-H Variety Club. The Rolling Hills club raised money and participated in the Relay for Life event in 2012. The club was given a \$75 cash award for their effort.

The Awards program in 2013 will see some changes in order to allow more participants to be recognized for their hard work. One of the changes will be regarding project medals—who can earn them and how often.

The 4-H Advisory Council is very pleased to support the recognition of youth in their accomplishments through club work and project experience and is looking forward to the 2013 Fair!

Save These important Dates!

February	16	Youth Fishing Day Jewel Lake (see inside for details)
March	3 19	4-H At the Breslin (Free tickets still Available!) Exploration Days registration opens (June 19-21)
April	1	Camp 4-H2O Registration begins (June 24-27)

March 3, 2013

MSU Women's Basketball



vs.



Day: Sunday
Date: Mar. 3, 2013
Location: East Lansing, Mich.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

All 4-H Members, their families and friends can get free tickets by contacting Les Thomas at the Alcona MSU Extension Office at 724-6478 or by Email at: thoma322@msu.edu

Please contact by February 22 to ensure ticket availability. Gates will open at approximately 12:30 with 4-H giveaways and displays on the concourse. Seating is general admission.



4-H at the Breslin Program features local 4-H Club

4-H at the Breslin is more than just a MSU Women's basketball game. It's a chance for more than 4,000 4-H members, their families and friends to explore the world of Michigan 4-H through interactive displays and projects set up on the Breslin Center concourse. The program, in it's 6th year, has been a very successful recruiting tool for Michigan 4-H, as well as attracting several thousand more fans than a normal Division I Girls game.

But for one Alcona 4-H club, it's even more than that. For the members of Born in a Barn 4-H club, it's a chance to get on the floor, interact with the players and lead the 4-H pledge in front of the anticipated 5,000 fans in attendance. The members and leaders of Born in a Barn will be on the floor at halftime to lead the pledge as well as welcome the players back on the court to start the second half of the game.

This years game will be between the MSU Lady Spartans and the Wisconsin Lady Badgers and will happen on Sunday, March 3rd at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Tipoff will be at 2PM and the gates will open at 12:30.

Participants are encouraged to show their team spirit as well as their Spartan Pride by dressing in green.

A limited number of free tickets are available at the MSU Extension Office in Harrisville—for more information or to reserve yours, call Les at 724-6478. Orders placed before February 22 will be mailed— after that date, orders will have to be picked up at the office. In the event that the Alcona tickets run out, more can be ordered, but they will be only available at the “will-call” window at the event.

Fundraiser Policy for all clubs

Step one: Club determines that they **need money for something**. Could be a trip, membership fees, club resources, 4-H paraphernalia; whatever. You may not raise money for the sake of having it.

Step two: Club **plans** on a fundraising project, carwash, bottle drive, bake sale—something that all or most of the members will be able to help with. Remember that raffles or other *games of chance* are not allowed for 4-H clubs in Michigan

Step three: The club leader **submits a fundraising request** to the MSU Extension Office no less than 2 weeks prior to the start of the fundraiser event. This document can be picked up at the office or can be found in the Michigan 4-H Treasurer's book.

Step four: **Wait** until confirmation is given for the fundraiser; either right then by staff or by phone or mail. You may NOT go ahead with the fundraiser unless this confirmation is given.

Step five: **Conduct fundraiser** and make sure to include all members; this can be a very valuable learning experience for everyone. Make sure that all moneys are accounted for and that they are carefully tracked using the Michigan Treasurer's book.

Step six: **Complete** the Fundraiser Wrap-Up form found in the Michigan 4-H Treasurer's handbook. Mail or drop it off to the Alcona County MSU Extension office.

A reminder--All clubs will be asked to complete an **Annual Fiscal Statement** to be on file with the MSU Extension Office no later than November 1 of the following 4-H year. If your club had no fiscal activity (no current balance or money raised or spent on behalf of the club in the past year) simply zero the form and return it to the office. Bank slips and receipts should be turned in where appropriate.



Seriously People— USE This benefit!

\$\$ Available from the

Alcona 4-H Advisory Council

The Alcona 4-H Advisory Council recently approved their 2011-12 budget including numerous items that will benefit the active 4-H family. Through tireless fundraising, the council has set aside funds for youth and adults to use when attending 4-H programs on the local, regional and state levels. Additionally, funds from the annual membership fee are also available for youth wishing to attend state programs for the first time such as Exploration Days and Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp. 50% of the member fees collected annually stays within the county to be used in this manner.

Scholarship Policy

Any current 4-H member may request that an educational program be paid for up to 50% of the total cost of registration, not to exceed \$50 annually per member. To apply, simply request this benefit when registering with the Alcona MSU Extension Office. In the event of a no-show where fees are collected, the scholarship will be removed and payment must be made by participant. This benefit will occur at time of registration.

Training Policy

Any youth or adult registered volunteer attending an educational training program, may request up to 50% of the total cost of registration be paid for elective training and 100% for mandatory training (not including room upgrades.) In the event of a no-show where fees are collected, this benefit will be removed and payment must be made by participant. This benefit will come in the form of a reimbursement after completion of the program. See page 2 for partial list of trainings at the Kettunen Center or go to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/4htrain.html> for more information.

Loans for Market Beef Projects

The Ludlow Family of Alpena has set aside money in a loan program for any youth who wishes to raise a beef project and would like financial help to get started. This is a zero interest loan that can offer up to \$500 per year on a first come—first served basis. All loans are subject to repayment by September 30th without penalty.

Recognition Program spotlights Adult and Youth Volunteers

Adult and teen volunteers working in Alcona County were highlighted at the 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the Lost Lake Woods Clubhouse in January. The night, designed to honor the commitment to the 4-H program and to the youth of Alcona County included pins and certificates for all registered Teen leaders as well as Adult leaders from 1-24 years of service. Special certificates were awarded from those with 1, 5, 10 and 15 years of service. The evening commenced with a silent auction, filled with items like gift certificates and products from local merchants, event tickets for sporting events and amusement parks as well as some autographed items as well. The auction raised over \$1100 dollars in support of the evening program as well as the youth scholarship fund. Receiving recognition were:

Teen Leaders: Brittany Joslin, Schuyler Bates, Alex Keerl, Marie MacMaster, Rebekah Maturen, Hannah Riggs, Ryan Brittain, Victoria LaBeau, Eric Hampton and Tori Keerl **New Leaders:** Katie Dellar, Chad Kamishke, Missy Lobaugh, Phil Potter, Sue Schmitz and Pat Stewart. **1st Year:** Kristen Hoffman, Melissa June and Jennifer Petty **2nd Year:** Stephanie Maturen and Carl Racchini **3rd Year:** Dr. Jaci Fitzgerald, **4th Year:** Leanna Jonseck **5th Year:** Honorable Judge Laura Frawley, Elaine McGuire **6th Year:** Robert Brittain, Shannon Joslin, Tom Keerl, Lindsay Nardi **8th Year:** Hope Smith **9th Year:** Stan Darmofal, **10th Year:** Kimberly Brittain, Dr. John MacMaster **12th Year:** Doug Travis **23rd Year:** Deborah Boyat and **24th Year:** Kevin Boyat **Council members** also recognized included: President Lois Marshall, Vice President Kelly Sexton, Secretary Christie Thomas, Treasurer Toni Thomas, and members Les Thomas, Sr, Alex Keerl, Tori Keerl and Ellie Thomas.

If you would like more information on becoming a 4-H volunteer as a club leader, helper, or Council member, please contact Les Thomas at the MSU Extension Office for more details: Phone 724-6478 or by email at thoma322@msu.edu Find us on FACEBOOK keyword: *Alcona MSU Extension*



Five Alcona youth recently enjoyed the Teen Leadership and Community Change workshop at Kettunen Center in January. Pictured here (l-r) are Brett Wambold, Morgan Stewart, Tori Keerl, Ellie Thomas, Schuyler Bates and 4-H Program Coordinator (chaperone) Les Thomas. Missing from photo is Alcona chaperone Christie Thomas.

Don McEwen Kids ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

Jewell Lake, Barton City

February 16, 2013

(FREE FISHING WEEK-END)



Kids, young Adults 15 and under Free Tournament

Registration on Ice, 10am til 1:30pm

Fishing 10:00a.m. till 2:00p.m.

Trophies awarded at 2:00p.m. .

Poles, bait, & holes provided

Adult Fisherman available for assistance

Trophies for Fisherman of the year

Largest Sunfish, Largest Bluegill. Largest Perch

Smallest Fish & Most Unusal Fish

Medals to all Fisherman

Hot Dogs & Hot Cocoa provided

Port-a-john & warming area available



sponsored by **BARTON CITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

contributions by: AuSable Valley Trail Riders  Lincoln Lions

4-H2O

Eagles ; V.F.W. Post 8135; B. C General Store



Parents, Leaders, Community Members-

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Coming off another successful 4-H year, the 4-H Advisory Council is already thinking about 2012-2013 and setting goals accordingly. One of the goals of the council, currently made up of 2 youth and 6 adults, is to attract additional members. No 4-H experience is needed to help make a difference, and we're looking for volunteers across the lifespan— from Grandparents to Grandchildren.

So what does the Advisory Council do?

- We meet 6-7 times per year
- Support 4-H youth with funds for programs
- Set local 4-H policy
- Design/support Educational events
- Coordinate Volunteer Recognition banquet
- Advocate for 4-H
- Fundraise to meet annual budget goals
- Have Fun!

Current members-

- President** Lois Marshall
- Vice President** Kelly Sexton
- Secretary** Christie Thomas
- Treasurer** Toni Thomas
- Members**—Tori Keerl, Ellie Thomas, Les Thomas and 4-H Program Coordinator Les Thomas



Get a behind-the-scenes look at the local 4-H program and help it serve the youth of Alcona County. Call the MSU Extension Office for more information 724-6478.

4-H Resources on the WWW!

[MSUE—Alcona County Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com/alconamsue)
<http://www.facebook.com/alconamsue>

[Michigan 4-H Website](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/)
<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

[Michigan 4-H Training Opportunities](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule)
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule

[MSUE— Alcona County Portal Page](http://www.msue.msu.edu/Alcona)
www.msue.msu.edu/Alcona

[4-H Mall— online catalogue for all things GREEN!](http://www.4-hmall.org/Home.aspx)
<http://www.4-hmall.org/Home.aspx>

New Clubs are Key to Greater Impact

If you have a special skill to share with youth, Alcona 4-H is looking for club leaders to lead new clubs! We are looking for caring adults to lead clubs in any number of areas, including: home arts, cooking, composting, sailing, outdoor recreation, livestock, communications, shooting sports, fine art, fitness and nutrition, gardening, forensics, companion animal care, mechanics, rocketry, marketing and anything else you could dream up!

Being a club leader is convenient- meetings can be based on your availability and as frequent as your time allows. Some clubs meet once a week, some— once a month; but all of them meet at least six times a year.

What is required of 4-H Volunteers?

- Be able to pass volunteer selection process
- Be a supportive, caring adult
- Host no fewer than 6 meetings per year
- Annual club paperwork (\$)
- Uphold the Code of Conduct
- Be a communication “bridge” between the MSUE staff and families
- Organizational skills a plus!

You do not need any previous 4-H experience- we will train you around our organizational policies and offer training in numerous project areas.

Call Les Thomas at the MSU Extension Office to request an application of for more details— 989-724-6478.

4-H Leader Donates Show Rabbits

Sandy LaBeau of the Rolling Hills Variety club is trying to build interest in the Rabbit project by donating show-quality rabbits. Breeds available include American Fuzzy Lops and Holland Lops with some of the older animals already having show experience.

4-H members and other youth interested in the rabbit project are welcomed to contact club leader Sandy LaBeau at 989-335-4044 for more information.



Alcona County MSU Extension
4-H Youth Development
320 South State Street
Harrisville, MI 48740



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