



## **National 4-H Curriculum Pre-Press Sale- 35% Off!**

All National 4-H Curriculum is on sale during the Pre-Press event at 35 percent off now through April 30. Don't miss this chance to order the new Robotics curriculum, as well as all of our other exciting activities, including Power of the Wind, Exploring Your Environment, and our animal curriculum. Visit the 4-H Mall at [www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org) to view the curriculum catalog and place your order.

## **Next Leader Update – REQUIRED**

The next Leader Update is a required meeting for all clubs to participate in. Each club must send a youth and adult representative to the April Leader Update on **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church in Alma**. Each committee will report on any activity they have had since our January meeting. Our main program will be Gratiot County Fair for Youth Coordinator Brian Gardner sharing fair updates and information. We are asking if you have questions from within your club please email them PRIOR to the meeting so Brian has time to thoroughly answer your questions and bring supporting hand outs. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with the meeting promptly starting at 6:30 p.m. This is a required meeting and participants must plan to be there the entire time. Remember Organizational Leaders do not have to attend. Each club is welcome to send whomever they feel can represent the club and bring back the information to share with their club.

## **Gratiot County 4-H Website Published!**

We now have a county website. Please check it out at [www.gratiotcounty4h.weebly.com](http://www.gratiotcounty4h.weebly.com). It is still under construction, but you can see what information will be shared. Currently, all Monday Memos have been uploaded and youth interested in joining 4-H can now find information online. Please feel free to share this website with potential members! We are also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/gratiotcounty4h](http://www.facebook.com/gratiotcounty4h).

## **4-H Community Service Resource**

The Leaders' Council Community Outreach Committee has created a survey for all community groups to fill out and request potential community service opportunities to our 4-H clubs. If you know of an organization, business or agency who would like to be a part of our community service resource please send them the survey at [www.growinggratiot.weebly.com](http://www.growinggratiot.weebly.com).

## **Exploration Days Books Available!**

Explore new interest areas and meet new people during 4-H Exploration Days at MSU! This annual summer youth conference attracts nearly 3,000 participants who represent all 83 Michigan counties. Almost 200 fun, action-filled classroom and field trip sessions are offered during this three-day event on the MSU campus. Scholarship forms are available as well. Packets have been mailed to all past participants. If you're interested call Katie and you can check out the website at: <http://bit.ly/e2qB9o> Registration closes at the end of April. Get your registrations in now to receive your top class choices.

## Dog Project Information

The first meeting for Pups-R-Us is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Redbird Training Center. This will be an informational meeting for those 4-H dog participants who want to show a dog at the fair. We will discuss paperwork that is needed, record books, lesson schedules, etc. Kids can bring their dogs, but no lessons will be given.

## PQA Plus Training Dates Announced

Clinton County MSU Extension will be registering all Gratiot County 4-H members who need to be certified and/or recertified for PQA Plus. Please call their office directly. I have included other area PQA's that can be attended by our members as well. Please call the phone number provided to register. Gratiot County MSUE will not be registering anyone for PQA Trainings. When other counties determine their PQA dates we will include them in the Monday Memo.

Dates for area PQA Trainings

Date	Time	Host County	Location	Address	Phone # to Register
March 30	7:00 pm	Clinton	Smith Hall	Clinton County Fairgrounds 811 W. Sickles Street St. Johns	989.224.5242
April 14	7:00 pm	Ionia	ISD	2191 Harwood Road Ionia, MI 48846	989.224.5242
May 24	7:00 pm	Gratiot	First Presbyterian Church	First Presbyterian Church 495 Charles Avenue Alma, MI 48801-1401	989.224.5242

**Message from Ken Geuns, Extension Specialist – Livestock Youth:** This is to inform you that an updated listing of sources for 4-H and FFA youth project pigs are now posted on the Animal Science Youth Programs web site. The address is:

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/> The list can be found under the "Livestock Programs" page. There should be a similar list regarding sheep and lamb projects loaded in the next few days.

## 4-H Shooting Sports Info

Organization meeting is set for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Ashley Sportsmans Club. Contact Daymond Grifka for full information at (989) 862-0612.

Clare County Archery Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Clare Rod and Gun Club. You do not have to be in a 4-H Shooting Sports Club to participate. For more information go to: <http://bit.ly/go7dyb>

Tuscola County Wildlife Forever 4-H Archery Club is holding their 3rd Annual County Shoot on June 11, 2011 at the Tuscola County Archers located at 2305 Bruisee Road in Caro. A flyer is available at <http://bit.ly/hUvZ48> Please share with your counties. Thanks.

## Middle of the Mitten Preview Beef Show

Saturday, May 7 the Middle of the Mitten Preview Beef Show will be held at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth fairgrounds in Alma, MI. This even is open to youth ages 9-20 by January 1, 2011 who are a resident of Clinton, Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, Montcalm or Saginaw County. Click here for registration: [Middle of the Mitten Registration Form](#)

Tentative Event Schedule:

- 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Check-In
- 10:00 a.m. - Obstacle Course
- Meet The Judge - 15 minutes after Obstacle Course
- 15 minutes after Meet The Judge

## Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

There's still lots of space available for campers to attend 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp. The camp includes going charter fishing on Lake Huron for first-time campers; returning campers get to do really cool inland fisheries stuff and go on a special night hike. This camp is an annual MSU pre-college program held July 31 to August 6, 2011, for teens ages 13 to 15 on July 1 or entering 8th to 10th grades next fall.

Recognized for program excellence, in late 2008 the 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp was named a National 4-H Program of Distinction, which recognizes the highest quality 4-H youth development efforts in the nation. With that award, 4-H GLNR Camp became eligible for consideration and was selected in 2009 for the 4-H Natural Resources Conservation Education Award. The award is given jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National 4-H.

In addition to tons of fun and fond memories that will last a lifetime, this camp provides teens from across the state the opportunity to:

- Improve their knowledge about Great Lakes and natural resources ecology and management issues.
- Increase awareness of environmental problems, foster environmental stewardship and enhance involvement in local natural resources projects.
- Increase interest in the outdoors, develop leadership skills and self-confidence and influence career decisions.
- Enjoy quality camp activities, gain hands-on science experiences, meet new people and develop friendships.
- Learn from natural resources and youth development experts and develop possible career interests.

Where is Camp?

Camp Chickagami is located along Lake Huron in the northeast corner of the Lower Peninsula in Presque Isle (between Rogers City and Alpena.) The state-licensed camp has dormitory-style housing, small cabins, a dining hall, and toilet and shower facilities. Meals will be prepared and served in the dining hall by a qualified cook.

How Much Does Camp Cost?

The fee is \$335 for campers who are 4-H members and \$345 for campers who are not 4-H members. This includes meals, snacks, lodging, a T-shirt, and program and activity fees. Donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, Michigan Sea Grant Extension and the Michigan Charter Boat Association generously offset about 26 percent of the real \$450-

per-camper cost!

A limited number of state scholarships are offered for teens with financial need. Contact your county MSU Extension office to see if local scholarships may also be available.

#### How To Apply and Remit Payment

Camper applications and deposits (\$100 for 4-H members; \$110 for applicants who are not 4-H members) are due May 16 to county MSU Extension Offices. The remaining \$235 payment is due by June 13, 2011, along with additional forms that will be sent in a camper acceptance letter.

If space is still available after May 16, late enrollments will be accepted with a \$25 late fee until camp fills or until June 10, 2011, whichever comes first.

For more information and a camper application packet contact your county MSU Extension office or visit: <http://bit.ly/gJFMZ3>

## State 4-H Poultry Palooza

When: Saturday, May 21, 2011 here (New Location): Clinton County Fairgrounds. Do you have 4-H members who enjoy raising market broilers for fair? Help them take their 4-H Poultry project to the next level by participating in the State 4-H Poultry Palooza Broiler Contest. 4-H members purchase 25 cockerels between April 4th and April 9th (families can share a flock), they keep records on the birds as the project progresses, on May 19th they take their final weight and determine the best 3 birds from the flock to bring to Palooza on May 21st. Records are turned in, the birds are presented to the judge live, judged and then harvested and the meat is judged (all in the same day).

**There are several livestock sales flyers and horse show flyers in the MSUE Office.**

## Upcoming Events

Kettunen Center Workshop -- <http://bit.ly/hAXUga>

- o Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop April 29-May 1
- o Mentoring Weekend July 22-24

- Circle B 4-H Horse Show May 14<sup>th</sup> [Show Bill & Information](#)
- 13th Annual West Michigan Lakeshore 4-H All Breed Heifer & Steer Show May 15, <http://bit.ly/gwTiCM>
- Ingham County Horse Show Circuit: <http://bit.ly/ifboxr>

*"Like"  
Michigan 4-H,  
Gratiot  
County 4-H &  
the Gratiot  
County Fair  
for Youth on  
Facebook!*

## **GCCFY Camping Information**

At the April Gratiot County Fair for Youth Board of Directors Meeting, the board approved funding the addition of 20 campsites by selling ten year prepaid leases through their 2020 Camping Lease Campaign. The new campsites will increase the fair's camping capacity to a total of 150 campsites.

"We will offer sites first to the 55 exhibitor families who are on our fair's campsite waiting list," states Brian Gardner, Fair Coordinator. "These new campsites will allow more individuals to experience the full fair experience." Gardner reported if the 20 sites are not purchased by waiting list families, existing campers will be able to purchase a ten year lease on their campsite until the fair reaches twenty total leases.

The projected cost of the project is approximately \$24,000. Funding will come from the 2020 Campsite Lease sale and from \$4,000 of the fair's general fund. The leases will be based on the 2011 fair campsite rate of \$100 per year for a total cost of \$1,000.

The new campsites will be located on the south side of the fairgrounds. Campers who do not want a campsite for the full ten years, have the right to sell their remaining lease to a new family.

The fair will start construction as soon as final approval for the site plan comes back from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Anyone wanting more information on the 2020 Camping Lease Campaign is encouraged to contact the fair office at (989) 875-5292 or [info@gccfy.org](mailto:info@gccfy.org).

## **Superintendent Openings**

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth is seeking qualified applicants to fill vacant volunteer superintendent positions for the 2011 fair. Superintendent positions are available for Beef, Beef Skill-A-Thon, Large Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes, Livestock Judging Contest, Poultry, and Sheep Skill-A-Thon. Interested candidates must complete an application form available at [www.gccfy.org](http://www.gccfy.org) or by contacting the GCCFY Fair Office. Applicants must be willing to work with all exhibitors, organized, and committed to the fair's mission. Application forms are due by 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 29, 2011 at the GCCFY Fair Office. The fair's board of directors will fill vacancies from the applicant pool.

## **Join the GCCFY FACEBOOK PAGE**

For up to date info about the fair join the GCCFY Facebook page. Search for "Gratiot County Fair for Youth" on Facebook to locate the site and be sure to "like" us.

## **Revised Coggins Information for Horse Exhibitors**

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has updated their ruling on EIA or more commonly called Coggins Testing for horses & other equine species moving from their farms in Michigan. Check out how our fair will handle this information under the Project Area Information Tab and look under horse.

## **New Horse Registration Form**

The new fair Horse Registration Forms are on line. Completed forms are due back in the fair office by Monday, May 2, 2011. Horse exhibitors who only show in horse projects do not need to complete the official fair entry form. For more information on Horse Fair Projects click here: [Horse Project Information](#)

## **2011 GCCFY Fair Schedule**

Check out the 2011 [Fair Schedule](#).

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