4-H is TOPS!
Fall in Somerset County 4-H

Fall is an exciting time of year for the Somerset County 4-H Programs. We have just held a very successful Open House and many of our clubs have invited new members to join them. If you are a new member- Welcome!

Fall is also a time when we stop to recognize our 4-H Members for the achievements they accomplished last year in the program. We already had our Small Animal Awards Recognition and the Livestock, Dog and Arts awards events are all coming up soon. If you are a member who is continuing from last year we want to congratulate you for the work you have done to achieve that recognition and hope that along the way, you have learned a great deal from the experience.

If you are a club leader, we want to thank you for all your time and dedication to the program- you are the Best!

We look forward to a great 4-H year with new and old members alike and hope that this will be one of the most memorable years you have in the program. Let’s Make the Best Better!

Sincerely,

Lisa Rothenburger
County 4-H Agent

Carol K. Ward
County 4-H Agent

Remember 4-H is for everyone, everywhere!

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County.

4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, or disability.

4-H Mission Statement

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H youth development program uses a learn by doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to become competent, caring, and contributing citizens of the world.

The mission is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of the land grant university system, along with the involvement of caring adults.

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Leaders' & Parents' Outlook

NEW FOR 2007!
MEMBERS MUST BE REGISTERED BY JANUARY 1 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H FAIR AND ALL STATE 4-H EVENTS!

4-H Wreath Sale Info:
Club Orders Were Due October 31

October was 4-H Wreath Sale Month!! If you did not order one, please call the 4-H office at 908-526-6644. We may have extras! The proceeds benefit the 4-H Association (for 4-H Center expenses and the fair) and the clubs receive $1.00 for each wreath they sell.

Burn off those Thanksgiving dinner calories. Come join the fun in helping unload wreaths on Friday, November 24 at 7:30 am.

Club leaders should pick up wreaths:
- Saturday, November 25, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Monday, November 27, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Each club should plan to decorate their own wreaths. To keep wreaths fresh, do not store on concrete, which absorbs moisture. Please call Maryann Del Gigante, night superintendent, 7-10 pm, Monday-Friday, at least a day before you plan to pick up your ribbon, wire and cones.

Wreaths should be delivered to the customers by December 5. Keep $1.00 per wreath for your club treasury if payment is made to the 4-H Association by December 15. Clubs making payment after December 15 should keep only 50¢ per wreath. Clubs making payments after December 31, 2006 will not receive money for selling wreaths. Leaders: Money drop-off days, December 11-13, 7 - 9 pm, 4-H Center. The 4-H office will accept money if these dates are inconvenient.

NERVF a big success! – Thanks!

The Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum only comes to New Jersey every 13 years (or more). The evaluations are coming in and by all accounts the event was a great success.

Several of our own volunteers and staff from Somerset County had a lot to do with that success. We want to thank our volunteers and staff for presenting great workshops: Lisa Rothenburger, Val Kreutler, Rachel Bijaczyk, Lucille Razzano and Betty Sommerville. We want to thank our volunteers and staff on the hospitality and entertainment committees for helping our guests to have such a great time: Betty Sommerville, Kim Miholics, and Val Kreutler as well as Kyle Miholics and Georgeanne and Glenn Valis for providing entertainment. We want to thank our administrative staff for working on the programs, workshop hand-outs and other items for the conference: Georgeanne Valis, Rosemary Fleming, Jennifer Hodge and Marian Kaufman. We hope more of our volunteers will consider attending the next Forum in New Hampshire in 2008: it really is a great event.
Family ASTRO Leader Training
Thursday, January 25, 2007

The goal of the Family ASTRO program is to train educators, astronomers, youth group leaders and anyone else who is interested in helping children and adults explore astronomy together. Participants will learn to lead family astronomy events on a variety of topics. Family ASTRO is about making science fun for the whole family!

Participants are asked to commit to doing at least two family events with groups of five or more families before the end of June 2007. Take-home kits for families can be purchased at the training for $10 per kit or ordered at a later date. Activities are appropriate for youth in grades 3 and up.

Training will be held at the Raritan Valley Community College, located in North Branch, beginning at 9:00 am and ending approximately 4:00 pm. The fee per person is $150 and includes 2 Family Leader Kits, supplies, breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available.

For more information about Family ASTRO and to obtain a registration form see our website at http://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium/familyastro or contact Lisa Rothenburger, County 4-H Agent, at the Somerset County 4-H office at (908) 526-6644 (email: rothenburger@rce.rutgers.edu). Registration deadline is January 12, 2007.

Achievement Dinners

- Livestock Dinner on Saturday, November 4th, 6:30 pm
- Dog Project Achievement Dinner on Sunday, November 5th, 3 pm set-up, 4 pm dinner
- Arts Achievement Dinner on Thursday, November 9, 6:30 pm
- Science Achievement Night on Friday, January 5, 7 pm
- Horse Achievement Banquet on Saturday, January 13th, 6 pm

Call your leader for details.

Eat Smart - Keeping Kids Healthy
Wednesday, March 14, 2007

This educator workshop, brought to you by Family and Community Health Sciences, will provide an overview of the current child obesity epidemic and other nutrition related child health issues; examine the problem of “super size” portions; and demonstrate hands-on classroom activities from two national programs. The Power of Choice from the USDA promotes healthful eating and exercise in early adolescent youth. Eat Smart, Play Hard™ campaign is geared to children ages 8 to 12. The activities support the NJ core curriculum standards and will focus on using food labels to make decisions, healthful snacks, controlling portion sizes and increasing exercise. Participants receive copies of the lessons, camera-ready masters, background materials, and resources for the classroom.

Training will be held at the 4-H Center, beginning at 9:00 am and ending approximately 3:00 pm. The fee per person is $25 and includes lunch.

For more information and to obtain a registration form, call our Family and Community Health Sciences line at (908) 526-6295. Registration deadline is March 1, 2007.

2007 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events

The 2007 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events is being prepared now. It will include state and countywide events for the upcoming calendar year. It should also include major club events (such as achievement dinners). If you have any ideas or contributions, let us know. If you’re not sure if your event should be on the calendar, give us a call. The 2007 Calendar will be mailed in December with the January/February newsletter.
Association News

**BIG Rummage Sale a Success**

*Build - Invest - Grow* by Joe Bakes

Fifty eager bargain-hunters waited for the doors to open on the first day of the Somerset County 4-H rummage sale, and the shoppers kept coming throughout the two days of the sale. The BIG Committee’s first fund-raising event was a huge success — raising $7,000 towards a new roof and parking lot for the 4-H Center — thanks to the untiring effort of our volunteers, staff and 4-H’ers.

The members of the Big Committee- Joe Bakes, Betty Sommerville, Kim and Kyle Miholics, Chan Leung, Jeff Weinstein, Pauline Kodack and Deb Graham put forth a tremendous effort and had excellent support. Sue MacCombie and Elaine Mulrooney assembled a kitchen staff that provided tasty breakfasts and lunches for shoppers and workers. Lisa Darby and Cathy Schlosser accepted donations and manned the bake sale table. The entire RCE staff pitched in. Special thanks to 4-H Program Coordinator, Rachel Bijaczyk who came up with the idea and coordinated all aspects of the sale. Thanks to the Sidewinders, 4-H Herpetology club for donating wonderful baked goods.

We can't forget to thank all the others that helped. Tina Pirro, Jeanette Basile, Ruth Schmidt, Susan Linnell, Brittany and Christina O'Brien, Russ Balliet, Gloria Ford, Nathalie Schlosser, Joanna Lieuallen, Judy Hennessy, Jeanie Fasullo, Heidi Cyr, Allen Solomon, Judy Coates, Elaine Stanis, MaryAnn Freuler, Agnetta Wilson, Deb Metting, Laura Graham, Janice Reitman, Annette and Mellissa Smutko, Pat Sullivan, Diana Brownell, Sarah Israel, Pam and Amy Williams, Janet and Erin Szakacs, Donna Franchuk, Amy Frank, Connie Fenwick, Brian Franchuk, Maureen Mazzaglia, Bob Kinch, Lynne Kinch, Jan Miller, Jeannie Monticchio, Janice Chaffiotte, Jason Minch, Jill Brosinski, Joe and Ryan Shreve, Andrea Kosaka, Lori R., Barbara S., Kathy Bakes, Robert, Michelle and Dot Arena, Caren Lloyd, Anna Marie Hockenbury, Abner and Kitty Mathews, Ernie, Richard and Moleta Hall, Steve Milholics, Debra, Luke, Kara and Kristen Johnson, and those that didn't sign in...you know who you are!

Thanks to all who worked and all who shopped, the BIG Committee’s fund-raising efforts are off to a wonderful start. Now it’s on to the next event - to be determined - in the spring. New committee members are welcome; contact chairman Joe Bakes at 908-725-4246 or josbak@copydesk.org.

Welcome…

The Somerset County 4-H Association had their annual reorganization meeting in September and welcomed officers for 2006-2007: Rich Norz, President; Joe Bakes, Vice-President; Jim Wood, Treasurer, Caitlin O’Neil, Recording Secretary; Janet Kolb, Corresponding Secretary. New members are: Gary and Carolyn Keek, Rose Oldenburg, Amy Anderson, Stuart Farber, Stan Frazyshen, Rob Slovak, and Robin Brygier.

Wreath Decorating

Help is needed on **Wednesday, November 29** to decorate the wreaths. Association members, parents, leaders and friends are asked to attend beginning at 7 pm. Bring a friend. It’s always a fun evening. (These wreaths are to fill orders phoned in, not club orders.)
Learn More About Citizenship Washington Focus

Applications available in the spring!

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Maryland during the summer. CWF continues to be a powerful learning experience for thousands of 4-H youth throughout the country. Teens who are interested can check out the website at:

www.4hcwf.org.

CWF is an extremely memorable experience and is the highlight of any 4-Her’s membership. Participants attend workshops about politics and government, meet members of Congress on Capitol Hill and see more of the city than some DC residents do in a lifetime. CWF is a fun, educational, and dynamic experience for all youth and adults who attend.

Dance Like No One’s Watching
Be True to Yourself

The 10th annual Somerset County Youth Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 15 at 92 East Main Street, Somerville in Conference Rooms 3A-3B, 2nd Floor, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

The conference is designed by teens for teens. The Somerset County Youth Council sponsors it. There is no cost to attend but you must pre-register. Dinner is included. It’s open to all teens in 7th - 12th grades. For more information call Sarah Murchison at 908-704-6307 or email at: murchis@co.somerset.nj.us

4-H Senior Member Winter Camp
Register by January 12th

Members in grades 9-13th will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp January 26 - 28, 2007. This year, Somerset will go with teens from Bergen and Warren Counties. This is always a popular event, so get your application in early. Cost for the whole weekend is only $40.00. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Lisa Rothenburger, 4-H Office at 908-526-6644.
DAR Scholarships Available for Seniors

The Daughters of the American Revolution offer several scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are continuing their education. **The deadline to apply for most of these scholarships is January, 2007.** For an application form and more detailed information, please contact Holly Dunbar, 732-465-5896 or h.dunbar@ieee.org. Students may apply for as many scholarships as they like.

Dr. Aura-Lee and James Pittinger American History Scholarship: High school seniors who will have a concentrated study of a minimum 24 credit hours in American History or American Government may apply. Award of $2,000 per year for up to four consecutive years. Awarded by the National Society DAR. **Deadline to apply: January 15, 2007.**

Betty Bradbury Vail Scholarship: High school seniors who are US citizens and plan to attend an accredited college or university and major in Political Science, History, Government or Economics may apply. One award of $2,000. Awarded by the NJ State Society DAR. **Deadline to apply: January 5, 2007.**

Caroline Holt Nurship Scholarship and the Mildred Nutting Scholarship: Both offer a one-time award of $500 to students in financial need who have been accepted or are currently enrolled in an accredited school of nursing. Awarded by the National Society DAR. **Deadline to apply: January 15, 2007.**

Occupational Therapy Scholarship: A one-time award of $500 for students in financial need who have been accepted or are currently enrolled in an accredited school of Occupational Therapy including art, music or physical therapy. Awarded by the National Society DAR. **Deadline to apply: January 15, 2007.**

Calling All Teens

We have an exciting opportunity to participate in an international research project! The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Somerset County 4-H Program has been asked to take part in the Anglo-American Research Project. The purpose of this project is to compare and contrast the views of youth about their neighborhoods and open spaces in Somerset County, NJ, USA with the views of youth in rural Somerset, England (UK).

Do you want to be part of a “real” research project? Do you like to share your opinions? We need teens, ages 13-18 who will be available on any one of these dates: **November 8 (in the evening); or Thursday, November 9, 2006 (in the day or evening).** The study will take place at the Somerset County 4-H Center.

Here’s more information about the study. In general, we want to know what you think about your neighborhood or community. We want to know how you see yourself as part of, or apart from your neighborhood. The entire study will only take two (2) hours of your time. There are no risks or benefits to helping with the study.

When you sign up to participate, you’ll fill out an anonymous (you don’t put your name on it) survey. Bring that with you the day of the discussion group. We will hold the discussion group with 5-12 youth. The discussion will be audio tape-recorded, but your answers will be confidential. The survey and the tape recorded transcripts will not be seen by anyone, and you will not be identified by name. Again, if you decide not to participate in either part you will not be penalized.

After we’ve gathered and recorded all the information, our next step will be to compare your responses to the responses collected from youth in Somerset, England.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to participate, please contact me at (908) 526-6644 or Rothenburger@rce.rutgers.edu.
**NEW FOR 2007!**

**MEMBERS MUST BE REGISTERED BY JANUARY 1 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OUR 4-H FAIR OR STATE 4-H EVENTS! GET YOUR MEMBERS FORMS IN TODAY!**

### Available Resources On-Line

Visit the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System website to find resources for your 4-H project area.

The National CCS curriculum is used throughout the US and is found in hard copy. But there are additional on-line resources all volunteers can access for many of the different project areas. Please visit this site and see what resources it offers for your club meetings.

[http://www.n4hccs.org/](http://www.n4hccs.org/)

Here is a list of some of the project areas:

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<th>Project Area</th>
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<td>Sport Fishing</td>
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<td>Foods</td>
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<td>Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
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<td>Dairy Cattle</td>
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4-H Members can do a project on their own as an independent project member.

### 4-H Project Record Books

All club members should be using state approved record books. These are available at the 4-H office for $2.00 each or as a free download at [http://somerset.rcre.rutgers.edu/4h/pubs.html](http://somerset.rcre.rutgers.edu/4h/pubs.html)

- Horse Project Record Book- 4H52
- Goat Project Record Book- 4H245
- Sheep Project Record Book- 4H246
- Bird and Poultry Project Record Book- 4H263
- Rabbit, Cavy, and Small Animal Record Book- 4H241
- Herpetology Project Record Book - 4H243
- Dog Care and Training Record Book - 4H242 (Note: Seeing Eye project members may want to use this or the general purpose record book, 4H239, based on club leader discretion)
- Dairy Record Book-4H252
- Model Horse Project Record Book - 4H244
- Clothing & Textiles Project Record Book – 4H262

For projects which do not have an approved Record book, members are encouraged to use “My 4-H Record Book” a general-purpose record-4-H239.

### Meeting Reports for Around the County

We always want to let everyone know the exciting events of your 4-H club. Meeting reports can be mailed to us, ATTN: Georgeanne Valis, dropped off at the 4-H office, or in the evening to Maryann Del Giagante, night superintendent at the 4-H Center, or emailed to us at: valis@co.somerset.nj.us

We will put your club meeting news in Clovertales-Around the County section or on the Prep Page.
Junior American Citizens Contest
"Jamestown Settlement: An American Beginning"

This contest is sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution and is open to all students pre-school through grade 12. All entries must follow the theme and meet the specifications for each category. Awards will be presented on chapter, state and national levels. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2007.

Posters: Original art work, minimum size 8-1/2" x 11"; maximum size 22" x 28".

Stamp Design: Design a postal stamp based on the theme. Original art work only. Size should be 5" x 7" centered on an 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of paper.

Photo Essay: A collection of not more than 25 color photographs illustrating the theme.

Banner: Open to groups of three or more. Design an original banner using fabric or paper; maximum size 16" x 48".

Poem: Write an original poem or 300 words or less. Entries should be submitted on 8-1/2" x 11" sheets.

Short Story: Write an original short story of 500 words or less, in either the first or third-person point of view, submitted on 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

Community Service Project: Group or individual entries may be submitted. Entries should consist of not more than 15 color photographs that illustrate the project with a descriptive text of 500 words or less. Identify all photographs with captions. Entries should be placed in a three-hole punched, three-brad binder.

For more information or an application form, contact Holly Dunbar at (732) 465-5896 or h.dunbar@ieee.org.

Public Presentations 2007

More and more members are participating in Public Presentations each year and the quality of those Presentations continues to improve.

Save the dates- March 27, 28, 29, 2007 to have your presentation judged or critiqued. Before you begin, you might want a few easy tips on how to give a better presentation.

Workshops will be January 23, 7:00 pm and January 25, 4:00 pm.

NEW in '07: An additional workshop will be offered January 30, 7:00 pm for those interested in using power point visuals as part of your presentation. Call the 4-H Office to register. If your club would like an informal workshop at a club meeting, call Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office.

Help Needed Making Infant Caps

Please help us make infant caps for hospitals in need!

Have a lot of bits and pieces of left over yarn? Put them to good use by donating them. Drop off at the center. They will be made into infant caps to be distributed to hospitals where needed. For more information go to www.warmupamerica.org. There is also a pattern for making infants caps on the site. Want to help more? Come to our 4-H fiber club, Swift Twister’s meeting on Friday November 17 for our Crochet/Knit Out and see how many caps we can make. All Welcome!

Contact Sue, email: susar@rcn.com

New Club!
Community Service Ideas

Holiday Giving the 4-H Way!
Get in the holiday spirit of giving by using the four H’s as inspiration! We will have 4 Giving trees set up in the 4-H Center gym from Nov. 15-Dec. 15. Each tree will be there to collect items pertaining to one of the four H’s.

- The tree for HEAD will have boxes for caps, hats, and scarves.
- The tree for HEART will be for pet supplies and treats.
- The tree for HANDS will have a box for gloves and mittens.
- The tree for HEALTH will be for non-perishable food.

Clubs are needed to manage the donated items. Contact Mrs. Kreutler at the 4-H Office if you would like to help decorate the trees and/or help with distributing the donations.

Military Mail
The holidays are just around the corner and your club can help cheer up the military men and women who are spending their holidays away from home. For more information contact “Friends of Our Troops” PO Box 65408-W, Fayetteville, NC 28306-5408 or visit their website at: http://www.troopfanmail.net/

Somerset County United Way
National Family Volunteer Day
Saturday, November 18 • 1 to 4 pm
Franklin Township Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ

This event is a great way to introduce children to the concept of community service and to spend an afternoon together as a family helping others. Local nonprofit organizations will have a variety of volunteer projects, designed for all ages. Admission to this event is the donation of a new coat, hat or gloves, or a nonperishable food item. Cash donations will also be accepted, but not required. All donations will be gifted to underprivileged children and families through United Way’s Gifts of the Season program. Choose from a variety of projects:

- Make holiday greeting cards for hospitalized veterans
- Helping to prepare a mailing for a local charity
- Making Thanksgiving decorations for the Food Bank’s annual dinner
- Creating a mural for the Gifts of the Season program

Advance registration is requested. Please register by November 15, 2006 by filling out the online registration form at www.somersetonline.org or by calling Somerset County United Way at (908) 253-6513. For additional information, please contact Yvette Choma at (908) 253-6513 or ychoma@uwscnty.org

United Way for Holiday Cheer
Clubs are needed to help share holiday joy with those less fortunate by helping Somerset County United Way’s Gifts of the Season program.

Gift Drop Off: Thursday & Friday, December 7 & 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift Distribution: Saturday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Information on specific individuals in need in Somerset County is provided by local health and human services agencies. For more information on our Gifts of the Season Program, please contact Irene Natale at (908) 253-6511 or e-mail irene.natale@scuw.org

Gift Sorting & Tagging: Monday - Friday, December 11 - 15. For more information on volunteering opportunities including sorting and bagging gifts during the week of December 11, please contact Lisa Galonardo at (908) 253-6503 or e-mail lisa.galonardo@scuw.org

Wrapped in Love Drop Off: Thursday & Friday, December 7 & 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Help share the warmth this winter with those less fortunate by collecting donations for this annual drive that takes place in November and December. NEW socks, gloves, hats, scarves and coats are needed most! For more information, please contact Yvette Choma at (908) 253-6513 or ychoma@uwscnty.org
HURRAY FOR...
Open House a Huge Success!

The nineteenth annual “Join 4-H!” Open House was held at the 4-H Center on October 5, during National 4-H Week. Approximately 300 people came to learn more about 4-H and join 4-H clubs.

The following 4-H clubs were represented at the “Join 4-H” Open House to encourage new members to join: Broken Props Model Airplanes, 4-H Go-Kart Club, Somerset Trainmasters, Somerset Sentinels, 4-H Space & Astronomy Club, Wattles & Snood Poultry Club, Happy Tails, Creations Alpaca Club, Mighty Cavities & Rodents, Branchburg Beef, Dairy & Livestock, 4-H Cattleman’s Club, Just Kidding, Sidewinders Club, Chaps & Spurs, Stablemates, Hoof Beats, Sheepfold, Woolly Ones, 4-H Cat Club, Clowning Around, 3 PIU 4-H Puppetry Club, 4-H Country Kickers, Twirling Clovers, 4-H Young Artists’, 4-H Senior Council, Swift Twisters, New Centre Dairy, People Pick-Me-Ups and 4-H Exploding Stars Prep Club.

New clubs joining us for Open House were the 4-H Knitting Club, 4-Seasons, and the North Star Puppy Raisers. Please call the 4-H Office to learn more about these clubs or to join these or any of our other clubs.

A special thanks to Elaine Mulrooney, Erin Szakacs and Janet Szakacs for serving the refreshments, and to Kathy & Joe Bakes for helping at the information area.

Small Animal Results

Our apologies, but these names were left out of our September issue as winners at the 4-H Fair:

Best of Show:
Sarah Ongaro, Mini Satin Rabbit
Ashley Gallagher, Satin American Cavy
Kira Whitney, Small Animal, Hamster

Best Reserve of Show:
Caitlyn Merrill, Crème D’Argent Rabbit
Kalen Whitney, Teddy Cavy
Eric Kinney, Small Animal, Rat

Best Junior Project - Ashley Gallagher
Best Senior Project - Justin Alpaugh
Best Junior Record Book - Jonathan Schramm
Best Senior Record Book - Kira Whitney

State Small Animal Results

Congratulations to Sarah Stamets for winning Best of Breed and Best Reserve of Breed in the Rat Category
Sarah also won the Breed Identification Contest.

Criation Alpaca Club Fair Results

Senior Showmanship
1st Alyson Weiss
2nd Kandace Alpaugh
3rd Katie Fenyar

Junior Showmanship
1st Miranda Reinson
2nd Brook Gallagher
3rd Erica Devlin

Alpaca Agility Seniors
1st Kandace Alpaugh
2nd Alyson Weiss
3rd Katie Fenyar

Alpaca Agility Juniors
1st Brooke Gallagher
2nd Ashley Gallagher
3rd Erica Devlin

Thank You...

Thanks to Mike Pappas, Deb Graham, Doug Farley, Elaine Mulrooney and Amy Frank for helping to “get the clover out” and promote 4-H at the Branchburg Country Fair in September.

Thanks to Ruth and Rob Slovik for speaking about 4-H at the Hillsborough Town Council Meeting.
4-H Volunteer Highlights

Lisa Darby

Residence: Bridgewater

Family: Husband Jim; daughters Brittney, Christina, step-daughters Kristin, Tyler

Occupation: Instructional Aide

Hobbies/Spare Time Activities: Reading and visiting with my friends

First became involved in 4-H... After taking my daughter to the Somerset County 4-H Fair; she fell in love with it and we have been involved ever since.

Involvement in 4-H and community today... Leader of Wags & Whiskers dog club. Co-chair of the food tent, Association member.

Most memorable experience as a volunteer... Being a chaperone on the Colorado exchange trip.

Favorite aspect of volunteering... After watching the children work so hard all year on their project animals, seeing the joy they experience at the fair and knowing they realize it was all worth it.

People don't know that... When I was a senior in high school I belonged to a square dance club at Rutgers University.

Rose Oldenburg

Residence: Hillsborough

Family: Son Alex, GiGi, our fat pussycat, Fluff A Nutter, the hamster and Spotty the lizard

Occupation: Manager for AT&T

Hobbies/Spare Time Activities: Bike riding, camping, fishing and painting

First became involved in 4-H... Seven years ago as a prep-leader for the 4-H Pet Club.

Involvement in 4-H and community today... Association member, and helped to coordinate the vendors for the food tent during the 4-H Fair.

Most memorable experience as a volunteer... 4-H Prep Camp. The fishing is great!

Favorite aspect of volunteering... Watching the kids laugh and enjoy themselves while learning about something new and exciting in their world.

People don't know that... I like to ski when I get the chance.

If I had more time I would... Paint and garden more.

Chan Leung Volunteer of the Year!

At the recent Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum in Long Branch, New Jersey, it was announced that Chan Leung, Somerset County 4-H Volunteer was selected to receive a volunteer of the year award from the New Jersey Association of 4-H Agents. Chan has been a club leader of the Chinese Culture and Clover Outreach clubs, an Association member and a county and state Advisory Board member. He has lobbied for funding which supports the 4-H Program in the state and federal budgets and has been an outstanding volunteer in our county and throughout the state. Chan will actually receive his award at a luncheon in February.

Chan, with his wife, Cynthia Siu
Plan Now for Summer Camp

If you are thinking about going to camp this summer, a gift certificate to Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp makes a great holiday present. Located just off Route 206 in Sussex County, about 1½ hours from Bridgewater, this camp offers environmental, arts, and sports activities each week. The cost of a week is $305 until February 1, $315 until April 1 and $325 after April 1. For non-4-H members, please add $20.00 per week. Check the website for updates at: www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu. Members and friends may attend any one of the following weeks (not just during preference week).

Summer Camp Session One - July 2 - 7
Summer Camp Session Two - July 9 - 14
Summer Camp Session Three - July 16 - 21
Summer Camp Session Four - July 23 - 28
Summer Camp Session Five - July 30 - August 4
Somerset County Preference Week
Summer Camp Session Six - August 6 - 11

4-H Senior Member Winter Camp
Register by January 12th

9-13th graders from Somerset County will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp January 26 - 28, 2007. This is always a popular event, so get your application in early. If you did not receive an application, please call the 4-H Office. Cost for participants is $40.00. Scholarships are available. This year we are sharing the weekend with Warren and Bergen county 4-H’ers.

For additional information, please contact Lisa Rothenburger at 908-526-6644 or Rothenburger@rce.rutgers.edu

Summer Camp Reunion
December 29th - 31st, 2006

Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp is proud to present the Annual Summer Camp Reunion. This event takes place during the Winter Holiday Break. Campers & Counselors will lodge in heated cabins and enjoy weather-related activities such as ice skating, hiking, survival, indoor & outdoor games, campfires & more. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the great times of summer camp while making new memories! Campers are invited to bring a friend to this event even if that friend did not attend summer camp. Space will be limited to 50 campers. Staff from summer camp will also be there. Cost for this event is $100.00 (This fee includes 4 meals, lodging and all activities.) Check in is 5:00 pm on Friday; depart 2:00 pm Sunday afternoon. Call to register or more information: 973-948-3550
The 60th Fair

The first Somerset County 4-H Fair was held in Far Hills in 1948 and we will celebrate the 60th Fair in 2007. Please join us as we work to make it special.

New Awards-All members, leaders, and parents are invited to meet January 10 at 7:00 in the Large Conference room to discuss the types of trophies, awards or gifts you would like to receive to commemorate this year. Call Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office, with your ideas.

Alumni- help plan special activities for alumni

Publicity- help get the word out that this Fair will be especially exciting

Sponsorships- help involve more sponsors in this fun event.

If you would like to help in any of these areas, please call Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office.

Exhibitor Guide

Read through your division(s) in the 2006 Exhibitor Guide and if you see anything you would like to change, please bring it to the attention of your leader. Leaders, please discuss proposed changes with your division chairs. Division chairs are asked to send changes to the 4-H Office by January 30th so they can be made to the 2007 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide.

Club Photos Due by March 31

Club leaders will be responsible for submitting a maximum of 6 of your best photos for your club’s page in the 2007 Yearbook & Catalog. Photos need to be good quality, showing your members in action shots preferably, and a positive representative of your club and the 4-H program. Include a descriptive one sentence statement for each photo specifying what’s happening without naming names.

If you need help with a photo-taking, contact the 4-H office and we’ll try to send someone out to take a group photo...just give us a week’s notice.

Final photo selection for inclusion will be at the discretion of the Catalog committee.

Helpful Teens

Thanks again to Senior Council for washing all the Fair banners!
Dear 4-H Prepper,

Welcome to all the new boys and girls who have joined 4-H Prep clubs. You can meet some of them at our Prep Family Night when we celebrate the New Year...Saturday, January 6, 2007. Read all about it and other special events on the other side.

Mrs. Kreutler
4-H Prep Coordinator

Yakety - Yak

The Mad Scientists October meeting started with the pledge of allegiance led by Faith. Cary led the 4-H pledge and Noni took attendance. Then they learned about static electricity and did a lot of fun experiments. Austin liked making his hair stand up with a balloon. Christian liked picking up paper with charged sticks. Faith liked when the pie plates flew off the Vander Graff generator.

Welcome to the new 4-H TOP Club. The members are Allison Conway, Vincent and Danielle Ferrera, Madeleine and Vanessa Hargrave, Noah Rothenburger and Joseph Rottner. At their first meeting in October, the preppers started their journals, named their club, and circled things they wanted to learn about during the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Pappas are leaders of the new All 4-H Prep Club. The members are Haven and Isabella DeAngelis, Erin Kopecky, Calvin Raab, Destiny Pappas, Mona Mahapatra, Chelsea Linke, Nate Turse, and Siobhan Flynn. They named their club, started journals, got jobs and enjoyed snacks made by Destiny and Mrs. Pappas. In November, they plan to have the Dairy Princess visit and make butter.

Welcome to the Little Woofers. These preppers will learn a lot about dogs and do fun prep things too. We'll let you know the names of the members and what they plan to do in the next issue.
Mark your calendars…

PREP FAMILY NEW YEAR’S PARTY
and
PIG ROAST TO HONOR VAL KREUTLER
Saturday, January 6, 2007
5-8 p.m. at the 4-H Center
Each family coming brings a covered dish or two
A donation will be asked to cover the cost of the entée
Dancing/Games/Crafts
Confetti, streamers, noisemakers!

4-H PREP RALLY
“A Trip Around the World”
Saturday, March 3, 2007
9a.m.-2p.m.
Depart from Clover Airport (4-H Center)
“visit” 4 countries and
have your bag lunch in Mexico!
• Read more about this in the Jan./Feb. Clovertales

4-H FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND
L.G. Cook 4-H Camp
June 1-3, 2007
Fishing, hikes, crafts,
boating, and even more!

Until we see you next year… have lots of fun, be sure to tell us all about what you are doing in your club… and Happy Holidays to you and your family from everyone at the 4-H Office!
Chaps & Spurs
by Kaitlyn Janisch & Kristen Johnson

The Club determined this year their President would only serve 2 months at a time. September/October would be Justin Dagnall and November/December will be Elyse Gerbel. The new Secretary will be Kaitlyn Janisch. Club discussions included completing a horse fact sheet, possible field trips and the upcoming Horse-bowl. The Prep Division decorated mini pumpkins at their meeting using markers, stickers, letters and ribbons. It was a little messy but the pumpkins turned out fabulous. Chaps & Spurs welcomes new members.

4-H Cattleman’s Club
by Joshua Bruss

The Club had its annual election of officers: AJ Stahoski, President; Jack Egan, Vice-President; Jessica Gilliam, Secretary; Emily Gerlach, Treasurer; Joshua Bruss, Reporter; and Benny Przewosny, Photographer. Discussions included the Club’s participation in Open House, National 4-H Week and the new 4-H theme.

Mighty Cavits & Rodents
by Kira Whitney

The Club took nominations for new officers. New Club news included the awards dinner in October and wreath orders, all the shows planned for the 2006-07 year and the differences between the open and showcase divisions.

Chinese Culture Club
by Clarissa Chu

The 4-H Chinese Culture Club had a great time at the 4-H Fair this year! Their booth at the food tent sold red and green bubble tea and the following delicious new items: lo mien, pork fried rice, and for dessert, egg custard tarts. Some members of the Club also helped out at the cotton candy stand as well as the baked goods stand in the food tent. Yum! In the Arts tent, the Club held Chinese calligraphy demonstrations and hands-on Chinese knotting and origami demonstrations. This year, the Club put on the lion dance, performed by William King, Kevin Suen, Alvin Chiang, and Patty Chan with musical accompaniment performed by Patricia Lin (drum), Jessica Zhao (cymbals), and Clarissa Chu (gong). The Club’s dance class also performed an elegant Chinese handkerchief dance. None of these activities would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Club members. A big thank you and a round of applause to all of the parents and Club members who helped out at the fair this year!

Criation Alpaca Club
by Brooke Gallagher

The Criation Alpaca Club had a great Fair! They would like to thank their judges and parents for their support. Judges included Bob Ribbans from Candlelight Alpaca Farm, Nick Melfi, Cody Lacy and Kayla Burlew. The winner of the Alpaca Fiber Teddy Bear for answering the most correct questions about Alpacas, was Jennifer Mandato of Bridgewater. The members got to turn the table on their parents for the first Parent Alpaca Agility contest. Parents got to show their stuff taking the alpacas through the same agility course as the members do. The winner was Dawn Gallagher, mother of Ashley and Brooke. The Club is looking for new members grades 4th and older. They meet the 4th Thursday of every month.

New Centre Dairy
by Chris Puskas

New officers were elected for the year. These are: Alyssa Varsalone-Basile, President; Julia Hill, Vice-President; Jessica Brygier, Secretary; Kathy Hill, Treasurer, Kelly Steimle, Corresponding Secretary; Angie Philipsheck, Historian; Chris Puskas, Reporter. New members learned about the Dairy Project and the Club also made butter.

Senior Council
by Robby Slovik

The Club made $180.00 at their summer carwash. They also made over 2000 sno-cones at the 4-H Fair. Thank you cards were made and youth leadership applications were discussed.

Sheepfold
by Cathy Christy

The Sheepfold 4-H Club participated in the Garden State Sheep Breeders Show on September 16-17 at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds in
Ringo. They entered both meat breed and wool breed animals and did very well in their class placings. Shanna Clifford received the Junior Showmanship award.

**Hoofbeats**
*by Catherine Marrion*

The 4-H fair went very well for the Hoofbeats Horse Club. A large percentage of Club members brought horses to the Fair and many other members were a huge help. Thank you especially to Gaby Guzman and Stephanie Christian, who were awesome. It’s wonderful to be able to share our love of horses with others. Members attended some great clinics thanks to Judy Hennessey. The best part of each day was the games at night. Watching Eileen Darabant in the speed classes showed us all what fearless really means. We saw Sarah Lerch's horse Cody and Liz Hobbie's horse Lady tear up the ring while doing barrels. It was very cute to see Alyssa's Western Pleasure horse, Chance, trying to do speed. A slow lope around the barrels is quite entertaining. We were fortunate enough to have two club members go to Round Robin. Stephanie Perlitz went as the junior representative, and Andrew McCamley went as the senior representative. Lastly, thank you to our senior members for your leadership and support.

**Livestock Costume Participants**

Udder Club: Samantha Schurick, Caitlin Merrill, Sandra Forftus; Mighty Cavits & Rodents: Todd Gallagher, Melissa Race, Brooke Gallagher, Elise McKeen, Carolyn Rubenfield; Happy Tails: Colleen Ferry, Katie Fenyar, Amanda Cronce; New Centre Dairy, Angie Philipcheck; Just Kidding: Emma Ross, Roxanne Rosinski, Danny Philipcheck, Colleen Ridder, Kristi Philipcheck.

**The 4-H Young Artistes**
*by Jennifer Hodge*

The Club held its first meeting of the year on October 19 at the 4-H Center. Seven new members joined the Club from Open House. They are very excited about the new year and all the fun activities planned. This year the Club is decorating the 4-H Center Showcase in December and will feature local artists from the central Jersey area. For the holidays, the club will be collecting Toys-for-Tots and making holiday cards to send overseas to our military. Other projects this year will be designing t-shirts, ceramics, learning illustration, henna, and mosaics. A new program they are starting is a family sponsored art project night. They will also be visiting local art museums and having guests artists from the area come to visit with the club. If you are interested in arts and crafts please contact Jennifer and Jessica Hodge at (908) 526-6644 or (732) 302-0578 for more information. The club meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month 7:00 p.m., at the 4-H Center.

**Wags & Whiskers Dog Club**
*by Amy Miller*

The Club had it’s elections with the results as follows: Gwen Brown, President; Ashley Miller, Vice-President; Amy Miller, Corresponding Secretary; Carolyn Pirro, Treasurer, Dan Basile, Historian; and Tiffany Freuler, Secretary.

**What To Do In Case of Inclement Weather**

If your club meets at the 4-H Center and you are a club leader, please contact the 4-H office before 4:30 at 908-526-6644 or the building manager between 7-10 pm at 908-526-8242, to let her know if you will cancel your meeting that night. You are also responsible for contacting your club members to let them know you will cancel. If you are a 4-H member in doubt, contact your 4-H club leader.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**
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The Prep Program was only 10 years old when Valerie Kreutler joined the Somerset County 4-H Staff. During the next 27 years, Val dedicated herself to making the best better. As she retires January 1, 2007, we must thank her for her efforts!

Those who have had the good fortune to work with her, know she is definitely a people person. She has the ability to recognize the potential of people and to nurture and motivate them to achieve successes they never imagined. Former Prep leaders now comprise the major portion of our volunteer corps, beginning as Val protégés and becoming standard club leaders, Association officers and committee members.

Val has introduced innovative programming that has frequently become standard operating procedure in the county and state. She created and conducted the first series of summer day camps open to all kids in Somerset County. She was solely responsible for this program from 1987-1993 when SAW became an RCE effort in 1994. Staff now shares responsibility, but her original philosophy and design are still used today.

Val has conducted the 4-H Prep Rally for 27 years. One year the theme of the Rally was Sensational Science. You guessed it- this event was so successful, Science-Sational Day is now held annually as well as the Prep Rally.

The hands on science demonstrations she developed for educators have been used by 4-H staff at state and national forums. Some have been published and are used as a resource for club leaders nation-wide.

Everyone that has been to Prep Camp knows how much Val loves camp and will agree they owe this wonderful family experience to her ability to plan fun activities; full of surprises.

She’s the one that always remembers to ask, as she was taught by Ted Blum, 4-H Agent, “what’s the objective?” This helps keep us always focused on what is best for members, volunteers and the Program.

Her creativity is legendary. Whether it is displays in the Prep Tent or the wording on a gift tag, we leave it to Val to brain storm her way to something noteworthy.

Even though she struggles with “scheduled out” parents and kids, she continues to try to change the priorities of parents to include more family activities and 4-H. She leaves us with a strong Prep program, first-rate models of programming and the best example of a career based on loving, caring and giving. She has always been a strong advocate for kids and the 4-H Program and we will all miss her very much.

Info about Val’s retirement celebration in January will be sent via email. If you are not on the Somerset County 4-H email list, please call the 4-H office. Everyone is welcome!