4-H IS TOPS!
Welcome to 2008

With ten new clubs starting up, and many other clubs filling to capacity, 2008 promises to be a banner year for Somerset County 4-H.

4-H SET (Science, Engineering & Technology), is a national 4-H initiative geared to provide youth with hands-on learning experiences fostering exploration, discovery and passion for the sciences. At Somerset County 4-H, we are leading the way with our many diverse clubs in mechanical science, physical science, as well as animal science. We are proud to offer the largest 4-H program in the state.

Look, too, this year for some great offerings featuring the SET theme. There is our popular Science-sational Day, which has always focused on a broad range of science subjects; the Prep Rally, featuring our Amazing Sky, and our TOPS camp, where campers will get to explore many science subjects with hands-on projects.

Much of the success of our programs is due to the dedication of our volunteers, who willingly share their time and knowledge to making “the best better”. We thank you for all you have done for Somerset County 4-H in 2007 and look forward to a great 2008. Happy New Year!

Lisa Rothenburger
County 4-H Agent

Carol K. Ward
County 4-H Agent

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.
What is a Tricky Tray? Also known as a basket raffle, it is a popular fund-raising event. Prizes, usually offered in groupings or baskets, are put out on display with a collection container next to each. People pay an admission fee to attend the event and receive tickets to place in the collection containers of the prizes they would like to win. Attendees may purchase additional tickets to increase their chances of winning. At the conclusion of the event, a winning ticket is drawn for each prize.

We need prizes! 4-H clubs can help by donating prizes or a gift basket for the event. All items should be new and in original packaging if possible. While prizes are referred to as “baskets,” you do not need to have your donations in an actual basket, volunteers can package your items for the event. Individual prize items will be accepted and grouped with other items to create baskets. Gift certificates and gift cards are needed, too! All prize donors will have their names listed in the event program.

To donate a basket: The most popular baskets are those that have a theme, such as puzzles, books, paper/pen and ink sets, party goods, bath items, baby items, a season or holiday, etc. Perhaps your basket could reflect your club’s subject area: grooming supplies and toys for a pet, cooking or baking utensils, sporting goods. The value of a basket should be $20 or more. Be creative!

Baskets should be dropped off at the 4-H Center by February 1.

Calling all volunteers! Adult volunteers are needed to:

- Solicit donations from businesses
- Package prizes
- Set up in the late afternoon/evening on Saturday, March 1 or the morning of Sunday, March 2
- Assist at the event

Have Questions? For more information or to volunteer, contact Barb Navatto, navatto@co.somerset.nj.us, (908) 526-6644, or Holly Dunbar, hdunbar@verizon.net, Work: (732) 465-5896.

Proceeds will be used for repairs to the 4-H Center.

Family ASTRO Leader Training - January 23
Register by January 11
If you are interested in learning to lead family astronomy events on a variety of subjects, then this workshop is for you! Family ASTRO is about making science fun for the whole family! This all day training is open to adults and teens. Contact Lisa Rothenburger at rothenburger@rce.rutgers.edu or 908-526-6644.

Project Learning Tree February 20
Register by February 6
An award winning environmental education program designed for teachers and youth leaders that includes over 175 hands-on activities that help teach science, math, language arts, social studies and other subjects like animals and habitats. Contact the 4-H Office to register.

Get Moving-Get Healthy NJ March 13
Register by March 3
GMGH is a statewide initiative to get kids, families and individuals to eat well and be physically active. This all day training program is open to all educators, leaders and parents. Contact Family & Community Health Science at 908-526-6295 to register.
**Food ‘N Fun Luncheon**
January 26

*Register by January 18*

Choose a theme, plan a menu and come prepared for a party! Plan to participate in the Food ‘N Fun Luncheon, **January 26**. This covered dish luncheon is open to **ALL 4-H CLUBS**. Contact Mrs. Razzano for more details at 908-526-6644 or razzano@co.somerset.nj.us.

**Table Setting Contest**
January 26

*Register by January 18*

Plan a menu and set the table. Held on the same day as the Food ‘N Fun Luncheon (**January 26**). It’s open to **ALL 4-H CLUBS**.

**4-H Science-sational Day**
April 5

*Tell your Friends & Family!

Learn about a variety of science topics! This fun filled day for youth in grades 1-6 will be held Saturday, **April 5th**. Registration forms will be available in February.

**4-H Summer Camp**
July 7 – August 15

*Available to all 4-H members and their non-4-H friends*

The Lindley G. Cook, 4-H Camp in Stokes State Forest, NJ, is open six weeks starting the beginning of July. 4-H members and non-members are welcome to sign up for any week. However, in order to continue the tradition of camping with other members from your county, **Somerset County 4-H members are encouraged to attend July 28 – August 2**. Campers will see other Somerset County 4-H members. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available. Call the 4-H office at 908-526-6644 for more information.

**Presentation Judges Needed - April 1-2-3**

You have helped and watched your child or club members do many presentations. You know when they are doing a good job and you know how they can improve their presentations. 4-H needs you to pass along this expertise! 4-H Presentations are **April 1, 2, 3**. Please call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644 to volunteer. Training will be provided.

**New Jersey 4-H Junior Breeder Symposium**
April 5 at Cook College

This year the focus will be on **Farm Safety**. Please talk to your livestock leader about making it a club trip!

Registration information is available by contacting Carol Ward at the 4-H Office, 908-526-6644.

**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.
National 4-H Council Needs Winning Photos...

...taken between 2003 - 2008, to create the 2010 National 4-H Calendar. Winning photos will be on display at the National 4-H Conference Center from September - November, 2008 and posted on their website.

The list of criteria is listed at this link: [http://www.4-hmall.org/Calendar/PhotoContest2010.asp](http://www.4-hmall.org/Calendar/PhotoContest2010.asp) and includes:

- Photographer must be involved in the 4-H program
- Photograph must have received another award (like from our fair!)
- Photograph must be in color, high resolution, high quality paper, 8 x 10 landscape.

Please check the complete list of criteria and submit any entries to: 2010 4-H Calendar
National 4-H Supply Service
6931 Arlington Road, Suite T-400
Bethesda, MD 20814

Deadline to enter is March 1, 2008

How Has Someone In 4-H Inspired You?

National 4-H Supply Service wants you to tell them how someone in 4-H has inspired you and they may use your story for the 2009 National 4-H Calendar. They need 12 stories (one for each month). You could receive a $10.00 gift certificate good towards a future purchase from the 4-H Source Book, just for sending a story.

A complete list of details can be found at: [http://www.4-hmall.org/Calendar?CalendarStory2009.asp](http://www.4-hmall.org/Calendar?CalendarStory2009.asp).

Stories can be submitted to Maria Cascioli at: mcascioli@fourhcouncil.edu.

Deadline to enter is June 10, 2008.

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NEW!

4-H welcomes these new clubs.

4-H Beekeeping Club: Meets every 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Members will have the opportunity to work with live bees and learn about the care and maintenance of hives.

4 Seasons Outdoor Club: Meets every 2nd Friday, 7:00 pm. This club focuses on outdoor education, environmental science, rocks and minerals.

4-H Photography Club: call for information.

Prep Chefs: Meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. Members will be preparing all kinds of food and taking trips to see how real chefs prepare food. The club is baking brownies for ice cream sundaes for the Prep New Year.

Free Spirit Riders Horse Club: Meets at Silver, Bit & Spur Farm in Whitehouse, 1st Wednesday of the month. Members will be learning about horses.

ATV Club: call for information.

New Dog Club: This is a brand new club, meeting dates and times to be determined. If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Rothenburger.

New Small Animals Club: This is a brand new club that will be meeting on the 2nd Thursdays of the month at 7:00 pm. Please contact Carol Ward for information.

All Star Prep Club: Meets at HealthQuest in Flemington the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm. They will be covering a variety of subject interests and plan to do a field trip once a month.

New Prep Club: This club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays and will be focusing on many different topics to spark all the interests of our newest “preppers”.

Unless noted, all clubs meet at the 4-H Center.

Some of these new clubs as well as many of our other clubs are accepting new members! Contact us for more information: 908-526-6644.
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. This year’s dates will be July 6 - 12. CWF continues to be a powerful learning experience for thousands of 4-H youth throughout the country. Teens in grades 9-12, 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.

Healthy Lifestyle Conference

by Brianna Mulrooney

On October 11th, Debbie and Luke Johnson, Lucille Razzano, and my mother, Elaine Mulrooney, and I set off to Portland, Maine for a leadership/volunteer forum. This year the theme was promoting healthy living. We attended as adult and youth partnerships. We arrived in Maine after a 7 hour car ride ready to learn about some new things to share with Somerset County clubs. There were representatives there from West Virginia to Maine.

We attended workshops that dealt with the food pyramid, exercise, food choices, cooking, sugar awareness, stress, and how to have a healthy brain. Each workshop gave us information and some provided hands-on activities to try. We found out some interesting new things. We all realized we eat too much sugar. That was shocking!! We toured a Whole Foods Market and that was really interesting. They do not sell anything containing additives like chemicals, dyes, or preservatives. The closest market to us is in Princeton but it is a great store. We also saw a very beautiful lighthouse; but unfortunately it rained on us while we were there.

We were treated to an old fashioned church supper of spaghetti and salad. We really enjoyed that meal because the hotel provided very healthy food during the conference so the spaghetti tasted especially good.

We enjoyed our trip and would love to share any information with interested clubs. Please contact us to visit your club. Call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644.

National 4-H Congress

Applications will be due in April.

Each year more than 1000 4-H’ers from the US participate in National 4-H Youth Congress. This educational event focuses on social and cultural programs, leadership development and workforce preparedness. Youth grades 9-12 may apply. This event is held in Atlanta, GA, November 28-December 2. It’s the highlight of a 4-H career. Call the 4-H office for an application.

Their website is www.national4-hcongress.com. Watch your March newsletter for a due date in April.
Financial Help for College

Applications are being sent, and acceptance letters are coming soon—but how will you pay for college? Check out these available scholarships offered through Somerset County 4-H. Applications available at the 4-H office and on line.

Somerset County 4-H Association Scholarship
The Somerset County 4-H Association is offering five $1000.00 scholarships to 4-H'ers for college, vo-tech, etc. To apply, students must be a high school senior or a college freshman. They need to be a Somerset County 4-H member in good standing and they must have a letter of recommendation from a 4-H Club Leader. **Applications due in the office by April 1.**

Somerset County 4-H Prep Scholarship
Somerset County 4-H Prep is offering a $500.00 scholarship to a 4-H'ers who started out in our 4-H Prep Program. To apply, students must be a high school senior or a college freshman. They need to be a Somerset County 4-H member in good standing, have contributed to the 4-H program and demonstrated mentoring relationships within 4-H and they must have a letter of recommendation from a 4-H Club Leader. **Applications due in the office by April 1.**

James Rudowski Scholarship
The James Rudowski Scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating high school senior with an interest in a career in science. The senior needs to be a current member in good standing with a Somerset County 4-H Club and must have a letter of recommendation from an adult currently active in a Somerset County 4-H Program. Mr. Rudowski was a 4-H science club leader. This fund was established by his family. **Applications due in the office by April 1.**

Joseph J. and Florence E. Klimas Scholarship
The Joseph J. and Florence E. Klimas Scholarship is awarded annually to a Somerset County 4-H Alum, entering his/her junior or senior year in college, having declared a major in education. Letters of recommendation from a 4-H adult volunteer and a professor are also necessary. Mrs. Klimas is a former Somerset County 4-H Leader and Branchburg Middle School teacher. This fund was established by her son, Scott Goodell, and his family. **Applications due in the office by April 1.**

For those interested in studying agriculture, plant science, animal science, landscape architecture or other related field, these scholarship applications are available in our 4-H office:

The Tom Everett Memorial Scholarship
**$2000 Academic Scholarship:** Applicant must be enrolled as a sophomore or older at an accredited college or university. Applicant must also be a NJ resident majoring in an agricultural subject area and must intend to pursue a career in production agriculture or related field. Applicant's parent must be a current member of the NJ Farm Bureau.

**$500 Continuing Education Scholarship:** Applicant or parent, if under 21, must be a current member of the NJ Farm Bureau and will be attending an accredited or approved seminar, workshop or conference related directly to product agriculture or related field. **Both applications due in the office by January 31.**

The Edward Rosania, William Staats, Peter Smith Memorial Scholarship
A one time grant for the encouragement and promotion of agriculture endeavors. Applicants must be a member in good standing in a Somerset County 4-H Club, demonstrate community involvement and personal growth and must have a letter of recommendation from an adult currently active in the Somerset County 4-H Program or the Somerset County Board of Agriculture. **Applications due in the office by July 15.**

Benjamin Blackburn Scholarship
A $5000 scholarship for students majoring in horticulture, botany, landscape architect or a related field. Requirements include being a resident of NJ, completion of 24 credits in related course work and an academic average of 3.0 or better. This scholarship is sponsored by Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Applications will be available in January at [www.arboretumfriends.org](http://www.arboretumfriends.org). **Deadline is around April 15.**
Club Corner

Club Rosters Were Due December 31

In November, the key leader for each club should have received a computer printout of what we have in our database for your club. This database is used for all of our mail lists and to verify eligibility for the Fair and state 4-H events. Young people are not registered members until we receive their application and have it in our computer. Any youth not registered by January 1st, will not be able to participate in competitive events at the Fair or state level; national 4-H event or any county recognition, award or scholarship. We will send a list of members eligible for the Fair and state events, to you, after the first of the year. You may add members during the year to receive Clovertales and attend non-competitive 4-H events.

Public Presentations - April 1-2-3

All members should plan to participate in public presentations held at the 4-H Center. You may do a demonstration, give an illustrated talk, performance or formal speech.

Presentations help you to find out more about your favorite subject, allow you to entertain or teach others, practice speaking skills and learn from the judge’s critique. Most of all they are easy and fun!

To Prepare for Public Presentations

Come to a Presentation Workshop on February 14, 4 pm or on February 19, 7 pm.

A Power Point workshop will be offered on February 21, 7 pm. Learn to use Power Point to give your presentation visual punch!

Workshops will be held at the 4-H Center. To register, call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644, by February 8.

• Invite the 4-H Staff to your club meeting for an informal workshop.
• Call Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office for individual help.
• Give a presentation for your club and ask the other members for helpful comments.

Club Financial Reports – due January 30

Be sure to send in your Club Financial Reports!

In September, Key Club Leaders should have received financial reporting forms. If you are a new club leader, or have misplaced your forms, please call the 4-H Office, 908-526-6644, to receive an additional form. Because you are using the 4-H name and emblem you are obligated to report any money collected throughout the year.

Remember the Veterans!
February 14, 2008

The veterans hospitalized in VA facilities would be thrilled if you mailed them Valentines this February. This is a great club project. Mail your cards or pictures to the Lyons Medical Hospital, 151 Knollcrost Rd., Lyons, NJ 07939.

Need to Reach the 4-H Center at Night?

The 4-H Center Night Manager is

Maryann DelGigante
Phone: 908-526-8242

7-10 pm Monday - Friday.
HURRAY FOR...

NJ 4-H Honor Clubs

Congratulations to these Clubs who qualified this year for Honor Club:

   Woolly Ones Sheep Club
   Wags ’n Whiskers Dog Club

Does your club and its members have what it takes to be a NJ 4-H Honor Club?

There are many different kinds of 4-H clubs. They meet different times and have different projects and interests. However, there are some things that all 4-H clubs should have in common. The following are expectations for 4-H clubs and members. If your club meets all of these requirements, your club qualifies to be a NJ 4-H Honor Club. Have your club leader or president complete a form and return it to the 4-H office and your club will receive a NJ 4-H Honor Club certificate (and possibly other recognition through Clovertales, achievement ceremonies, etc.)

Honor Clubs:
- Meet regularly (at least once a month) for nine or more months of the year.
- Elect officers to run meetings.
- Hold at least one business meeting a month for nine or more months of the year.
- Participate in at least one approved 4-H project.
- Have an approved club constitution.
- Have at least one registered adult 4-H leader, appointed and trained by county 4-H staff.
- Conduct at least one community service project.
- Have at least five registered club members.
- Exhibit/demonstrate at the County 4-H Fair.

At least 70% of Honor Club members:
- Attend at least 70% of club meetings.
- Do a public presentation at the club or county level at least once a year.
- Complete a record book, if your project requires one.
- sell at least one business card ad and one wreath (this is for Somerset County clubs only)

Erin Posbergh Crowned NJ State Dairy Princess 2008

Erin Posbergh was crowned the 44th New Jersey State Dairy Princess on November 10, 2007, at the conclusion of an all-day competition that included princesses from other New Jersey counties. The contestants were judged on their public speaking skills, knowledge of the dairy industry, poise and personality. Each contestant prepared a speech and skit promoting milk and dairy products, and participated in a personal interview with a panel of three judges.

Winners were chosen in three categories – speech, skit and dairy knowledge. Erin was recognized as the skit winner for her game show “Milk Maniacs” which is a program that requires youth to help her prove that milk is healthy. She also received top honors for her adult speech and product knowledge test.

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A 4-H’er for thirteen years, Erin is now a sophomore at Rowan University, studying physics and education. Erin is the daughter of Kevin and Susan Posbergh of Branchburg. Erin’s grandparents, John and Patricia Wengryn, owned and operated WenHall Farms, a 50 cow-registered Holstein herd, which was located at the site which is now Raritan Valley Community College. Erin is a member of her university’s Ultimate Frisbee team. Erin and her family continue to be active in agriculture.

Erin will spend the next year promoting milk and dairy products throughout the state.
Beautiful Wreaths - Great Sales!

Somerset County 4-H members sold 3328 wreaths this year. This was a great year, with 4-H members receiving many compliments about the size and beauty of the wreaths.

The Somerset County 4-H Association would like to thank all who participated in this event, which remains the oldest fundraiser in Somerset County. Our wreath sales help maintain the 4-H building and programs.

Special thanks to all those who helped unload wreaths Thanksgiving Friday, especially those who made 2 trips when the truck was late, those that helped hand out the wreaths to the clubs, all wreath committee members, the Association for decorating and anyone else who helped in the wreath sales.

Top selling clubs this year were: Radio Control Car Club, 234; Woof Dog Club, 216; Wags & Whiskers Dog Club, 196; Somerset Trainmasters, 193; and the 4-H Go-Kart Club, 186.

Thanks for making the best better for next year!

Mark Kirby
4-H Association

Congratulations to these winners...
NJ State Alpaca Show, December 8 - 9

Jr. Youth Obstacle: 3rd, Stephanie Duffy; 5th, Scott Weiss; 6th, Kristi Philipsheck
Intermediate Obstacle: 1st, Ainslee Clark; 2nd, Brooke Gallagher; 3rd, Danny Philipsheck
PR Class Junior: 1st, Scott Weiss; 3rd, Kristi Philipsheck; 4th Stephanie Duffy
PR Class Intermediate: 1st, Brooke Gallagher; 2nd, Ainslee Clark; 3rd, Danny Philipsheck
PR Class Senior: 1st, Angie Philipsheck; 2nd Kayla Farber; 3rd Alyson Weiss
Junior Showmanship: 4th, Stephanie Duffy; 6th, Kristi Philipsheck; 7th, Scott Weiss
Intermediate Showmanship: 1st, Ainslee Clark; 2nd Danny Philipsheck; 3rd, Brooke Gallagher
Senior Showmanship: 1st, Alyson Weiss; 2nd, Angie Philipsheck; 3rd, Kayla Farber

Congratulations to Prep Todd Gallagher for also showing in Pre Junior.
4-H Volunteer Highlight: Susan Dodge

Residence: Bridgewater  
Family: Husband, Bill and daughter, Kim

Occupation: Documentation/website coordinator for Pfizer

Hobbies/Spare Time Activities: Painting (watercolor/Pastel), sewing, crochet/needlework/crafts, hiking/biking/ice skating, gardening, graphic design

First became involved in 4-H... About two years ago

Involvement in 4-H and community today... Graphic Designer for last year’s 4-H Yearbook & Catalog, also teach sewing to Sugar ‘n Spice 4-H Club.

Most memorable experience as a volunteer... Working with young people who are polite and respectful and give today’s youth a good image. I have fun sharing my talents with the kids and like to see them enjoy new projects.

Favorite aspect of volunteering... Working with an organization that encourages youth, helps them grow and experience positive relationships with their peers and adults.

People don’t know that... I like to cook and collect new recipes; I like to waltz.

If I had more time I would... Paint more, learn a new language, probably German, become a master gardener, learn the art of topiary.

Congressman Ferguson Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

Abner Mathews: Abner has been involved in Somerset County 4-H since 1976. He and his wife Catherine (Kitty) have three sons. Their 4-H involvement began as advisors to the “Bradley Jets 4-H Prep Club”. In 1980, Abner started the Broken Props 4-H Model Airplane Club. He has also taught kite making workshops for schools and special 4-H events for over 30 years. As a 4-H Club Leader, he touched the lives of many young people, teaching them the values of hard work, honesty and commitment.

Abner has been a member of the Somerset County 4-H Association for 27 years and is a member of the Wreath and Yearbook Committees. He is also the most senior 4-H Fair Manager. Among other Fair responsibilities, Abner supervises the placement of over 50 tents and makes sure the food tent has all the necessary utilities. Abner is always looking for ways to “shake things up a bit” and make the Fair more exciting. His most important job as a Fair Manager is to order good weather and he's usually successful!

Over the years, Abner has also become the official Somerset County 4-H photographer. His positive attitude, cheerful disposition, and willingness to tackle challenges are an inspiration and we applaud Abner’s unwavering commitment 4-H.

Joanne Staats Powell: Joanne is a leader in the agricultural community of NJ. She has been on the Somerset County Board of Agriculture for 15 years. She is President of that board and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Advisory Board in Somerset County and active in the NJ Farm Bureau. Her efforts in the Raritan Watershed Agricultural Committee were instrumental in having agricultural concerns heard and addressed in issues such as storm water runoff, land use and animal agriculture. Her efforts have resulted in a renewed commitment and public understanding of agriculture and what it means to be a farmer today.

Joanne was a member of Branchburg Beef and Dairy 4-H Club for 10 years. As an adult she was leader of that club and is now a leader of the 4-H Exchange Club. She has been a livestock judge, Outstanding 4-H'er and Outstanding 4-H Alumna. She and her husband, Britt, a Fair Manager and Outstanding 4-H Alumnus and their son Michael, live in Branchburg.

We appreciate Joanne's outstanding leadership in agriculture and continued dedication to Somerset County 4-H.
Club Camp Weekend 2008

Do you love camp? How about trying Club Camp in April? This camp weekend offers the opportunity for 4-H’ers, parents and leaders to interact outside of their regular meetings. Activities may include hiking, fishing, archery, and teambuilding, as well as just hanging out together. Club camp is held at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, Sussex County. Registration forms and information packets will be available at the 4-H Office. This is a great chance to spend time together. Contact Sue Posbergh at 908-304-6435 or ksec@att.net for more information. This year Club Camp will be April 11, 12, and 13th. Due to the increase in camp fees, the cost, including food, will be $42.00.

Here are some details:

Check in time:
After 5:00 PM, Friday, April 11

Check out time:
Before 2:00 PM, Sunday, April 13

A 4-H Event Permission Form or a 4-H Adult Overnight Agreement/Release Form needs to be completed for each participant. Please request these forms from the 4-H office and return completed forms to the 4-H office by March 31. Forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.4HisTops.org.

4-H Senior Member Winter Camp
Register by January 11

Winter camp is a fun get away for teens to play in the snow and meet 4-H’ers from other clubs and counties. 4-H’ers in grades 9-13 from Somerset, Warren and Bergen Counties will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp January 25 - 27. This is always a popular event, so get your application in early. The cost for the weekend is $50.00 and includes meals. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Lisa Rothenburger at 908-526-6644.

4-H TOPS Camp
Totally Outrageous Programs for Summer

Totally Outrageous Programs
Explore the world of science, arts and nature.

Totally Outrageous Games
Ball Games, Hoola-Hoops, Relay Races and more!

Totally Outrageous Snacks
Make your own nutritious and delicious snacks!

Totally Outrageous Crafts
Let your imaginations soar; your creative juices flow!

Totally Outrageous Fun!
Make new friends and have fun!!!

For Children Grades 1-6
June 23 - 27, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Early Bird Discount: $175.00
before January 30 ($200.00 after this date)
Scholarships available

Call the office for an application.
Camp held here at the Ted Blum 4-H Center.
Family Camp June 13-15

Somerset County 4-H Family Camp is a wonderful time to have fun and spend time with your club, family and friends. ALL Somerset County 4-H Families are invited for a special Weekend at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Sussex County…


There will be time for fishing, boating, swimming, arts and crafts, hikes, games, great food in the dining hall and lots of fun and songs around the campfire. Cost is $55 per person. Camp scholarship funds are available. Please inquire at the 4-H office for an application.

There will be brochures and information on registration available at the 4-H Center by May. Take time out of your busy days to enjoy time away and with your family…that’s what memories are made of! If you have ideas for Family Camp, please call Carol or Lisa and join the planning committee.

4-H Summer Camp - Early Bird Prices!

The Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp is located off Route 206 in Stokes State Forest in Branchville, NJ. Camp is open to all youth who have completed third grade through tenth grade. Camp weeks begin July 7 and continue through mid-August. The Somerset County Preference week is July 28 - August 2. All of the sessions begin Monday morning with check in at 10:00 a.m. Check out is Saturday morning with a special closing ceremony for parents at 10:00 am.

Enroll early to ensure your first choice of dates and activities. Registration forms are available online at www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu on the "forms" page and should be sent directly to Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp. You will then receive a parent's packet and a class description list. Return these to camp ASAP so you get the classes you want.

The camp fee for one week is $325 until February 1, $340 until April 1 and $355 after April 1. Non-4-H members, please add an additional $20.00. Bring a friend and you both receive a discount! Some scholarships are available through the Somerset County 4-H Office. Please call our office (908) 526-6644 to inquire about scholarships.
Awards For Our Fair

Everyone is invited January 23 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’s Fair.

If you have any ideas or suggestions to help make this Fair special, please feel free to share them with us! We are always looking for ways to “Make the Best Better”!

2008 Yearbook and Catalog

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

4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide

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Awards For Our Fair

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Hoofbeats
by Jenna McBride

At the November meeting, held at the Branchburg Rescue Squad, Nikki Hoffman went over the wreath sales, then the club went around the room and did introductions. Cathy Bergen explained the craft the club made which was making a wreath out of show ribbons. The members had fun and the wreaths looked great!

New Centre Dairy
by Joe Martinelli

At the October meeting, the club introduced new members. They went over new business which included the upcoming agenda for the 2008 4-H year (packed full of fun!), the livestock awards dinner (held in November) and the first practice of the Dairy Quiz Team. Dairy Quiz Bowl is a state jeopardy-like competition held in the spring. New Centre Dairy has gained a lot of new members this year which shows how important the dairy industry is in the modern world.

Mighty Cavits and Rodents
by Megan Kouril

The club covered a lot of topics at their last meeting. They discussed creative ideas for a new t-shirt design, a lock-in in March and went over a lot of new plans and projects for the upcoming year. The club also created its pinecones for the wreath sale. The club welcomed new members and discussed plans for the upcoming Somerset County Rabbit Show.

4-H Senior Council
by Robby Slovik & Wendy Franzyschen

Senior Council voted in its new officers for 2008: Brianna Mulrooney, president; Kaitlyn Zimmitti, vice-president; Kathleen Kerwin, corresponding secretary; Jason Ning, treasurer; Sara Memoli, recording secretary; and Wendy Franzyschen, reporter. The club discussed current projects which include, leaf raking and yard clean-up in November, SHIP Holiday Party in December, which they made goody bags for, Winter Camp in January and fundraising opportunities. They approved the by-laws. The club is planning its own holiday party and gift exchange.

4-H Cattleman’s Club
by Cody Gerlach

The club had 17 members show up at their last meeting. Club discussions included wreath sales, livestock scales and the club’s annual holiday party at the Chinese Buffet. The club also talked about presentations, fundraising opportunities and a community service project. The meeting ended with members going over the scores on their record books. Members agreed this was a very informative meeting.

Wags 'n Whiskers
by Ashley Ward

The past few months have been very busy for Wags 'n Whiskers dog club. They elected new officers, inducted new members, visited Norz Hill Farm, had their annual awards dinner, ran a food booth at the Komondore dog show, and decorated wreaths. New officers for this year are: Nathalie Schlosser as president, Emily Diettmann as vice president, Allie Mostello and Amy Miller as secretaries, Brian Franchuk as treasurer, Ashley Ward as corresponding secretary, and Colleen Ridder as historian. On Oct. 9, the club visited Norz Hill Farm. They toured the farm, took a hayride and wandered through the corn maze for an hour, almost getting lost. They saw farm animals, including a zonkey, and picked pumpkins and gourds in the patch. The annual awards dinner was fun. The Woof dog club invited speaker, Carolyn Curry, the director of Community Services at St. Hubert’s animal welfare center. She spoke about the uplifting effect therapy dogs can have on patients in the hospital or residents in a nursing home. After dinner, many awards
were given out to members of all the dog clubs. The Wags 2007 bronze circuit show awards were given to Kelsey Graham, Allie Mostello, Britney O’Brien, Tana Ford, Tom Hilbert and Ashley Ward. The silver circuit show awards were given to Colleen Ridder, Sarah Stamets, and Daniel Basile. The only gold circuit show award was given to Carolyn Pirro.

As a fundraiser, the club ran a food booth at the Komondore dog show hosted every year at the 4-H center. They sold sandwiches, soda and baked goods to hungry competitors and enjoyed watching the Komondore dogs perform in the show. The club is looking forward to their annual holiday party in December.

Wattles & Snood by Steve Fenyar

The Club has been busy welcoming new members and combining membership with Poultry Plus. The club now has about 30 members. Activities have included volunteering at the 1770’s Festival at Lord Sterling Park, Barnyard Buddies at the NJ Agriculture Museum and participating at the Hillsborough YMCA Open House. The club has also started working on club presentations and looks forward to elections, a holiday party and planning activities for the coming year.

Criations Alpaca Club by Brook Gallagher

The Club held elections with the following results: Alyson Wiess, President; Angie Philipsczek, Vice-President; Brook Gallagher, Reporter; Anya Cyr-Ogenmach, Secretary and Deanna Farber, Treasurer. New members were welcomed and plans were discussed for the coming year, including county presentations. The Club worked on ideas for their basket theme for the Tricky Tray and other possible fund raisers to purchase new halters and fences. Then the club discussed the upcoming state Alpaca show. The Club would like to thank Tim and Sandy Maxwell from Stone Corner Farm and Bob and Helen Ribbens form Candlelight Farm for allowing the Club to show their alpacas in the upcoming show. Results will be featured in the next issue of Clovertales.

Woolly Ones

Each year the Club participates in the Somerset County Park Commission “Festival of Trees” held at the Environmental Education Center. Members create unique ornaments, hand made from wool that was sheared, cleaned, dyed and felted from one of their project animal.

Upcoming Horse Events

Equine Studies Day
Saturday, January 12, 10 am-2 pm, 4-H Center

Come out and meet representatives from area colleges to learn about the Equine Studies Program. Sponsored by the Somerset County 4-H Horse Teen Council. (snow date, Sunday, January 13)

Fun Horse Bowl

Save Friday, February 15, 7 pm for a fun horse bowl event sponsored by the Somerset County 4-H Horse Teen Council. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Open to all horse project members.
Dear 4-H Preppers,

Well another year is coming to an end. It’s true, time sure flies when you’re having fun. I would like to thank everyone for making my first year as Prep Coordinator an exciting and very happy one.

Don’t forget all the exciting events that are coming up. Read about them in this issue.

The new year is coming, what a great time to make the best better for ourselves and our 4-H clubs.

Happy Holidays to all!

Lisa Darby
4-H Prep Coordinator

Yakety – Yak

It looks like our prep clubs are off to a great NEW 4-H YEAR!

The Mad Scientists made star finders. We have in our club Frankie, Yash, Nick, Kyle, Alessio, Olivia, Brian, Gina, Jennifer, Patricia, Katherine & Noah. I did a show & tell with bugs. My club and I played the name game. I like 4-H because it is fun. By Noah Rothenburger

The Prep Chefs Club held their first meeting ever on Tuesday 10/23/07. Evan, Erin, Samantha, Paboni, Juliana, Rita and Chip were present. We set our schedule and made yogurt parfaits with Mrs. Darby. Juliana liked everything in them. Rita liked the crunchy cereal. Chip liked cleaning up. Paboni liked eating the yogurt. Samantha liked the strawberries and Evan liked putting it all together.
11/13/07 we made apple crisp. We played a game where we introduced a member of the group and told everyone their favorite food. We also introduced our parents to everyone. 11/27/07 we decorated our wreaths. We sold 19 and had to decorate 12. We also made hot coco mix from scratch. When we finished decorating the wreaths, we drank our coco.

The All Star Prep Club had their first meeting on 11/05/07. Ethan, Jared, Johnny and Yusuf decided on the club name. Yusuf and Johnny participated in show & tell. Yusuf talked about his trip to Wolf Run Resort and Johnny showed his rubber rat. The club discussed flying and paper airplanes. They all made paper airplanes and had fun test flying them. Their next meeting they are going to Family Tree Karat. The club meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of the month at Health Quest in Flemington. The club is accepting new members.

UPCOMING EVENTS........

4-H Prep Rally

Venture to a new dimension and discover "The Amazing Sky"

This year the prep rally will be on space and astronomy

Saturday, March 1, 2008
9a.m. - 2p.m.
At the 4-H center
Bring your own bag lunch.

Flyers with sign-up information will be available in the middle of January, 2008.

4-H Family Camp Weekend

L.G. Cook 4-H Camp


What a great way to celebrate Fathers Day with Dad!
Fishing, Hiking, Boating, Crafts and more..

Camp packets will be available in March.

See information in this issue about the Somerset County 4-H Prep Scholarship
January 19 & 20, 2008
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
4-H Center
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ

ANNUAL
4-H WINTER TRAIN SHOW

Sponsored by:
the 4-H Trainmasters and the Raritan Valley HiRailers
Featuring demonstrations and hands-on activities as well as the
ever-growing and ever-improving O-Scale trains and layout.

Admission
$3.00 Adult
$1.00 Children under 12

Concessions available all day.
Door Prizes

Directions to the 4-H Center:
http://somerset.rce.rutgers.edu/directions
21st Annual Doll & Teddy Bear Show

Somerset County 4-H Exchange
Doll & Teddy Bear Show

Saturday
FEBRUARY 23, 2008
10 am - 3:30 pm

4-H Center
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Admission:
$3.50
mention this ad
$3.00

Appraiser:
$5.00
Elizabeth Pierce
(available all day)

Lunch Counter Free Parking

Doll competition: 28 categories
$2.00 per entry
submit entry by 10:30 AM :: pick up after 2 PM

For Information: (908) 526-6773
Day of Show: (908) 526-8242
June 23 - 27, 2008

4-H TOPS Camp

Totally Outrageous Program for Summer

A 5-day camp for children grades 1 - 6
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Featuring
Outdoor Activities...Workshops...Science Fun...
New Games...New Friends...and More!

$200 for 5 Days*

★★ EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ★★
sign up before January 30, 2008 and you only pay $175.00.

Call for Registration Form or on the web at:
http://somerset.rce.rutgers.edu

Sponsored by:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Somerset County
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-6644

*Full and partial scholarships available to those who qualify. Please contact the 4-H office for details.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.
Dated Material