4-H is TOPS!

[Image of various activities and people, including a horse and a table with food and donations]

Rutgers
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Upcoming Events at 4-H

2008 has been a banner year for 4-H and we are only heading into March! We had an awesome visit with astronaut Mike Fincke and our first BIG Basket Bonanza is shaping up to be a huge success. Our Prep Rally is bigger and better than ever! And that’s just the beginning.

Our ever popular Science-sational day with 14 workshops is filling up fast. If you have never been, don’t miss it. With several new workshops, including Seashore Charades, Think Bee, Tower Power, and Who Done It?, and an incredible show called Dragons and Dreams, Science-sational day is the place to be April 5.

For teens in grades 8 – 13, North Jersey 4-H Teen Conference is going to be held April 11-13 right here in Bridgewater at the Days Inn, Route 22 East. Teens from all the Northern Counties will get together to share a weekend of fun and learning. Don’t miss this opportunity to get this new annual event off to a great start.

Our Pretty Cool 4-H Puppetry Club, and the Garden State Puppetry Guild will be hosting Puppet Adventures on April 26th. Come for the morning, the afternoon or both. We have attached a registration form in Clovertales for your convenience.

Don’t forget to check out all our great camps, Club Camp in April, Family Camp in June, TOPS camp in June, and weekly summer camp programs at the Lindley G. Cook Camp in Stokes Forest. Read Camp Connection for details!

4-H is where it’s happening!

Lisa Rothenburger
County 4-H Agent

Carol Ward
County 4-H Agent

Inside this issue:

- Leaders’ & Parents’ Outlook
- Teen Scene
- Club Corner
- Hurray For...
- Community Service Highlights
- Camp Connection
- Fair Facts
- Around the County
- The Prep Page

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.
Leaders' & Parents' Outlook

Important Dates for State 4-H Animal Events!

March 8 – State 4-H Horse Bowl, Burlington County
March 15 – Circuit 4-H Dog Show, Somerset County
March 15 – State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, Burlington County
April 5 – State Livestock Farm Safety Symposium, Cook College
April 26 – State 4-H Dog Show, Cook College
May 3-4 – State 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology, Salem County

Please contact Carol Ward about any of the above events.

4-H Science-sational Day

April 5

Why the dragon? Our exciting opening program this year for Science-sational Day is Dragons & Dreams with castles, kings, a dragon keeper, and an ice sorceress, on a daring journey to save an entire kingdom.

Brochures/registration forms for this fun day are now available at the 4-H office. Register by March 24.

1st-6th graders can participate in hands-on science workshops that include our most popular Panning for Gems, Snakes & Lizards, Surgeons in Training and our newest success story, Try It - Fly It. New workshops this year include Cool Plants, A Bee’s Life, Who Done It? and Tower Power.

The cost is still $20.00 per child and parents can attend for no additional cost. Call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644 for more information and a registration form. Lunch is available for an additional $5.00 per lunch.

Registration forms are also available on our website: www.4HisTops.org

Judges Needed

Leaders and Parents welcome: Our Presentation Program is always a great success! Last year there were 180 participants in the Presentation Program and more are expected this year. If you would be willing to judge for an evening, please call the 4-H Office (908-526-6644). Presentation dates this year are April 1 - 3, with an afternoon session on April 2 at 4:00 pm.

There is a judge's orientation preceding each session. It's fun and the members enjoy seeing a friendly face at the judges table. (see Club Corner for more details about presentations)
Why complete a record book? A project is a subject or topic that you learn about in 4-H. A record book is simply a way for you to keep track of what you have learned in your project.

- Learn how to organize yourself
- Learn how to set reasonable goals for yourself
- Appreciate what you’ve learned this year from the goals you reached
- Recognize what things you learned in your 4-H project
- Explain what you’ve learned
- Keep track of costs of your project
- Gather information needed to apply for awards and scholarships
- Complete applications and resumes for jobs and college
- Meet requirements to participate in some county, state, or national 4-H events

Projects with official record books are: Goat, Dog, Herpetology, Horse, Model Horse, Rabbit, Small Animal, Dairy and Sheep.

Why else are record books important? Because it helps the 4-H department to measure growth and impact in Life Skill Development, Character Education, and Volunteer Development.

Kohl's Scholarships

Leaders are encouraged to nominate club members for the Kohl's "Kids Who Care" scholarships by March 15. Two winners from each store will receive $50 gift cards, 170 Regional winners will receive $1000 and 10 National winners will receive $5000 and a grant of $1000 to the charity of their choice. Please visit www.kohls corporation.com to download rules and the nomination form.
Project Wild

April 16, 2008

Project Wild is an interdisciplinary environmental program available to teachers and youth leaders. Learn over 175 activities that help teach all core standard subjects. Activities presented take students from awareness to action and emphasize student interaction with the natural environmental and conservation using the outdoors as a classroom.

Call the 4-H Office to register: 908-526-6644.

Project Wet

May 21, 2008

Project Wet facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources. Activities promote critical thinking and problem solving skills. Participants will view water not only as a shared resource, but also as a shared responsibility. Project Wet is a nonprofit water education program for teachers and youth leaders.

Food ‘N Fun Luncheon
Rescheduled March 8

Register by March 3

Choose a theme, plan a menu and come prepared for a party! Plan to participate in the Food ‘N Fun Luncheon, March 8. Also, plan to join us for our Table Setting Contest, held the same day!

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

Last Chance - for ’08
Yearbook and Catalog Pictures

Don't be left out! Have your memories in the yearbook. The volunteer committee that puts this 100-page book together is asking for your help! Please contribute the following:

By March 15
♦ The exact name of your club
♦ The list of leaders and members that are currently active in your club. Please double check the spelling

By March 31 (even better earlier)
♦ Up to 6 photos of your club. These can be group shots or action shots (CD's, email, hardcopy, however you want to get them here)
♦ They can have captions but no names
♦ NEW FOR ‘08
Please send pictures to yearbook4H@yahoo.com

This book is used as a promotional piece for the program, showing off 4-H'ers in a very positive way. It is given out free at the fair and other events.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

April 5

This event is being held in the Food Science Building on the Cook Campus from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. The cost for the symposium is $12.00 and covers lunch, snacks and all activities.

Planned activities include demonstrations and discussions on numerous safety-related topics including ATV safety, Animal Safety, Bike Safety and First Aid.

In the afternoon there will be a dairy clip-off, small ruminant pre and post natal care and equine first aid.

Registration forms are available in the 4-H office. For more information contact Lynn Matthews or Debra Moscitiello at 609-984-4389.
Mission of Youth Service America is a national resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. Founded in 1986, YSA's mission is to expand the impact of the youth service movement with communities, schools, corporations, and governments. YSA envisions a global culture of engaged youth who are committed to a lifetime of service, learning, leadership, and achievement.

The 20th annual National & Global Youth Service Day events take place on April 25 - 27. 4-H Clubs are encouraged to participate in this event.

Complete details are available on their website. They offer Planning Tool Kits to help project planners identify their projects, recruit volunteers and generate media interest and funds; posters to use to recruit volunteers and decorate project sites; and a curriculum guide to help club members develop project management skills.

Youth Service America also offers greats to help your club plan and implement certain service projects such as Disney Minnie Grants for younger children, Capitol One Fund for projects involving low-income housing and Lion in the House Grants for projects on pediatric cancer.

For complete information and to register your volunteer project, please go to their website at: http://www.YSA.org/

You can also contact Christina Wessell Batcheler at 202-296-2992, ext. 128.
Scholarships Available

- **4-H Association Scholarship** – 12th and 13th grade 4-H’ers can apply for $1000 scholarship. Deadline April 1.
- **4-H Prep Scholarship** – $500 to any 4-H’er who started in our Prep program. Deadline April 1.
- **Edward Rosania and William Staats and Peter Smith Memorial Scholarship** – 4-H High School Graduate majoring in agriculture-$500. Deadline July 15. Contact 4-H Office.
- **Jim Rudowski Memorial Scholarship** – Any 4-H High School Senior interested in a career in Science can apply for $500 scholarship. Deadline April 1.
- **Joseph J. & Florence E. Klimas Scholarship** – Any Somerset Co. 4-H Alumni, who is a Junior or Senior in college, majoring in Education can apply for $1000 scholarship. Deadline April 1.
- **Benjamin C. Blackburn Scholarship** – $5000 Scholarship for students majoring in horticulture, botany, landscape architect or a related field. Deadline must be received by Scholarship Committee, located in Morristown by April 15.

Applications available on the web www.4HisTops.org.

Counselors Needed for Camp

**Family Camp Helpers:** spend the weekend at Family Camp, June 13 - 15, helping younger campers with crafts, games and other activities. Call Lisa Darby, at the 4-H office, 908-526-6644.

**TOPS Camp Counselors:** 8th grade or older: spend June 23 - 27 as a counselor assisting Summer Day Camp Program (TOPS) participants with activities at the 4-H Center. Applications included in this issue or visit our website: http://www.4HisTops.org. Additional forms also available at the 4-H Office.

Introducing the 1st Annual 4-H Teen Conference for North Jersey!

NJTC is a fun-filled weekend conference where teens in 4-H can meet people from other counties, learn new skills, learn about their personality type through True Colors, go on a field trip to Bridgewater Sports Arena, attend a dance and participate in hands-on workshops that include:

- ★ Save the Planet
- ★ Grow your Own Pizza
- ★ Go Karts
- ★ Wrap Them in Love
- ★ Service Learning
- ★ Get Moving-Get Healthy

**Who is invited:** 4-H Teens Grades 8 - 13

**When is it:** April 11 - 13, 2008

**Where is it:** Days Inn, Route 22, Bridgewater

**Cost:** $165.00, includes all activities and meals. Scholarships available.

Contact the 4-H office for a registration form. Please register by March 10. Registrations available on the web at http://www.4HisTops.org.
National 4-H Congress Applications Due April 11th

National 4-H Congress is a unique leadership opportunity for 4-H members from all 50 states. The event focuses on leadership, youth empowerment, community service, career development, and cultural diversity. The event brings over 1200 4-H members to Atlanta over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The planning committee takes advantage of Atlanta’s standing as an international city and exposes delegates to as many venues in the city as possible including the Centennial Olympic Park, the World of Coke-A Cola, CNN Center, Carter Presidential Library and the Martin Luther King Center. There are many outstanding workshops along with keynote addresses that round out the experience. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for 4-H members.

NJ sends approximately 25 4-H members and 3 adult advisors to the event each year. One to three delegates are nominated from each county and then final delegates are selected through a state interview process. The cost of the event is approximately $825, of which part is paid by the Somerset County 4-H Association, and includes air transportation, registration, lodging, and most meals. Local and state scholarships are available.

All interested 4-H members must be in the 10-12 grade at the time applications are due (April 11). Complete an application and go through a county and state selection process. Participants can only attend this event one time during their 4-H career. Applications are available at the 4-H Office or online at: http://www.national4-hcongress.com/

Dairy Princess Applicants Sought

The Somerset County Dairy Princess Committee is looking for young ladies between the ages of 17 (By December 1, 2008) and 22, who are interested in promoting milk and the dairy industry. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Debbie Norz by March 23, 2008. Phone number 908-371-COWS, or email her at: norzhillfarm@msn.com. Please put “Dairy Princess” in the subject line.

Winter Camp 2008

Winter Camp ‘08 was packed full of fun and adventure.

At the last minute some campers and chaperones were unable to make it due to unexpected illness, making this one of our smaller years for Somerset County. However, that didn’t stop those who attended from making it one of the best years!

Friday night started off with ice breaker games to get to know everyone from Warren and Bergen counties.

Saturday was jammed packed. We played board games inside, sports outside, and ping pong and fooseball in the nature center. We learned how to make a fire from scratch using the bow technique. Even with little snow, some desperate attempts at sledding were made. Before it grew dark, we all took part in creating a winter camp video and slide show to be presented at fair. After a hearty dinner, we ventured down to the lakeside for a roaring bonfire that lasted way into the night.

Those in on the fun were: Dan Lang, Chris Posbergh, Sara Memoli, Brianna Mulrooney, Kathleen Kerwin, Kaitlyn Zimmitti, Grace Rosinski, Willie Sommerville, John Garlip and myself.

Safe Night, April 5

The Somerset County Youth Council is holding it’s annual Safe Night for teens on Saturday, April 5, from 6:00 - 10:00 pm at the Franklin Middle School, 415 Francis Street, Somerset, for teens grades 7 - 12.

There will be all sorts of games, as well a DJ for dancing. Admission fee is $5.00 and pre-registration is strongly recommended. This year’s theme:

Mardi Gras

Please contact Sarah Murchinson at 908-704-6307 (daytime phone number) for more information on either volunteering or attending.
Club Audit Forms Due!!!

New Jersey 4-H policy states that all club volunteers and members should receive an accurate club treasury report monthly. In addition, the 4-H office is to be appraised of club fund raising activities and receive an annual audit of the account. To date, we have only received a few audit forms for the year 2007. We would ask that the other clubs have their treasuries audited ASAP. The club audits were due to the 4-H office December 31. These forms can be downloaded from [www.4HisTops.org](http://www.4HisTops.org) Click on publications, then click on NJ 4-H club treasury audit form (#4H247).

Thank you to these clubs who got their forms in on time: Chinese Culture Club, Clowning Around, Wags & Whiskers, Whiskers, Paws & Claws, Radical Rodents, Sheepfold.

Club Camp Weekend
April 11 - 13

Everyone loves 4-H Camp! Here is your club’s opportunity to spend time at L.G. Cook Camp. Deadline to reserve is March 31. The cost is $42.00 per person and includes meals. Members will need to complete a 4-H event permission form and adults will need to complete a 4-H overnight agreement form. If a club leader is unable to attend, a parent volunteer may help. Call volunteer leader Sue Posbergh for more details (908-304-6506) or email her at: ksec@att.net

Presentations: April 1, 2, 3, 2008

- You may be judged or not.
- You decide how long it should be. (3-5 minutes for younger members, 5-8 minutes for older members and 8-15 for teens)

You choose the method.

*A demonstration* teaches through showing and explaining with actual supplies, tools, etc and ends with a finished product for the audience to touch or taste.

*An illustrated talk* tells about something or how something is done and must include visuals. Flip charts, posters, slides, etc are used.

What is your favorite topic? How would you like to present it? You have many choices.

- You may present as an individual or as a team.

*A formal speech* is written by the member or a noted individual and should stimulate thought or present a point of view. It is given from memory with brief notes. There are no visuals.

*A performance* incorporates drama, dance, instrumental or vocal music, puppetry, clowning, etc. The presenter introduces the art, performs and ends with a few comments.

Remember that every presentation needs an introduction, body and summary.

**Registration forms, due March 25,** are available from leaders, the 4-H Office or the web. You may make copies of the form in this newsletter.

If you live in Hillsborough and will be away April 1, 2, and 3, you may call the office to schedule your presentation for Thursday, March 27.
How to score well at presentations-

- Practice, practice, practice. You will be more relaxed and confident.
- Cooking demonstrations have a different set of rules!!! Call for information.
- DO NOT READ. Work from an outline or brief notes. Make eye contact with the audience.
- Take a breath before you begin.
- Introduce yourself, name, age, club, number of presentations.
- Have an introduction or opening to the presentation- why are you telling this? why do people need to know this?
- The body of your presentation will contain major points, as well as stories, explanations and definitions of new words. If you are demonstrating a skill, you must talk as you work.
- Have a summary- what are the important points you made? What should people do with this information?
- Posters must be BIG AND BOLD. Can you read it across the room? Have more posters with less info on each.
- Do not bring animals or other props that you don’t actively USE in your presentation.
- State where you got your information and ask for questions.
- Pause for your applause.
- Time limits are: 3-5 minutes for grades 1-4 or first timers, 5-8 minutes for grades 5-7 or younger with experience, 8-15 minutes for grades 8-13.
- Dress nicely or appropriately. No brand name labels across your shirt.

Power Point Presentations

You may use PowerPoint, but remember, this is a visual aid and should be used in place of posters. It should not contain your entire speech.

For more information, call the 4-H Office, 908-526-6644.

A Presentation is a Fair Exhibit Requirement!

Remember: The NJ State 4-H Guidelines and the Somerset County 4-H Requirements to exhibit and/or compete at the 4-H Fair, state that a member must have given a formal or informal Presentation at a Club, County, Community, State or National event.

An informal presentation for your club counts! But it’s much more exciting and educational to participate in County Public Presentations!

Mounted Drill Team “Kick-Off” Meeting

All horse club members are invited to participate in the 4-H Mounted Drill Team. Our ‘kick-off” meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 7:00 pm in the Green Room. This is a quick, yet very important meeting to attend. Anyone even remotely interested should attend. Any questions or concerns, contact: Carol Maciborski, (732) 469-6295.
HURRAY FOR...

Administrative Professional Day

April 23 is Administrative Professional Day and a BIG thank you to our 4-H administrative professionals. They are great; always courteous, helpful, and organized. We really appreciate all they do, and hope you do too! Thank them for all they do next time you see them.

Mrs. RoseMary Fleming, Mrs. Marian Kaufman, Mrs. Georgeanne Valis and Ms. Jennifer Hodge.

Also thank you to the other RCE secretaries and office manager who help out and lend a hand to all of us, making us a true “cooperative” extension:

Mrs. Carolyn Morella, Mrs. Jennifer Arago and Ms. Peggy Doyle.

Horse Project Achievement Awards

Junior English: Taylor Cox – Champion
Angela Patterson – Reserve

Senior English: James Hobbie – Champion
Justin Dagnall – Reserve

Junior Western: Sarah Lerch – Champion
Neha Deshpande – Reserve

Senior Western: Shilpa Deshpande – Champion
Sara Rusk – Reserve

Speed Division: Rachel Kimsey – Champion
Chelsea Maciborski – Reserve

George Daniels Memorial Award: Justin Dagnall

4-H Sportsmanship Awards: Kristen Johnson
Lucy Shepherd

Most Improved Rider Award: Wendell Alexis

State Educational Event Awards:

Stephanie Christian
Justin Dagnall
Kristen Johnson
Neha Sikka

County 4-H Achievement Awards

These 4-H members received their medals after the deadline of the last issue of Clovertales. We congratulate them on their achievements:

Achievement: Neha Deshpande, Jesse Engesser, Ken Hayward

Community Service: Kim Bergen

Horse: Janice Artfitch, Jessica Aulisio, Annie Coolbaugh, Vanessa LaVoie, Chelsea Maciborski, Kathleen Smith, Michelle Ziminski

Leadership: Jes Hala, Ken Hayward

Personal Development: Matt Knoblauch, Heather Thompson


Public Speaking: Kim Bergen, Brittany Dinin, Michael Goetjen, Andrew McCamley, Brianna Mulrooney

Safety: Zach Larson

Seeing Eye: Ryan Clare, Meredith Kollmer

2008 NJ 4-H Goat Extravaganza

Congratulations to Alyson Weiss of the Creations Alpaca Club for second place in 2-D Goat Themed Art.
The Somerset County Small Animal Council held it’s annual open 4-H show on February 16.

**Winners from Somerset County 4-H included:**
Best In Show Cavy - Melissa Race
Best Reserve In Show Small Animal - Nicholas Suk
Best Reserve in Show Lizard - Josh Miller

**Other winners were:**
Michael Kinney - BOB, Rat
Ben Parker - BOB Gerbil
Nicholas Suk - BOB Hedgehog
Eric Kinney - BROB Chinchilla

**Cavies:**
Carolyn Rubinfeld - BROB Mixed
Melissa Race - BOB American Satin
Katie Kouril - BROB American Satin
Kira Whitney - BROB American; BOB White Crested; BROB White Crested

**Rabbits:**
Sarah Stamets: BOB Angora; BOB Mismarked Dutch; BOB English Angora
Katie Kouril - BROB Holland Lop; BOB Velveteen Lop
Sarah Ongaro - BOB Flemish Giant
Melissa Race - BROB Flemish Giant
Elise KeKean - BOB Netherland Dwarf

**Prep Participants:** Jessica Paolillo, Hamster and Ferret; Chelsea Obermeier, Cavy

**Herpetology:**
Scott Hammell - BOB Exotic Snake
Paul Rasmussen - BOB Domestic Snake

Thank you to all who participated. You all have wonderful animals and you have all worked so hard.

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**Achievement Night: Science & Mechanical Science**

4-H Club Members and supporters from Space & Astronomy, Somerset Sentinels, Midland Photography, K-9 Leaders, Four Leaf Clovers, Somerset Trainmasters and Broken Props Model Airplanes joined together to recognize service and achievements on January 4th. Approximately 120 people participated in the festivities that were hosted by the Broken Props.

Master of Ceremonies Andrew Parr introduced the Midland Photography Club to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. After dessert, the evening entertainment of a glider competition took place in the multipurpose room. Club members, leaders and parents built small gliders to compete in two categories: a “pilot vs. pilot” single elimination single elimination duration of flight contest and a spot landing competition. Winners were Jim Frawley, Paul Cirillo, Matthew Sartori, Audrey Sanford, Ken Rosario, and Dan Enny. All winners received prizes for their efforts provided by 4-H.

Following the entertainment, County Awards were presented by Lisa Rothenburger and Club Awards were presented by the club leaders.

Thank you! To the Somerset 4-H Trainmasters Model Train Club. They purchased a new TV and DVD player for all 4-H Clubs to use.

Call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644, to reserve it for your club. Then see Maryann, our Night Center Manager, for the combination to the cabinet.
4-H Community Service Highlights

Kudos to these 4-H Clubs who participated in Community Service activities in 2007. You all helped to Make the Best Better!

**Chap ‘N Spurs:** Made holiday cards for the veterans.

**Crazy Frog Hoppers:** Created heat and serve casserole dishes that were donated to the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program.

**New Centre Dairy:** Visited area nursing homes during the holidays to share cookies, songs and company with the residents.

**Pocket Pet Rescue:** Adopts and rehabilitates unwanted small animals, then holds adoptions 4 times a year to place them in loving homes.

**Young Artistes:** Made holiday cards for all major holidays for the troops overseas and veterans. Members donated toys for the Marine Toys-for-Tots program. Members donated food and clothing for the area homeless. Created blankets that were sent overseas for our soldiers. Donated time to Science-sational Day.

**Broken Props Airplane Club:** Volunteered their time and expertise to Science-sational Day, 4-H TOPS Camp, the 4-H Fair, and conducted model airplane demos to the Prep clubs.

**K-9 Leaders 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Raising Club:** Club members provide care and training for a puppy for the Seeing Eye, Inc. of Morristown, NJ. Club members have the responsibility for their puppies from the time they are 7 weeks old until they return to the Seeing Eye for training at approximately 17 months of age. The club supported the MS golf fundraiser by donating a basket and for volunteering to help for the day.

**Hook ’em & Cook ’em Club:** Participated in the South Branch Watershed Association river clean up in April. In November, the club did leaf raking for the Somerset County Office of Aging.

**Four Leaf Clovers:** Made fudge for the Blood Donors at the Blood Donor Center at Somerset Medical Center.

**Poultry Plus:** Volunteered their time to interact with public and exhibit their animals at the Lord Stirling Festival in October.

**4-H Go-Kart Club:** The club participated in the Somerville St. Patrick’s Day Parade, The Manville Memorial Day Parade and the Somerset Patriots Pre-Game Ceremony.

**Dog Clubs:** Both Wags & Whiskers and Woof collected and donated animal supplies for the animal shelters.

**Woof Dog Club:** Raised money for the bulletproof vest for the Sheriff’s canine unit.

**Space & Astronomy Club:** Hosted a public astronomy night at the Somerset County Library. Club members discussed current exploration projects and allowed attendees to view stars through their telescopes.

**Clowning Around:** Attended the ARC Walkathon to cheer on participants, families and caregivers from ARC. They took time to “clown around” with the attendees.

**Whiskers, Paws & Claws:** In May, collected trash at Anne Van Middlesworth Park in Hillsborough. In November made and sold baked goods to benefit St. Hubert’s Animal Shelter. Continuously make catnip toys for cats confined to shelters. Numerous collections of pet supplies and food for animal shelters and Hillsborough Social Services.
4-H Summer Camp 2008

Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp, Stokes State Forest

A special place for kids to have fun, relax, learn life skills, make new friends and strengthen old friendships. 4-H Camp offers challenging and exciting programs, tailored to the campers’ individual interest and guided by experienced staff at all times. Activities include swimming, boating, arts & crafts, hiking, camping, nature & ecology, drama, riflery, archery and much, much more!

Register now! Summer Camp will run for 6 one-week sessions from July 7th- August 15th. In the hope that Somerset County 4-H’ers will get to know each other better by attending camp at the same time, the Somerset County 4-H Preference Week is July 28 - August 2. The cost of a session of camp is $340 before April 1 and $355 after this date, which covers all food and activities. These are special discounts for registered 4-H members. Non-4-H Members please add $20.00. Registration information is available at the 4-H Office or the camp website- www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu. Just visit the “forms” page.

Somerset County 4-H Family Camp June 13-15

If you’ve ever been to camp, here’s your chance to relive those times spent boating, making crafts, singing around the campfire, eating in the dining hall and renewing old friendships. If you’ve never been before, join us and find out how much fun it is! This is a special weekend for our Somerset County families to enjoy camp.

Somerset County 4-H Family Camp
June 13, 14, 15, 2008
Lindley G. Cook NJ 4-H Camp

Bring your family, your club, 4-H and Prep Alumni, or folks you would like to get involved...you’re bound to have a great time. You may come for the whole weekend or just on the big day—Saturday. Cost is $55 per person and includes EVERYTHING! Call or stop by the 4-H Office for a registration packet. Packets will also be available in the 4-H Center Lobby in March. Contact the 4-H Office, 526-6644 for more information.

Lindley G. Cook Counselor Opportunities

Become a camp counselor at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Stokes State Forest. Anyone sixteen or over may volunteer to be a counselor for one or more weeks this summer. Our County Preference Week is July 28 - August 2, but camp is open all summer. Mandatory counselor training is available on-line. Visit the Camp Web Site for more information: http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/

Camp Events

Volunteer Work Days: April 5 & April 19. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend.

Open House: April 19 and May 18, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please call to schedule a tour.
** Totally Outrageous Program for Summer **

**Totally Outrageous Programs**
Explore the world of science, arts and nature with such programs as Snakes & Scales and Turtletales, a visit from the Children’s Museum and a chance to learn magic with a real Magician!

**Totally Outrageous Snacks**
Make your own nutritious and delicious snacks! All snacks meet the new guidelines for Get Moving-Get Healthy NJ and will include: Bagel faces, ice cream sundaes, trail mix and fruit kabobs.

**Totally Outrageous Games**
Ball Games, Hoola-Hoops, Relay Races and more! Participate in a mini-Olympics: try hiking a nature trail.

**Totally Outrageous Crafts**
Let your imaginations soar; your creative juices flow! Design your own back pack, make a pen pot, create posters and more. A different craft every day!

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

For Children Grades 1-6
June 23 - 27, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
$200.00
Scholarships available

Call the office for an application or visit our website at [www.4HisTops.org](http://www.4HisTops.org)
Camp held here at the Ted Blum 4-H Center.

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**WANTED**

Applications for TOPS camp teen counselor volunteers are now available in the 4-H office or on the web. To apply you must be completing the 8th grade or older.

Volunteers have the opportunity to develop their leadership and teaching skills by helping to create programs, teach crafts, organize and play games and assist in team building. Training is provided and mandatory to attend.

Application forms are included in this Clovertales. For more information, please contact the 4-H Office.
Sixth Annual S4HL

The “Somerset 4-H Live” (S4HL) noon hour at the 2007 4-H Fair rocked! Our all-girl band, Uncut Diamonds hosted three hours (one each day) of “solid green” entertainment by many of Somerset County’s talented 4-H members.

This year it’s YOUR TURN to take to the Showmobile Main Stage! If you have never performed during S4HL before, you must register by May 1st to be invited to audition. If you have been a performer in the past, or if you give your performance during County Presentations, we’ll contact you! For further details of the “Performing Arts” Open Division, check out your copy of the 2008 Exhibitor Guide (available in May). Contact the 4-H Office if you have any questions.

4-H is TOPS in Entertainment!

2008 Yearbook & Catalog Ad Sales

You should have received your Ad Sales packet. If you did not, contact the 4-H office right away! Additional ad sales forms are available on the web at: www.4HisTOPS.org

Why do we sell ads? To raise money to support the fair, the building, and the program.

♦ Every club that sells $500 or more will receive 10% of their total ad sales for their club treasury
♦ The price for Friends is only $1.00
♦ Special message ads are $20.00

Remember:
♦ Every member with $50.00 or more in sales earns a special t-shirt
♦ 4-H'er should give all buyers of display ads a “thank you” supporter ribbon and a copy of the yearbook and catalog.
♦ American Express Gift Checks are presented to Top Selling Sales People
♦ 4-H Fair Food Tent Coupons are presented to Top Selling Families
♦ Deadline - April 25
♦ Every member and club is expected to help support the 4-H program to keep the fair free!

4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide

Thanks to all the leaders that responded. If you have not yet done so, we look forward to hearing from you soon. If you need help or have questions, please call Barbara Navatto.
Mighty Cavits & Rodents  
by Megan Kouril

At the Club’s annual holiday party, new t-shirt designs were picked. The design was created by Sarah Ongaro and Kira Whitney. In January dues were collected and the Club began discussions on the 4-H Fair.

Whiskers, Paws & Claws  
by Kietra Wiggins

The Club participated in a craft fair at St. Hubert’s animal shelter in Chatham. They did a bake sale booth as part of the fundraiser and all profits went to the shelter, which was $200.00. People enjoyed homemade cupcakes, cookies and peppermint patties that were sold. The Club was proud to be representing 4-H.

4-H Beekeeping Club  
by Brian Rowe

The Club elected its officers for the coming year. The new President is Alex Barree and the Vice-President is Nick DeCristofano. Members are presently gearing up for the start of their beekeeping projects. They are getting equipment and bee orders together. Bees are expected to arrive in early May. In March, the members will have their first opportunity to meet with the local beekeeping association. The Club is also planning a skiing trip. As the new VP, Nick states he is excited to learn about and work with honeybees. This is his first 4-H Club, so being the VP brings many opportunities. He joined the Club to learn and observe the honeybee hive throughout the year and he is looking forward to working with everyone. President, Alex, has been a member of the Just Kidding Goat Club for 4 years. He, too, is looking forward to getting his bees and honeycomb. He says he is learning a lot in this club.

Wattles & Snood  
by Kali Vaporakis

The Wattles & Snood Poultry Club held elections for their new year. With membership now over 30, the Club voted Veronica Irizarry and Shanna Clifford as Co-Presidents. Other officers are Lisa Magulak, Vice-President; Kali Vaporakis, Recording Secretary; and Chelsea Anderson, Fair Coordinator. The Club went on a snow tubing event at Blue Mountain in PA and will soon be ordering chicks for the spring. The Club has been busy putting together baskets for the basket auction and has made a contribution of food and funds to a food shelter.

Radical Rodents  
by Samantha Fisch

The Club is off to a good start by electing new officers and by taking a club trip to the Hunterdon County Echo Hill Park to go animal and bird watching. The Club had a lot of fun baking their own cookies for their annual holiday party, which was a huge success. During the holiday season, members visited Summerville Assisted Living in Hillsborough, making residents happy by showing off their pets. The Club, along with Sidewinders, participated in a presentation workshop in February and many members participated in the County Small Animal & Herpetology Show, February 16. Results are posted in “Hurray For”. At the show, the Club ran a silent auction.

4-H Go-Kart Club  
by Daniel Peterson

At the Club’s January meeting, new officers were elected: President, J.J. Arftitch; Vice-President, Brandon Gano; Secretary, Daniel Peterson, Treasurer, Jake Bobal. The Club held a “pit crew” contest which consisted of 3 teams. It was a timed event to see which “crew” could remove and remount 4 tires in the fastest time. Members created a car care basket for the Tricky Tray Bonanza. At the February meeting, a “swap meet” was held. Members brought in unwanted parts and supplies to sell to other members. Future events for the Club: An outing to a race track such as Englishtown; the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and a fund-raiser for the Jones family. Mr. Jones is a technician for the Club. The Club also plans on voting on its by-laws.

4-H Senior Council  
by Wendy Franzyschen

In January, the Club discussed the December STAC meeting and the
Holiday SHIP party. Members brainstormed ideas for fundraising, the upcoming basket raffle, and the St. Patrick’s Day parade which they will be participating in.

February’s meeting, the Club began planning a blood drive. Those that participated in winter camp shared their great time with all. Senior Council plans to attend and assist with ice breakers at the upcoming Safe Night on April 5. Valentine’s cards are being made for the veterans.

Puppet Adventures at 4-H by Betty Sommerville

Celebrating National Day of Puppetry on April 26, the Pretty Cool Puppetry Club, along with the Garden State Puppetry Guild, are hosting a day-long event at the Center. Besides helping with the morning workshops, by making and moving different kinds of puppets, the Club is hard at work on “The Gingerbread Man” to be performed at the free afternoon Puppet Potpourri Extravaganza. Come one, come all and let the inner puppeteer out to play. Stay and say hello to our very tall “Cora Bell Clovergirl” too.

Young Artistes’ Club by Jessica Hodge

The Club held their annual trip to Caron’s Ceramic Studio, located in Lebanon at the Lebanon Plaza. The studio opened it’s doors just for the Club. Each member got to choose their own piece of pottery. There were green frogs with polka-dots, fun Disney characters and multi-colored dogs. This is the 4th year the Club has participated and each year they have a wonderful time. If you are looking for a fun activity for your Club or a great place to host a birthday party, Caron’s Ceramic Studio, is a great idea.

Chinese Culture Club by Emily Ma & Jonathan Lin

The Chinese Culture Club celebrated the Chinese New Year on February 9. There was great food, funny shows, and an awesome Lion Dance. Mrs. Chang and Mr. Huang, our Principle and Vice Principle, presented awards for the speech contest and the teachers gave out awards to their students. Dinner was served, prepared by Asian Food Markets. After the dinner, the presentations began! First up was the lion dance. They walked their way around and displayed a fabulous performance. The leader with the lions acted out everything so the presentation had no flaws. Another standout was the line dance, which included an impersonation of Elvis. Then, the dancers (no Elvis) did a rumba with their handkerchiefs. There was a talk show performed by Jessica Zhao, our student council chairperson, and her father. It began with Jessica’s father testing her on Chinese, and ended with Jessica setting ground rules about what her parents should expect when she goes to college. Another one that really appealed to the kids was the talent show. It was a mix between Chinese talent shows, and American Idol. It was very funny and entertaining. There were also an umbrella dance, sword dance, story telling, and Er-Hu (a Chinese Violin) performance throughout the evening. Everyone had a great time and we are all happy going into the Year of Rat.

Wags & Whiskers Dog Club by Ashley Ward

The Club has been very busy over the past few months. In December, they held their annual holiday party, enjoying food, games and exchanging gifts for their dogs. In January they held a Club sleepover. This included playing games, showing dogs and team building activities. The Woof Dog Club had their Woofminster show on February 2. Many Club members attended. Members are currently planning for their own show on March 15 at the 4-H Center. All are welcome to attend!

Hoofbeats by Neha Deshpande

Hoofbeats held their first meeting in February with a presentation on proper horse nutrition from Dr. Sarah Ralston, Associate Professor, Rutgers U. The talk included determining amounts of hay and grain needed for individual horse needs and the role of supplements. Handouts are available. Please contact the 4-H office or Hoofbeats, if you would like to receive one.
Dear 4-H Prepper,

Our New Year celebration was such fun. There were many activities for all to do including crafts, face painting, tattoos, dancing and eating. Dessert was ice cream sundaes and tasty brownies made for the event by the Prep Chef Club. YUM!

The talents of Mike Malone from Music N Motion kept everyone (including parents) up and dancing all night. Many thanks to all of you for a GREAT New Year’s celebration that will be remembered for a long time to come.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Darby
4-H Program Coordinator

A special SHOUT OUT to the people who helped make the Prep New Year/Family Night such a success: Joe & Ryan Shreve, Chris Posbergh, Kyle Graham, Elizabeth and Amy Frank, Katherine & Carolyn Pirro, Jesse Engesser, Wendy Franzyshen, Amanda Weinstein and Beth Kavanaugh. What would I do without you guys, you’re GREAT! Also many thanks to all who helped clean up.

Save the date!!

Arriving soon: Flyers with information and registration forms for the Family Camp weekend at LG Cook Camp. Friday, June 13 - Sunday, June 15. What a GREAT way to spend Father’s Day with your dad.

Family Camp Counselor applications are available. Please complete the form and return to Lisa Darby at the 4-H office by May 1, 2008.
Yakety-Yak

The New Centre Dairy Prep Club
We had our first meeting on January 9 at the 4-H Center. We introduced ourselves, said the pledges and went over Clovertales. We made potato cows. We will meet the second Wednesday of each month. Our club is accepting new members.

The Crazy Clovers Prep Club
Our first club meeting was November 29. We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. We received our project books, are learning the 4-H pledge and started picking out names for our club at this meeting. In December we had a holiday party. We made cards for the veterans, made reindeer and winter rabbit food and had snacks. In January we had Wendy and Brittnay from the dog project come to talk to us about how to train, groom and show your dog. We also voted on the name for our club and decided on The Crazy Clovers. Our club is accepting new members.

The Prep Chefs Club
In November Juliana and her mom lead the club in making cookies loaded with lots of yummy ingredients. Evan said they were the best cookies he ever ate. Rita and Colin helped deliver them to people working at the center. The club also filled and decorated mason jars to make "Cookies in a Jar" gifts. In December we made a chocolate chip cake and holiday cider. We talked about what we were doing for the holidays. We sang happy birthday to Juliana. Sami was Mrs. Claus at the meeting. In January our club made 6 trays of brownies for the Prep New Year's Celebration. At our meeting on January 22, we made striped pudding parfaits. We look forward to making cheese cake at our next meeting.

The Prep Discovery Club
November was filled with community service projects. We made and sent cards to veterans for Veterans Day. We also sent our leftover Halloween candy to a local dentist who shipped it overseas to our troops. We took a hike to the Sourland Mountain Preserve. In January Brittney and her dog Roxanne, from Wags & Whiskers, came to our club and spoke about training, grooming and showing her dog. We hope to visit the Environmental Education Center in February and learn how to get maple syrup from a tree.

The Mad Scientist Club
We hosted a trip to the RVCC Planetarium on January 8 for all prep members and their families. It was an exciting night for all who attended.
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**April 2008**

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<td><strong>YEARBOOK &amp; CATALOG AD SALE MONTHS MARCH &amp; APRIL</strong></td>
<td><strong>County Presentations (evening)</strong></td>
<td><strong>County Presentations (afternoon &amp; evening)</strong></td>
<td><strong>County Presentations (evening)</strong></td>
<td><strong>4-H Science-cational Day (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)</strong></td>
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<td>6 Horse Project Advisory Committee (7:30 p.m.)</td>
<td>7 Building &amp; Grounds Meeting (7:30 p.m.)</td>
<td>8 4-H Fair Managers Meeting (7:30 p.m.)</td>
<td>9 4-H Teacher Workshop “Project Wild” (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)</td>
<td>10 National 4-H Congress Applications Due in County Office</td>
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<td>11 4-H Association Meeting (7:30 p.m.)</td>
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<td>14 4-H Puppetry Adventure</td>
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<td>16 <strong>4-H Teacher Workshop “Project Wild” (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)</strong></td>
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<td>22 <strong>Administrative Professionals Day</strong></td>
<td>23 <strong>State 4-H Equine Presentations (Burlington) (5 p.m. – 10 p.m.)</strong></td>
<td>24 <strong>State 4-H Equine Presentations (Somerset) (5 p.m. – 10 p.m.)</strong></td>
<td>25 <strong>State 4-H Equine Presentations (Somerset) (5 p.m. – 10 p.m.)</strong></td>
<td>26 <strong>State 4-H Dog Show</strong></td>
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<td>28 <strong>All Livestock &amp; Dairy Loan Forms Due in County Office May 1</strong></td>
<td>29 <strong>All Livestock &amp; Dairy Loan Forms Due in County Office May 1</strong></td>
<td>30 <strong>All Livestock &amp; Dairy Loan Forms Due in County Office May 1</strong></td>
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4-H Members are responsible to register directly with the 4-H Office. Please return to the 4-H Office (or the 4-H Center office in the evenings) by Monday, March 15, 2008.

I will participate in the Somerset County Presentation Program at the 4-H Center on:

_____ Tuesday, April 1 - 7 p.m.
_____ Wednesday, April 2 - 4 p.m.
_____ Wednesday, April 2 - 7 p.m.
_____ Thursday, April 3 - 7 p.m.

Name ___________________________ Grade _____ Phone __________________

Street ____________________________

City _______________________________ State _____ Zip _____________

4-H Club __________________________

Presentation type:  _____ Demonstration  _____ Illustrated Talk
                     _____ Performing Arts  _____ Formal Speech

The topic of my talk or performance will be _____________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Check all that apply:

_____ I will need kitchen facilities.
    Be specific ________________________________

_____ I would like to borrow audiovisual equipment.
    Be specific ________________________________
    (due to limited supply, we may not be able to accommodate all requests)

_____ I will have a live animal. What type of animal? _______________________

_____ I will bring music.

_____ I need other special accommodations.
    Be specific ________________________________

_____ I have a partner. The name of my partner ____________________________

_____ I choose to have my presentation critiqued, but not judged.
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County
Summer Camp Volunteer Counselor Application
TOPS Camp
(June 23-27, 2008)
(For Teens who have graduated 8th grade & older)

First Name________________________ Last Name_________________________________

Street_________________________________________ City__________________________

State__________ Zip_________________ Home Phone (_____)__________________

e-mail address_____________________________________________ Tee-shirt size S M L XL

School_________________________________________ Grade_____ Birthdate__________

Parent(s) Name _____________________________ Parent(s) Day Phone (____)_____________

APPLICATION DUE APRIL 25. COUNSELORS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY MAY 15.

THERE IS MANDATORY TRAINING ON JUNE 21st from 8:30am-4:30pm

--Please complete both sides--

For Office Use Only

Date Received:____________________
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County

Summer Camp Volunteer Counselor Application

1. Are you a 4-H Member  □ Yes  □ No (priority given to 4-H members)
   In what county are you a 4-H member? _______________________________________
   To what club(s) do you belong? ____________________________________________

2. Reasons for Volunteering:

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

3. Experience working with youth (if any):

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

4. Special training, interests, education, skills, certifications (if any):

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. Describe how you would deal with a child who was having trouble fitting into a group. What would you do to help him or her feel more comfortable?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

6. Describe activities or programs you would be willing to teach or lead (include sports, music, singing, cheering, dancing, crafts, club related or hobby related skills).

___________________________________________________________________________

7. Please provide the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of one adult reference. May be a 4-H club leader, teacher, employer, or a volunteer of another youth group. May NOT be a relative.

___________________________________________________________________________
The National Day of Puppetry Presents:

"Puppet Adventures at 4-H"

Saturday, April 26, 2008
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ted Blum 4-H Center
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-6644

Schedule of Events

9:00 am - 12:15 pm: Workshops for Children in Grades K - 5
Children in Grades K- 5 are invited to join us for 3 workshops for hands-on demonstrations of the various kinds of puppets that can be made and puppetry techniques used for presentations. COST: $15.00 per child for all 3 workshops, includes all materials. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are free.

12:15 - 1:00 pm: Lunch Break
Participants may bring their own lunch and are invited to eat at the 4-H Center. Lunch may also be eaten off-site. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

1:00 - 3:00 pm: The "Puppet Potpourri Extravaganza" Open to All
All ages are invited to join us for this live presentation brought to you by your hosts, the Garden State Puppetry Guild and the Somerset County Pretty Cool 4-H Puppetry Club. COST: FREE for all!! Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

You do not have to attend both events. You may choose to come just to the workshops or just to the puppet show. For more information, please contact the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644 or visit us on the web:

www.4HisTOPS.org

Please make checks payable to 4-H Office Account. Cost is $15.00 for all 3 workshops 9:00 am - 12:15 pm. Please register by April 10. Mail to address listed above.
Dated Material