4-H is TOPS!
Fall 2008 for Somerset County 4-H

What an exciting time of year it is for Somerset County 4-H! We want to thank all of you who helped with another successful Open House. We want to say “Welcome Back!” to many of our club members and leaders and a warm “Hello” to our new leaders and members. The Somerset County 4-H program is expanding, offering new clubs in Martial Arts and Karate, Robotics/Legos and Magic. We also welcome another Environmental Club, Community Service Club and a fourth Horse Club and the return of the Ultimate Frisbee Club.

Fall and winter is when we recognize all of our leaders and members for their achievements throughout the year. Please check out Club Corner to find out when the Achievement Nights will be held. Achievement Nights are held for Livestock, Dog, Arts, Science and Horse. Please attend these celebrations of the work our members have done in the past year. This is also our opportunity to thank our volunteers for all their dedication and time. We hope to see YOU there!

Sincerely,

Lisa Rothenburger
County 4-H Agent

Carol K. Ward
County 4-H Agent

Remember 4-H is for everyone, everywhere!

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

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

4-H Mission Statement

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

The mission is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of the land grant university system, along with the involvement of caring adults.
October was 4-H Wreath Sale Month!! If you did not order one, please call the 4-H office at 908-526-6644. We may have extras! The proceeds help keep the fair free! The clubs receive $1.00 for each wreath they sell.

Burn off those Thanksgiving dinner calories. Come join the fun in helping unload wreaths on Friday, November 28 at 7:30 am.

Club leaders should pick up wreaths:
• Saturday, November 29, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
• Monday, December 1, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
• Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Each club should plan to decorate their own wreaths. To keep wreaths fresh, do not store on concrete, which absorbs moisture.

Please call Maryann Del Gigante, night superintendent, 7-10 pm, Monday-Friday, at least a day before you plan to pick up your ribbon, wire and cones.

Wreaths should be delivered to the customers by December 6. Keep $1.00 per wreath for your club treasury if payment is made to the 4-H Association by December 19. Clubs making payment after December 19 should keep only 50¢ per wreath. Clubs making payments after December 31, 2008 will not receive money for selling wreaths. Leaders: Money drop-off days, December 15-17, 7 - 9 pm, 4-H Center. The 4-H office will accept money if these dates are inconvenient.

The BIG Committee is hosting their 2nd annual BIG Basket Bonanza tricky tray basket auction on Sunday, March 1, 2009, to raise funds for repairs to the 4-H Center. Last year's event was a BIG success thanks to the many clubs, local businesses and organizations that participated by donating prizes. Your club can help make this year's event another success by donating a basket of prizes. Baskets should have a theme, all items should be new and in original packaging and your basket should have a value of at least $20. In lieu of baskets, gift cards and cash donations to purchase prizes also are welcome. Clubs that donate will be entered in a raffle to win a pizza party! Be creative! Your basket should be turned in to the 4-H Office by February 1. For more information, contact Barbara Navatto at (908) 526-6644 or Holly Dunbar at (908) 252-7121 or hdunbar@ddcf.org.
2009 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events

The 2009 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events is being prepared now. It will include state and countywide events for the upcoming calendar year. It should also include major club events (such as achievement dinners). If you have any ideas or contributions, let us know. If you’re not sure if your event should be on the calendar, give us a call. The 2009 Calendar will be mailed in December with the January/February newsletter.

Wreath Decorating

Help is needed on Wednesday, December 3 to decorate the wreaths. Association members, parents, leaders and friends are asked to attend beginning at 7 pm. Bring a friend. It’s always a fun evening. (These wreaths are to fill orders phoned in, not club orders.)

Project Learning Tree

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Project Learning Tree is an award winning environmental education program designed for teachers and youth leaders working with students kindergarten through 12. Discover over 175 hands-on activities that help teach science, math, language arts, social studies and other subjects like animals and habitats.

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

For more information contact the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644. Registration deadline is January 7, 2009.

Project Wild

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Project Wild is an interdisciplinary environmental program with 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 environment and conservation using the outdoors as a classroom.

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

For more information contact the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644. Registration deadline is February 4, 2009.

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 Maryann, the building manager, between 7-10 pm at 908-526-8242, to let her know if you will be canceling 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.

If the decision is made by the buildings & grounds committee to close the building for the evening, the attempt will be made to reach all leaders. Members, check with your leaders if you are not sure before coming to the 4-H Center.

Leaders, please make sure that Maryann has a number where you can most likely be reached during the day. Thank you!
The third annual BIG Rummage Sale was a BIG success from a number of standpoints.

Perhaps foremost, it brought together more than 120 volunteers who worked long and hard to make the preparations and the sale itself run smoothly. This included 12 volunteers from Henkel Adhesives (formerly National Starch), 13 4-H youth and 12 additional non-4-H folks. The outpouring of support from our Somerset County 4-H family was second only to the 4-H Fair in its magnitude. Thanks to all who helped, and didn’t we have fun doing it?

The sale, held September 11-13 at the Ted Blum 4-H Center, took in more than $9000 for our BIG (Build-Invest-Grow) fund to keep the center in tip-top shape. The approximately $35,000 collected so far by the four BIG fundraising events soon went toward the much-needed repaving of our driveways and parking lot.

In addition, the sale benefited many area nonprofit organizations, which were invited to take whatever they wanted from what was left over. The rest went to other upcoming sales, including the Visiting Nurse Association’s big sale in Far Hills.

The Rummage Sale team was led by 4-H Program Coordinators Rachel Bijaczyk and Lisa Darby, BIG committee members Kim Miholics and Betty Sommerville, and Linda Au, who coordinated the volunteers. The decision already has been made to hold the fourth annual sale next year on September 17-19. And don’t forget about the second annual BIG Committee Basket Raffle on Sunday, March 1, 2009.


New committee members are welcome; contact chairman Joe Bakes at 908-725-4246 or josbak@copydesk.org.
**United Way for Holiday Cheer**

Clubs are needed to help share holiday joy with those less fortunate by helping Somerset County United Way's Gifts of the Season program. Information on specific individuals in need in Somerset County is provided by local health and human services agencies. For more information on the Gifts of the Season Program, please contact Irene Natale at (908) 253-6511 or e-mail irene.natale@scuw.org

**Gift Drop Off:** Thursday & Friday, December 11 & 12 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

**Gift Sorting & Tagging:** Monday, Thursday, and Friday, December 15 - 18 - 19, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Tuesday and Wednesday, December 16 - 17, 9:30 am - 7:00 pm. For more information on volunteering opportunities including sorting and packing gifts during the week of December 15, please contact Lisa Galonardo at (908) 253-6503 or e-mail lisa.galonardo@scuw.org

**Wrapped in Love Drop Off:** Thursday & Friday, December 11 & 12, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Help share the warmth this winter with those less fortunate by collecting donations for this annual drive that takes place in November and December. NEW socks, gloves, hats, scarves and coats are needed most! Used coats ONLY will be accepted. For more information, please contact Irene Natale at (908) 253-6511 or e-mail irene.natale@scuw.org

For location of different events, please call United Way at 908-725-6640. Do not drop off items at the 4-H Center, please!

**Visitors Welcomed**

The Bridgeway Senior Care Center, in Bridgewater, would welcome any club or individuals who would like to come visit their residents. Holidays can be especially trying to those who are alone or confined due to illness. Please feel free to contact Rita Philpott, Activities Director to arrange a visit. She can be reached at 908-722-7022, ext. 119 or at rphilpott@bridgewayseniorcare.com

**Volunteers Needed for Fall Leaf Clean Up, November 22**

Clubs, this is a good volunteer opportunity: Would you like to help an elderly or disabled person get his or her yard ready for the winter months? The Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services is looking for volunteers for its annual fall leaf clean-up program. Volunteers are needed to rake leaves for elderly and disabled homeowners around the county who have no other means to do yard work. The annual leaf clean-up project will take place Saturday, November 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All participants are invited to lunch at the Office of Volunteer Services. However, anyone who would like to help but cannot make it on November 22 is welcome to schedule an alternative date and time by calling the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 541-5715.

**Military Ideas**

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

Other website for gifts, cards and donations are:

http://www.supportarm.org

http://projectrudolph.homestead.com/index.html
DAR Scholarships Available for Seniors

The New Jersey Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is offering the following scholarships for New Jersey high school seniors who are US citizens. Application forms are available at the 4-H Office, or by contacting Holly Dunbar at (908) 252-7121.

Betty Bradbury Vail Scholarship: This $2000 scholarship is awarded to a student who is planning to attend a college or university and major in political science, history, government or economics and who is in need of financial assistance. **Deadline to apply: January 5, 2009.**

New Jersey DAR State Scholarship: This $2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student based on academic achievement, financial need, career goals and participation in activities and community service. **Deadline to apply: December 5, 2008.**

Edward A. Platz Memorial Scholarship

**Deadline November 10**

This scholarship is offered by the NJ Agribusiness Association. There are 2 $1500 awards offered to students in NJ who have a rank of sophomore or above in an accredited 4 year college or university in the US, majoring in an agricultural subject area or related field, with intent to pursue a career in a field related to agriculture, with an emphasis on production agriculture. For more information or an application, please contact the 4-H office at 908-526-6644.

Somerset County Youth Conference

The 12th annual Somerset County Youth Conference will be held on **Wednesday, November 13, 6:00 - 9:00 pm,** at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School’s Technology & Conference Center, North Bridge Street/Vogt Drive, Bridgewater. This year the theme is **“Internet to Gamers: Diverse, Independent & Empowered to Smart, Social & Superfast.”**

The conference is designed by teens for teens and sponsored by the Somerset County Youth Council. There is **no cost to attend but you must pre-register.** Dinner is included. It’s open to all teens in 7th - 12th grades. For more information call Sarah Murchison at 908-704-6300 or email at: murchis@co.somerset.nj.us

4-H Senior Member Winter Camp

**Register by January 9th**

Members in grades 9-13th will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp **January 23 - 25, 2009.** This year, Somerset will go with teens from **Bergen, Passaic and Warren Counties.** This is always a popular event, so get your application in early. Cost for the whole weekend is only **$50.00.** Scholarships are available. For more information contact Lisa Rothenburger, 4-H Office at 908-526-6644 or rothenburger@rce.rutgers.edu
Achievement Dinners

- **Livestock Achievement Dinner** on Saturday, November 1st, 6:00 pm
- **Dog Project Achievement Dinner** on Sunday, November 2nd, 4 pm
- **Arts Achievement Dinner** on Thursday, November 6th, 6:30 pm
- **Science Achievement Night** on Friday, January 9, 7 pm - 9 pm
- **Horse Achievement Banquet** on Saturday, January 17th, 6 pm

*Call your leader for details.*

Meeting Reports for
Around the County

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

$valis@co.somerset.nj.us$

We will put your club meeting news in Clovertales-Around the County section or on the Prep Page.

Available Resources On-Line

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

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

http://www.n4hccs.org/

4-H Members can do a project on their own as an independent project member.

Workshops for Clubs

"How to Run a Meeting" and "How to Give a Presentation"

Your club can reach all it's goals if meetings are run efficiently. We have games and fun activities to bring to your club meeting to help you learn the roles of officers, how to proceed through an agenda and how to define your goals.

It's never too early to start thinking about presentations. In this fun workshop, members learn the parts of a presentation, what the judges look for, how to use visual aids, how to relax and much more.

Call the 4-H Office and ask to schedule with Barbara Navatto.
Essay Contests for All Ages

4-H’ers are invited to enter the following contests sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In each contest, awards will be presented on the local, state and national level. Detailed instructions and entry forms are available at the 4-H Office or by contacting Holly Dunbar at (908) 252-7121.

AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST
Open to all students in grades 5 to 8. The topic is “What message did the Gettysburg Address communicate to our war-torn nation in 1863? How are the ideals articulated in the speech still relevant for our country today?” Guidelines: Length should be 300 - 600 words for grade 5, 600 - 1000 words for grades 6 to 8. Entry deadline: February 1, 2009.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST
This contest is open to all students in grades 9 to 12. Contest rules: Write an essay not exceeding 750 words that outlines five perils faced by Christopher Columbus’ Expeditions and how Columbus and his crew overcame them. Essays will be judged on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization, originality, spelling and grammar. Entry deadline is January 1, 2009.

JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS CONTEST
This contest is open to all pre-school through 12th grade students as individuals or groups of 3 or more. This

year’s theme is “America - Land of Opportunity.” The entry deadline is January 20, 2009. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

Poster: Minimum size 8-1/2 x 11”, maximum size is 22 x 28”. Original artwork using the theme. May be rolled or folded for mailing.

Stamp Design: Design a postal stamp using the theme. Original artwork only. Exact size: 5 x 7” drawn in center of 8-1/2 x 11” sheet of white paper.

Banner (groups of 3 or more only): Design a banner illustrating the theme. Size: Use a 1:3 ratio. Maximum size 16 x 48”. Banners may be paper or fabric, rolled or folded for mailing. Secure objects attached to banners.

Photographic Essay: Submit not more than 25 color photographs illustrating the theme, mounted on 8-1/2 x 11” paper and bound in a three-brad composition folder. Brief captions may appear on each page.

Community Service: Entries should consists of not more than 15 color photos with a descriptive text of 500 words or less. Identify all photos with captions. Entries should be presented in a three-brad binder.

Poem: An original poem, any style, of 300 words or less, on 8-1/2 x 11” paper.

Short Story: Original short story of 500 words or less, in first or third person, on 8-1/2 x 11” paper.

Public Presentations 2009

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

Save the dates- March 20-24-25-26, 2009, to have your presentation judged or critiqued. Before you begin, you might want a few easy tips on how to give a better presentation.

Workshops will be Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 pm and Thursday, February 19, 4:00 pm.

An additional workshop will be offered Thursday, February 26, 7:00 pm for those interested in using power point visuals as part of your presentation. Call the 4-H Office to register. If your club would like an informal workshop at a club meeting, call Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office.

Loans Available for Livestock Club Members

Did you know that the New Jersey Junior Breeders Loan program can help 4-H members get the funds to purchase livestock? These low interest loans are available for purchasing breeding stock. It is a good way for youth to develop a positive credit rating and become eligible for college scholarships. If you want more information, please contact the 4-H Office and ask for the Junior Breeder Loan information.
Hurray for...
Open House a Huge Success!

The twenty first annual “Join 4-H!” Open House was held at the 4-H Center on October 7, during National 4-H Week. Approximately 300 people came to learn more about 4-H and join 4-H clubs.

The following 4-H clubs were represented at the “Join 4-H” Open House to encourage new members to join: 4-H Beekeeping Club, Broken Props Model Airplanes, 4-H Go-Kart Club, Somerset Trainmasters, Somerset Sentinels, K-9 Leaders See Eye Club, People Pick-Me-Ups, Wattles & Snood Poultry Club, Branchburg Beef, Dairy & Livestock, 4-H Cattleman’s Club, Magic Club, Just Kidding, Sidewinders Club, Chaps & Spurs, Hoofbeats, Free Spirit Riders, Woolly Ones, 4-H Country Kickers, Chinese Culture Club, 4-H Senior Council, RC Car Club, PAWsabilities, Ultimate Frisbee Club, 4 Leaf Closers, Sheepfold, Robotics Club, The Exchange Club, Martial Arts Club, Karate Club, New Centre Dairy Prep, Discovery Prep Club, Mad Scientists, Knowledge Explorers, All Star Prep, Crazy Clovers, Exploding Stars Prep Club and the New Prep Club.

A special thanks to Annette & Mellissa Smutko, Esther Craft and Ruth Schmidt for serving refreshments, Tina Pirro and Erin Szakacs for helping at the information booth, Russ Balliet, John Kinch and Joey Shreve for parking cars.

New clubs starting this year are the Magic Club, Helping Hands Club, Martial Arts Club, Karate Club, Environmental Club, Robotics/Lego Club, Kings Riders Horse Club and Ultimate Frisbee Club. In our Prep Division, we have several brand new clubs starting and looking for members. If you would be like more information about joining a club, please contact the 4-H office.

Radio Control Car Club Year Results

Congratulations to:

**Indoor Season - October 2007 - June 2008**

**Stock:** Eric Marion, 1st; Charles Fenwick, 2nd; David Modrowsky, 3rd; Chad Pisano, 4th

**2wd Truck Stock:** Jay Marion, 1st; David Modrowsky, 2nd; Charles Fenwick, 3rd; Tim Glowinski, 4th

**2wd Truck Modified:** Eric Marion, 1st; Randy Bishop, 2nd; Tim Brewer, 3rd; Charles Fenwick, 4th

**Unlimited:** Tim Brewer, 1st; Joe Callahan, 2nd; Randy Bishop, 3rd; Jake Vitaliano, 4th

4-H TV Stars!

Cary and Evan Brochinsky and Luke, Kara and Kristen Johnson represented Somerset County on the Channel 11 Morning News, participating in a series of demonstrations to promote 4-H National Science Day Experiment. Roving reporter Larry Hoff met them at Rutgers University where they showed him how hydrogels work and a few other experiments that showed how learning science can be fun. The segments were broadcast live during the Morning News show on Wednesday, October 1. One of the segments can be viewed at [http://weblogs.cw11.com/news/local/ morningnews/blogs/2008/10/ larrys_sciencing_away_at_rutge.html#more](http://weblogs.cw11.com/news/local/ morningnews/blogs/2008/10/ larrys_sciencing_away_at_rutge.html#more).

Thank You...

Thanks to Mike Pappas, Laura Graham, Pauline Kodack, Elaine Mulrooney, and Britt & Joanne Powell, for providing and manning the 4-H Display at the Branchburg Country Fair in September.
Astronomy Night at the Ball Park

The Space & Astronomy Club held an Astronomy Night during a game at the Somerset Patriots Ball Park on September 13th. The weather was nice and warm and the skies cooperated enough to give over 100 fans a chance to look through a telescope and see close up images of the craters on the moon.

Thanks to the Rosario and Swet families for supporting the event.

Another Astronomy Night will be held later this year at the Somerset County Library in Bridgewater. To be notified about this event, spend your email to: SC4HAstro@yahoo.com.

State 4-H Horse Show Results

Congratulations to:

**Pony Western Pleasure**
1st Taylor Cox

**Jr. Western Showmanship & Grooming**
7th Ashley Thompson

**Sr. Western Showmanship & Grooming**
2nd Elizabeth Hobbie
10th James Hobbie

**USEF Training Level Test 1 Jr.**
3rd Carol Anne Bekus

**Key Hole Pony**
9th Sophia Carroll

**Hunter Hack Pony**
2nd Carol Anne Bekus
8th Taylor Cox

**Jr. English Showmanship & Grooming**
5th Taylor Cox

**Sr. English Showmanship & Grooming**
9th Elizabeth Hobbie

**Sr. Equitation on the Flat**
2nd James Hobbie

**Jr. Equitation Over Fences**
7th Carol Anne Bekus
9th Taylor Cox

**English Pleasure Horse**
5th Taylor Cox

**Halter**
1st Taylor Cox

Go-Kart Club Fair Results

**Overall Winner** – Jason Amrowski

**Rookie of the Year** – Chris Hess

**Time Trial Class Places:**

**Rookie**
1st place – Chris Hess
2nd place – Taylor Smith
3rd place – Louis Hajdu-Nemeth

**Race Light – Briggs engine**
1st place – Jason Amrowski
2nd place – Devon Sixt
3rd place – Brian Scher
4th place – Colin Gano

**Race Light – Box Stock engine**
1st place – Jake Bobal
2nd place – Travis Kalupanovich

**Race Medium – Briggs engine**
1st place – Randy Sixt
2nd place – Travis Kalupanovich
3rd place – Gregory Matarazzo

**Race Medium – Box Stock engine**
1st place – Tyler Bobal
2nd place – David Oborne
3rd place – Sterling Ader

**Race Heavy**
1st place – David Oborne
2nd place – Brandon Gano
3rd place – Daniel Peterson

**Race Super Heavy**
1st place – Charlie Johnson
2nd place – Jimmy Fulton
3rd place – Dan Lang

On Our Cover...

A special thanks goes out to Alyson Weiss of the Just Kidding Goat Club and the Criations Alpaca Club for sharing her artwork for our cover. This depiction of the many animals in our 4-H clubs won an excellent at the 4-H Fair. Alyson is 17 and a senior at Hillsborough High School. She has belonged to 4-H for 10 years, starting with the Woof Club as a prepper when she was 7. She has been president of Criations for the past 4 years and this year was one of our Outstanding 4-H’ers.

Although Alyson loves to draw, it will not be her future career. She plans on going into veterinary medicine.

If anyone would like to contribute artwork to Clovertales, please contact Georgeanne Valis at valis@co.somerset.nj.us.
Pauline Kodack has been named the 2008 4-H Volunteer in the Somerset Hills YMCA Volunteer Recognition Program.

Pauline became active in 4-H shortly after moving to the Branchburg area, 12 years ago. She is the Co-leader of the Woolly Ones Sheep Club, a member of the 4-H Association, a member of the Market Lamb Committee, Co-chairman of Fiber Division, a member of the BIG Committee, a member of the Yearbook & Catalog Committee, Superintendent of the Show Tent and the Herdsman Breakfast Coordinator. She enjoys working with children and young adults, mentoring in project areas, being a part of the community and feels good about being able to utilize her free time to help other people.

Her best volunteer experience was when the club members and parents had to pull together all their resources to care for the farm and sheep when the leader, Beverly Eaton was seriously ill. She says “We came together, we learned, we preserved, and continued to grow stronger and better each year in the 4-H way: Head, Heart, Hands and Health for the club, the community, the country and the world—to make the best better!”

Pauline shares her home with her husband, Michael, her daughter Stacey, also active in 4-H, and her 2 step-sons, David and Paul. Pauline is the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of the Midland School in North Branch.
Teen Volunteer Fair

Thanks to Beth Kavanaugh for manning a 4-H booth at the fourth annual Teen Volunteer Fair at the Bernards Township Library. There was a lot of interest generated for 4-H and visitors to the booth were encouraged to visit us at Open House.

Dairy Show Fair Results

Brown Swiss Classes
Danny Philipsheck: Grand Champion; Jr. Champion; Intermediate Heifer Calf

Holstein Classes
Brittney O’Brien: Grand Champion; Best of Show
Kathy Hill: Reserve Grand Champion
Christina O’Brien: Grand Champion Showman

Junior Heifer Calf
1st Wendy Franzyshen
2nd Mary Ellen Sousa
3rd Kylen Carmody
4th Emma Carmody

Intermediate Heifer Calf
1st Elizabeth McGrath
2nd Kristi Philipsheck
3rd Elizabeth Frank
4th Christina O’Brien
5th Peyton Bond
6th Myranda Bond
7th Brittney O’Brien
8th Emily Milz

Senior Heifer Calf
1st Joe Martinelli
2nd Jenn Frank
3rd Jessi Brygier

Summer Junior Yearling
1st Lauren Yuko

Spring Junior Yearling
1st Alanna Staffin
2nd Elizabeth McGrath
3rd Angie Philipsheck
4th Jessi Brygier

Winter Inter. Yearling
1st Alex Hunt
Fall Senior Yearling
1st Jenn Frank
2nd Emily Milz

Junior Fitter
1st Joseph Martinelli
2nd Danny Philipsheck
3rd Emily Milz
4th Alanna Staffin
5th Alex Hunt
6th Joe Martinelli

Reserve Jr. Champion
Elizabeth McGrath

Unfreshen 2-Year Old
1st Christina O’Brien

Senior 2-Year Old
1st Brittney O’Brien
2nd Kathy Hill

Dry Cows
1st Brittney O’Brien

Senior Champion
Brittney O’Brien

Reserve Sr. Champion
Kathy Hill

Produce of Dam
Brittney O’Brien

4-H Farm Herd
1st Norz-Hill Farm
2nd Derwood Farm

Beginner Fitter (grade 4-8)
1st Peyton Bond
2nd Myranda Bond
3rd Elizabeth McGrath
4th Mary Ellen Sousa
5th Kristi Philipsheck
6th Emma Carmody

Beg. Showman (grade 4-8)
1st Elizabeth McGrath
2nd Kristi Philipsheck
3rd Peyton Bond
4th Myranda Bond
5th Mary Ellen Sousa
6th Emma Carmody
7th Kylen Carmody

Beg. Fitter (grade 9-13)
1st Wendy Franzyshen
2nd Elizabeth Frank
3rd Lauren Yuko

Beg. Showman (grade 9-13)
1st Lauren Yuko
2nd Wendy Franzyshen
3rd Elizabeth Frank

Junior Fitter
1st Joseph Martinelli
2nd Danny Philipsheck
3rd Emily Milz
4th Alanna Staffin
5th Alex Hunt

Senior Fitter
1st Christina O’Brien
2nd Brittney O’Brien
3rd Jenn Frank
4th Jessi Brygier
5th Angie Philipsheck

Senior Showman
1st Christina O’Brien
2nd Jessi Brygier
3rd Brittney O’Brien
4th Jenn Frannk
5th Angie Philipsheck

Best Fitter
Peyton Bond

Congratulations...

To Justin Dagnall for competing in the State 4-H Equestrian of the Year contest in August. Justin represented Somerset County well.
Plan Now for Summer Camp

If you know someone thinking about going to camp this summer, a gift certificate to Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp makes a great holiday present. Located just off Route 206 in Sussex County, about 1½ hours from Bridgewater, this camp offers environmental, arts, and sports activities each week. Costs have yet to be determined as camp may be extended to start on Sunday instead of Monday. Updates will be sent in our weekly email newsletter or you can check the website for updates at: www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu. Members and friends may attend any one of the following weeks (not just during preference week). You do not need to belong to 4-H to go to camp.

Summer Camp Session One - July 5 - 11
Summer Camp Session Two - July 12 - 18
Summer Camp Session Three - July 19 - 25
Summer Camp Session Four - July 26 - August 1

Somerset County Preference Week
Summer Camp Session Five - August 2 - 8
Summer Camp Session Six - August 9 - 15

Kudos to Somerset County who had the most attendees this past year: 137.

4-H Senior Member Winter Camp Register by January 9th

9-13th graders from Somerset County will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp January 23 - 25, 2009. This is always a popular event, so get your application in early. If you did not receive an application, please call the 4-H Office. Cost for participants is $50.00. Scholarships are available. This year we are sharing the weekend with Warren, Bergen and Passaic county 4-H’ers.

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

Camp Events 2009

Club Camp
April 17-18-19, 2009

Family Camp
June 5-6-7, 2009

TOPS Camp
June 29 - July 2, 2009

Please note - 4 day camp
Helpful Teens

Thanks again to Senior Council for washing all the Fair banners!

Volunteers are the Key to Our Success...

If we estimate 30 Fair Managers and other 4-H Association members, 150 Leaders, 30 Judges and other professional resources, 40 Corporate and other volunteers and 100 Parents, we arrive at a total of 350 4-H Fair Volunteers. Of those, 97 completed the volunteer survey and say they invested an average of 43 hours in the Fair. If we apply that average to all 350, it totals 15,050 volunteer hours!! (and that does not include all the volunteers in the Food Tent!) Based on the Independent Sector’s Dollar Value of Volunteer Hours by State, 2006, (NJ-$23.62) this is worth $355,481.00. What a contribution!

We are grateful to the tent superintendents and division chairs; Janet Weiss, Heidi Cyr, Laura Graham, Betty Sommerville, Florence Klimas, Annette Smutko, Kim Miholics, Ching Chu, Erin Szakaes, Sue MacCombie, Abner Mathews, Judy Raphael, Rosie Saylor, Michelle Ogle, Joanne Powell, Daryl Minch, Rich Norz, Tina Pirro, Jeff Weinstein, Al Stahoski, Lee Hammell, Judy Hennessy, Carol Maciborski, Marshall Hayward, Emmet Henderson, Linda Matarazzo, Randy Thiel, Wesley Spear, Doug Pitney, Steve Fenyar, Dave VanSkiver, James Thomson, Chris Heckman, Laurie Hazen, Dawn Gallagher, Sue Posbergh, Andrea Kosaka, Paul Cirillo, Sandra Clare, Frank Biely, Anita Haley, Brian Rowe, Patrick Mehrtens, Dawn Granja, Mary McLaughlin, Barbara LaMont, Valerie Goceljak,

Exhibitor Guide

Read through your division(s) in the 2008 Exhibitor Guide and if you see anything you would like to change, please bring it to the attention of your leader. Leaders, please discuss proposed changes with your division chairs. Division chairs are asked to send changes to the 4-H Office by January 30th so they can be made to the 2009 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide.

Club Photos Due by March 31 for 2009 Yearbook & Catalog

Club leaders will be responsible for submitting a maximum of 6 of your best photos for your club’s page in the 2009 Yearbook & Catalog. Photos need to be good quality, showing your members in action shots preferably, and a positive representation of your club and the 4-H program. Include a descriptive one sentence statement for each photo specifying what’s happening without naming names.

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

Final photo selection for inclusion will be at the discretion of the Catalog committee.
HoofBeats
by Sharmila Deshpande

HoofBeats had a good time at the 2008 Fair. Members actively participated in all aspects of the Fair. They helped with setting up stalls, competed in showmanship, flat classes, over-fences classes, games and helped with tear down on Saturday. HoofBeats members did well in all areas they competed in. Co-president Nicole Hoffman, along with Brian Gonzales made sure there was sufficient ice during the hot Fair days. In true spirit of 4-H, some members such as Elizabeth, Kimberly and Michele Bergen shared a horse. James Hobbie presented a Showmanship clinic for younger members on Wednesday morning. He was helped by Elizabeth Hobbie. Co-president Andrew McCamley and Shilpa Deshpande put together the club display which was very well received by the judges. Sarah Lerch gave an impressive display of her show jumping skills during the over-fences classes on Wednesday evening. On Thursday, Stephanie Perlitz and Davide Alexis rode well in the Junior English division. Taylor Cox had the unique distinction of participating effectively in English, Western flat classes, over-fences classes as well as in games. Taylor Cox and Neha Deshpande represented the horse clubs in Round Robin. A number of members including Julia Bergen, Kimberly Bergen, Sarah Lerch, Stephanie Perlitz and Neha Deshpande were herdsman this year. Members also volunteered in non-horse related areas such as the Cotton Candy stand. Also, Neha Deshpande participated in the Photography section. This year's Fair was a true team undertaking and HoofBeats hopes to repeat it next year!

Senior Council

STAC applications were handed out and members are sporting new sweatshirts. Senior Council has 5 new members and hopes for more through Open House which they plan to attend. Future plans include a road clean-up, Fair banner wash and a visit to Norz-Hill Farm’s Haunted Trail.

4-H Pocket Pet Rescue Club
by Sarah Bijaczyk

On October 3, the Club met and made covers for their record books. Animals were welcomed and nails clipped. Parents joined the second half of the meeting to help make bunnies for the Festival of Trees being held at Somerset County Environmental Center. The club will decorate a tree, named “Heavenly 4-H Snow Bunnies”, which can be seen and voted on between December 1-14 at the Environmental Center. Everyone is encouraged to come visit the trees to vote for your favorite. The next meeting will be held November 1.

Yearbook & Catalog Ad

T-Shirts

If you sold at least $50.00 worth of ads for our Yearbook & Catalog, you are entitled to a t-shirt. Please stop by and pick yours up. Thank you!

New Year's Club Resolution

We promise to send all club updates and information to Clovertales to be part of Around the County. Other 4-H members like to know what is going on in each of our clubs and this is a great way to do it!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Dear 4-H Prepper,

I would like to welcome all of our new preppers and welcome back all of our returning preppers. This is already turning out to be another exciting year in 4-H. We have so many fun events planned. The new 4-H year will start with all of our clubs getting back into the swing of things. Then Saturday, January 10, 2009 will be our Prep New Years party. This is when our preppers and their families get together to celebrate the New Year. Keep a look out for additional information on all of our upcoming events. I look forward to another great year in 4-H.

Lisa Darby
4-H Prep Coordinator

Yakety - Yak

Chaps n’ Spurs Prep Club by Kristen Johnson - Our club discussed a letter we got from the Ronald McDonald House for donating soda tabs. Then we started to fill out our record books. After that we talked about what we are going to do at the next meeting. We decided on decorating little pumpkins.

The Discovery Prep Club - On Sunday September 21, 2008 at 2:00pm the Discovery Prep club met at the Sourland Mountain Preserve in Hillsborough Township to hike the 1.5 mile trail. What great fun for the club members and their families.

The Prep Chef Club - On 09/23/08 the Prep Chef club made cranberry orange muffins. Nicholas, Gillian, Francesca, Julianna & Gabby liked tasting the batter. Poboni liked scooping the batter and Daria liked eating the muffins. The club then played the picnic game. Brenna brought blueberries, Cullen brought carrots and Evan brought eggplant. Erin and her mom lead the group. It was yummy!
Save the Date…

PREP FAMILY NEW YEAR’S PARTY
Saturday, January 10, 2009
5-8 p.m. at the 4-H Center
Each family coming brings a covered dish to share.
Dancing/Games/Crafts
Confetti, streamers, & noisemakers!

4-H PREP RALLY
Come discover the 4 “H’s” this year. Enjoy a fun day of discovery as you move through the Head, Heart, Hands and Health workshops.
Saturday, March 7, 2009
9a.m.-2p.m.
• More information to follow in the Jan./Feb. Clovertales

4-H FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND
L.G. Cook 4-H Camp
June 5-7, 2009
Fishing, hiking, boating, crafts and more!

Reminder:
Prep leaders meet & greet workshop
Sunday, November 16, 2008
1:00–3:00 pm at the 4-H Center

Until next year… be safe, have fun and be sure to tell us all about what you are doing in your club. From everyone at the 4-H Office, have a happy holiday season.
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- MUST BE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED AS A 4-H CLUB MEMBER AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009 TO EXHIBIT AND COMPETE AT THE 2009 4-H FAIR AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY STATE 4-H EVENT!
January 31 & February 1, 2009
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
4-H Center
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ

ANNUAL
4-H WINTER TRAIN SHOW

Sponsored by:
The Somerset County 4-H Trainmasters
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
Dated Material