Fall 2009 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 Science, Model Building, Fibers, Shooting Sports and a new Kindergarten Club. We also welcome another Dog Club, the restructure of our Legomaniacs Club and expansion of our Karate 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, Small Animal 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 Carol K. Ward
County 4-H Agent County 4-H Agent
Mark your calendars to attend our one-stop-shopping Vendor & Craft Expo on Saturday, November 21 from 10am to 3pm at the 4-H Center. Vendors & crafters include jewelry companies & hand-crafted jewelry, interior decorating products, candles, kitchenware, gourmet foods, baskets, make-up and gift items. Company names include Silpada Designs, Seashore Treasures 4U, Longaberger Baskets, Tupperware, At Home America, Tastefully Simple, Mary Kay, BeautiControl Inc., Premier Designs, Stampin’ Up, Gifts of Light, Susan’s Bag, Pampered Chef, Shaklee, Creative Memories, & PartyLite.

Cash for Gold will be there to exchange unwanted gold for cash on the spot – any condition, they buy it! Gold accepted for exchange includes 10K-24K, class rings, bent/broken jewelry, unmatched gold earrings, tangled gold chains, gold watches/pins/necklaces/bracelets, items with missing stones, gold coins, dental gold, platinum, & much more! All stones are removed & returned. If you’re looking for extra money for the holidays, here’s where you’ll find it! Give up that un-worn, outdated, unwanted gold for CASH!

Some spaces are still available. For information & reservations please contact Kim at 908-359-4934 or miholiesksk@comcast.net.

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! 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 27 at 7:30 am.

Club leaders should pick up wreaths:
- Saturday, November 28, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Monday, November 30, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Each club should plan to decorate their own wreaths. To keep wreaths fresh, do not store on concrete, which absorbs moisture. Please call Maryann Del Gigante, night superintendent, 7-10 pm, Monday-Friday, at least a day before you plan to pick up your ribbon, wire and cones. Wreaths should be delivered to the customers by December 5. Keep $1.00 per wreath for your club treasury if payment is made to the 4-H Association by December 16. Clubs making payment after December 16 should keep only 50¢ per wreath. Clubs making payments after December 31, 2009 will not receive money for selling wreaths.

Leaders: Money drop-off days, December 14 - 16, 7 - 9 pm, 4-H Center. The 4-H office will accept money if these dates are inconvenient.

All 4-H Clubs are invited to participate on November 21 by displaying an artificial Holiday or Theme tree decorated with hand made or store bought ornaments/decorations. You may donate these items to be sold with proceeds to benefit a local charity (a great community service project!) or you may use them as display pieces only. It’s a great kick-off to the Holidays! No lights are necessary. If you do “light your tree”, please use only 2 strands. Trees can be all shapes and sizes and will be returned after the Expo, unless you specify your tree can be sold. If your Club is small, tree sharing can be arranged. If you would just like to donate some decorations, there will be a “Community Tree”.

Setup is Friday, November 20 beginning at 7:00 pm in the Large Conference Room. Your club does not need to attend on November 21, but anyone willing to help is welcome. Trees must be picked up Saturday between 3:00 - 5:00 pm. We would appreciate it if you could supply a tree skirt with your tree. There are a few loaner trees available. Thanks!

For more details please email Susan MacCombie at susar@rcn.com or call 908-281-5858.
2010 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events

The 2010 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events is being prepared now. It includes state and countywide events for the upcoming calendar year. It also includes 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 2010 Calendar will be mailed in December with the January/February Clovertales.

Wreath Decorating
December 2

Help is needed on Wednesday, December 2 to decorate 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.)

Present a Workshop at NERVF November 4 - 7, 2010

The theme of the 2010 Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum (NERVF) is “Ocean of Possibilities.” The goal of this conference is to energize adults to develop new possibilities for local 4-H clubs and young people in their respective communities. The forum includes hands-on learning experiences as well as opportunities for idea sharing, making new friends, and having fun. This year’s Forum will be held in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please visit our website to download forms for submission. Deadline for proposals is December 31, 2009.

Project Wild
Wednesday, March 17, 2010

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 March 3, 2010.

Power of Wind
Wednesday, January 20, 2010

The Power of Wind Curriculum is part of the National 4-H Curriculum Collection and is designed for youth in grades 3 - 8. Teachers will learn to think like an engineer - to use the scientific design process to design, create, build and test wind powered devices. This program is a great way to learn about alternative energy.

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 handouts.

For more information contact the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644. Registration deadline is January 6, 2010.

Project Learning Tree
Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Project Learning Tree is an award winning environmental education program designed for teachers and youth leaders working with students kindergarten through grade 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 February 3, 2010.

2010 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events

The 2010 Somerset County 4-H Calendar of Events is being prepared now. It includes state and countywide events for the upcoming calendar year. It also includes 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 2010 Calendar will be mailed in December with the January/February Clovertales.
Rummage Sale a Success
Build - Invest - Grow

by Joe Bakes

Well, we’ve done it three times now and it just keeps getting better. The third annual Somerset County 4-H BIG Rummage Sale was a huge success, with an outpouring of enthusiastic volunteers that exceeded all expectations.

It’s a huge amount of work, but the many helping hands made it a lot easier. Beginning on Monday for the drop-offs and continuing through Sunday and Monday for clean-up, there was ample help to get the various jobs done.

The BIG Committee’s rummage sales and tricky tray basket auctions now have raised more than $60,000 for the improvement of the Ted Blum 4-H Center, helping to pay for such projects as the repaving of the driveways and parking lots.

The BIG Rummage Sale has become a much-anticipated event on the 4-H calendar and in Somerset County and environs. In addition to raising funds for the 4-H Center, it offers bargains on needed items in a time of financial stress, gives families an outlet for their unneeded household goods, benefits the nonprofit organizations that receive the leftover items when the sale is over and brings our 4-H family closer together as we work side by side for common goals.

Leading the way, as always, are the three divas of the sale, 4-H program coordinator Rachel Bijaczyk and volunteers par excellence Betty Sommerville and Kim Miholics. Lisa Darby, our liaison on the 4-H staff, also took a leading role. The office staff gave its usual outstanding support and volunteer hours above and beyond the call of duty. Linda Au again coordinated the legions of volunteers, and Sue MacCombie did outstanding duty in the kitchen, with the help of her husband, Bill. (Love those Sloppy Joes!) We had 114 volunteers who clocked in 966 hours. A round of applause! The following remembered to sign in:

Diana Angiuli, Dot Arena, Joe Arena Linda and Taylor Au, Rhonda and Stephanie Baginski, Joe Bakes, Lucy and Melissa Baldi, Russ Balliet, Rachel and Sarah Bijaczyk, Helene Blum, Jill Brochinsky, Diana Brownell, Judy Burlaw, Asha Chandra, Ching Chu, Lisa Darby Megan and Patrick DeMichele, Karen Dicey, Diane and Jim Doggett, Patty Egan, Stuart Farber, RoseMary Fleming, Rick Fontana, Laura Graham, Ernie and Moleta Hall, Cindy Hallingse, Tracey Hartmann, Joan Heckman, Judy Heffman, Judy Hennessy, Anna-Marie Hockenbury, Anne Johnson, Debra and Kristen Johnson, Cindy Jordan, Beth Kavanagh, Marion Kaufman, Patsy Kerwin, Pauline Kodack, Andrea Kosaka, Lisa and Paige Lamberson, Karen Lang, Chan and Jocelyn Leung, Patty and Rachel Lin, Jan Lush, Bill and Sue MacCombie, Anita Marques Jordan, Virginia Mastrogiovanni. Abner and Catherine Mathews, Mary McLaughlin, Nioma Meizi, Judy Menkowski, Steve, Kim and Kyle Miholics, Jan Miller, Elaine Mulrooney, Melanie Naumoff, Barbara and Maggie Navatto, Brittney and Christina O’Brien, Luisa Ojeda, Rosa Valdivia, Karen Pasquale, Anna and Anthony Paun, Xiomara Piercey, Tina and Carolyn Pirro, Sonia Puerto, Christine Raymond, Lucille Razzano, Janice Reitman, Mike Ricketts, Dave Rieur, Lisa Rothenburger, Lisa and Rita Sasse, Ruth Schmidt, Edward and Gary Sevilla, Annette and, Mellissa Smutko, Betty, Jim, Bob and Willie Sommerville, Stella Tai, Georgeanne Valis, Carol Ward, Zunya Watson, Lynn Weckworth, Ying Wei, Jeffrey and Amanda Weinstein, Alexandra and Valerie Wick, Pam, Amy and Chris Williams, Denise Winkler, Dachaun Yang, Ying Zhu, and thanks to those that didn’t sign in…You know who you are!

Thanks again to all who helped, all who donated and all who shopped.
Once again, together we made the best better.

Now it’s time to get ready for a new event, our Holiday Vendor Sale and Festival of Trees on Saturday, November 21, (see page 3) and our third annual BIG Basket Bonanza on Sunday, March 7, 2010.

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 10 & 11 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Gift Sorting & Tagging: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 14 - 16 - 17 - 18, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. December 15 -9:30 am - 7:00 pm. For more information on volunteering opportunities including sorting and packing gifts during the week of December 14, please contact Lisa Galonardo at (908) 253-6503 or e-mail lisa.galonardo@scuw.org

Wrapped in Love Drop Off: Thursday & Friday, December 10 & 12, 1:00 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 and used, clean coats for children and young adults are needed. NEW socks, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, etc. for all ages will also 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

Bridgeway Care Center, a long term care center in Bridgewater, invites 4-H members or clubs to visit residents with songs, stories, skits, displays, and sharing of projects. Residents would truly enjoy the spirit of young visitors. Please consider a visit to Bridgeway as a way to both perform community service and brighten the day of residents. Weekend afternoon visits or programs are the best time. For more information, please contact Rita Philpott, Activities Director at 908-722-7022, Ext. 119 or email: rphilpott@bridgewayseniorcare.com

Volunteers Needed for Fall Leaf Clean Up, November 21

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 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All participants are invited to lunch at the Office of Volunteer Services. For more information call the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 541-5715. 4-H Senior Council does this every year. They have a great time!

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.anyservicemember.navy.mil
Hold the Date
March 5 - 7

North Jersey 4-H Teen Conference
Same great location as last year - Fairfield Executive Suites, Fairfield, NJ. Keep checking the website for more information!

Somerset County Youth Conference
The 13th annual Somerset County Youth Conference will be held on Thursday, November 12, 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 “Define Yourself”.

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: murchis@co.somerset.nj.us

Edward A. Platz Memorial Scholarship
Deadline November 9

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.

Senior Member Winter Camp
Register by January 8th

Members in grades 9-13th will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp January 22 - 24, 2010. 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@njaes.rutgers.edu

NJDAR Scholarship
The New Jersey State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is offering a scholarship to a graduating senior from a New Jersey high school. This is a one-time $2,000 award. Applicants must be American citizens and will be asked to provide their school transcripts and a letter of recommendation, preferably from a school guidance counselor. Application forms and instructions are available at the 4-H Center, or you may contact Holly Dunbar at (908) 252-7121 or hdunbar@ddcf.org. The deadline for applications is December 5, 2009. The winner will be notified in February 2010.
Members must be registered by January 1 to be eligible to compete in the events at our 4-H Fair or state 4-H events! Get Your new member forms in today!

Achievement Dinners

- Arts Achievement Dinner
  Thursday, November 5th, 6:30 pm
- Livestock Achievement Dinner
  Saturday, November 7th, 6:00 pm
- Dog Project Achievement Dinner
  Sunday, November 8th, 4 pm
- Science Achievement Night
  Friday, January 8th, 7 pm
- Horse Achievement Banquet
  Sunday, January 17th, 5 pm

Call your leader for details.

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, 908-526-6644, and ask for the Junior Breeder Loan information.

Public Presentations 2010

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

Save the dates- March 19-23-24-25, 2010, to have your presentation judged or critiqued. Before you begin, you might want a few easy tips on how to give a better presentation. See our information below for how your club can schedule a workshop on presentations.

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.

Contact Barb Navatto to schedule a training navatto@co.somerset.nj.us or 908-526-6644.

New Leadership Opportunity- 4-H Club Health Officer

Have you always wanted to be a 4-H Club Officer but just aren't sure that you are ready to run meetings, take minutes or keep accurate records of club finances? This may be the perfect way to start your career as a Club Officer.

This year every 4-H Club in New Jersey is being encouraged to have a Club Health Officer who will lead a healthy, fitness or safety activity at each regular 4-H club meeting. All of the activities for the year will be distributed at the Health Officers’ training that will be conducted this fall in each county by its Food and Fitness Ambassador. Ask your leader about running for this new office so you can promote the fourth “H”, “HEALTH”.

Contact Lucille Razzano for more information at razzano@co.somerset.nj.us or 908-526-6644.
Somerset County 4-H
“Careers & County Government” Day for 6-7-8 Grade Students - February 4, 2010

The Somerset County 4-H Youth Development Program and the Board of Chosen Freeholders are once again teaming up to sponsor a special career program for 6-7-8 graders on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

Since County Government performs many different functions, there are many types of careers represented by it. Therefore, participants do not have to be interested in a government job to take part. Participants will be matched with a County Division that matches a career interest. The students will then spend the day “shadowing” a high-level Division official to learn about that career type. The program is open to both Somerset County 4-H members and non-members who are county residents. Preference will be given to students who have not participated before. There is no charge. Students must provide their own transportation and lunch.

Application forms are available online at www.4HisTops.org. Completed applications are due December 4, 2009. For more information, call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644.

Essay Contests for All Ages

4-H’ers are invited to enter the following contests sponsored by Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR, in Green Brook. In each contest, awards will be presented on the local, state and national level. Entries for both contests must be received by the Chapter by January 15, 2010. Essays may be emailed to Chapter Regent Holly Dunbar at hdunbar@ddcf.org or hardcopies mailed to the Chapter at 725 Ayres Ave., No. Plainfield, NJ 07063.

AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

TOPIC: 2009–2010 topic is: Imagine that you were there and describe how you felt on May 10, 1869, when the golden spike was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, to celebrate the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Pretend you are either a settler planning to use the train to travel to your new home in the West, an Irish or Chinese worker who helped build the line, or a Native American whose way of life was greatly affected by the railroad.

PARTICIPATION: All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schooled, are eligible.

LENGTH: Grade 5: 300 - 600 words. Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600 - 1,000 words. Contact Holly Dunbar at hdunbar@ddcf.org for a complete set of rules and an entry form.

JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS CONTEST

TOPIC: 2009-2010 National Theme: "America, Land of the Free and Home of the Brave"

PARTICIPATION: Open to all pre-school through 12th grade students in public, private, and parochial schools, and in sanctioned home study programs in the categories: gifted, general and special needs.

CATEGORIES (enter one or more): 1) Poster; 2) Postage Stamp Design; 3) Banner; 4) Photographic Essay; 5) Community Service (for groups); 6) Poem; 7) Short Story. Contact Holly Dunbar at hdunbar@ddcf.org for a complete set of rules and an entry form.

In the Kids Science Challenge, 4-H kids have fun learning the principals of science and engineering while seeing their ideas come alive. Along with an exciting competition, there is a huge offering of online projects, activities and curricula designed to national science education standards; as well as fun and educational videos, games, interactive learning opportunities and an extraordinary group of kid-friendly scientists and engineers. Kids submit their own problems and experiments to these scientists and then winning ideas are chosen on the basis of originality, do-ability and grasp of scientific principles. The process can be followed online. The competition runs from Oct. 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010. For more information visit their website www.kidsciencechallenge.com.
Hurray for...
Open House a Huge Success!

The twenty second annual “Join 4-H!” Open House was held at the 4-H Center on October 8, 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 Servos, Somerset Trainmasters, Somerset Sentinels, Radio Control Car Club, Whiskers, Paws & Claws, K-9 Leaders See Eye Club, People Pick-Me-Ups, Wattles ‘n Snood, Hippity Hoppity Happy Handlers, 4-H Cattleman’s Club, Branchburg Beef, Dairy & Livestock, Just Kidding, Sidewinders Club, Chaps & Spurs, Kings Riders, Woolly Ones, Sheepfold, 4-H Country Kickers, Chinese Culture Club, Secret Mystical Magicians, Pretty Cool Puppets, 4-H Senior Council, Helping Hands, Karate Club, Discovery Club, Mad Scientists, Little Crafters, Prep Chefs and Exploding Stars.

A special thanks to Annette & Mellissa Smutko, Janet Szakacs and Ruth Schmidt for serving refreshments, and Russ Balliet, Paul Cirillo and Joey Shreve for parking cars.

New 4-H clubs starting this year are the Crazy Mad Scientists, Model Club, New Dog Club, New Fiber Club, and the Somerset 4-H Rifle Team. In our Prep/Cloverbud Division, we have a brand new Kindergarten club starting and our Legomanicas Club is looking for members and leaders. If you would like more information about joining a club, please contact the 4-H office.

Thank You...

Thanks to Mike, Sage and Destiny Pappas, Steve, Jan, Amy and Josh Miller, Shavaun, Ian and Allona Glicksman and Abner and Kitty Mathews for manning the 4-H Display at the Branchburg Country Fair in September.

Thanks to Beth Kavanaugh for manning the 4-H display at the fifth annual Teen Volunteer Fair at the Bernards Township Library in October. 150 teens from Bernards Township attended. There was a lot of interest generated and it increased visibility of 4-H in the area.

Helpful Teens

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

Seeing Eye Scholarships Awarded

Lauren Sommer raised 3 puppies and is attending the University of Pennsylvania - School of Nursing. She was awarded a Tony Stabile Foundation Scholarship by the Seeing Eye, Inc.

Caitlin Blauvelt raised 2 puppies and is attending the Hart School at the University of Hartford. She was awarded the Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship by the Seeing Eye, Inc.

Ashley Miller Wins State Awards

Ashley Miller of Cuddly Critters, won several state awards at the state Small Animal Show in September. Bella, her American Satin Guinea Pig won Best of Breed and Luna, the Hamster won both Best of Breed and Best of Show! Congratulations to Ashley, Bella and Luna!!

Jennifer Versfelt Becomes a 4-H Food and Fitness Ambassador

Hurray for Jennifer Versfelt, a member of the Gingersnaps and PAWSabilities 4-H Clubs. Jennifer attended the weekend training for 4-H Food and Fitness Ambassadors at 4-H Camp the end of September. She will be speaking to 4-H members at Achievement events about the training of 4-H Club Health Officers.
Congratulations to Joe Bakes! He is the 4-H recipient of the 2009 Somerset Hills YMCA Annual Volunteer Award. Joe began his 4-H career when his children, Elizabeth and Brian, now “twenty-somethings”, became 4-H Preppers. He is Vice President of the Somerset County 4-H Association, chairman of the “BIG” committee which conducts the rummage sale, tricky tray and new this year; the holiday vendor sale. He is also Chairman of the Yearbook and Catalog Committee and co-chair of the Fair Information Tent. At Fair time, you can find his whole family working hard to keep the info tent running. Joe says his best volunteer experiences are “seeing children grow in the 4-H Program and develop into adults who make a difference in their community. It is especially satisfying to see the large number of our 4-H youth who return to become volunteers themselves.” Joe, a newspaper editor, and his wife Kathy, also a 4-H volunteer, live in Somerville. Joe will be honored at a dinner organized by the Somerset Hills YMCA on November 19.
What’s Happening At Lindley G. Cook

**Counselor in Training Retreat - November 28 - 29**
The 2009 campers that participated in the CIT I or CIT II program during the summer are invited to a fall retreat at camp. Volunteers and staff will join the campers in a number of activities, games and teambuilding experiences. Participants will also help develop the summer program. Invitations will be sent out the beginning of November.

**Summer Camper Winter Reunion - January 1 - 3**
This annual reunion will have campers and counselors participating in many fun winter activities including snow tubing. This is an opportunity to celebrate the great times of summer camp while making new memories. Cabins are heated. Cost is $150.00, space is limited.

**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. Summer sessions will run from July 4 - August 14. Fees have yet to be determined.

For this and all other updates check their website: [www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu](http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu).

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**4-H Senior Member Winter Camp Register by January 8th**
9-13th graders from Somerset County will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp **January 22 - 24, 2010**. 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@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:Rothenburger@njaes.rutgers.edu)

**Camp Events 2010**

**Club Camp**
April 16-17-18, 2010

**Family Camp**
June 4-5-6, 2010

**TOPS Camp**
June 28-July 2, 2010
Exhibitor Guide

Read through your division(s) in the 2009 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 29th so they can be made to the 2010 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide.

Club Photos Due by March 31 for 2010 Yearbook & Catalog

Club leaders will be responsible for submitting a maximum of 6 of your best photos for your club’s page in the 2010 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.

BIG Basket Bonanza

Clubs Needed to Help Support this 4-H Association Fundraiser

The BIG Committee is hosting their 3rd annual BIG Basket Bonanza tricky tray basket auction on Sunday, March 7, 2010, to raise funds for 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 into the 4-H Office by February 1. For more information, contact Barbara Navatto at (908) 526-6644, Holly Dunbar at hdunbar@ddcf.org or Annette Śmukta at Annette.L.Smutko@gsk.com.

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.
Cattleman’s Club

by Alanna Staffin

The Club has been very busy since the Fair. At the first meeting, members discussed what was liked and disliked about the fair and agreed how much they enjoyed showing their animals. Elections were held and officers this year are: AJ Stahoski, President; Josh Bruss, Vice-President; Jen Weinberg, Secretary; Joe Martinelli, Treasurer; Alanna Staffin, Reporter; Emily and Bryce Gerlach, photographers. The Club has decided to go to the PA Farm Show in January; is planning a holiday party and camping trip, and going to the Awards Dinner.

Sheepfold

by Cathy Christy

Members did a community service project in October at the Raritan Health Nursing Home. They provided a petting zoo for the residents to visit with and enjoy during the home’s annual Harvest Festival.

Hoofbeats

by Sarah Lerch

Members told one another who their favorite horse was and voted for educational topics they wanted to discuss. Discussions included wreath sales, dues, the awards dinner, Junior Horse Council, tack sale and creating a Hoofbeats yearbook.

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 club members to let them know you will cancel. If you are a 4-H member in doubt, contact your 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!

Wanted

Rocket Club

New Members Wanted

Contact the 4-H Office

Make This Your Club’s New Year’s 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!! You can email your report to Georgeanne Valis at: valis@co.somerset.nj.us

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
THE PREP/CLOVERBUD PAGE

I would like to welcome back all of our returning prep members and extend a warm hello to all of our new Cloverbud members. We have another exciting year in store for you. Saturday, January 9th, 2010 will be our annual New Year’s party. This is when our members and their families get together to celebrate the New Year. We will have dancing and games with a DJ, a potluck dinner, ice cream sundaes and lots of confetti. Please save the date. We are currently working on the Prep/Cloverbud Rally which will be held on Saturday, March 6th. The topic will be announced in the January Clovertales.

Now that the clubs are beginning to meet again for another exciting year of 4-H, please remember to send in your club reports so we can put them in the Yakety-Yak section of Clovertales. You can email them to: darby@co.somerset.nj.us. How exciting for your members to share what they are doing in their club with the other clubs.

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

Yakety - Yak

The Discovery Club - We went Geo-caching at Duke Island Park and made Monkey Racers that can be used to race against club members, family or friends.

Little Crafters - Our first meeting was held on Friday, October 2. We kicked off the new year by making personalized tote bags.

The Prep Chefs - We welcomed 7 new members in October. The chefs made crunchy chicken strips and learned about “dredging.” We also made cheese fingers, a Halloween snack. To get to know each other, members played “I’m Going on a Picnic”. The club is going apple picking in November.

The Kindergarten Club - is still accepting new members. They meet every 3rd Thursday at 6:30 in the Blue Room. If interested, contact Jill & Harry Brochinsky at 908-252-0797. Elizabeth from the Woof Dog Club will come to the November meeting and talk.
Save the Date…

**PREP/CLOVERBUD FAMILY NEW YEAR’S PARTY**
Saturday, January 9, 2010
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/CLOVERBUD RALLY**
Saturday, March 6, 2010
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Theme to be announced.
More information to follow in the Jan./Feb. Clovertales

**4-H FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND**
L.G. Cook 4-H Camp
June 4-5-6 2010
Fishing, hiking, boating, crafts and more!
Additional information to follow.

Reminder:
**Prep/Cloverbud Leaders Meet & Greet Workshop**
Monday, November 16, 2009
7:00 pm in the large conference room

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, 2010 TO EXHIBIT AND COMPETE AT THE 2010 4-H FAIR AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY STATE 4-H EVENT!
January 30 & 31, 2010
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.

Directions to the 4-H Center:
http://somerset.rce.rutgers.edu/directions
Dated Material