OPERATION: CLOVER
Operation: Clover

The Somerset County 4-H Program is ready to “Spring Forward” with many fun and educational programs for this season. With this in mind, members and leaders held a special meeting to choose a 2013 Fair Theme. This year’s 4-H Fair Theme is OPERATION: CLOVER. Keep that in mind as you plan this year’s activities and fair display for your club. Let’s get that 4-H Clover out all over the county!

We kick March off with our Somerset County 4-H Cloverbud Rally to be held the first Saturday of the month. This year’s theme is “Around the World”. 4-H Teens will be joining other 4-H teens from Northern NJ for the sixth North Jersey Teen Conference. This leadership conference is planned by teens for teens. We hope all our 4-H members will be giving Presentations this year. It is one of our most important events of the year! Please note we are offering both afternoon and evening sessions. Even if you do not present this year, you should plan to attend one of the sessions to watch! Also in March is our extremely popular 4-H Science –sational Day for youth grades 1-6. Don’t forget to sign up and bring your non 4-H friends! Last year we maxed out at 200 people! On March 3rd the 4-H Association will host its sixth annual BIG Basket Bonanza Tricky Tray. A BIG Thank You to all the clubs who supported this effort. Proceeds help to improve the 4-H Center.

In April, we have our Puppet Adventures at 4-H. There are workshops in the morning for youth in grades K-5 and a free puppet show open to all in the afternoon. Saturday April 27 is Rutgers Day including tours of the Rutgers Gardens and animal facilities, research laboratories and the state 4-H Dog Show. There is also lots of food and fun. What a nice way to spend time with your family. Admission and parking are free.

We hope to see you at these events!

Lisa Rothenburger
County 4-H Agent

Carol Ward
County 4-H Agent

4-H Mission Statement

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

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

Remember 4-H is for everyone, everywhere!

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Contact our office at 908-526-6644 for information regarding special needs or accommodations. RCE is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact the State Extension Director’s Office if you have concerns related to discrimination. 848-932-3583.

2013 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Peter S. Palmer, Director ● Patrick Scaglione, Deputy Director
Robert Zaborowski ● Patricia L. Walsh ● Mark Caliguire

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.
Important Dates for State 4-H Animal Events!

**March 9** – Wags Circuit 4-H Dog Show, Somerset County

**March 16** – State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, Monmouth County

**March 17** – State Equine Presentations, Burlington County

**March 23** – State Livestock Symposium, Cook College, Rutgers

**April 6-7** – State 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology, Salem County

**April 14** – State Dog Bowl, Burlington County

**April 27** – State 4-H Dairy Judging, Cedar Lane Farm

**April 27** – State 4-H Dog Show, Cook College, Rutgers

Please contact Carol Ward, ward@njaes.rutgers.edu, about the livestock events & Lisa Rothenburger, rothenburger@njaes.rutgers.edu, about the dog events.

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4-H Association Honors Lifetime Members 2013

**Betty Sommerville**

Nineteen years ago, Betty Sommerville started a 4-H Prep Club. After that came a Clown Club, then the Puppetry Club, Country Kickers, the Magicians Guild, and recently, the Anime & Manga Club, introducing Japanese art and culture. Under Betty’s guidance, the Anime club has produced a very successful “CloverCon”, a mini anime convention open to the public. Betty sees beyond the challenges a child may have and helps them identify what they can do best. As a member of the Somerset County 4-H Association, Betty has been the Chairperson of the 4-H Fair Entertainment Committee for over 10 years and works on the Basket Auction and Rummage Sale. In 2012, Betty received the Somerset County Youth Services Commission, Doris Dealaman Youth Advocate of the Year Award. Betty brought 4-H to “Party in the Parks”, “Arts on Division”, the Somerville Street Fair and St Patrick’s Day Parade. She has been superintendent of the 4-H Arts tent and organizes two club camps a year, open to all 4-H Clubs. Betty has made the entire program more diversified in subject matter, more inclusive, and more visible in the community.

**Jim Wood**

Jim Wood has been an active volunteer of Somerset County 4-H since he graduated as a dairy club member in 1979. Jim has been the Treasurer of the Somerset County 4-H Association since 1991. He is a Certified Public Accountant and donates his professional services. As treasurer, he not only keeps the books, but shares his professional expertise; investing as needed, preparing the annual budget, filing all required federal and state income tax returns and managing insurance for the Fair and the 4-H Center. Under Jim’s watchful eye, the 4-H Association has paid off the mortgage on the 4-H Center and has many invested assets. For the past 20 years, Jim has worked with the Fair Food Tent Committee and 20 nonprofit vendors, managing all the money that comes in the food tent. As a member of the executive committee, he is a very influential supporter of the best interests of the members and volunteers. In 2012, Jim received the Marine Corps League of NJ, Chapel of Four Chaplains Award. Jim’s dedication to the 4-H Program is exceptional and his professional contribution cannot be measured. The advice and direction he gives the 4-H Association has been instrumental in the growth and success of Somerset County 4-H Youth Development.
Jr. Breeder Loan Program

Information and applications have been posted to our website at: www.4HisTops.org for the Jr. Breeder Loan program. This is a great program that assists youth participating in 4-H to acquire livestock via a low-interest loan. Please note: All applications must be signed by a County 4-H Agent before being submitted.

Livestock Lease Form Available

The state-wide livestock lease form is always available on our website. This form replaced the individual forms for dairy, beef, sheep and goat. Download the form at www.4HisTops.org. Reminder: All livestock lease forms must be in the 4-H office by May 1.

Last Chance - for 2013 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 31 (earlier is even better)
♦ The exact name of your club
♦ The list of leaders and members that are currently active in your club. Please double check the spelling
♦ 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
♦ 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.

Livestock Symposium

March 23

All 4-H livestock club members are invited to participate in this day to be held on Saturday, March 31 on Cook Campus of Rutgers University.

The symposium will have tracks for equine, dairy and beef, sheep and goats, rabbits and poultry. Go to our website at www.4HisTops.org for more information.

Registration forms are available at the 4-H Office, Center and on the website. Deadline to register is March 15.

Projector for Club Use

There is a projector being stored in Maryann’s Office (Building Night Manager), for club use. If a club leader needs to use the projector for a meeting, please see Maryann to sign it out.

Remember Our Supporters...

In these trying times, those companies that support our 4-H program are very important to us. Please do all you can to support those that support us. When in need of a service, place to eat, etc., check out our 4-H yearbook, the Basket Bonanza Program or the thank you lists in Clovertales for those companies that have given generously to 4-H.

If you visit one of these businesses, be sure to say thanks for supporting 4-H. ”We Support 4-H” thank you ribbons are available in the 4-H Office. 4-H members and volunteers should give them to everyone that helps 4-H. There are special ones for ad sales.
The National Day of Puppetry
April 20

The Somerset County Pretty Cool 4-H Puppetry Club and the Garden State Puppetry Guild will be offering a day of puppet workshops and a show for all on Saturday, April 20, at the 4-H Center. This is open to the public, you don’t need to belong to 4-H to participate.

9:00 am - 12:15 pm: All new workshops for children in grades K-5. Featuring 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 3 workshops and all materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

1:00 - 3:00 pm: Puppet Potpourri Extravaganza Show. Open to all. This show is Free! You need not go to the workshops to come to the show. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For those participants going to both the workshop and the show, you may bring your own lunch and you are welcome to eat it at the 4-H Center. Or you can leave and come back to enjoy the afternoon performances.

Registration forms are available at the 4-H Office, at the 4-H Center, or on-line at www.4HisTops.org. Please register by April 12.

Family & Community Health Sciences Workshops for Spring

- **Cooking Fun with Your Kids** – April 6: If they make it, they will try it. Encourages children to dry different foods by cooking them.

- **Seafood at Its Best** – April 9 & 16: Learn how to prepare fresh seafood and gain the health benefits. Demonstration and tasting.

- **Living Well Conference** – May 1: All day program with lunch. Speakers on heart health, Mediterranean diet and more.

- **Preserve the Harvest** – Freezing, Canning, & Sweet treats- May 23, May 30 & June 6. Learn how to safely preserve fresh food in one or all of these 3 workshops. Demonstration.

Get full descriptions and registration information in Visions, the FCHS newsletter, on the website, http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu. Space is limited, so sign-up today.
Scholarships Available for College or Technical School

These scholarships are for students attending college, vocational or technical schools. Applications available on the web: www.4HisTops.org.

- 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.

- 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.

- 4-H Trainmasters Scholarship – Any 4-H High School Senior interested in a career in science can apply for $1000 scholarship. Deadline April 1.

- Rob Fellows Memorial Scholarship – Any 4-H High School Senior interested in a career in the sciences can apply for a $1000 scholarship. Deadline April 1.

- 4-H Balliet Scholarship – Somerset County 4-H Members in 12th and 13th grades are eligible for this one-time grant of $500.00. Deadline April 1.

- Tom Everett Memorial Scholarships - Two scholarships, annual and continuing educational, are available from the Somerset County Board of Agriculture. Deadline has been extended to 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.

Counselors Needed for Camp Applications Due April 26

TOPS Day Camp Counselors:
8th grade or older: spend June 24 - 28 as a volunteer counselor assisting the TOPS Summer Day Camp Program participants with activities at the 4-H Center. Applications are available on our website at: http://www.4HisTops.org.

Lindley G. Cook Counselor Opportunities

Become a camp counselor at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Stokes State Forest. Camp is looking for counselors that are 18 or older and who want to work at camp for the summer. Volunteer counselor positions are available for one week sessions. Please visit the Camp Website for more information: http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/

Association for Women in Science Scholarship

Three scholarships are offered to female high school seniors who reside in NJ and are entering college or any educational institution in the fall of 2013 and who are interested in studying any area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Please visit their website for more information. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2013. http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102930748639-90/Association+for+Women+in+Science+Scholarship+Guidelines+for+2013.SV.+jg.pdf
National 4-H Congress Applications Due April 1st

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 November 29 - December 3. 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 $900, of which part is paid by the Somerset County 4-H Association. This cost 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 1). 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/

Outstanding 4-H'er Applications Due June 1

If you will complete your junior or senior year in high school this year, then you may want to apply to be an Outstanding 4-H'er. You will need to complete the application and ask one adult volunteer to write a recommendation letter for you. Applications are available and will be due June 1. Contact the 4-H office or visit our website for an application or more information.

To be considered an Outstanding 4-H'er a 4-H member should be truly deserving of the award by excelling in the following areas.

1. Participation in County Events
2. Participation in State Events
3. Participation in National Events
4. Demonstration of Leadership Qualities
5. 4-H Community Service
6. 4-H Promotion
7. 4-H Achievement (personal goals, etc.)
8. Attitude
9. Example to others
10. Personal Growth
11. Contribution to Total Program

Winter Camp 2013

Sixteen members and three chaperones attended from Somerset County. Members were Sarah Bijaczyk, George Bright, Cary Brochinsky, Kimberley Duffy, Stephanie Duffy, William Gilligan, Kristen Johnson, Dan Memoli, Jill Newbold, Carolyn Pirro, Katherine Pirro, Bradley Roche, Matt Thiel, Jake Vitaliano, Scott Weiss and Debra Winters. Chaperones and helpers were Maggie Navatto, Brian Bakes and Lisa Rothenburger.

We joined Bergen, Passaic and Warren County teens for broom hockey, ping pong, card games and outdoor fun at Winter Camp.
Club Audit Forms Are Due March 31

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 not received all the forms for the year 2012.** The club audits are due to the 4-H office March 31. Clubs must have their treasuries audited and forms into the office no later than March 15 or they will be in jeopardy of losing their fundraising abilities. These forms can be downloaded from [www.4HisTops.org](http://www.4HisTops.org), publications, then click on Club Treasury Annual Review. Thank you to these clubs who got their forms in: Broken Props, Small Animal Club, Udder Club, Whiskers, Paws & Claws, Woof, Radical Rodents.

Presentations: March 12-14-20, (afternoons); March 13-18-19-21 (evenings)

There are a few openings left. Register as soon as possible.

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<tr>
<th>Afternoons</th>
<th>Registration 3:30</th>
<th>Presentations 4:00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evenings</td>
<td>Registration 6:30</td>
<td>Presentations 7:00</td>
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What is your favorite topic? How would you like to present it? Check out our presentation webpage for helpful tips and information: [www.4HisTops.org](http://www.4HisTops.org).

Remember: State 4-H Guidelines and the Somerset County 4-H Requirements to 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.

4-H Community Service Ideas

A Community Service List of ideas is available on the website and will be updated as information becomes available or changes. Assisted living facilities are especially interested in clubs coming to entertain the residents. Weekend and evening visits are welcomed and the residents love animals and children. Please check the website often for ideas that your club can use for community service. [www.4HisTops.org](http://www.4HisTops.org)

Don’t forget! Once your club has completed a community service project or donated volunteer hours, please fill out a Community Service/Volunteer Form and return it to the 4-H Office. This form can be found at the 4-H Center and on the website under “Forms & Publications.”

New IRS Regulations for By-Laws

Due to changes in IRS regulations, we are being asked to have all of our 4-H clubs complete new by-laws that have required language in it regarding tax-exempt status of all 4-H Affiliated groups (4-H Clubs). So we have sent each club leader a template that should be used for this purpose.

To comply with the state deadline, we must have your by-laws back to the county 4-H office by April 1. If you should need assistance or have any questions, please contact your 4-H office staff liaison.

Thanks for your anticipated quick response! Additional copies of the by-laws template can be found at: [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/4h-2013-bylaws.doc](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/4h-2013-bylaws.doc)
Club Camp Weekend
March 22 - 24

Want to experience 4-H Camp in March? Here’s your chance to do so and kick back, relax and learn more about each other in the process of hiking, cooking, crafting, game playing, telling ghost stories, watching movies at night and helping our camp’s labyrinth grow with, yes, more rocks! The cost is $46.00 per person and includes meals. To attend please let Betty Sommerville know by March 8. She can be reached at 908-635-1951.

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 22, 2013, 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: Kelli Steinkopf, 201-572-9668 or knr.steinkopf@verizon.net.

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.
Congratulation to the Following 4-H'ers on
Their County 4-H Achievement Awards

Achievement: Timothy Chan, Conrad Colon, Stephanie Duffy, Sandi Forktus, Rachel Lin, Sarah McDonnell, Sarah Stamets; Biological Sciences: Nic Francis; Citizenship: Kimberley Duffy, Nicole Malaito, Helen Newbold; Clothing & Textile: Kate Aeschliman, Molly Aeschliman; Community Service: Zachary Alvarez, Brianna Ames, Chase Brickman, George Bright, Ben Parker, Dan Rosario, Ken Rosario, David Sanders, Anthony Siniscalco, Cassie Siniscalco, Ashley Stamets, Aparna Sundaram, Scott Weiss, Kietra Wiggins; Dairy: Cary Brochinsky, Mary Ellen Sousa; Dog Care: Megan Jannone, Erin Kopecky; Food & Nutrition: Uma Balasubramanian, Katie Stone; Goat: Maria Buzzoni; Healthy Lifestyle: Christine DelPhidio, Jessie Murday, Katie Stone; Hobbies & Collectibles: Savern Lau, Jay Marion; Horse: Sophia Carroll, Stephanie Christian; Lamp of Knowledge: Julia Meier; Leadership: Carol Ann Bekus, Alessandra DelPrincipe, Deanna Farber, Nicole Galvin, Brianna Glowinski, Kristen Johnson, Edward Lai, Wil Staats, Ashley Thompson, Evanna Wang, Debra Winters, Lauren Yutko; Performing Arts: Conrad Colon, Rebecca Korsgaard; Personal Development: Kristen Andreychak, Shannon Bain, Aaron Callahan, Conrad Colon, Megan DeMichele, Jonah DiCorcia, Francisca Fazio, Becca Francis, Todd Gallagher, Pamela Gilligan, Stephanie Gombas, Joseph Heitkamp, Kristen Johnson, Ashley Korbeil, Alison Krachenbuehl, Valerie Kral, Joseph Kronmaier, Sarah Parisi, Claire Pasquale, Melissa Smutko, Nick Stouchko, Emily Wallace; Public Speaking: Cary Brochinsky, Ricson Cheng, James Clelland, Alessandra DelPrincipe, Todd Gallagher, Brianna Glowinski, Casey Hennessey, Erin Kopecky, Savern Lau, Benjamin Lewis, Elizabeth McGrath, James Meier, Veronica Moditz, Jill Newbold, Kristi Philipshock, Shruti Ramanathan, Riddhima Rao, Austin Raymond, Debra Winters; Sheep: Teresa Buzzoni, Kristen Johnson, Katie Kouril, Anna Mazzola; Teen Leader: Elizabeth Bergen, Michele Bergen, Sarah Bijaczyk, Tim Brewer, Aaron Callahan, Anya Cyr-Ohngemach, Megan DeMichele, Nick Fontana, Sally Gilligan, Karen Huang, Brian Kober, Erin Kopecky, Ali Krachenbuehl, Joseph Kronmaier, Angelina Lai, Edward Lai, Jonathan Lin, Emily Ma, Nicole Malaito, Jay Marion, Amy Miller, David Modrowsky, Jasper Mok, Jill Newbold, Ben Parker, Alyssa Peterson, Dan Peterson, Carolyn Pirro, Christina Rusk, Jonathan Schramm, Matt Schueler, Angeline Shieh, Melissa Smutko, Evanna Wang, Jennifer Weinberg, Debra Winters

Administrative Professional Day

April 24 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: Ms. Julie Augustine and Mrs. Georgeanne Valis.

Also thank 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. Jennifer Arago, Ms. Barbara Dugan and Ms. Peggy Doyle.

Super SuGo Fun!

On October 13 and January 19 Somerset County hosted SuGO Saturday. SuGO is a half day event where teams of fourth through seventh graders build and battle sumo-wrestling robots. We had participants come from various counties, some coming as far as Gloucester and Bergen Counties! While most participants had little to no robotics experience when they first arrived, they all walked away with knowledge and interest in pursuing the topic further. Congratulations to The Unknowns, winners of October’s SuGO event, and The Unexpected, winners of January’s SuGO! We would also like to thank all of those who attended and our volunteer build advisors for two great events.
Horse Project Awards
from January Ceremony

Junior English: Samantha Eristavi – Champion
Michele Bergen – Reserve
Senior English: Carol Anne Bekus – Champion
Sarah Lerch – Reserve
Junior Western: Elizabeth Bergen – Champion
Madison Whiting – Reserve
Senior Western: Ashley Thompson – Champion
Kalya Steinkopf – Reserve
Speed Division: Sarah Lerch – Champion
Ashley Thompson – Reserve
George Daniels Memorial Award:
Ashley Thompson

4-H Goat Extravaganza

2-D Art Novice
Katrina Duque 2nd place
3-D Art Novice
Katrina Duque 2nd place
Photography Senior
Kali Vaporakis 2nd place
Team Poster Contest
Maria Buzzoni 3rd place team
Skill-a-Thon Novice
Justin Kavanaugh 2nd place
Quiz Bowl Senior Teams
Maria Buzzoni 1st place
Kristin Johnson, Kali Vaporakis 3rd place
Debra Winters

NJ 4-H Creative Writing Reception

Somerset County 4-H honored five members at a reception held on January 25 at the Teen Hub Center in New Brunswick for submitting an original written composition in the NJ 4-H Creative Writing Contest.

This year’s theme was “What Do You See?” Each member read one of their compositions to the audience.


Operation: Clover!

At the recent NJ Agriculture and Vegetable Growers Convention held at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, Kristen Johnson and Debra Winter represented Somerset County 4-H as 2012 Outstanding 4-H’ers. Christina O’ Brien also attended, representing the NJ Junior Holstein Association. Christina is an active 4-H alumna.

Pictured:
Kristen, Christina, Debra

High Honor Achieved!

Dan Peterson was recently selected by News 12 NJ as scholar athlete of the week. He is the first student athlete in Middlesex High School to ever receive this honor and his coaches feel it’s well deserved.
Aparna Sundaram Recognized for Volunteer Service

Aparna Sundaram has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President’s Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama. Aparna participated in the Spirit of Community program this year as a representative of Somerset County 4-H. She earned her award in the 4-H Seeing Eye program raising puppies.

Sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program recognizes young people across America for outstanding community service activities. More than 370,000 young people have been considered for these awards since the program began in 1995.

Welcome!

The Somerset County 4-H Association welcomes new members.

♦ Chip Graham
♦ Laura Herndon
♦ Brenda Esler
♦ Daniel Peterson (Senior Youth Member)
♦ Debbye Duffy
♦ Lynn Small
♦ Jason Metting
♦ Jill Newbold (Junior Youth Member)
♦ Adele Barrie

Ken Rosario Earns Badge

Ken Rosario of the Somerset 4-H Trainmasters has earned the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. This is the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve and only about one in 300 achieve this rank.

Senior Council Brings Cheer

Nails were painted, pages were colored, tattoos were applied and Santa handed out "goodie bags" to all the children that attended the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (S.H.I.P.) Holiday Party in Somerville. Thanks to all from Senior Council who helped to make this event a huge success.

New Jersey 4-H Horse Bowl Results

Congratulations to all those 4-H members who participated in the recent State Horse Bowl:

Top Senior Team:
Ashley Thompson
Kristen Johnson
Samantha Eristavi
Carol Anne Bekus

Top Placing Senior Individuals:
1st Place  Ashley Thompson
2nd Place  Kristen Johnson
5th Place  Samantha Eristavi

Special recognition to these participants:
Kara Johnson in the Junior Division
Amber LiBrizzi in the Senior Division

And a very special thank you to coach, Judy Hennessy.
4-H Summer Camp 2012
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, GPS & hiking, camping, nature & ecology, drama, riflery, music, pioneer living skills, water games and kayaking.

Register now! Summer Camp will run for 6 one-week sessions from July 2nd- August 11th. Camp runs from Sunday through Saturday. The cost of a session of camp is $500 basic fee, but there are discounts including multiple family discounts and discounts for 4-H members and children of Rutgers University employees. Registration information is available on the camp website www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu. Just visit the “registration” page. Full registration is available on-line and the camp will invoice you upon receiving it.

Somerset County 4-H Family Camp May 31 - June 2

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
May 31 - June 2, 2013
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 $65 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 and on the website in March. Contact the 4-H Office, 526-6644 for more information.

“Becoming an Outdoor Family” Weekend

May 18th - 20th. Plan to spend the weekend at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp for an exciting outdoor educational experience for the whole family. Learn about environmental conservation, safety and fun in the great outdoors. Stay overnight and participate in a choice of over 20 classes!

Expert instructors will begin each class with basics, providing hands-on experience and encouraging participants to ask questions. The variety of experiences include wildlife, forestry, orienteering skills, hiking, natural arts, outdoor cooking, kayaking, canoeing, firearm safety, fishing and much, much more.

The fee is $75.00 per person and includes meals. Details can be found at [www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu](http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu) or call the camp directly at 973-948-3550.

Camp Events

**Celebrate Camp Open House:** April 7; 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend.

**Science, Engineering & Technology Camp:**
June 26 - 29. Check website.
4-H TOPS Camp

Totally Outrageous Program for Summer
June 24 - 28, 2013
Science ● Olympics ● Carnival ● Yummy Snacks ● Crafts

Every Day A Different Adventure!
New and exciting programs in science, circus fun, arts and the ever popular Camp Olympics and Carnival Day. Lots of great new snacks and crafts to make.

Totally Outrageous Fun!
Make new friends and have fun!!
For Children Grades 1-6
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
$200.00
Scholarships available

Call the office for an application or visit our website at www.4HisTops.org
Camp held here at the Ted Blum 4-H Center.

TOPS Camp Counselors

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.

For more information, please contact the 4-H Office or download an application at: www.4HisTops.org.
SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ
4-H FAIR
August 7-8-9, 2013

Our New Fair Theme...

OPERATION: CLOVER

Thanks to all who submitted themes. You may use it in any font and any creative design, for Fair displays, banners, signs, t-shirts, etc., for the 2013 Fair!

S4HL Rocks!

Every year the “Somerset 4-H Live” (S4HL) noon hour at the Fair just gets better and better - thanks to all of our very talented 4-H members! This year it’s YOUR TURN to take to the Clover Theater 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 about participating in the “Performing Arts” Open Division at the 2013 4-H Fair, check out the website under Open Divisions on the Exhibitor Guide page. Contact the 4-H Office if you have any questions!

Operation: Clover Talent!

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. To track your progress, contact the Ad Sales Chairperson at advertise4H@gmail.com.
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 $3.00
◆ Special message ads are $25.00
Remember:
◆ Every member with $100.00 or more in sales earns a Fair t-shirt with the “Operation: Clover” theme.
◆ 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 30
◆ Every member and club is expected to help support the 4-H program to keep the Fair free!

Help the Fair by Identifying Potential Sponsors!

Do you know someone who owns a small business or do you have a contact within a large corporation or foundation? Would your company or family like to be a sponsor? Please help the 4-H Association Fair Sponsorship Committee by providing names of foundation or corporate contacts. Contact Barbara Navatto for more information:
Navatto@co.somerset.nj.us
Just Kidding
by Emily Duque

Members received their Fair trophies and ribbons. The new Fair theme and ideas for the tent were discussed. The club will be purchasing new goat pens for the Fair. The club talked about county presentations and dates for members to do club presentations. Members who attended the Goat Extravaganza shared their experiences. The club voted to participate in the St. Patrick’s Day parade and donated a breakfast theme basket for the Big Basket Bonanza. The meeting closed with members making Valentine’s Day cards for veterans. At the following meeting items discussed were the NJ Breeder Symposium, doing a bake sale fund raiser, and participating in the Park Commission’s “Eco-Rally”. Mrs. Navatto gave a presentation on how to do a good presentation.

Master Chefs

Members have decided to do a Beach Party Around the World theme for the Food ‘n’ Fun luncheon. The club made grilled cheese sandwiches experimenting with different cheeses.

Wattles & Snood
by Kimberley Duffy

The club is planning a trip to Medieval Times in February and everyone is excited. New baby chicks were ordered. Kim and Steph Duffy and Alex Wick did a presentation on how to winterize your coop. Hens need a minimum of 14 hours daylight to lay eggs. Members learned how to set a timer for their heat lamps to improve egg production during winter.

Alpaca, Inc.
by Stephanie Duffy

Happy New Year! Rod Hirsch, a NJ war hero, came and spoke to the club about Operation: Shoebox and 4-H getting involved. Members discussed the tricky tray and their theme: Bar-B-Q. The club is participating in Science-sational Day this year and workshop ideas were talked about. Members also discussed new t-shirt designs and a new name for the club.

Pocket Pet Rescue
by Megan Moore

The club decided what they would donate to the BIG Basket Bonanza. Members then played Small Animal Bingo and practiced rabbit and cavy showmanship to prepare for the small animal show in February.

SC Grade A Beef Club
by Sara Gillies

This newly introduced club had a great first, and even better second meeting. With the help of leader, Al Stahoski and president, Debra Winters, members have started out this year with a great beginning. In the first meeting elections were held, and members discussed projects, upcoming fundraisers and possible community service ideas. The second meeting was just as productive. The club planned their first fundraiser, a flap jack event, and came up with a club shirt. As of now there are 7 members, meeting at the leaders’ house the second Wednesday of every month. On Saturdays members go to the farm to work with the cows. New members are welcomed.

New Clubs!

Two new clubs have joined our 4-H Family:

The NeXT BOT: A new robotics club

Proud 2B Prep: A new Cloverbud/Prep club
The Cloverbud/ Prep Page

What fun we all had celebrating at the Prep/Cloverbud Family New Year's Party. The evening began with crafts and tattoos, followed by a pot luck dinner, dancing and games with Music N Motion. We also had make your own ice cream sundaes and concluded with the New Year's count down and lots and lots of confetti.

A Big Thank you to my helpers: Sally, Pamela, Alex, Cary, Melissa, Kristen, Lara, Kiran, Angeline, Jonathan, Savern, Edward, Becca and Christina. Kudos to the Prep Chef club for making and donating the brownies. They were yummy! To all of the parents and children who helped clean up, Thank you! Many hands make little work. Hope to see you all at next year's party.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Darby
4-H Program Coordinator

Save the date!! The Rally - March 2

The Prep/Cloverbud Rally will be on Saturday 3/2/13 from 9:30am - 2:00pm. It is for grades K-3rd. This year we will travel Around the World and visit Egypt, India, Russia and China/Taiwan. If you haven’t already registered your child, please contact Lisa Darby at Darby@co.somerset.nj.us or (908) 526-6644.

Save the date!! Family Camp - May 31 - June 2

Family Camp Friday May 31st thru Sunday June 2nd. See our Camp Connection page for more information.
Yakety-Yak

Proud 2B Prep - Our new Prep club had its first meeting on Wednesday 2/20/13 and will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the yellow room. We all got to know one another, learned about what Prep is all about and made new friends.

Prep Chefs - For the Prep New Year's Party, the Prep Chefs made lots of yummy brownies. Thank you to Wes, Charlotte, and their parents for organizing the activity. During another meeting, Matthew and his mom led the club in making apricot tarts and yogurt parfaits. Natalie enjoyed cutting the circles for the crust, Megan said she liked touching and eating the fruit, and Mary made a small tart out of the extra dough. Dale's parfait was pink and purple, Montana had fun smashing Oreos and Matthew commented that his parfait was awesome. In keeping with the 4-H spirit of caring, Mary gave one of her fruit tarts to Matthew after his fell on to the floor. Way to go Mary! During our meeting led by Malena and her mom, the Prep Chefs made French Toast Kabobs. Natalie had fun making the batter, Evelyn liked the toast, and Mary's favorite part was the powdered sugar.

Knowledge Explorers - Before the holidays, the Knowledge Explorers learned all about snowflakes. We learned about the different types of snowflakes and how temperature and humidity can impact their shape and size. Everyone then got to make a crystal “snowflake” using pipe cleaners and a solution of water and borax. In January, Pallavi's father taught everyone about perception and the brain. We held hands and created a “neuron circuit” to see how neurons communicate by squeezing each other's hands. Then we tested how our perception of things, like temperature, can be influenced by our experiences. First we put our fingers in either hot or cold water and then into room temperature water. We could see how the temperature of the first glass of water changed how we thought the second glass of water felt. In February we made Zoetrope's. A zoetrope is a cylinder with slits cut vertically in the sides and when turned static pictures look like they are moving when viewed through the slits. Everyone created their own series of pictures and were amazed at how the pictures “came to life” when the Zoetrope was slowly spun around.

Little Crafters - At the beginning of January, the Little Crafters made stick animals. We took sticks/twigs found in the yard, and wrapped them with colored electrical or duct tape. Then we added wiggle eyes, yarn, pipe cleaners, etc. We made bugs, a fish, an alligator, and some giraffes. In our second January meeting, we made some really cute porcupine decorations/paperweights out of rocks, pine needles, and very small pine cones. Markers were used to add the faces. For Valentine’s Day, we made edible valentines out of heart shaped sugar cookies, icing, and valentine colored M&Ms. They were delicious!
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*Livestock Lease Forms Due May 1*

*Sheep Registration Forms Due May 1*