4-H Footprints

The Somerset County 4-H Program is ready to “Spring Forward” with many fun and educational programs for this season. We kick March off with our Somerset County 4-H Prep (Cloverbud) Rally to be held the first Saturday of the month. This year’s theme is “Flight”. On March 8th, the 4-H Association will host its eighth 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. Somerset 4-H Teens will be joining other 4-H teens from Northern NJ for the eighth North Jersey 4-H Teen Conference. We hope all our 4-H members will be giving Presentations this 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!

April starts with our extremely popular 4-H Science-sational Day for youth grades 1-5. Don’t forget to sign up and bring your non-4-H friends! Saturday April 25 is Rutgers Day including tours of the Rutgers Gardens and animal facilities, research laboratories and the State 4-H Dog Show. If you are artsy there are events for you too! Admission and parking are free. What a nice way to spend time with your family.

The 2015 Somerset County 4-H Fair Theme is 4-H FOOTPRINTS! Keep that in mind as you plan this year’s activities and fair display for your club. Let’s get that 4-H Clover stepping out all over the county!

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.
Leaders' & Parents' Outlook

Important Dates for State 4-H Animal Events!

March 15 – Wags Circuit 4-H Dog Show, Somerset County
March 21 – State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, Monmouth County
March 22 – State Equine Presentations, Burlington County
March 28 – State Livestock Symposium, Cook College, Rutgers
April 11-12 – State 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology, Sussex County
April 18 – State 4-H Dairy Judging, Hunterdon County
April 25 – 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.

2nd Annual 5K Race to Wellness

Let’s Get Our Footprints Out There!

The Somerset County Wellness Committee and EmPoWER Somerset is sponsoring the annual 5K Race to Wellness for county residents. The 5K will be held (rain or shine) at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, at Duke Farms in Hillsborough. There is a limit of 600 participants. To register online, visit https://runsignup.com/5kracetowellness. Make sure when you sign up, under School/Club/Organization, you choose “Friends of 4-H”.

The final day to register for the 5K is March 26. The registration fee is $27.50. Parking will be designated offsite with shuttle buses providing transport to Duke Farms. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. Proceeds will benefit Somerset County non-profit organizations, including Somerset County 4-H.

4-H Presentation Judges Needed

Leaders and Parents welcome: Our Presentation Program is always a great success! Last year there were over 220 participants in the Presentation Program and more are expected this year. If you would be willing to judge, please call the 4-H Office (908-526-6644). Presentation dates this year are March 24 - 27 (afternoons), and March 23 - 26 (evenings).

There is a judge's orientation preceding each session. It's fun and the members enjoy seeing a friendly face at the judges table. (see Club Corner for more details about presentations)
4-H Science-sational Day  
April 11

1st-5th graders can participate in hands-on science workshops that include our most popular Panning for Gems, Snakes & Lizards, Try It-Fly It and Colder Than Ice. New and returning workshops include Build Your Own Wind Boat, Tooth About Sharks, Feeding Your Brain, Wacky Weather, Science You Eat, Bow Wow Biscuits and Blast Off.

This year’s opening program is The Bugs of Blackwood: Benjamin has a good life living on Blackwood Avenue. Most of his neighbors are friendly. He has a large extended family always there to help him. And on most days you’ll find him working in the garden. However, all this is about to change the day he was accidentally brought into the house. You see, Benjamin is a bug and now he must be rescued! Join us as we learn about the science of matter by telling the tale of the Bugs of Blackwood! See if Benjamin’s friends can save him before all hope is squashed!

Brochures/registration forms are available at the 4-H office, at the 4-H Center and on-line at www.4HisTops.org.

The cost is $25.00 per child, each additional sibling is $20.00 and parents can attend for no additional cost. Please provide your child with a lunch and drink that day. This program is open to all children. You don’t have to belong to 4-H to participate. Have your child bring a best friend! Open to the first 200 participants who register. Registration closes April 1. Call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644 for more information.

Junior Breeder/4-H Livestock Symposium March 28

All 4-H livestock club members are invited to participate in this day to be held on Saturday, March 28, on Cook Campus of Rutgers University.

The symposium will have tracks for equine, dairy and beef, sheep and goats, and poultry, including Avian Bowl!. Go to our website at www.4HisTops.org for more information and to download a registration form. Registration forms are also available at the 4-H office and center. Deadline to register is March 15.

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.

Are You 4-H Grown?

Calling All 4-H Alumni

Are you a 4-H alum? Help your state win a $10,000 Science Sponsorship from HughesNet®!

4-H and HughesNet® have partnered to launch the 4-H GROWN Alumni Campaign. Register as a 4-H GROWN Alumni and your state will receive a vote towards winning a $10,000 Innovation Incubator sponsorship! Every check-in counts so encourage your 4-H friends and family to check-in too! Contest ends on Monday, March 16, 2015.

http://www.4-h.org/4hgrown/
RUTGERS DAY
Explore Learn Play
A day for you. A day for your family. A day at Rutgers.

This is a great opportunity for everyone, from small children to teenagers to adults to learn more about their state university. The event is Free for everyone and will be held rain or shine. Activities include tours, concerts, lectures, art, performances and a chance to meet Rutgers professors, staff, students and alumni. Enjoy the engineering open house, agricultural field day, the medical school, and view construction of the new Rutgers Honors College classroom buildings and dorms. Sporting events, including the Rutgers Spring Football Game, will go on throughout the day. The state 4-H Dog Show as well as other animal shows will take place as well. Food and Rutgers souvenirs will be available for purchase. For more information about Rutgers Day, visit www.rutgersday.rutgers.edu.

Saturday, April 25, 2014
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Last Chance - for 2015
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 April 30 (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.

Family & Community Health Sciences Workshops for Spring

Preserve the Harvest: Canning in Glass Jars – April 7: Learn the science of canning fruits and vegetables using the appropriate safe method; either water bath or pressure canner.

Jams, Jellies & Other Sweet Treats – April 14: Learn to turn fruit into tasty spreads and syrups. Take home a sample.

Canning Pickles and Drying Foods – April 22: Learn how to make pickles, dry herbs, fruit and vegetables.

Preserve the Harbest: Freezing – May 19: Learn how to freeze fruits and vegetables to ensure a safe and high quality product. We will also learn how to make freezer jams. Take home a sample.

Living Well Conference – May 6: All day program with lunch. Join us as we celebrate a Garden Party with presentations on food trends and Mediterranean-style eating for health and flavor.

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.
President's Message

As of March 1st there are 166 days until Fair - just sayin’. This is the time of year when lots of activities are available to get the kids involved. Jump outside your club and get into the many events and opportunities that pop up in spring and early summer. While my boys all enjoy their clubs, their fondest memories and greatest experiences have happened at 4-H events not club related. Family Camp, Science-sational Day, Citizen Washington Focus, TOPS Camp, CloverCon, and Summer Camp at L.G. Cook are just a few. Check the weekly e-mails, read Clovertales and check out www.4histops.org for more information. Once you have that information, take that step and get involved. You will be so glad you did.

Ad Sale time is here. This is a very important fundraiser for 4-H. Remember that every dollar from these ads helps make our Fair so great. With the number of kids involved in 4-H in Somerset County, if every member sells only one personal ad, we can raise $25,000. That is a LOT of money for relatively little effort. Now if we all sold one business card as well or maybe a partial page ad…I will leave the math class for school. The point is, if everybody does their share of helping, we can keep the Fair as the premier event in Somerset County and it will still focus solely on our 4-H’ers and their accomplishments.

By the way, if you’d like information on the Somerset County 4-H Association, we have our own website at www.somersetcounty4h.org. Here is information about our rummage sale and basket auction and details on how businesses can become sponsors of the Fair. We are continually working on making it the greatest website so check back often and let me know what you think. The Somerset County 4-H Association is dedicated to supporting the 4-H program. How can we help you?

As always, if you have any news, questions, comments, suggestions, or even complaints, drop me a note at president4h@hotmail.com.

Harry Brochinsky

3rd Annual Holiday Dinner

With over 60 guests and 40 volunteers, the 3rd Annual Holiday Dinner was fun and rewarding for everyone. There was wonderful guitar and flute music this year provided by Ken Tekel and Laura Oborne. There was plenty of good food and many of the guests mentioned how much they enjoyed the event. Thanks to the committee who organized the event; thanks to Wegman’s, Olive Garden, Weiss and all the wonderful people that donated the food. Thanks to all participants and supporters of the Festival of Trees, including the old Hallmark in Hillsborough for donating all the goodies for the white elephant table. All the work and hours spent make our 4-H Holiday Dinner happen. Without all the donations and help given, this event would not have taken place or be so successful. Hope you can join us for our 2015 4-H Festival of Trees and Community Outreach Holiday Dinner.
The Association Welcomes...

Returning Officers

At the 4-H Association Annual January meeting the Association welcomed returning officers: Harry Brochinsky, President, Annette Smutko, Vice President, Jim Wood, Treasurer, Jeane Fusullo, Assistant Treasurer, Caitlin O’Neil, Recording Secretary, and Becky Moore, Corresponding Secretary. Thanks to all for their dedication to the program and all their hard work.

New Members

The 4-H Association was pleased to also welcome at their January meeting these new members:

- Shu Chang, Chinese Culture Club leader
- Conrad Colon, 4-H Alum and a leader of the Magicians Guild
- Christina O’Brien, 4-H Alum and volunteer
- Glenn Peterson, volunteer
- Charles Sanders, a leader of the Trainmasters club
- Sharon Toth, 4-H Alum and a leader of the Woof Dog Club

Fair Sponsors Wanted

Have you ever noticed the banners hanging from the Food Tent and Prep Tent, signs on golf carts and benches, or the Friends of 4-H listed in the Information Tent? These generous businesses and people are Sponsors of the 4-H Fair who:

- Support a great cause,
- Enjoy tax benefits of donating to a 501(c)(3),
- Increase their recognition in the community.

Please help the 4-H Association find sponsors for the 2015 Fair. New sponsorship opportunities: logo on the Fair t-shirt, ad on the daily schedule!!! If you have a contact in a corporation, foundation, or business, please invite them to be a sponsor of the 2015 Fair. Sponsorship Forms can be found in Clovertales, www.4HisTops.org, or www.somersetcounty4h.org. If you prefer, please provide the Sponsorship Committee with the name of your contact. For more information, email Jill Brochinsky at 4hfamily@hotmail.com or call the 4-H office.

Remember Our Supporters...

The 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 ribbons for ad sales.

Food Safety for Food Servers March 10

There will be a Food Safety for Food Servers Training for 4-H Clubs & others who use the 4-H Center Kitchen on Tuesday, March 10 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the 4-H Center Conference Room. This training will ensure safe food and prevent illness. Clubs or groups should send 1 or 2 adults to this training prior to using the 4-H kitchen or serving food at an event. These people are expected to be present when preparing or serving food in the 4-H Center. It includes a tour of the Center kitchen. If you only serve refreshments at your meetings, training is not required. However, you will still find the training useful.

Instructor: Daryl Minch, Family & Community Health Sciences Educator Pre-registration required. Call 526-6644 or email Julie Augustine, Administrative Assistant, at JAugustine@co.somerset.nj.us

Sponsorship Tip

Do you work for Allstate and volunteer at 4-H? To recognize outstanding community involvement, The Allstate Foundation awards $1,000 and $500 grants to nonprofit organizations with Allstate volunteers. These grants are by invitation only from the Allstate volunteer. For more information, visit http://www.allstatefoundation.org/foundation_agency_owner.html.
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**.
- **Tom Everett Memorial Scholarships** - Two scholarships, annual and continuing educational, are available from the Somerset County Board of Agriculture. Deadline is **March 31**.
- **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 17

TOPS Day Camp Counselors:
8th grade or older: spend June 22 - 26 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/

4-H Center Hosting
Spring Fling for Youth!

Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm, a Spring Fling, planned by the Somerset County Youth Council, is an annual drug-free event for Somerset County youth in grades 7 - 12 with food, games, workshops, dancing, and prizes! Refreshments served. This year, 4-H Senior Council and EmPower Somerset is partnering with the Youth Council to plan and run the event. Admission is $2.00 All teens welcome! Pre-register with Sarah Murchison at Murchis@co.somerset.nj.us or 908-704-6307.
National 4-H Congress Applications Due April 9th

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 27 - December 1. 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 9). Complete an application and go through a county and state selection process. Participants can only attend this event once 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 11th, 12th or 13th year in 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 2015

Fourteen members and three chaperones attended from Somerset County. Members were Sarah Bijaczyk, Cary Brochinsky, Evan Brochinsky, Nick Fasano, Todd Gallagher, Leigha Giranda, Alexander Gonzalez, Kara Johnson, James Meier, Julia Meier, Alex Norz, Matthew Ridgway, Noah Rothenburger, and Jennifer Versfelt. Chaperones and helpers were Maggie Navatto, Brian Bakes and Lisa Rothenburger.

We joined Bergen, Passaic and Warren County teens for hiking, improv, 4-corners, card games and outdoor fun at Winter Camp.
Club Treasury Review 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 treasury review of the account. **Clubs must have their treasuries audited and forms into the office no later than March 31 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 Mighty Cavits & Rodents, Wags & Whiskers, Woof, Udder Club, Broken Props, Chinese Culture Club, Somerset Trainmasters, Wattles ‘n’ Snood, Pawsabilities.

Imagination in Action

At Rutgers Day on April 25th, Expressive Arts 4-H will be conducting its 6th Annual Expressive Arts 4-H Showcase, Imagination in Action.

Prep (Cloverbud) and Standard 4-H’ers are invited to share their talents in visual, performing and media arts (e.g., music, dance, magic, clowning, drawing, painting, photography, drama, writing, filmmaking, puppetry, etc.). 4-H’ers need not be registered in an arts related 4-H club to participate. 4-H’ers can perform, or exhibit work they have created on their own, in their club, or school. Individual and group entries are welcome. If you cannot attend, arrangements can be made to receive and return items for display. This is a non-competitive event. All 4-Hers will receive participation ribbons and certificates. [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/4h-2015-Arts-Day.pdf](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/4h-2015-Arts-Day.pdf)

Presentations: March 23 - 27, (afternoons & evenings)

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

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<td><strong>Afternoons</strong></td>
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<td>Presentations 4:00</td>
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<td><strong>Evenings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Evenings</strong></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.

**Tractor Supply Looking for 4-H Clubs to Assist with Grand Opening**

The new Hillsborough Tractor Supply Store, located on Route 206 South (where the K-Mart was) is looking for 4-H Clubs that would like to help them celebrate their Grand Opening on Saturday April 18th. If your club wants to participate, please contact Nancy at str1864@tractorsupply.com. They would love to help us get the clover out, so if you plan to go, ask for brochures from the office. Tractor Supply is a long time supporter of National 4-H and its programs.
Mother’s Day Bazaar

The Somerset County 4-H Exchange Club is sponsoring their first Mother’s Day Bazaar on Sunday, May 3 from 10am - 3pm at the 4-H Center.

Vendors are being sought for this event. Tables are available, as are a limited number of side room spaces. Interested vendors should contact Joanne Powell at joannepowell1@verizon.net, or at 908-526-6773.

The cost per 8 foot table is $25.00 and all profits will go towards the Exchange Club’s planned trip to Wisconsin this summer. Set up will begin at 8 am.

“How to Complete an Application”

Workshop March 4, 7:00 pm

This workshop is for any 4-H member thinking about applying for a scholarship or a state/national trip or award. Respond to the 4-H office by March 2: 526-6644 or somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us.

Food ‘N Fun, April 18

Register by April 7

ALL 4-H CLUBS are invited to join us for an evening of fun! Choose a theme, plan a menu and come prepared to party! Plan to participate in Food ‘N Fun, April 18 at 4 pm. After the club chooses a theme, each member chooses a dish they would like to bring. The club is judged on their creativity, how well they work together and the nutritional balance of their menu. Individual dishes are judged on taste, appearance, and creativity of presentation. Sometimes club members dress up or wear hats or come in their PJs. The Centerpiece can be one masterpiece or you can decorate the whole table. One member of the club is asked to explain the theme to the other clubs and one member is asked to present a poster of the nutritional value of their menu to the judge at their table. Some past themes have been Superbowl Party, Sleepover, Bridal Shower, A Dinner with Dr Suess, A Hobbit Breakfast, and A Campout. What would your club like to do?

Register by April 7 with Barbara Navatto at: navatto@co.somerset.nj.us.

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 20, 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Blue 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.
Hurray for...

Congratulations to the Following 4-H’ers on Their County 4-H Achievement Awards

**Achievement:** James Clelland, Kirsten Clerico, Samantha Eristavi, Karen Huang, Erin Kopecky, Aaron Lee, Emily Ma, Christine Papalski, Mellissa Smutko, Wil Staats, Jennifer Versfelt, Debra Winters; **Agriculture:** Kristen Johnson; **Beef:** George Bright, Faith Carlson, Kirsten Clerico, Sara Gillies, Amber LiBrizzi, Christine Papalski; **Citizenship:** Valerie Kral, Sage Lau, Savvern Lau; **Community Service:** Maria Buzzoni, Alyssa Figliano, Susie Norz, Kayla Steinkopf, Evanna Wang; **Dairy:** Alex Norz; **Demonstration:** Angeline Shieh; **Dog:** Destiny Pappas, Brianna Zietler; **Healthy Living:** Laura Schmidt; **Horse:** Sarah Dagnall, Samantha Eristavi; **Leadership:** James Clelland, Madara Dias, Becca Francis, Elvin Kong, Angelina Lai, Amber LiBrizzi, James Meier, Emily Milz, Ariel Rung, Elijah Staats; **Performing Arts:** Zach Alvarez, Kaitlyn Cannizzo, Rosemary Davidson, Madeline Dietrich, Ken Rosario, Anthony Siniscalco; **Personal Development:** Carolina Almeida, Brianna Ames, Julian Bjugstad, Jen Clougher, Alison Dempsey, Alyssa Figliano, Nic Francis, Jessica Fu, David Furmato, Christine Jensen, Laura Karg, Allison Koopman, Aidan McHendry, Peter Romayev, Nicholas Schueler, Greta Wickman, Sophie Winter, Jay Winters; **Pets:** Kristi Philipscheck; **Public Speaking:** Zayn Aldabagh, Zach Alvarez, Cary Brochinsky, Patricia Chan, Kate Gallagher, Sammi Hall, Stephanie Kirkpatrick, Erin Kopecky, Valerie Kral, Alyssa Peterson, Shruti Ramanathan, Austin Raymond, Andrew Simmons, Mellissa Smutko, Tracy Wang, Madison Whiting, Tiffany Yang-Tran; **Robotics:** Derek Fought, Matthew Schueler, Spencer Terry; **Technology:** Jonathan Lin; **Teen Leader:** Carol Anne Bekus, Tori Bobal, Jonah DiCorcia, Rebecca Dry, Samantha Eristavi, Alyssa Figliano, Devon Holland, Erin Kopecky, Brianna LiBrizzi, Aidan McHendry, Christine Papalski, Alyssa Valvano, Jayla Womack, Howard You

Mary Ellen Sousa Wins Princeton Agricultural Leadership Award

First established in 1867, the Princeton Agricultural Association is dedicated to advancing agricultural science and technology, and promoting youth participation in agricultural industries and related services. Their members are spread throughout the four counties of Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer and Hunterdon. Every year, a high school student distinguished in leadership and promoting agriculture is selected from each of the counties for its: “Leadership Award.”

Administrative Professional Day

April 22 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. Linda Conley, Ms. Barbara Dugan, Ms. Peggy Doyle and Ms. LaTasha Horton.
Horse Project Awards

Junior English: Leigha Giranda – Champion
Lauren Steinkopf – Reserve
Senior English: Samantha Eristavi – Champion
Carol Anne Bekus – Reserve
Junior Western: Madison Whiting – Champion
Ashley LiBrizzi – Reserve
Senior Western: Brianna LiBrizzi – Champion
Amber LiBrizzi – Reserve
Speed Division: Sarah Dagnall – Champion
George Daniels Memorial Award: Leigha Giranda
Kit Memorial Trophy: Tomahawk owned by Bridgett Sona
Senior Overall: Samantha Eristavi
Junior Overall: Madison Whiting
Resiliency Award: Claudia ButzFiscina
Make A Difference: Alyssa Vallano, Hailey Kirsch, Sarah McDonnell

4-H Goat Extravaganza

2-D Art Junior
Kaleb Johnson 2nd place
Photography Senior
Maeve Egan 1st place
Photography Junior
Justin Kavanaugh 3rd place
Photography Novice
Davis Perry 1st place
Team Poster Contest
Carol Ann Perry 1st place
Maeve Egan 2nd place team
Quiz Bowl Senior Team
Jayden Johnson, Artemisia Leo, Maeve Egan 2nd place
Quiz Bowl Junior Teams
Allison Parascandola, Carol Ann Perry, Davis Perry 2nd place
Kaleb Johnson 3rd place

Kudos to Jen and Sammi!

Jen Clougher of Pawsabilities and Sammi Hall of Wags & Whiskers were ring stewards at an American Kennel Club obedience trial held by the Doberman Pinscher Club of the Tappan Zee on Sunday, January 17. Their duties were to assist the judge and to perform other duties inside the ring, including taking and returning dogs leads, setting up jumps and being posts for Figure 8 exercises. The judge, Larry Wilson, wrote the DPCTZ that the stewards were great and very attentive, and he could concentrate on judging knowing the stewards had everything under control.

The DPCTZ made contributions to Pawsabilities and Wags & Whiskers for Jen and Sam’s services. The DPCTZ was very happy with the performance of the 4-H club members and looks forward to continuing 4-H participation in future shows. The next DPCTZ show will be Sunday, July 19, at Top Dog in Flanders, NJ, and invites 4-H members to participate as ring stewards and junior handlers.

RC Cars & Cards & Cans of Soup!

In December, the RC Car Club completed their first community service project of the year by signing over 50 holiday cards that were delivered to Veterans at Lyons Veterans Hospital and to seniors in the Nursing Care Unit at Stonebridge at Montgomery. Members wrote cheery holiday messages in the cards for the recipients, in hopes of brightening their day. They included a candy cane with each card and the boxes of cards were joyfully accepted at both locations.

In January the club did a project they called “Souper Bowl for Hunger”. Thirty cans of soup were collected and donated to the Somerset County Food Bank.
DAR American History Essay Winners

The following 4-H’ers who entered this year’s DAR American History Essay Contest (A Child’s Journey through Ellis Island) will be recognized by the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at their annual awards ceremony to be held on Wednesday, August 12, at the 4-H Fair.

1st Place - Grade 6 - Pravin Kumar
Pravin’s entry will now go on to the NJ State competition. He is a member of the PiBotics Robotics club and also likes reading and playing basketball.

Honorable Mention - Grade 7
Tarun Trivedi and Nabhay Prashad

3rd Place - Grade 8 - Roshni Dhansekar
Honorable Mention - Grade 8 - Anastasia Rodrigues

Theresa Hanntz Honored as Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Theresa for being selected as the January Employee of the Month for Somerset County. She was nominated by Denise Katula for the contributions she’s made to the Youth Leadership Somerset Program.

Russ Balliet Receives Legion of Honor Award

The Chapel of Four Chaplains (The Four Chaplains) is a not-for-profit Membership organization that advocates for cultural harmony and religious tolerance. It is comprised of community leaders, friends and corporate contributors. The Four Chaplains is named for four men of faith who gave their lives for others during World War II.

The Legion of Honor Award publicly recognizes and honors outstanding members of society whose lives model the giving spirit and unconditional service to community, nation, and humanity without regard to race, religion, or creed exemplified so dramatically by the Four Chaplains.

Russ first joined 4-H in 1998 as an active parent for his daughter Katherine. For 10 years he volunteered as a Fair electrician and as a herdsman chaperone. In the past few years, he has been actively involved in our BIG fundraisers, especially the Rummage Sale. Russ also established the Balliet Scholarship, geared towards those students who are attending a 2-year college or pursuing a trade.

In addition to 4-H, Russ has volunteered for Telephone Pioneers of America, Special Olympics, Battlefield Restoration and Operation Jersey Cares. He is also a volunteer fireman. Russ served 24 years in the Army/Army Reserves before retiring.

4-H Alumni Shine as Judges

Kudos to Emma Roos and Roxanne Rosinski, 4-H Alumni of the Just Kidding Goat Club, for their excellent work as judges for the recent Goat Extravaganza. With both an affinity for art, as well as goats, Emma and Roxanne were ideally suited for this event. Participants were pleased to receive so many comments from the judges, a tool that Emma and Roxanne came to appreciate through our Somerset County presentation program. We are proud of our 4-H Alumni who continue to “Make the Best Better”!
Model Horse Show Results


Claudia ButzFiscina: 1st First Timer English Performance, First Time Western Performance, Open Custom Non-color Breeds, Sr. Costume; 2nd Open Custom Gaited, Open Custom Non-color Breeds; 4th Sr. OF Morgans, Sr. Costume; 6th Sr. OF Arabians, Open Barn Scene; 7th Non-Equine Wild; 8th Sr. OF Paint Horses

Sarah Mullen: 7th Jr. OF Arabians

Small Animal Show Results

Reserve Best in Show
Small Animal  Surya Pillai

Rabbits
Judah Sutherland - BOB Mixed
Kristi Philipscheck - BOB Californian
Surya Pillai - BOB Brittanina Petite, BOB Mini Satin
Melissa Baldi - BOB Silver Fox

Small Animals
Surya Pillai - BOB, Chinchilla, BOB Gerbil
Chelsea Obermeier - RBOB Chinchilla
Melanie Quick - BOB Abyssianin, BOB Teddy
Lexi Sacks-Wilner - RBOB Abyssianin

Horse Bowl Results

Seniors:
Samantha Eristavi  1st place
Christine Papalski  8th place
Somerset/Salem Team  1st place

Juniors
Kara Johnson  8th place
Leigha Giranda  10 place
Somerset/Warren Team  3rd place

4-H Alum Chris Puskas
Member of a Winning Team

Somerst County 4-H is proud of Chris Pukas. He raced and built go-carts during his 4-H career. Chris went to Northwestern Ohio where he studied High Performance Engines. Chris always gave back, lending a hand even to his competitors. Chris definitely embodies the 4-H motto.

"I work in the engine department that builds the Ford engines for NASCAR. Never imagined we would win the Daytona 500. CONGRATS TO ALL THE GUYS AT ROUSH YATES ENGINES AND TEAM Penske!! Roush yates engines swept everything at Daytona!!! Awesome job guys " ~ Chris

Thank you to all 4-H families who participated in the Toys for Tots drive this winter. Over 29,000 families (not toys) were provided for in 3 counties, including our own, Somerset. Amazing!!
**4-H Summer Camp 2014**

**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 5th - August 15th. Camp runs from Sunday through Saturday. The cost of a session of camp is $550 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](http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu). Just visit the “registration” page. Full registration is available on-line and the camp will invoice you upon receiving it.

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**Somerset County 4-H**

**Family Camp May 29 - 31**

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 29 - 31, 2015  
Lindley G. Cook NJ 4-H Camp

Bring your family, your club, and any 4-H member… you’re bound to have a great time. You may come for the whole weekend or just on the big day—Saturday.

**Cost is $70 per person and includes EVERYTHING!**  
Financial assistance is available. 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.

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**“Becoming an Outdoor Family” Weekend**

**May 15th - 17th.** 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 $80.00 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.

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**Camp Events**

**Celebrate Camp Open House:** Call to schedule a tour.

**Micro Camp:**  
June 30 - July 3. Check website.
**4-H TOPS Camp**

**Totally Outrageous Program for Summer**

**June 22 - 26, 2015**

*Science ● Olympics ● Carnival ● Yummy Snacks ● Crafts*

**Every Day A Different Adventure!**

New and exciting programs in science, cooking, 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 1-5

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

$200.00

Scholarships available

Call the office for an application or visit our website at [www.4HisTops.org](http://www.4HisTops.org)

Camp held here at the Ted Blum 4-H Center.

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**TOPS Camp Counselors**

Due April 17

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](http://www.4HisTops.org)
Our New Fair Theme…

**4-H FOOTPRINTS**

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 2015 Fair!

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**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 2015 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!

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**Yearbook & Catalog Ad Sales**

You should be receiving your Ad Sales packet. If you do not, contact the 4-H office right away! Additional ad sales forms are available on the web at: [www.4HisTOPS.org](http://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 “4-H Footprints” 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!**

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**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

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**Leave Your Footprints on the 4-H Walk of Fame!**
The Prep (Cloverbud) Page

A good time was had by all who attended the annual Prep (Cloverbud) Family New Year's Celebration. The kids enjoyed crafts, tattoos and magic which the Somerset County 4-H club, The Magician’s Guild, demonstrated and taught to the children. Once again Mike Malone from Music N Motion kept everyone entertained with fun music, dancing and games. Many thanks to everyone that attended the party, it was a wonderful night!

A BIG thank-you to all of the teen and adult helpers, the Magic club, and everyone who took the time to make this event truly special. It is now time to look towards our Prep Rally which will be Saturday March 7, 2015. This year's event will be about Flight. All prep members should have gotten a registration form in the mail. If you didn’t please contact the 4-H office at (908) 526-6644 and one will be sent to you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Darby
4-H Program Coordinator

Keeping in line with our Prep Rally theme, I have included some fun facts about flight:

✈ A plane ticket cost just $5.00 in the 1920's
✈ An airplane takes off or lands every 37 seconds from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. That's almost 100 planes per hour!
✈ The flight data recorders in airplanes are called "black boxes," although they are really bright orange.
✈ While some can glide, bats are the only mammals that can achieve sustained level flight.
✈ Supersonic flight (breaking the sound barrier) is achieved when an object travels at a speed faster than sound (1235kph, 768mph).

Save the Date

Saturday March 7th 2015 will be the Prep Rally. This year's theme is “Flight”.
Yakety-Yak

Little Woofers - The Little Woofers have been training in preparation for their first show, Woofminster, on February 28. Our thanks go to Rebecca Dry, Brianna Zeitler, Shannon Kyle and Megan Jannone for leading the training sessions.

Proud 2B Prep - The members of Proud 2B Prep had a candlelight tour of the Wallace House in Somerville where George Washington had his winter headquarters. It was a fun night and a wonderful chance to learn about Somerset County’s role in the Revolution. By candlelight, it was easy to imagine what the house might have been like when Washington and his officers were there.

Discovery Prep - In December, the R/C Car club invited us to learn all about the cool cars they drive. There are so many different kinds. Then they let us drive them!!!!! It was so much fun and some of them go really fast. We had a great time. In January, the Clover Ensemble taught us some theater activities and we put on our own play. We each had a role and we got to act them out. It was a lot of fun.

Did you know?

- March was named for the Roman God "Mars"
- March 11th is Johnny Appleseed Day
- March 14th is National Potato Chip Day
- March 20th is International Earth Day
- March 25th is Waffle Day
- April was named after the goddess Eostre whose feast was in that month.
- April 1st is April fool’s Day
- April 2nd is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
- April 9th is Name Yourself Day
- April 16th is National High Five Day
- April 22nd is National Jelly Bean Day
- April 30th is National Honesty Day

Save the date!! Family Camp
May 29 - 31

Friday May 29th thru Sunday May 31 will be Family Camp up at L.G. Cook 4-H Camp. Registration packets will be out in April.
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2015 National 4-H Conference (Grades 10-12)

Fair Planning Meeting 7:30pm
Tail Feathers
by Evie Sullivan

Elected officers are: President, Kyra Schwarz; Vice-President, Justin Kavanaugh; Secretary, Evie Sullivan. Members reviewed worksheets on Species & Breeds, Bird Parts and Feathers. The club worked on a logo and design for Fair.

Alpaca Club

For old business, members discussed what a great holiday party they had. New business included discussions about NJTC, CWF, public presentations and Science-sational Day.

On Target Archery

The On Target Archery Club was formed in December. Members are Dale, Lacey, Max, Gavin, Brenna, Cullen, Sydney, Michael, Andrea, Eliza, William, Robbie and Ram. Members have already gotten better. The leaders are Mr. Rothenburger, Mr. VanSkiver, Mr. Hall and Mr. Brochinksy. The club hopes to participate in Fair this year.

4-H Senior Council
by Christine Arcoleo

The club handed out yearly pins to members. Mrs. Navatto was a guest speaker and explained county presentations. Members discussed volunteer opportunities including Big Basket Bonanza, St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Science-sational Day and Safe Night. Mrs. Rothenburger was a guest speaker. Members learned about NJTC and forms were handed out. A motion was passed to buy lollypops for the parade to pass out. The club will be participating in Science-sational Day doing a Kazoo workshop. Committees were formed for teen party activities.

Da Bug Club
by Linda Gallup

Members reviewed the parts of a spider. This month the club learned about the differences between how insects breathe compared to humans. Members also did experiments to see the differences between how humans and fish get oxygen into their lungs. Ryan brought in his leopard gecko to meet the club and shared some fun facts with them. The club played a name and motion game.

Chinese Culture Club
by Jessica Fu

January marks the end of 2014 and the beginning of the New Year 2015. However, the celebration for the Chinese New Year is just about to start. This year is the year of the sheep. In honor of the New Year, the 4-H Chinese Culture club hosts their annual Chinese New Year party. The Chinese School is a hubbub of activity as everyone from kindergarteners to high school students prepare for this very special occasion. An extensive program fills the night immersing the audience on Chinese culture with singing, dancing, riddles, and skits. The 4-H Chinese culture club wishes everyone good luck and prosperity this Chinese New Year!

4-H Card Board Gamers
by Jason Massary

In February the 4-H Card Board Gamers spent most of the meeting playing Settlers of Catan, a game of building cities, roads and settlements. They also collected wool from the pastures, ore from the mountains, wheat from the fields, wood from the forests and bricks from the clay. Members traded resources among themselves and the bank. After building, they hoped to get lucky and roll 7 on the die so they could move the thief. Whoever had a road longer than 5 pieces first got longest road until another road surpassed it.
Dated Material