Check it out!!

Page 3 – For Leaders & Parents
Page 6 – Just 4-H Teens
Page 8 – 4-H Association News
Page 9 – Club Happenings
Page 10 – Awards & Achievements
Page 13 – 4-H In The Community
Page 15 – Prep (Cloverbud)
Page 17 – Around The County
Page 18 – Calendar
This time of year is always a fun and interesting time at 4-H. Between fun events like Spring Carnival to educational programs like Science-Sational Day and Public Presentations, everything we do offers a new perspective on the world:

“The difference between a colossal inconvenience and a great adventure is perspective; find the fun and learning in every experience.” -Michael Josephson

So whether you are looking to share your experiences during Presentations or discover new perspectives during Science-Sational Day, always be on the lookout for the fun and learning.

Thanks for always Making the Best Better!

Lisa Rothenburger
County 4-H Agent

Carol K. 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.

2016 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Patricia L. Walsh, Director • Peter S. Palmer, Deputy Director
Patrick Scaglione • Mark Caliguire • Brian D. Levine

Somerset County 4-H CloverTales

Bi-Monthly Newsletter - Available on our website:
4HisTops.org

For hard copy contact:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-6644 or 231-7000, ext. 7521
Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
4-H Center: Evenings, 7:00 - 9:00 pm - (908) 526-8242
Fax - (908)704-1821
New Jersey 4-H online:
nj4H.rutgers.edu or RUinto4H.org

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Mrs. Annette Smutko, 4-H Administrative Assistant.
smutko@co.somerset.nj.us
# 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 April 4-8 (afternoons), and April 4-7 (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 Happenings for more details about presentations)*

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# Get Your 4-H Animal Registration Forms In!

**The following forms are due in the County 4-H Office:**

- **April 1:** All Horse Project members must have their horses registered with the County 4-H Office. Get the form at [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/4h-Horse-Registration.pdf](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/4h-Horse-Registration.pdf)
- **May 1:** All Livestock Club members must register their project awards with the 4-H Office. Get the form at [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/PDFs/4h-2015-Animal-Lease-Agreement.pdf](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/PDFs/4h-2015-Animal-Lease-Agreement.pdf)

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# Important Dates for State 4-H Animal Events

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---

# 3rd Annual 5K Race to Wellness

**June 8**

EmPoWER Somerset is once again partnering with the Somerset County Wellness Committee on the 2016 5K Race to Wellness. Somerset County 4-H will join as one of the charity beneficiaries, receiving part of the event proceeds. This year’s race will take place on the evening of Wednesday, June 8th at Skillman Park in Montgomery Township. Watch the Weekly Email for more detailed information soon.

---

# Text alerts for the Ted Blum 4-H Center

Never wonder if your club is meeting during a snowstorm again. Text @4hclosed to 81010 on your mobile phone to sign up for text alerts letting you know about the 4-H Center’s status during inclement weather. We will not spam you with any other announcements besides an emergency closing, so sign up and stay in the know.

---

# Important Information for club leaders and parents

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**Reminder!**

Leaders, please encourage deserving teens to apply for Outstanding 4-H’er and Scholarships.

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**RCE Family & Community Health Sciences Spring Events**

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<td>May 6</td>
<td>87th Annual Living Well Day</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Preserve the Harvest: Canning</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Preserve the Harvest: Freezing &amp; Drying</td>
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Youth ages 10 and up are welcome with a parent. Check the FCHS website [njaes.rutgers.edu/fchs](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/fchs) to see about upcoming workshops.
Important information for club leaders and parents

Jr. Breeder/4-H Livestock Symposium on April 2

All 4-H livestock club members are invited to participate in the Livestock Symposium on April 2 at Cook Campus, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. There will be tracks for equine, dairy and beef, sheep and goats, rabbits and poultry. Registration forms are available from Carol Ward. **Registration deadline is March 18.**

4-H Science-Sational Day April 9

It’s that time again. Somerset County 4-H presents its annual Science-Sational Day for 1st through 5th graders on Saturday, April 9th at the 4-H Center. There are 14 great workshops to pick from with interests from robotics to gems to alpacas. Not only do we have those 14 unique workshops, seven are brand new for 2016. Download the registration packet at 4Histops.org.

The cost is $25.00 per child. Each additional sibling who wants to attend is $20.00. Parents may attend with their children at no additional cost. Science-Sational Day takes place from 9:15 AM-1:30 PM. Please provide your child with lunch and drink for the day. Science-Sational Day is open to both 4-H and non 4-H members.

**Registration is limited to the first 200 participants.**

*Registration closes March 18.*

Jr. Breeder Loan Program

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

2016 Yearbook and Catalog Photos due April 30

It’s almost time to put together the 2016 yearbook. We want to make sure your club is represented as a part of Somerset County 4-H. Help show everyone that 4-H is the place to be for fun as well as learning.

If you want to be in this year’s edition, we need the following items:

- The exact name of your club
- Up to six photos of your club (group or action shots)
- Captions for those photos (No names please)
Rutgers Day-Saturday, April 30
Spring means it’s time to get outside and enjoy the warm weather. It also means that Rutgers Day is here. On April 30 from 10am-4pm, the scarlet carpet is unrolled to the public and the University opens its doors. This year is especially significant as Rutgers is also celebrating its 250th anniversary. Keep checking the official Rutgers Day website rutgersday.rutgers.edu to keep tabs on the latest programs as they are announced.

Register Now for TOPS Camp!

June 27 - 30, 2016

4-H TOPS Camp

Totally Outrageous Programs for Summer

A 4-day camp for children who have completed grades 1 - 5
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Featuring Outdoor Challenges, Workshops, Science Fun,
Healthy Snacks, New Games, New Friends...and More!

$200 for 4 Days*

Call for Registration Form or go to our website:
http://www.4htops.org
Space is limited; please register early.

2016 Japan Hosting

Diversity and family have been long-standing tenets of 4-H. When you participate in hosting an exchange student from Japan this summer, you have the opportunity to learn about another culture. For four weeks in July and August, both members and non-members can participate in an International 4-H exchange program with Japanese students ages 12-16. You must have a child within 3 years of age of the student, or be prepared to host an adult chaperone. An application and a screening process will need to be completed in order to ensure that your family and the student you may host will get along. Expand your ideas of the world and your guest's view of American culture. Visit states4hexchange.org for more information or contact the NJ state coordinator, Michele Matthews at (609) 265-5052 or reach out to her via email at mmatthews@co.burlington.nj.us.

Foróige’s Leadership for Life Conference

Applications due March 11

Is leadership important to you? Do you or someone in 4-H want to take their leadership skills to the next level while seeing the world in the process? Get your passport ready because NJ 4-H is planning to take a delegation to the Leadership for Life Conference in Maynooth, Ireland set for July 2016. In order to go, there are some requirements you have to meet:

- Be in grades 10-13 (one year out of high school)
- Be a 4-H member in good standing for at least two years

Total cost is approximately $2,200, which includes airfare, hotel, transportation, registration, and excursions. Applications are available at http://aschweitzer.com/conf12.html. All applications are due at the Somerset County 4-H Office by March 11. Please contact Sharon Kinsey, Camden County 4-H Agent, with any questions at (856) 216-7130, ext. 2.
## Scholarships Available for College or Technical School

These scholarships are for students that attend or are looking to attend college, vocational or technical schools. Applications are available at [www.4Histops.org](http://www.4Histops.org). Note the due dates for each application to be sure you don’t miss out.

- **4-H Association Scholarship** - Due April 1  
  12th and 13th grade 4-H’ers can apply for one of several $1000 scholarships.

- **4-H Prep Scholarship** - Due April 1  
  $500 scholarship to any 4-H’er who started in our Prep program.

- **Joseph J. & Florence E. Klimas Scholarship** - Due April 1  
  $1000 scholarship available to any Somerset County 4-H Alumni who is currently a junior or senior in college majoring in Education.

- **4-H Trainmasters Scholarship** - Due April 1  
  $1000 scholarship available for any 4-H high school senior interested in a career in science.

- **Rob Fellows Memorial Scholarship** - Due April 1  
  $1000 scholarship available to any 4-H high school senior interested in a career in the sciences.

- **Tom Everett Memorial Scholarship** - Due March 31  
  Two scholarships, annual and continuing educational, are available from the Somerset County Board of Agriculture.

- **Edward Rosania and Williams Staats and Peter Smith Memorial Scholarship** - Due July 15  
  $500 scholarship available to a 4-H high school graduate majoring in agriculture. Contact the 4-H office for more information.

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## Do you want to be a Camp Counselor?

Summer will be here before you know, and for 4-H’ers, summer means camp. Check out the opportunities below to find out how to become a counselor!

- **TOPS Summer Day Camp** counselors needed from **June 27-30** at the 4-H Center. Applications are due by **April 17**. Download the application at our website: [www.4Histops.org](http://www.4Histops.org).

- **Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp** in Stokes State Forest is looking for counselors 18 or older and want to work at camp for the summer. Volunteer counselor positions are available for one week sessions. You must be 16 or older to volunteer. Submit an application at [nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/staff.html](http://nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/staff.html).

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## Outstanding 4-H’er Applications due June 1

If you are finishing your junior, senior, or 13th year of school this year, and you believe yourself to be an Outstanding 4-H’er, submit an application by **June 1** and throw your hat in the ring. In addition to the application, you will need a letter of recommendation from an adult volunteer. Download an application on the 4-H website or contact the 4-H office for more information.

The criteria for Outstanding 4-H’er is as follows:

- Participation in county, state, and national events
- Demonstration of leadership qualities
- 4-H community service, promotion, and achievements
- Attitude
- Being an example to others
- Personal growth
- Overall contributions to 4-H
National 4-H Congress Applications due April 8th

From November 25-29, 2016, over 1200 members converge on Atlanta to discuss leadership, youth empowerment, community service, career development, and cultural diversity. While there are many workshops and keynote addresses for attendees, Atlanta is a city rich in diversity and history with a number of great places to explore. Past attendees have visited Centennial Olympic Park, the CNN Center, the World of Coca-Cola, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and the Martin Luther King Center. It really is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

New Jersey sends approximately 25 4-H members as delegates along with three adult advisors. Anywhere from one to three delegates are nominated from Somerset County and the State 4-H Association selects the final delegates after an interview process. Any 4-H member in grades 10-12 at the time the application is due (April 8) can apply. Cost to attend is $1,000, which includes airfare, registration, lodging and most meals. Part of this expense is also paid by the Somerset County 4-H Association. Local and state scholarships are also available. Download an application at http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/2016-Nat-4-H-Congress-Somerset-County-Application.pdf

Winter Camp 2016

Fifteen members and chaperones attended from Somerset County. Members were Grace Carlsen, Noah Rothenburger, Krishna Mody, Helen Newbold, Alexander Gonzalez, Cary Brochinsky, Evan Brochinsky, Kara Johnson, Sarah Bijaczyk, Thomas Davidson, James Meier, Julie Pirro, Susan Norz, Tommy Cera, and Todd Gallagher. Thank you to Lisa Rothenburger and Brian Bakes who spent their weekend with the campers.

We joined Bergen, Passaic and Warren County teens for hiking, improv, 4-corners, card games and outdoor fun at Winter Camp.

Youth Council presents “Retro Fresh”

April 9, 6:00 PM, Ted Blum 4-H Center

Somerset County Youth Council, 4-H Senior Council and Safe Communities Youth Coalition present “Retro Fresh,” a party made especially for teens in Grades 7-12. Admission is $2 and is required in advance. Registration is very easy. All you need to do is contact Emilia Fletcher at 908-541-5726 or email her at fletcher@co.somerset.nj.us. Registration and admission fee are due by April 1. Please make the check for registration payable to the Somerset County Treasurer. For more information, please contact Sarah Murchison at 908-704-6307 or murchis@co.somerset.nj.us
President’s Message

At the moment I write this, there are 5 months, 1 week, 2 days and 20 hours until Fair. Don’t believe me? Check out our website at somersetcounty4h.org. There is a lot of good information there including a new online calendar for the Ted Blum 4-H Center. We are continually adding new content so check back often.

A new event we have added is the Spring Carnival. This fun event will be held April 23 (rain date April 24) from 10 - 2 at the Center. We are looking for each club to host a booth with a game or activity. Then, we are inviting the whole community to see what we have to offer. Already over 20 clubs have signed up. More information is in the weekly email, so check it out and join us for a fun day.

There are also a lot of county 4-H events this spring for you to experience such as Family Camp (a personal favorite of the Brochinsky clan), 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 (well, you already do that if you are reading this) and check out 4histops.org for more information. 4-H is about so much more than just your club, so take advantage of these great opportunities.

Once again, it’s ad sales time. The money raised from these sales is what helps make our Fair so great. Why do we need the money? Well, the tents alone cost more than $80,000. With the number of kids involved in Somerset County 4-H, we can raise $25,000 if every member sells only one personal ad. That is a LOT of money for relatively little effort. Now if we all sold one business card, or maybe a partial page ad...you do the math. The point is, if everybody does their share of helping, we can keep Fair’s status as the premier event in Somerset County and it will still keep the focus on our 4-H’ers and their accomplishments.

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

Harry Brochinsky,
Somerset County 4-H Association President

4-H Association Welcomes Officers and New Members

At the January meeting, the 4-H Association welcomed back its returning officers
- Harry Brochinsky, President
- Annette Smutko, Vice President
- Jim Wood, Treasurer
- Jeane Fusullo, Asst. Treasurer
- Caitlin O’Neill, Recording Secretary
- Becky Moore, Corresponding Secretary

The Association also welcomed new members
- Willie Sommerville
- Allyson Weiss
- Melissa Smutko

Valerie Kreutler, former Somerset County 4-H Prep Coordinator, was honored with lifetime membership by the Association. Congratulations Mrs. K!

Sign up for Spring Carnival

April 23, 10 AM–2 PM
CALLING ALL SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H CLUBS...
Somerset County 4-H Association

SPRING CARNIVAL
April 23, 2016
10 AM - 2 PM
Ted Blum 4-H Center

All 4-H Clubs Are Encouraged to Participate!!!

Participating clubs will create a game or activity and staff their booth for the duration of the event. All proceeds will support the Somerset County 4-H.

Questions or Comments??? Email SomersetCounty4H@somerset.nj.us
Stay tuned for more information!
## Club Happenings

### Club Treasury Review Forms
**Due March 31**

As per State 4-H policy, all club volunteers and members should receive an accurate club treasury report at their monthly meeting. In addition, the 4-H office must be appraised of club fundraising activities and receive an annual treasury review of the account. **All clubs must have their treasuries audited and forms returned to the office no later than March 31 or risk losing their fundraising abilities.** These forms can be found under the Publications section on [4HisTops.org](http://4Histops.org).

### Mother’s Day Bazaar, May 1

The Somerset County 4-H Exchange Club is sponsoring the second Mother’s Day Bazaar on Sunday, May 1 from 10AM-3PM at the 4-H Center.

Vendors looking to participate should contact Joanne Powell at [joannepowell1@verizon.net](mailto:joannepowell1@verizon.net) or at (908) 526-6773. The cost per 8 foot table is $25. Set up will begin at 8PM.

### “How To Complete an Application” Workshop
**March 2, 7:00 PM**

Volunteer Becky Moore will show you how to complete applications for scholarships, awards, and more. Register by March 2. Call or email the 4-H Office at (908)526-6644 or [somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us).

### Presentation Week April 4-8, afternoons and evenings

**Register by March 18**

Have you ever wanted to tell a captive audience all about your passion? Why not make a presentation about it? Learn more about presentations on [4Histops.org](http://4Histops.org) as well as get tips and information. Remember: State 4-H guidelines as well as Somerset County 4-H stipulate that in order to compete at the 4-H Fair, a formal or informal presentation must be delivered at a Club, County, Community, State or National Event. Download an application at [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/2016-Presentation-Registration.pdf](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/pdfs/2016-Presentation-Registration.pdf).

### Food ‘N Fun, April 16

Ever wanted to throw a theme party? All 4-H Clubs are invited for an evening of good food and lots of fun. Your club chooses a theme and each club member brings in a dish based on that theme. The themes you can go with are limited only by your imagination. From there, it’s all about presentation, taste, creativity, nutrition, and how well everything works together. Feel free to dress up to reflect your theme as well. Clubs can also create a centerpiece about their theme. Be ready to also present your theme as well as create a poster about the nutritional value of your menu. Register by April 7 with Barbara Navatto at [Navatto@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:Navatto@co.somerset.nj.us).

### Powerpoint Presentations Workshop, March 9, 7:30 PM

Powerpoint is an excellent tool for creating presentations that can inform and excite an audience. But, like any tool, there are right and wrong ways. Join Volunteer Mary McLaughlin on March 9 at 7:30 pm to explore everything from font choice to format and layout to audience engagement. If you are looking to use Powerpoint during Presentations, this is a great place to start.
Let’s Congratulate...

Samantha Eristavi Wins Princeton Agricultural Leadership Award

First established in 1867, the Princeton Agricultural Association is dedicated to advancing agricultural science and technology, as well as promoting youth participation in agricultural industries and related services. Their members are spread across Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset counties. Every year, a high school student who has been distinguished in leadership and promoting agriculture is selected from each county for its leadership award. Congratulations Samantha!

2016 Horse Project Awards

Junior English: Lauren Steinkopf- Champion
Jennifer Zelnick- Reserve

Senior English: Samatha Eristavi- Champion
Maeve Egan- Reserve

Junior Western: Ashley LiBrizzi- Champion
Dominick Infante- Reserve

Senior Western: Madison Whiting- Champion
Liz Bergen- Reserve

Speed Division: Bridgette Sona- Champion
Leigha Giranda- Reserve

Senior Overall: Madison Whiting

Junior Overall: Ashley LiBrizzi

George Daniels Memorial Award: Samatha Eristavi
Leigha Giranda

Ad Sales Award: Claudia & Erich Butz-Fiscina

Fair Service Award: Caitlin Kowalski, Kara Johnson, Hailey Kirsch, Alissa Valvano

Most Improved Rider: Ashley LiBrizzi

County 4-H Achievement Awards

11

Let’s Congratulate...

**4-H Chinese Culture Club**

**Member Plays Kennedy Center**

Aaron Lee, a member of 4-H Chinese Culture Club, was selected as the Principal Bass for the New Jersey Youth Symphony Orchestra. On February 14, the orchestra travelled to Washington DC to participate as one of three orchestras selected for participation in the Capital Orchestra Festival. Aaron led his section as they performed Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5, Op. 47.

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**4-H Honor Clubs**

The following clubs were honored at the 4-H Association meeting in February for meeting all the criteria to be an honor club. Each club was asked to explain a bit about their club. They were presented with a Certificate and $50 each to celebrate.

- Sidewinders, represented by Julie Pirro and leader, Tom Dietrich.
- New Centre Dairy, represented by Megan Norz, Carey Brochinsky, Jaqualin Kirby, and leader, Nancy Kirby.
- Wags and Whiskers - represented by Greta Wickman and Christine Jensen.
- Art of Filmmaking - represented by Ben Fernandez and leader, Sue Fernandez.
- Battlebots - represented by leader, Laura Hernden.
- Music Club- represented by Nelusha Dias.

---

**2016 Model Horse Show**

**Results**

Congratulations to the Somerset County 4-H members who competed at the State 4-H Model Horse Show:

- **Claudia Butz-Fiscina**- Open Gaited Under Saddle, Open Harness, Open Barn Scene, Open Non-Equine Animals, Sr. Creative Scene, Sr. Tack, Sr. OF Morgans, Sr. Western Games/Other, Western, Sr. Western Pleasure, Sr. Costume, Sr. OF Paint, Sr. OF Quarter Horse, Sr. OF Thoroughbreds/Standardbreds, Sr. OF Other Breeds
- **Shay Fleming**- Open Barn Scene, Sr. Creative Scene
- **Sianna Musarra**- Open Non-Equine Animals, Sr. Tack, Sr. OF Morgans, Sr. OF Quarter Horse, Sr. OF Thoroughbreds/Standardbreds
- **Emily Granja**- Open Decorator, Jr. OF Gaited, Jr. OF Mixed Breeds, Jr. OF Warmbloods/Sport Horses, Jr. OF Other Breeds, Open Fantasy, Jr. OF Spanish Breed
- **Bridgett Sona**- Sr. OF Appaloosa, Sr. OF Thoroughbreds/Standardbreds, Sr. OF Warmbloods/Sport Horses
- **Somerset County**- County Club Performance

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**2016 Goat Extravaganza**

**Results**

Just Kidding goat club delivered extraordinary results at the 2016 4-H Goat Extravaganza. Members won or placed in the following categories

**Goat Themed Art Show**

- Katrina Duque: 2-D Art, Jr. Division
- Carol Ann Perry: 3-D Art, Jr. Division
- Caio Clough: Photography, Novice Division

**Poster Presentation Contest (Team competition)**

- Katrina Duque: 1st place team

**Quiz Bowl (Team competition)**

- Caio Clough and Davis Perry: 2nd place team, Jr. Division
- Katrina Duque: 1st place team, Sr. Division
- Carol Ann Perry: 2nd place, Sr. Division
Let’s Congratulate...

**Samantha Eristavi Attends Board of Agriculture Delegates Dinner**

On February 10, Samantha Eristavi attended the State Board of Agriculture Dinner in Atlantic City as the representative of Somerset County 4-H as a 2015 Outstanding 4-H’er. She was also given a spot where she showcased all of her accomplishments. In attendance was NJ Agriculture Secretary Doug Fisher as well as Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno.

**State 4-H Horse Bowl Results**

The 4-H Horse Clubs competed at the State 4-H Horse Bowl on February 20th in Egg Harbor City. Somerset County did particularly well with five members placing in the competition. Congratulations are in order to the following Seniors in the Individual Overall category: Samantha Eristavi, Leigha Giranda, Shay Fleming, Jayla Womack, and Kara Johnson. A special mention goes out to Junior Emily Granja for competing in her first Horse Bowl.

**Administrative Professionals Day April 27.**

They work tirelessly in front as well as behind the scenes to ensure that all the programs at RCE happen without a hitch. They are the voice you hear at the other end of the line when you call about an event or have a question. They are the smiles you see when you come and go from the 4-H Office. They are the administrative professionals and we owe them a BIG thank you for all that they do. So, on April 27, be sure to thank the following individuals who make all our lives much easier.

- Julie Augustine, 4-H Administrative Assistant
- Annette Smutko, 4-H Administrative Assistant
- LaTasha Horton, RCE Administrative Assistant
- Linda Conley, FCHS Administrative Assistant
- Ashley White, ARMA Administrative Assistant
- Peggy Doyle, RCE Business Manager

**Daughters of the American Revolution Junior American Citizen Essay Contest Results**

The Elizabeth Snyder Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) announced several essay contests for Somerset County 4-H members to submit entries. These are the winners who now move on to the NJDAR essay contest. Congratulations to the following:

- **Roshni Dhanasekar** from Pi Robotics won first place on the local/chapter level for an essay on this year’s theme, “Columbus and Lindbergh: A Journey Across the Atlantic.”
- **Evan Gilmurray** from Master Chefs won first place in the Community Service category for grade 5, group entry, for his project delivering bandages for children with cancer.
- **Broken Props Model Airplane Club** won first place in the Community Service category for grade 9, group entry, for their “Try It, Fly It” program
- **Piano/Music Club** won first place in the Community Service category for grade 10, group entry, for their community outreach programs
Head, Heart, Hands, Health in the community

**4th Annual Holiday Dinner**
On Christmas Day 2015, the 4-H Center opened its doors to anyone who wished to come in for a good meal and good company. 4-H volunteers provided hot meals and an endless table full of sweets. Music from Ken Tekel and Laura Osborne helped to create a lively atmosphere with holiday music on guitar and flute. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time and energy to make the dinner a great success once again.

**Judy Hennessey Honored by Dept. of Agriculture**
Longtime 4-H volunteer Judy Hennessey received the Governor’s Award for Horseperson of the Year on January 24. Agriculture Secretary Doug Fisher recognized her nearly 40 years of contributions as a volunteer at a dinner in Burlington County. She is the current club leader for Chaps n’ Spurs. You’ll also find her helping out all the 4-H horse club members as they prepare for competitions. She also coaches the State Hippology Team and fundraises for national competitions such as Eastern Round Up. She really does it all. Be sure to congratulate her next time you see her in the center.

**26th Annual Stream Cleanup April 16**
Raritan Headwaters has put out the call for volunteers for the 26th Annual Stream Clean Up. Anyone from Somerset County as well as Morris and Hunterdon Counties are encouraged to sign up and help make one of New Jersey’s treasures even more beautiful. The clean up takes place on April 16 from 9AM until noon, rain or shine. Sign up at RaritanHeadwaters.org/streamcleanup. Reach out to Angela Gorczyca at (908) 234-1852, ext. 315 or agorczyca@raritanheadwaters.org if you have any questions.

**Put Your Tax Refund Towards a Good Cause**
This time of year, taxes are on everyone’s mind (Don’t forget-April 15). So, while you decide whether you want to save or spend that refund, why not consider a donation? There are many wonderful programs, but the NJ Department of Agriculture wants to let you know about two in particular: The Community Food Pantry Fund and the Farm to School and School Garden Fund. The Community Food Pantry Fund helps to distribute food to the needy across New Jersey. The Farm to School and School Garden Fund helps schools establish gardens and promotes consumption of local produce. It’s very easy to make a donation. On your State Income Tax return, just look for line 64 and use code 09 for the Food Pantry Fund or code 19 for the School Garden Fund.
## Our Fair Theme for 2016

**RU into 4-H?**

Thank you to all who submitted themes. Feel free to use our 2016 theme in any font or design. Use it on T-shirts, banners, signs, Fair displays, billboards, wherever you think. Get creative!

## Get Ready!

### Yearbook & Catalog Ad Sales

Ad Sales time are coming! That means you should be receiving your packet very soon. Why is this packet important? The money that comes from selling ads helps to support the Fair as well as Somerset County 4-H.

### Do you know a potential Fair Sponsor?

Do you know someone who owns a small business or who works for a large corporation or foundation? Are they looking for sponsorship opportunities? This is a great way to get their name out there while helping to support 4-H and give back to the community. There are ways to help for any budget.

If a business comes to mind, pass their contact information to Barbara Navatto at Navatto@co.somerset.nj.us or refer them to our 2016 Sponsorship brochure on the 4-H website at [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4hfair/](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/4hfair/).

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**S4HL 2016 is here!**

**Calling all talented 4-H members! RU into Performing?**

Then this year it’s YOUR TURN to take to the Clover Theater Stage for our “Somerset 4-H Live” (S4HL) noon talent hour! Let’s make this year even better than ever!

If you have never performed during our S4HL show 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 this “Performing Arts” Open Division at the 2016 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!
This year the annual Prep (Cloverbud) Family New Year’s Party was a great success. A wonderful time was had by all 101 people who attended. We began with crafts and tattoos, followed by a pot luck dinner. Mike from Music N Motion entertained everyone with games, contests and dancing. We took a short break to have ice cream sundaes and ended the night with lots and lots of confetti.

A Big Thank you to all of my helpers Abbigael Lesweioski, Aaron Lee, Jason Lee, Ariel Rung, Alan Sun, Dan Yang, Katie Yang, Dale, Jill & Harry Brochinsky, Debbie Graham, Amy Frank and all of the parents and children who stayed to help clean up. Many hands make for little work.

I hope to see you all at this fun event next year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Darby
4-H Program Coordinator

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**Yakety-Yak**

**Discovery Prep** - In December, the Discovery Prep club made colorful gingerbread men from fabric. We had a great time cutting them out and sewing on the buttons. That is a skill we learned that we will use every time we lose a button. In January, the Magicians Guild came to our meeting. Jake and Evan put on a little show for us. It was great and amazing. They taught us a trick we could show our families. We made dot cards and learned how to perform the trick. It was funny to see how everyone was amazed when we made spots disappear.

**Prep Ensemble** - The members of The Prep Ensemble have been doing crafts and acting out lots of stories! We made some cotton ball snow men and then pretended to be all the animals in *Stranger in the Woods*. We played with play dough and then performed *The Ginger Bread Man*. For Chinese New Year, we did some weaving and became the beautiful tapestry from *The Weaving of a Dream*. Lots more stories and fun to come this spring!

**Proud 2B Prep** made Valentines for veterans at the Lyons hospital. :)

**The Little Woofers** are preparing for their first show--Woofminster--on Feb 27.
Family Camp June 3, 4 & 5, 2016. Registration packets will be out in March.

**FYI - The Prep Rally will once again be moved from March to Saturday, November 19, 2016. The tentative Rally topic will be Across the USA. We will visit 4 different states during this event. As always, it will be a fun and educational day for all who attend.
The Clover Ensemble
By Selina Verbanas
The Ensemble is working on its next production, Willy Wonka. Over the course of the winter, they will be studying from Shakespeare movies as well as Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. After that, they begin rehearsals leading up to the opening of Willy Wonka this summer.

Senior Council
By Christine Arcoleo
After getting some pointers about scoring well during Presentations, the Council agreed to buy a GoPro Surf Kit to donate to the 4-H Tricky Tray. They also decided to purchase 1,000 lollipops to hand out during the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 13 in Somerville. They also agreed to set up a ring toss at the Spring Carnival.

Crazy Frog Hoppers
By Kate Stone
After discussing the Tricky Tray, Food N Fun luncheon and presentations, members practiced their double-dutch skills. They also did two community service events recently. They collected goods for St. Hubert’s animal shelter. They also collected about 150 toys and teddy bears for hospitalized children outside of Five Below and in the 4-H Center.

Presentations Are Coming
What will you present?
Presenting about a topic is an important skill that can pay great dividends in life. But, it can sometimes feel overwhelming when trying to figure out what you want to present. Once you know that, how do you present your topic? Well, there are a number of ways you can show your audience anything that you love. Check out some ways below and use them as your guide to making an awesome presentation.

- **Demonstration**: A demonstration takes words and puts them into actions. This type of presentation is great for when you want to show something like how to bake a cake or how to make a model. A good demonstration will have a result you can show the audience.

- **Illustrated Talk**: This is a presentation that uses a visual aid such a poster, diagram, or Powerpoint presentation. Unlike a demonstration, you do not need to have a finished project. This type of presentation is good for explaining a topic.

- **Formal speech**: This type of presentation does not use any type of visual aids like you find in a demonstration or illustrated talk. You can write it yourself or memorize a famous speech.

- **Performing Arts**: These types of presentations incorporate dramatics arts such as monologue readings, dance, or musical performances. These can be done either solo or in a group. Keep in mind that in a group performance, only a speaker will be judged.

- **Team Presentations**: Presentations can be given by teams. Remember that you can only have one other person present with you. If you do decide to present as a team, keep in mind that there needs to be enough information for both members to present equally.

We’re looking forward to seeing you at Presentations in April
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Dated Material

If you would like to receive future hard copies, please notify the 4-H office.

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