Dear 4-H Families:

For those of you who are new, the newsletter will contain dates of upcoming events, important deadlines, and information on regional and state events. If you have questions, please call or email. I also post a lot of information on the Greene and Lawrence County 4-H Facebook pages, so if that is more your style look for it there as well!

4-H projects and events are moving into high gear, and we have two regional training opportunities this month. **Save the dates of Saturday January 23 and January 30 for our regional energizers Making the Best Better and Bright and Bold.** Registration flyers are attached with this newsletter. If you need volunteer orientation, here is your chance to complete it face to face with the trainer. New to 4-H? You will want to take part in the New 4-H Family Orientation session. We have sessions planned for club officers, club and project leaders, and even activities for clover kids! Locations will be in Neosho and Ozark this year. See the article with further details!

There are also some great state level activities coming up that you can be a part of as well. State teen conference is March 12-13, 2016 and Youth Civic Leader’s Summit is March 4-6, 2016. Both are great opportunities! Details about both are included in this newsletter.

What do you want to get out of your 4-H experience this coming year? I encourage each of you to take a few minutes to think about your goals and write them down. Are you looking for more leadership, project work, trip experiences? Knowing what you want to get out of 4-H will help you decide where to spend your time and energy. Many of you have heard me say this before—you only get out of 4-H what you put into it. There are a great many demands on you and your time. By setting some personal goals, you can prioritize and work toward those goals.

If you have questions about anything, please don’t hesitate to call, text or email. My goal is to help each and every member and volunteer be successful in the 4-H program.

Karla Deaver
4-H Youth Specialist
Youth Civic Leader’s Summit 2016
March 4-6, 2016

Looking to ignite something among teens and adults in your club, council, program, or community? Find that SPARK! at YCLS 2016! The Youth Civic Leaders Summit is a statewide energizer for teens ages 14-18 and adult leaders who are engaged in leadership and service, and want to make a difference in their communities and world!

For YCLS 2016, teens and adults from Missouri 4-H and Missouri Community Betterment (MCB) are joining forces to SPARK! purposeful teamwork, action, and impact in our communities and world!

Highlights include youth and adult speakers, a team talent showcase, outdoor challenge course and recreation, regional networking, action planning, and mini-seed grants to SPARK! team projects.

Youth and adults from a local club, council, community betterment group, afterschool program, countywide group, or organization can participate as a team, whether currently working together or gathering for the first time. Summiteers will come together to do, reflect, and apply the power of youth-adult partnerships!

If you are interested in being a part of a team, contact me at the Extension office for more information.

Greene County 4-H Fair Needs You!

Do you have the desire to help youth interested in livestock exhibit their project animals at the Greene County 4-H Fair? We have just the thing for you! Greene County 4-H Leader’s Council is looking for a few good people to serve as superintendents at the annual 4-H Fair. Superintendents are needed in the areas of rabbits, goats, and cats. Thanks to Jeremy Steele and Daron Northrup for volunteering in beef and sheep! This job doesn’t require a lot of knowledge, just a willingness to learn and work with the youth of Greene County 4-H. If you are interested, contact Karla Deaver at the Extension office in Mt. Vernon for further details or email deaverk@missouri.edu. We need to identify superintendents by the January Leader’s Council meeting if possible, or it may be necessary to cancel these particular shows.

State Teen Conference 2016
Come Spy With Us!

This March, grab your secret decoder ring and rendezvous with your fellow spies at the 2016 State 4-H Teen Conference. Your State 4-H Council teens are finalizing their plans for making this another fun and exciting event for youth ages 11-13. This is the first big trip away from home for many Teen Conference delegates, and it’s a good choice. You’ll learn how to be a better leader and get a heads-up on all the exciting things waiting for you as a 4-H teenager! Teen Conference is safe and fun, and the hotel is amazing. So are the 300 new friends you’ll make! Your mission starts just after noon on Saturday, March 12th and terminates at 11 a.m. on the 13th when your parents extract you. You can register for Teen Conference at http://mo.4honline.com starting December 1, and keep up with classified information at http://4h.missouri.edu/teen-conference/main. Registration is $169 per youth, but be sure and check with your county regarding scholarship opportunities. Southwest Region takes care of organizing chaperones and transportation to and from Columbia for a $50 per delegate.

Regional Energizers Planned for Ozark, Neosho

We have a great way for you to get started with activity in the new year! We have two regional member and leader trainings coming up this month—one on the west side of the region in Neosho on January 30, and one more central to the region in Ozark on January 23. Both trainings will provide an opportunity to complete volunteer orientation, clover kids activities, new 4-H family orientation, training for club officers and project leaders, and a great place to network with other 4-H families from the region! Registration in advance is $7, $10 at the door. See the enclosed flyers for more details.
2016 Missouri 4-H Equine Tour

They're off and running...to the horse capital of the world, Lexington, Kentucky! 4-H teens dreaming of an equine related career will want to participate in the tenth annual Missouri 4-H Equine Tour, May 23-29, 2016. The tour begins watching the pre-dawn 'breezing' of the race horses at the Keeneland track and spending the day at the Kentucky Horse Park, the premier international equestrian facility. Participants will explore the wide range of equine industry opportunities in the Lexington area with visits to world renowned equine medical and research facilities. The itinerary will include tours of famous Thoroughbred and Saddlebred horse farms with possible farm visits of other breeds such as Standardbreds, Arabians, Morgans, Haflingers, and Quarter Horses. Visits to higher education institutions such as the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Horseshoeing School, North American Racing Academy will be included with additional opportunities to meet nationally recognized leaders in the equine industry. And the group will most definitely have the backside tour at Churchill Downs!

Make your plans now to be in the winner’s circle! The $600 tour fee includes charter bus transportation, tours, hotels, most meals, tour t-shirt, travel bag and other associated costs. Applications are available: http://4h.missouri.edu/equine-tour/main. The fifty tour seats typically fill prior to the March 1 deadline. To avoid disappointment, submit complete application packet early. Questions? Debbie Davis, davisdd@missouri.edu or 816-539-3765.

Regional Representative Applications Available

Are you interested in serving on the state 4-H leadership team? Applications to serve as a Regional Representative on the 2016-2017 State 4-H Council are available online at http://4h.missouri.edu/missouri-4h-council.aspx. Please submit applications the county office by February 1. Interviews will be held on Saturday, February 27, in Springfield, same time and place as regional horse bowl and Level 3 report form interviews.

Council members have these responsibilities: 1) Represent Missouri 4-Hers: Stay involved in your local 4-H program. Get to know other 4-Hers in your area. Keep in regular contact with County Youth Liaisons (CYL) in the counties you are assigned. Attend EVERY Council Mtg. 2) Support Missouri youth 4-H network process: Be a mentor to your CYLs and help them stay connected to happenings of the State 4-H Council. 3) Assist with planning and implementing Major 4-H Events: State Congress and Teen Conference are the signature events, but you’ll have the opportunity to help with others as well. 4) Represent the Council at special events: Be on hand for a variety of 4-H events to represent the State 4-H Council, when possible. 5) Provide youth input as requested: provide a youth perspective and weigh in on a variety of issues that arise throughout the year.

Steer Project Expands in Lawrence County

It’s time to start the 5th year of our performance steer project for 4-H and FFA members! Our first meeting for 2016 will be Monday, January 11, at 7pm at the Lawrence County Courthouse in Mt. Vernon. We’ll be discussing the basics of the project and important dates moving forward including the weigh-in, Lawrence County Youth Fair, Educational trip out of Lawrence County, and the carcass show.

Additionally, we are adding a heifer development component to the educational portion of the project this year. Guided by the “Show Me Select” heifer development program, 4-H and FFA members will have a chance to learn about heifer selection, feeding, reproductive health, tract scoring, time breeding and other components that lead to a productive cow herd (that can produce exceptional steer calves!)

Please mark your calendar and feel free to forward this note on to others you believe may be interested. All are welcome! If you plan to show a steer, now is the time to get him in your possession and begin breaking him to lead. Weigh-in will be Saturday, February 6! Questions? You can call John Kleiboeker at 417-388-1523 or Eldon Cole at 417-466-3102. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Move Across Missouri 2016

4-H Move Across Missouri (MOVE) is back for 2016! And, youth and adults can register for it on 4HOnline!! Enrollment for new and re-enrollment for current MOVers began January 1, 2016. MOVE promotes physical activity and encourages youth to engage in a broad range of activities such as walking, biking, running, swimming, dance, taekwondo, gardening and more.

There is no pre-registration required this year. Just enroll in the Move Across Missouri (MOVE) project (HF775) in 4HOnline in your profile. Enrollment in 4-H MOVE does not count as a part of county limits on projects.

Using a paper tracking system found on the 4-H website at: http://4h.missouri.edu/4hmove/moveinfo you can “log” the number of minutes accumulated throughout the year and during the competitive component of the MOVE program (scroll to the bottom of the website page and click “My Move Activity Log”. Record keeping through the paper tracking system is important because the competition period will be from February 1 to April 30. 4-Hers and adults can register for the competitive event as individuals and/or as part of a team. An individual MOVEr may also be a part of a team. A team can consist of a family or members of a 4-H club or group. Youth and families will submit their total number of minutes logged throughout the competitive period at the end in 4HOnline. The final reporting will take place inside of a no cost event registration that will only be open at the end of the competition period from April 30 and May 14. MOVE awards will be provided.

For more information about 4-H MOVE visit http://4h.missouri.edu/4hmove/main.
Clover Kids Corner

Through Clover Kids clubs, children learn how to get along, share, and work in groups, explore their interests, and build self-confidence. Each Clover Kids Corner provides an activity, information or other materials that Clover Kids leaders can use in planning and implementing experiences that introduce five to seven-year olds to the 4-H concept of learning by doing.

Football Pudding

What you need:
Spoons, markers and liquid measuring cup
Quart-sized sealable bags
Gallon-sized sealable bags
Instant pudding—one 3.4 oz pkg. per pair of participants
2/3 cup milk per participant

What you do:
Each youth puts half of the package of instant pudding in a quart-sized bag. Add milk and seal bag well. Mark with children’s names. Two youth can place their well-sealed quart bags into a gallon bag and close. Have children toss the bag to each other gently (best done outside) until pudding is ready to eat. Pass out spoons. Participants can eat from plastic bags.

Source: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development

Don’t forget to “like” us on Facebook! We post lots of updates, deadlines, and photos as well as 4-H news! You can find Lawrence County 4-H here: https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCounty4H

Greene County 4-H can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/greenecountymo4h

Lawrence County 4-H Teen Council had their annual Lafayette House event on Sunday, December 20, 2015. This year’s event included making fleece blankets for the children there, as well as decorating cupcakes, decorating flip flops, making paracord bracelets, tutus, and paper bag scrapbooks. The council also collected small toys, hats and gloves that were given to the children along with a stocking, coloring books and crayons. Thanks to the MO 4-H Foundation for the grant assistance!