



Clover Gazette

Berks County October 2013

1238 County Welfare Rd., Suite 110, Leesport, PA 19533-9709

610-378-1327/Fax 610-378-7961

Dear 4-H Family and Friends:

A new program year is right around the corner. With it comes some changes to our Child Protection Polices. Please be reminded of the following:

HR 99 – Background Check Process

Our existing 4-H Volunteer Screening Process has been expanded to include the requirement that volunteers submit State Police, Child Abuse and FBI clearance documents dated within 6 months **or** complete paperwork for the University to obtain the clearances on their behalf.

Leaders who were fully screened last year will receive an email from the PA State 4-H Office in the next month with instructions for completing this ANNUAL Requirement through an on-line vendor. The PA 4-H Program will be covering the cost of this volunteer background check. As before, if you would prefer to get your clearances personally and submit copies (not more than 6 months old) you are welcome to do that.

PSU Policy AD 72 –

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

Under this new policy 4-H Volunteers are considered mandated reporters meaning that if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse, they must report it to ChildLine. Our 4-H Volunteers are required to complete mandated reporter training annually in order to serve as a volunteer.

This training is now also on-line and must be completed at the same time as the background check process annually. Instructions for accessing this training will also be included in the email you will receive from the PA State 4-H Office.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Dietrich
Extension Educator/4-H Coordinator

PSU Policy AD 39 – Minors Involved in University Sponsored Programs

This policy was extensively revised with new procedures put in place that apply to 4-H. Below are some of the policies and some suggestions for parents to assist in their implementation.

- To protect both youth and volunteers, two screened volunteers are required at all 4-H events at all times. ***Please do not drop your child off at club events early without verifying that the second club leader has arrived. Please be prompt in picking up your child as well so that the leaders can leave together.***
- Some of our clubs have only the minimum number of screened 4-H volunteers. If a leader isn't available for a meeting, it will have to be cancelled. Parents should consider volunteering to help with their child's 4-H club. I can send any interested parent the application and screening paperwork.
- All Electronic communications, such as text messages and email, should always include another adult and now must also be copied to the University compliance account - AD39AG@psu.edu. Please discourage your child from emailing/texting their club leader without also including another leader in the message.
- Parents must provide volunteers and staff transporting their child(ren) to 4-H events and activities with a signed note of permission.
- 4-H club leaders must have emergency contact information for all members in their care. Your club's 4-H Organizational Leader has a file with copies of each member's Medical Form with includes emergency contact information. As a parent you can help by completing this paperwork immediately and updating it annually as requested.
- Finally, as the 4-H Educator, I am on call for any emergencies that may arise at a 4-H event or activity, even those I am not in attendance for. I am sharing my emergency contact information with 4-H club leaders as I meet with them this fall.



Thank you for helping make sure our 4-H program is safe for kids!



Monsanto's America's Farmers Grow Communities

Here is an easy opportunity for Berks County farmers to help win a \$2500 grant for the Berks County 4-H Program. Eligible farmers just have to register at www.growcommunities.com and they will be entered in a drawing. There will be one \$2500 winner selected per county and the winner of that drawing can designate where Monsanto will send the \$2500 grant. Of course we'd like you to select Berks County 4-H! No purchase of Monsanto products is necessary to enter this contest. Just go to the Web site and register! Registration ends November 30, 2013.

National 4-H Week October 6th through 12th

This is a great time to promote your club! Put your club display in a store. Send fliers out through your local schools. Submit a press release to your local paper about all the cool things your club did this year!

Remember if you are doing a promotion – we have the sandwich signs and clubs are welcome to borrow them!



Fall Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply Company, Temple
Wednesday, October 9th through 20th

Our program does a terrific job with this nationwide campaign. Our store in Temple is routinely recognized as the District Champion for having the highest percentage of transactions which include a donation. If your club did not assist with the spring campaign, we will be expecting your help with the fall campaign. Please call 610-378-1327 or email (dad7@psu.edu) with your club's shift preference.

Promotional Materials for Club Events at Tractor Supply Company

As a national corporate partner, Tractor Supply Company has made promotional kits available to the local stores for 4-H club events. The *4-H in Action* marketing kits help the store advertising YOUR CLUB'S event. This would be great for a club promotion at the start of the new year— in January or February. Consider sharing with the public what your club does, recruiting a few new members and even selling baked goods or hot dogs (*grill provided*) at the Temple Tractor Supply Company in January or February. Let me know if your club is interested.

PA 4-H Program Fees Increasing

The 4-H Program Fee the state collects per member will increase to \$20 per member (regardless of the number of clubs or projects enrolled in) for 2014. Our clubs will be expected to submit the 4-H Program Fee for their current members as usual in June. The increase — the first in 10 years — will offset rising costs of 4-H curricula development, project offerings and project books, leader guides, officer books, volunteer management and other program support. The 4-H program management depends, in part, on federal and state funds, both of which have declined in recent years. This presents a challenge for a program that is committed to meeting the future needs of today's youth. As resources have declined, the number of people in extension offices working on the 4-H program has also declined. The state 4-H office is addressing the situation by centralizing some administrative tasks to free up 4-H educators' time and enable them to focus on offering a high-quality youth program in every county. The additional 4-H Horse Program fee will remain at \$25 per horse club member, which means their total program fee will be \$45 annually. Finally, the fee for our 4-H group programs – school enrichment and after-school is also increasing to \$40 per group. Please feel free to call the office and speak with Debbie if you have any questions or concerns.

PA 4-H Leadership Conference

PA 4-H Leaders Forum

January 17, 18, 19, 2014

For all teen members ages 13 and above and volunteer 4-H club leaders. The events are both held at the Penn Stater Conference Center. Look for details in future newsletters.



Organizational Leader Reminder!!

Team Leader Forms, All-American Clover Award, and I Dare You Award applications are due in the 4-H office by October 15 in order to be included in the 2013 4-H Yearbook. Please visit the 4-H Web site to download the All-American Clover Award and I Dare You Award applications. The Berks County Extension 4-H Web site is located at <http://extension.psu.edu/berks/program/4-h> and the applications are in the forms folder. You can download the forms and mail, fax or email the completed form to our office.

Please note—Office is closed

Monday, October 14, for Columbus Day!!



Calling all 4-H Teens
With a Strong Interest in Science!!

We are assembling a group of teens to attend the National 4-H Summit Series-Agri-Science. This event takes place at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland (just outside Washington, D.C.) January 16 through 20th. This event is specifically for high school students, grades 9 through 12. Our Altria-funded *Growing 4-H Science* grant will be covering the cost of the registration for our team of youth and adults. If you have an interest in agricultural science, visit the summit home page for more details, and then call the 4-H office 610-378-1327. We will be selecting team members from across the southeast region. The Web site is: <http://www.nationalyouthsummit.org/home/>

Horse Happenings

State 4-H Horse Show
Hospitality and Good Housekeeping

All exhibitors are expected to take two shifts to man our hospitality booth and assist with good housekeeping in our stall area. Please contact Peg Nahrgang (nahrgang06@aol.com) with your shift selections.

Horsemanship Skills Evaluation
Sunday, November 10, 2013—1:00 p.m.
Berks County 4-H Center Horse Show Rings

Any 4-H Horse Club members wishing to be evaluated on the Horsemanship Skills Levels 1 and 2 is invited to register for this evaluation session. We have several evaluators who are reserving the afternoon for this event, so registration is absolutely required. The registration deadline is November 1st. Please register by emailing our 4-H Secretary, Sheila Clouser, skc11@psu.edu.

Livestock Notes

Benefit Auction Results

Your 2013 auction held during the Kutztown Fair was a success raising almost \$1300 which will cover the cost of roundup expenses this year. Good work!!

Livestock Banquet
November 16, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Virginville Grange Hall



Farm Show Tagging—Goats and Lambs

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Berks County 4-H Center.
Do not arrive after 7:00 p.m.

Record Books Due

All Livestock record books are due in the office October 15th in order to be eligible for banquet awards and to show next year.

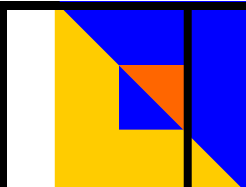


October Club Meetings

Please see the calendar at the back of the *Gazette* for a complete listing of the club meeting dates and times. It is crucial that all member attend their club meetings to wrap up the year.

Benefit For Former 4-H Leader Ken Rarick

The Virginville Grange Community Service Committee is holding a Cash/Longaberger/Thirty-One Bags Bingo at their hall on Sunday, November 3, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Proceeds will assist Ken with medical expenses. For more information contact Linda Gougler at 610-562-5105.



October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Rabbit & Cavy Club	2 Marksman	3 Blue Ribbon Riders	4	5
6 National 4-H Week (6-12) =>	7 Livestock Council	8 Sheep Club	9 Goat Club Garden Club Paper Clover Campaign Begins	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15 Swine Club	16 Marksman	17	18	19
20 Paper Clover Campaign Ends	21 Ext Board of Directors	22 Beef Club	23 Garden Club	24 State 4-H Horse Show	25 State 4-H Horse Show	26 State 4-H Horse Show
27 State 4-H Horse Show	28 Development Board	29	30 Marksman	31		

- 1 Rabbit & Cavy Club; 7:30 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 2, 16, 30 Marksman 4-H Club; 7:00 p.m.
Berks County 4-H Center
- 3 Blue Ribbon Riders; 7:00 p.m.
Berks County 4-H Center
- 6-12 National 4-H Week
- 7 Livestock Council; 7:30 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 8 Sheep Club; 7:30 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 9-20 Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply Company, Temple
- 9 Goat Club; 7:30 p.m.
Berks County 4-H Center
- 9 Garden Club; 6:00 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 14 Columbus Day—Office Closed
- 15 Swine Club, 7:30 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 21 Extension Board of Directors; 7:30 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 22 Beef Club; 7:30 p.m.
Berks County 4-H Center
- 23 Garden Club; 6:00 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center
- 24-27 State 4-H Horse Show;
Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg
- 28 Development Board; 7:00 p.m.
Berks County Ag Center



Donate to Berks County 4-H

The Berks County 4-H Program relies heavily on private donor support to provide its many programs and activities. You can make a tax deductible contribution by returning the form below along with your donation check made payable to:

Berks County 4-H Development Fund
1238 County Welfare Rd., Suite 110
Leesport, PA 19533-9709

Please accept my tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____.

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone Number _____





2013 Annual B. A. R. N.
Berks Agricultural Resources Network
Farm & Agri-Business Tour
Saturday, October 19, 2013

This year's event will include dairy cattle, goats, greenhouse, mushrooms and more.

Tour booklets can be purchased the day of the tour beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Weaver's Hardware Store, 732 Fleetwood Lyons Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522.

Farm tour hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost for the tour is \$10 per vehicle. It is a self-driving tour.

Educational displays by agricultural organizations will be part of the day's tour and the Berks Farm Women Society will be selling refreshments. For more information, contact Sheila Miller, Berks County Agricultural Coordinator, at 610-898-5482.

Berks County 4-H Gardening &
Plant Science Club
Youth Ages 8-18



Youth interested in learning how to grow plants and understand the science behind it are invited to join our growing 4-H Gardening & Plant Science Club. The club uses the *Junior Master Gardener Curriculum* and members maintain a vegetable & flower garden at the Berks County 4-H Center. All levels of experience are welcome! The club is meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays October 9th and 23rd either at the Ag Center or the 4-H Center, and then moving to a monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, starting November 13th at 6:00 p.m. until Spring. We plan to visit the Glick's Greenhouse Poinsettia Show in December. Included in this news letter is a Poinsettia sale order form if anyone is interested in ordering from our club fundraiser.



Berks County 4-H

Penn State Extension—Berks County
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Leesport, PA 19533-9709
610-378-1327

An **OUTREACH** program of the
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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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