

# Alcona 4-H Newsletter

## Winter 2014

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OF RESPONSIBILITY

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## A Letter from Les

Happy winter everyone! Now that we're back to school and ready to start the new 4-H year, I'm happy to report that Alcona 4-H is doing well— we're growing at a rate that is manageable and in areas that are very exciting. I am happy to report that in the past year, we've started 6 new clubs (featured inside) that are all looking for members as well as a host of returning clubs that may be looking to grow as well. Among the new clubs are:

The Dairy Heirs (Diary)  
The Jolly Rogers (Activity and Outdoor education)  
Orkie's Camo Club (Rabbit, gardening, composting, service)  
Student Stewards (Environmental ed, outdoor ed, engineering)  
All Around Horses are Us (Horse, home arts)  
Dothraki Skydogs (Horse)

Each of these new clubs are still accepting members and information on enrollment is inside! Along with these new clubs, we also have 17 new 4-H volunteers—I am always excited to get new volunteers screened in order to get them going into new communities, new projects and serving new youth. Starting a club is easy:

**1)** Figure out what interest you have that you would like to share with youth. **2)** Fill out Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) paperwork and return it to the office.

The office staff then processes the paperwork by completing the background check and checking with references. This process is completely confidential and we will share the results only with the applicant. It is very important that the references be as complete as possible as this process tends to take the most amount of time.

After this process is complete, you will **3)** sit down with 4-H staff and do a quick interview. The final step to the process (one that must be completed before you meet with your club) is **4)** to complete a series of 4- web based modules on youth development. This is a new requirement that has taken effect on September 1st for all new applicants. These can be completed at home, at the library or even at our office.

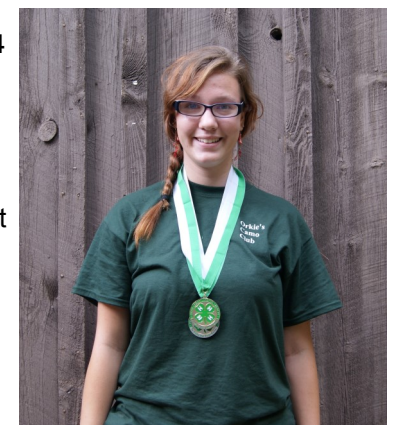
When I get notice that you have completed the modules, I will send your club paperwork and you can then get going.

As 4-H staff, it is my job to assist wherever possible— just let me know where/how you need help.

Les



Maire MacMaster is the 2013 4-H Member of the year.



Morgan Stewart is the 2013 Junior 4-H Member of the year.

# Plan a community service project in the winter months

**Looking for things to do with your club or children in the winter months? Consider giving back to the community through some fun community service projects.**

by **Michelle Neff**, Michigan State University Extension

With the holidays just behind us, it is important to think about what we as individuals, clubs and communities can do to give back. Below are some easy steps to follow to get a community service project started.

- 1. Pick a project!** Brainstorm as a family or group and discuss different ideas or interests that you or your club might be interested in. Some other ideas on how to choose a project would be watching the news for events or conduct a survey in your neighborhood.
- 2. Plan your project and get some publicity!** Good planning is crucial to any community service project. While developing your plan, consider your ultimate goals, who will be helped by your service and if the project is needed. In addition to planning, it is important for you to inform the public of your planned community service-learning project.
- 3. Carry out your project!** This is the exciting part of the project because you get to put your plan into action. Remember the key word “**community**” in community service. This is a team effort. Everyone in the group should know his or her responsibilities and play their part so things run smoothly Do your best and have fun!
- 4. Time for reflection!** As a result of your project, many of your club members should have experienced new things. It is important that you take the time to let the participants share their thoughts and feelings with one another. Here are a few questions that could get your club thinking and reflecting: What exactly was accomplished? What were some of your thoughts and feelings as you carried out the project? Did it go the way it was planned?
- 5. Celebrate!** Be sure to find a way to let club members, key volunteers and funders feel appreciated. Some ideas include providing refreshments, thank you notes or passing out mementos of the day.

Here are a few suggestions on winter community service projects:

- Host a coat drive to collect coats, hats and mittens for needy families.
- Volunteer at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Collect toys for families who are in need.
- Shovel snow in the driveways of elderly neighbors.
- Host a food drive for a local food bank.

To learn more about community service and how to get youth involved in giving back to the community, contact the 4-H program at your local [Michigan State University Extension](#) office.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

County awards are a way for youth to experience success and recognition for their total 4-H experience. Preference is shown for youth that not only achieve in a club setting, but also have experiences in other local, statewide, national and international programs. Youth must be at least 12 years old to be nominated and a member can only win each award once. Each applicant should submit an essay or other supporting documents and the recipients will receive a medallion courtesy of the 4-H Council. This year, there was a very good selection of candidates in every area- and in many cases numerous awards could have fit each person.

The **safety award** this year went to Sarah Sweet. Sarah is a member of the Bird Brains, Rabbits R Us, Dairy-Heirs and Apple Hill Variety Club. This year's recipients of the **Leadership Award** were Layla Carriveau and Morgan Stewart. Layla is a member of the Rolling Hills Variety Club. Morgan is a member in the Apple Hill Variety and Orkies' Camo Club. This year's **Citizenship** award winner was Alex Stephenson of the Born in a Barn and Apple Hill Variety Clubs. Lastly, the **Achievement** award went to Hailey Petty of the Horsin' Around 4-H Club.

The Alumni award is presented to a former 4-H member who has shown that they have applied the experiences from their 4-H years to their adult life. This award is in the form of a medallion presented by the 4-H Advisory Council. This year's **Alumni** medal went to Ms. Helen-Ann Prince, a very deserving alumni candidate that has proven to be hardworking, dependable and organized. Helen-Ann has been a volunteer in our community with the AmeriCorps program and is transitioning into her new role as FFA Advisor at the Alcona Community High School.

The **Junior 4-H Member of the year** is an award that goes to a young person 12-15 that exhibits all of the characteristics mentioned in the previous awards- leadership, citizenship, achievement as well as service. This year's recipient will receive a \$25 cash award as well as a medallion, courtesy of the 4-H Advisory Council. Of the five very qualified applicants, Morgan Stewart was presented with the award. Morgan is the daughter of Pat and the late Wes Stewart of Harrisville and is a member of the Apple Hill Variety Club as well as a Teen Leader and member of the Orkie's Camo Club.

The last award of the night was for **4-H Member of the year**. This award is given to a member 15-19 years old that exhibits the same qualities as the Junior member of the year, with more emphasis on experience, leadership and service. This year's winner was Maire MacMaster of Harrisville. Maire is the daughter of Dr. John MacMaster and Dr. Jaci Fitzgerald and is a member and Teen leader in the Apple Hill Variety Club. Maire has had ten years of club experience and experienced success in numerous livestock projects. The award includes a \$50 cash award as well as a gold medallion, courtesy of the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council



Recipients of project medals were: Back row (from left) Madison Lane, Katelyn Kline, Maire MacMaster, Morgan Stewart, Abby Lobaugh, Seth Tulgetske, Rebekah Maturen and Alex Stephenson. Middle row- Keilee Elmer, Hannah Riggs, Sarah Sweet, Hailey Petty, Matt MacMaster and Layla Carriveau. Front Row- Chloe Schram, Harmony Travis, Hailey Spaulding, Emily Lobaugh, Matthew Good, Zachary Stephenson, Nelson Quintel and Janae Keirzek-Harte



## Fundraiser Policy for all clubs

Step one: Club determines that they **need money for something**. Could be a trip, membership fees, club resources, 4-H paraphernalia; whatever. You may not raise money for the sake of having it.

Step two: Club **plans** a fundraising project- carwash, bottle drive, bake sale—something that all or most of the members will be able to help with. Remember that raffles or other *games of chance* are not allowed for 4-H clubs in Michigan.

Step three: The club leader **submits a fundraising request** to the MSU Extension Office no less than 2 weeks prior to the anticipated start of the fundraiser event. This document can be picked up at the office or can be found in the Michigan 4-H Treasurer's book.

Step four: **Wait** until confirmation is given for the fundraiser; either right then by staff or by phone or mail. You may NOT go ahead with the fundraiser unless this confirmation is given.

Step five: **Conduct fundraiser** and make sure to include all members; this can be a very valuable learning experience for everyone. Make sure that all moneys are accounted for and that they are carefully tracked using the Michigan Treasurer's book.

Step six: **Complete** the Fundraiser Wrap-Up form found in the Michigan 4-H Treasurer's handbook. Mail or drop it off to the Alcona County MSU Extension office.

A reminder--All clubs will be asked to complete an **Annual Fiscal Statement** to be on file with the MSU Extension Office no later than November 1 of the following 4-H year. If your club had no fiscal activity (no current balance or money raised or spent on behalf of the club in the past year) simply zero the form and return it to the office. Bank slips and receipts should be turned in where appropriate.



## Support Available from the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council

The Alcona 4-H Advisory Council recently approved their 2013-14 budget including numerous items that will benefit the active 4-H family. Through tireless fundraising, the council has set aside funds for youth and adults to use when attending 4-H programs on the local, regional and state levels. Additionally, funds from the annual membership fee are also available for youth wishing to attend state programs for the first time such as Exploration Days and Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp. 50% of the member fees collected annually stays within the county to be used in this manner.

### Scholarship Policy

Any current 4-H member may request that an educational program be paid for up to 50% of the total cost of registration, not to exceed \$50 per member. To apply, simply request this benefit when registering with the Alcona MSU Extension Office. In the event of a no-show where fees are collected, the scholarship will be removed and payment must be made by participant. This benefit will occur at time of registration.

### Training Policy

Any youth or adult registered volunteer attending an educational training program, may request up to 50% of the total cost of registration be paid for elective training and 100% for mandatory training (not including room upgrades.) In the event of a no-show where fees are collected, this benefit will be removed and payment must be made by participant. This benefit will come in the form of a reimbursement after completion of the program.

### Loans for Market Beef Projects

The Ludlow Family of Alpena has set aside money in a loan program for any youth who wishes to raise a beef project and would like financial help to get started. This is a zero interest loan that can offer up to \$500 per year on a first come—first served basis. All loans are subject to repayment by September 30th without penalty.

### The Council Needs you!

While we have seen the council grow in the last 6 months, we are always looking for more members to share their time and effort in supporting the Alcona 4-H program. Our next regular meeting will be November 7th 6:30 at the Alcona High School Media Center.

# Alcona County 4-H Clubs

## Alcona Archery Club

Projects– Shooting sports (archery)  
Age– must be at least 9 years old before first club meeting

Meetings- at the upper floor of the ACCOA building in Lincoln on Thursday nights starting after the first of January.

Dues– in addition to the \$10 member fee, a \$2 per week dues will be collected to go toward the end of year banquet and awards.

Contact- Tom Keerl 724-6804  
Judge Laura Frawley 724-6392  
Phil Potter 736-3137

## Orkie's Camo Club

Projects– Rabbit, poultry, gardening, composting,

Ages– 5-19

Meetings– leader's home in Harrisville

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Pat Stewart 724-7474

## Bird Brains

Projects– Woodworking, community service

Ages– 5-19

Meetings- Leader's home in Mikado

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Kevin or Deb Boyat 335-0307  
Carl Racchini 739-7344

## THIS SPACE FOR RENT!

**Do you have a great idea for a club? Give me a call and we can get you going!**  
**Les 724-6478**

## Apple Hill Variety Club

Projects– All livestock including beef

Ages– 5-19

Meetings-

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Dr. Jaci Fitzgerald 736-6020  
Dr. John MacMaster 736-6020  
Lisa Stephenson 736-3021

## Crafts and Critters

Projects– Community Service, small animals, crafts, jewelry making

Ages– 5-19

Meetings– Start in October at leader's home in Glennie

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Elaine McGuire 735-2094

## Born in a Barn

Projects– Gardening, Community Service

Ages– 5-19

Meetings- Spruce Presbyterian Church

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Hope Smith 471-2972

## Horsin' Around

Projects– Market animals, pocket pets, fundraising.

Ages– 5-19

Meetings– Every Tuesday—sign up in Spring of '14

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Jennifer Petty 735-2126  
Melisa June 736-8258

## Jolly Rogers

Projects– Outdoor recreation, communication, community service, community engagement

Ages– 9-19

Meetings– primarily in Lincoln, but will move depending on activity

Dues– In addition to \$10 Member fee, some activities may be at additional cost.

Contact-  
Judy French 335-1601

### **Dairy Heirs**

Projects– Dairy Education, Public speaking

Ages- 5-19

Meeting place varies

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Katie Dellar 335-0879

### **Alcona 4-H Advisory Council Dothraki Skydogs**

Projects– Community Service, fund-raising, Communication

Ages– 9 and up

Meetings– Every other month on the second Thursday 6:30 PM

Dues– NONE (no member fee)

Contact-  
Lois Marshall 736-6690  
Les Thomas 724-6478

Projects– Horse, Rabbit

Ages– 7-19

Meetings- Leader's home in Mikado

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Lindsay Nardi– 884-3295  
Stephanie Maturen 590-3843

### **All Around Horses R Us**

Projects– Horse, Home Arts, Home Economics

Ages– Target ages are 13-19

Meetings- Leader's home in Lincoln

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Sue Schmitz 736-8447  
Pam Joslin 736-8064

### **Greenbush Golfers**

Projects– Golf skills

Ages- 10-13

Meetings– Greenbush- meetings held in spring/early summer

Dues– may be a small dues paid each week in addition to \$10 member fee

Contact- Ruth Golm 724-5679

### **Rolling Hills Variety Club**

Projects– All livestock (no beef)

Ages- 5-19

Meetings– At leaders home on the south shore of Hubbard Lake

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Sandy LaBeau 335-4044  
Missy Lobaugh 727-2013

### **Ace Riders**

Projects– Horse, Livestock, community service

Ages- 5-19

Meetings- Leader's home in Lincoln

Dues– none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Shannon Sorber 335-0394

### **Student Stewards**

Projects– Environmental Science, ROV, outdoor education, recreation, camping, community service

Ages- 11 and up

Meetings– primarily at leader's home in Harrisville

Dues- none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Tracy D'Augustino 724-9909

### **Fishing Club**

Projects– Outdoor recreation, fishing, aquatic science, community service

Ages- 9 and up (younger with parent involvement)

Meetings– monthly depending on where the fish are biting!

Dues- none in addition to the \$10 annual member fee.

Contact-  
Tom Keerl 724-6804  
Les Thomas 736-7231

## Parents, Leaders, Community Members-

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Coming off another successful 4-H year, the 4-H Advisory Council is already thinking about 2012-2013 and setting goals accordingly. One of the goals of the council, currently made up of 2 youth and 6 adults, is to attract additional members. No 4-H experience is needed to help make a difference, and we're looking for volunteers across the lifespan— from Grandparents to Grandchildren.

#### So what does the Advisory Council do?

- We meet 6-7 times per year
- Support 4-H youth with funds for programs
- Set local 4-H policy
- Design/support Educational events
- Coordinate Volunteer Recognition banquet
- Advocate for 4-H
- Fundraise to meet annual budget goals
- Have Fun!

#### Current members-

**President** Lois Marshall

**Vice President** Kelly Sexton

**Secretary** Christie Thomas

**Treasurer** Toni Thomas

**Members**—Sue Schmitz, Alex Stephenson, Lisa Stephenson, Scott Stephenson, Zach Stephenson, Ellie Thomas, Les Thomas and 4-H Program Coordinator Les Thomas



Get a behind-the-scenes look at the local 4-H program and help it serve the youth of Alcona County. Call the MSU Extension Office for more information 724-6478.

## New Clubs are Key to Greater Impact

If you have a special skill to share with youth, Alcona 4-H is looking for club leaders to lead new clubs! We are looking for caring adults to lead clubs in any number of areas, including: home arts, cooking, composting, sailing, outdoor recreation, livestock, communications, shooting sports, fine art, fitness and nutrition, gardening, forensics, companion animal care, mechanics, rocketry, marketing and anything else you could dream up!

Being a club leader is convenient- meetings can be based on your availability and as frequent as your time allows. Some clubs meet once a week, some— once a month; but all of them meet at least six times a year.

#### What is required of 4-H Volunteers?

Be able to pass volunteer selection process

Be a supportive, caring adult

Host no fewer than 6 meetings per year

Annual club paperwork (\$)

Uphold the Code of Conduct

Be a communication “bridge” between the MSUE staff and families

Organizational skills a plus!

You do not need any previous 4-H experience- we will train you around our organizational policies and offer training in numerous project areas.

Call Les Thomas at the MSU Extension Office to request an application of for more details— 989-724-6478.

## 4-H Resources on the WWW!

[MSUE—Alcona County Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com/alconamsue) <http://www.facebook.com/alconamsue>

[Michigan 4-H Website](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/) <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

[Michigan 4-H Training Opportunities](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule) [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4\\_h\\_volunteer\\_training\\_workshop\\_schedule](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule)

[MSUE— Alcona County Portal Page](http://www.msue.msu.edu/Alcona) [www.msue.msu.edu/Alcona](http://www.msue.msu.edu/Alcona)

[4-H Mall— online catalogue for all things GREEN!](http://www.4-hmall.org/Home.aspx) <http://www.4-hmall.org/Home.aspx>