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# e-NETWORK

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**Monroe County,  
Michigan State University  
and  
Monroe County  
Conservation District**

**This publication is  
provided to assist you in  
receiving the information  
necessary to enhance the  
quality of life for you and  
your family.**

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## I Dare You Awards Given

At the October 23th Youth Recognition Program many of the older youth were recognized for their outstanding leadership skills.

Nominated for the prestigious, "I Dare You" Award were Ian Darling, Phil Doederlein, Daniel Henes, Alyssa Adams, Jenna Manor, Bethany Martin, Krystal Kuderik, Rebecca Bradberry, Delaney Preston, Charlie Martin and Kevin Roe.

The "I Dare You" Award is presented each year to the most outstanding youth within the 4-H Program. Sponsored by the Monroe County 4-H Council and the Danford Foundation of St. Louis, Missouri, the award recognizes youth who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and challenges themselves to continue to grow and share those skills as they grow up and out of the 4-H Program. This year the award was presented to Alyssa Adams and Philip Doederlein. Both recipients have won numerous awards, demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and serve as excellent role models.

**Alyssa is a freshman at Monroe Community College while Phil is in his senior year at Airport.** Both have been involved in the State Awards Program, and been members of the 4-H Council. Phil is currently president of the Youth Leadership Board, and is active in both Teen Ambassadors and County Critters 4-H Club. Alyssa is currently president of both REACT and the Raisinville Wranglers. She is also active in Teen Ambassadors and Youth Leadership Board. Both take their responsibilities very seriously, always willing to help, have input, and encourage others.

Both Phil and Alyssa have been members of New Horizons – Philip attended Washington Citizenship Focus and Alyssa will be representing Michigan at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta this month. Both were on the planning and implementation committee for Clover Days the past two years. Two tremendous leaders, they encourage others, offer support, get everyone involved and serve as excellent role models for our program.

Both 4-H'ers are excellent examples of what "I Dare You" means. Phil and Alyssa have dared to share beyond what is expected and to involve others in their goals and ideas.

The Monroe County 4-H Program is proud to recognize all of the nominees for their outstanding accomplishments. Each member nominated has the ability to move forward and lead the way, so that others may follow.



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# Monroe Conservation District Is Asking For Your Help

The MDARD (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) water monitoring program is the only program in the state that regularly samples ordinary household wells for pesticides. While the State recommends that well owners have their wells screened annually for bacteria and nitrates, the basic well water screening does not detect nor screen for other chemicals. The screening necessary to detect pesticides is much more costly and few people ever pay to screen for pesticides.

The term pesticides, includes herbicides, insecticides, fumigants, and other chemicals used to kill a pest target. Sometimes people think of pesticides as meaning only “insect killing agents”, but the term pesticides also includes chemicals used to control growing plants, weeds, birds, etc. The program has found 92 wells across the state that has been contaminated by one or more pesticides.

The water monitoring program deals with several issues that could become more serious problems. These include the effects of endocrine-disrupting pesticides, the chemistry and toxicity of pesticide breakdown products and mixtures of pesticides, and nitrate contamination of vulnerable aquifers. More such issues will emerge as the department develops its surface water monitoring program. **The MDA water monitoring program is unable to accept sampling requests from the general public; it is however encouraged that well owners who are contacted by MDA / Conservation District Water Technicians, allow samples to be drawn for MDARD water monitoring.**



# Happy Thanksgiving

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## Michigan Key Club

Each year the 4-H Council awards Michigan Key Club awards to outstanding Monroe County 4-H members. They must be 15 or older and complete an application. This year's award winners were:

- Delaney Preston**
- Gunner Faber**

A member must earn a minimum of 175 points to be eligible for consideration for the award. The girls received a necklace and the boys a tie tack.



## State Awards

Members who are interested in being a part of the State Awards for 2012 need to plan on attending a workshop to be held on January 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Learning Center.

Members will be given copies of the forms and guidelines. We will discuss potential areas they may be interested in and have some hands on experiences as we begin to work toward completion of the application.

Completed award forms will be due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Monroe County 4-H members who will be 13 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and have not reached their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday before January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2012 are eligible to apply, a member may win up to two state awards.

Members who are 11 and 12 may compete for State Recognition in the Mark of Excellence Essay Contest. Two 4-H members will be chosen from Monroe County for this award. The criteria for this award will also be discussed at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Scholarships for Exploration Days will be given to all Regional State Award winners and to our Mark of Excellence winners.

## Clubs Recognized

Each year the County Awards Committee takes the opportunity to recognize clubs in the county that have made outstanding contributions to their members, the community and to the 4-H organization. This year the clubs were recognized with a package of 4-H Scrap booking supplies, to enhance scrapbooks and displays during the next year.

### OUTSTANDING CLUBS:

- Raisinville Wranglers**
- REACT**
- CSI**
- Green Clovers 4-H Club**
- Country Kids**
- Crafty Kids and Critters**
- Generation 4-H**
- Rockin<sup>®</sup> Ranchers**



Each of these clubs were recognized on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Youth Recognition Program at the Activity Center.

## Mitten Tree

The 4-H Mitten Tree will be returning to the 4-H Office for another visit. Many clubs have already purchased mittens, hats, and scarves to decorate the tree. These warm decorations will make many childrens Christmas happier and their winter much warmer.

Pat Webb will be placing the tree in the lobby of the Extension office on November 1st and it will remain until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Pat and her volunteers will then wrap each of the items and deliver them to youth across the county who will appreciate the generosity of the 4-H members, friends of Extension and the 4-H clubs. Bring your mittens to the office or to any 4-H activity or meeting.



## “What If”

The 2011 4-H Leader Banquet is in the process of being planned so we hope you have the date on your calendar to attend on Friday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.

The committee would like you to start thinking about "what if's" that would be positives for the 4-H program.

**"What If" - every member sold a box of candy?**

**"What If" - We doubled the amount of members and leaders who attend Exploration Days?**

**"What If" - Every member did a communication Project?**

We are sure that you have some positives that each leader has that would affect the program and lives we touch.

The committee has planned a fun evening, with prizes, great food, an opportunity to recognize some of our outstanding leaders and conclude the evening by saluting Monroe Bank & Trust and the many people that bring so much community strength to our program.

We realize that the banquet is in the middle of the Holiday Season, but hope that you value the friendships you have made through 4-H to come and celebrate the successes that we have experienced in 2011 together. Invitations will be mailed in November to all leaders enrolled during the past year.

## Small Animal News

At the recent Small Animal Annual Meeting new members were elected to the board. Elected to the 2012 Board are:

### Representing Poultry

Marissa Lajiness  
Tabatha Lajiness  
Kyle Sims  
Nick Beaudrie

### Representing Cavies & Pocket Pets

Alyssa Adams  
Amelia Arting

### Representing Rabbits

Daniel Henes  
Delaney Preston  
Alexi Garbo  
Carter Paddy

### Adult elected to a 3year term

Carla Garbo

Also recognized at the annual meeting were the 2012 Master Stockman winners for the Small Animal Program

### Rabbits

Claudia Paddy  
Carter Paddy  
Daniel Henes  
Sarah Vanderlaan  
Sarah Henes  
Annalyse Auxter

### Dogs

Rachel Breitner  
Anna Fink

### Cavies

Kayleigh Adams  
Alyssa Adams  
Amelia Arting  
**Pocket Pets**  
Kayleigh Adams  
Craig Lajiness

### Poultry

Matt Rinaldi  
Logan Grey

**Over-all Master Stockman winner for 2011**

Claudia Paddy

## New Horizons Delegates 2012

Although July and November 2012 seem far away, the delegates for the Monroe County New Horizons Citizenship Program are well on their way to earning money for the trips. New Horizons is a countywide citizenship and leadership experience to 4-H'ers. The members submitted applications to be accepted into the program. They have already begun to work to earn funds for both the Washington and Toronto experiences for next year. They will have the opportunity to meet with national, state and local officials, as well as attending governmental meetings. Members will also be volunteering their skills to develop a better understanding of 4-H Citizenship. 2012 New Horizons Delegates are:

Michelle Thibault  
Hannah Doederlein  
Nick Beaudrie  
Samantha Beaudrie  
Kaleigh Roe  
Rebecca Williams  
Kyle Sims  
Lauren Pier  
Tawny Johnson

Danyelle Himburg  
Alyssa Adams  
Amelia Arting  
Michael Deboot -Thornton  
Fleshia Clark  
Bethany Martin  
Barinna Gaynier  
Raelyn Huss  
Hayden Faber

## Spaghetti Dinner and Holiday Auction

If you want to enjoy an evening of good food and lots of fun, plan on attending the Council Spaghetti Dinner and Holiday Auction, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the 4-H Activity Center. The dinner will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 and the cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 10.

We already have several wonderful items for the Auction. This year Larry Hamblin will begin the auction at 6:30 p.m. 4-H Clubs and organizations have been donating items or creating themed baskets and boxes for your bidding enjoyment. If you would like to donate an auction item, work, or perhaps bring a dessert for the dinner it would certainly be appreciated.

The auction is a great place to do your Holiday Shopping.





## “Science Blast”

This year Kids Day was a “Science Blast” as the Teen Ambassadors planned an afternoon of fun, and recognition for our young 4-H members. Two hundred sixty-seven members were nominated for the 2011 “All Star” Award.

Nearly three hundred members, parents, leaders and families attended the event this year. Even with the rainy weather the afternoon was a success. They learned about wind turbines, made ice cream, watched an apple cannon shoot apples across the fair grounds, made slime to take home and had the opportunity to participate in a dozen more exciting activities.

The afternoon activities concluded with the announcement and the presentation of the certificates for the 2011 “All Stars” Each member was presented with an appropriate certificate and a beautiful Blue Rosette to help them remember the experience. Phil Doederlein, 4-H King presented each of the awards, as Courtney Beaudrie, 4-H Princess and Matt Rinaldi, 4-H Prince served as emcees for the event.

Congratulations to each of the “All Stars” and to the Teen Ambassadors for planning and the 4-H Council for providing support for the recognition of each of the members. Members who did not attend the ceremony may pick up their award at the 4-H Extension Office.



# Successful Leader Learning Fair

The first annual Leader Learning Fair was a huge success. The leaders that enrolled went home with many new ideas and wonderful projects to teach their 4-H Members. The 41 leaders learned how to make jewelry, One Stroke Painting, baskets, flower arranging, paper craft and many other project areas. They also got one on one training for the new photography project areas, some neat ideas for cupcake decorating and woodburning, and several made tote bags, while others had the opportunity to experience the shooting sports program. There were several other opportunities that the leaders participated in. They were served both lunch and a delicious dessert that brought an end to the day.

One comment that we heard was let's do this more often, and another one was give us a long time per session – The evaluations were all extremely positive and gave the participants a fun day, with the hope of strengthening the 4-H program.

Congratulations to Brenda Chandonnet and Debbie Kraftchick who provided leadership for the program. Watch for the announcement of the 2012 program next fall. Plans are already being made.





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## Consumer demand for goat cheese is on the rise

Dairy goat producers can add significant value to their operations by taking the next step and processing some of their milk into cheese. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service Michigan has over 1,000 reported milk goat operations that raise breeds like Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen and Toggenburg. A doe from one of these breeds can produce more than 2,000 pounds of milk per year that can potentially be turned into delicious cheese.



According to the Agriculture Marketing Resource Center in the past decade goat cheese has been one of the fastest growing cheeses in the specialty food product market. No longer just found in gourmet food shops, it is available in local grocery stores, supermarkets and through buying clubs. A hot trend on restaurant menus goat cheese can be found on pizza and salads or even used in desserts.

One of the most popular goat cheeses is chevre which is a fresh, soft cheese somewhat similar in texture to cream cheese. It can be purchased as a spread or in logs and often has a variety of flavorings added like herbs or nuts. It has the appeal of having half the fat and cholesterol and one third less calories than cream cheese.

Goat cheese has a characteristic flavor to it that comes from caprylic, capric and caproic fatty acids. These fatty acids give goat cheese its tangy flavor. The hormonal influence of the doe and also the diet of the doe can influence the flavor of the milk and the resulting cheese.

Goat cheese must be made in a licensed facility from milk produced in a licensed Grade A Dairy. Pasteurized milk must be used for production of fresh cheese like chevre. Raw milk may be used to make cheese as long as the cheese is aged at least 60 days before being sold.

Currently more than 50% of the goat cheese products consumed are imported with the majority coming from France. This statistic points to the opportunity in local goat cheese production. The American palate has acquired the European taste for goat cheese but production in the United States is still far behind that of European countries. With the increasing consumer demand for local foods, goat cheese production makes sense.

Research conducted by Mintel also shows that the Hispanic population is significantly more likely to eat goat cheese. The Hispanic population in Michigan has increased 30% over the last decade and demographic predictions point to further growth of this population which may also contribute to future demand for goat cheese.

Sue Spagnuolo launched Dolce Vita Goat Dairy from Greenbush Farms in St. Johns in 2009. She currently produces about 75 pounds of fresh chevre each week that she sells through area stores and farm markets. Her cheese is also enjoyed by the students at the Michigan State University Dairy Store. One of her flavored creations called "Buck Snort" is a spicy blend of the cheese and locally grown hot peppers.

A master cheese maker for a number of years, Rusty Plummer began making and marketing goat cheese this year from Hickory Knoll Farms Creamery in Onondaga. Rusty makes both fresh chevre and French style Tomme cheeses that are favorites at many farmers' markets around the state, gourmet food stores and restaurants. He continues to increase cheese production that utilizes the milk from the farm's herd of 160 dairy goats and is expanding distribution into new areas.

Goat producers who are interested in developing value added products like goat cheese may contact the MSU Product Center for assistance. Innovation counselors working across the state can provide assistance in business planning, marketing and navigating the regulatory maze in launching a new product.



*Hickory Knoll Farms  
Creamery cheese waiting  
for brining*



*Hickory Knoll Farms  
Creamery hanging chevre*

# November / December 2011

4-H

**November**

- 11/1/11** Youth Leadership Board 7:00 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/4/11** Horse & Pony Banquet 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/7/11** 4-H Council 7:30 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/11/11 VETERANS DAY**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**
- 11/9/11** Leader Banquet Committee 6:30 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/12/11** Wacky Wallenge 2:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/15/11** REAACT 7:00 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/16/11** Spaghetti Dinner Set-up 6:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/19/11** Spaghetti Dinner & Holiday Auction  
Dinner 4:00 pm  
Holiday Auction 6:30 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/22/11** C.S.I. 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/24/11 THANKSGIVING DAY - OFFICE CLOSED**
- 11/26/11** Stepping Stones Auction  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/28/11** Small Animal Board 7:30 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/29/11** Middle Managers 6:30 pm  
Applebee's - Dundee

**December**

- 12/1/11** Fair Advisory Board 7:00 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 12/5/11** 4-H Council 6:30 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 12/8/11** Monroe County Fair Association  
Annual Meeting 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 12/9/11** 4-H Leader Banquet 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 12/23-26/11 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED**
- 12/30/11 - 1/2/12 NEW YEAR HOLIDAY**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

FCS

**November**

- 11/10/11** Lunch Bunch 10:30 am  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/15/11** MCHE Council 10:00 am  
Extension Learning Center

**December**

- 12/8/11** Lunch Bunch 10:30 am  
Extension Learning Center
- 12/20/11** MCHE Council 10:00 am  
Extension Learning Center

Horticulture

**November**

- 11/19/11** MCMGA Recognition Brunch 10:00 am  
Extension Learning Center



**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**

The Monroe County MSU Extension office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am -- noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734 240-3170. Service is also available at the lobby counter during these hours. On Wednesday and Friday, staff may only be reached via their direct lines which are noted below.

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Though Extension has recently reorganized our structure, Extension professionals are still located in communities across the state and are still working to address Michigan's most pressing needs through four broad-themed areas: greening Michigan, agriculture and agribusiness, children and youth, health and nutrition. If you would like to learn more about these program areas, you can read about them in a document called "Carrying Out the Land-Grant Mission" that can be found at www.msue.msu.edu To locate MSU Extension Staff across the state by name or area of expertise go to: http://people.msue.msu.edu

