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# 4-H Connections

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A NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILIES ■ February 2008

Also available on the web at: <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/york/>

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## **VOLT Training Scheduled**

There will be VOLT training on February 28, 2008 at the Graves Library in Kennebunkport from 6:00 PM to 9:00PM. Please let Lynn know if you will be attending so we can prepare enough materials.

## **Leader Appreciation Dinner**

Let us celebrate YOU! March 4 at the Notre Dame Spiritual Center in Alfred. Please join us for a Roast Beef dinner and a wonderful session of story telling by Joanne Piazzzi of StoryHome. RSVP to Lynn by February 21. [lynno@umext.maine.edu](mailto:lynno@umext.maine.edu) or 324-2814.

## **York County 4-H Leaders Association**

Our next meeting will be on Monday March 10 at 7:00 PM at the Springvale Extension office. Please try to come and have your voice heard.

## **Spring Fling/Clean-up Weekend**

This year we are combining our annual Acton Fair cleanup with a fun event, Spring Fling. Come and camp overnight and help pretty up the barns and foodbooth and stay for some fun. Mark your calendars tentatively for May 3 to May 4. More details are coming about food and times.

## **Fair Season is coming!!**

Just a reminder that we encourage all of our clubs to participate in the Exhibit Hall at Ossipee Valley Fair from July 10 to July 13. Let's fill up the hall and have a GREAT

## **February Birthdays**

William Bellottie  
David Benoit  
Oliver Broadrick  
Eric Carroll  
Seth Geaumont  
Sarah Geaumont  
Jacob Harris  
Mike Joiner  
Eli Knox  
Haley Metcalf  
Isaac Miller  
Carly Osgood  
Abigial Peverill  
Jedidiah Phillips  
Hazen Rogers  
Nicholas Sotir  
Meaghan Wuorio

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!*

showing from York County. It's never too early to start preparing your projects.

## **Acton Fair Novelty Exhibit**

The Novelty Exhibit for the Acton Fair Exhibit Hall will be "Art from Recycled Items" More details will be in the Acton Fair Packets mailed out in July.

## **New Cloverbud Project Records**

We have new project records for Cloverbuds. These project records will replace the "Beginner Project Records". Please download them off of our website or call the office for hard copies.

### Updated Cloverbud webpage

The Cloverbuds web page has been updated. The page is located at: <http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/cloverbuds.htm>, and you can find the updated Maine 4-H Cloverbuds Policy, as well as the 2008 Activity Record and instructions on this page.

### Vaughn Island Camp Brochures

Did you get your information about Vaughn Island? If not call the office or check out <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/york/vaughnislnd/vaughnislnd.htm>

### Animal Approval Form Change

**NEW for 2008** - Rabbits, poultry and small pets (not including dogs) will no longer need to be listed on animal approval forms.

Members must follow all fair rules concerning the number of animals permitted in shows and will be required to present to fair officials any licenses, registration papers, or certificates of health required by fairs or the state of Maine.

### Acton Fair Committee Meeting

All 4-H Leaders are invited to attend the Acton Fair Committee Meeting on February 20 at 7:30 at the Shapleigh Church. This is an important meeting for York County 4-H with the Cloverbud policies taking effect this year. Please try to attend. Your input is needed.

### Essay Contest

*"Why should I care about plants?"* This is the question the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the organizers of the Portland Flower Show are asking kids to respond to in the second annual student essay contest.

This event is jointly sponsored by UMaine Cooperative Extension and the Portland Flower Show and the winners will be announced at the Show's Opening Preview on Wednesday, March 5, 2008.



February 17	Cumberland County 4-H Horse Bowl <a href="http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/resources/horse/cumbhbowl.htm">http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/resources/horse/cumbhbowl.htm</a>
February 17	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Tryouts <a href="http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/resources/dairy/quizbowl.htm">http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/resources/dairy/quizbowl.htm</a>
March 1	Engineering Expo
March 4	Leader Appreciation Dinner
March 29-April 3	National 4-H Conference <a href="http://4hconf.4-h.org/">http://4hconf.4-h.org/</a>
April 1	ESE Horse - Intent to Participate forms due

The Portland Flower Show runs from March 6-9, 2008 at the Portland Company Complex, 58 Fore Street in Portland.

Maine residents between the ages of 6 and 18 are invited to participate in this contest. Three prizes (\$50, \$30 and \$20) will be awarded in three age categories (6 - 9; 10 - 13; and 14 - 18). Essays will be judged on (among other things) creativity, focus, age appropriateness, and passion for topic.

Selected essays will be posted for public viewing for the duration of the Portland Flower Show. For a contest application and rules contact the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County at 1-800-287-1471 or [awitt@umext.maine.edu](mailto:awitt@umext.maine.edu). Applications can also be downloaded from the Portland Flower Show website <http://www.portlandcompany.com/flower>. The deadline for submitting entries is February 25, 2008.

## **Office Supplies for Your Club**

Did you know that the York County office is willing to order office supplies for your club at the discounted price given to the University? If your club needs items like binders or folders, for example, give the office a call and we'll see how much we can save you.

## **Farm Tractor Safety Course for Youth and Adults**

Farm work can be dangerous, but a University of Maine Cooperative Extension tractor safety course will help reduce risks to Maine farmers and farm workers. A farm tractor safety course will be held on 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings starting April 22 at the Maine Forest Service Building on Route 26 (Shaker Road) in Gray.

The practical course has an easy to read manual. Participants' driving skills and knowledge will be tested using tests developed by the University of Maine and Pennsylvania State University.

Individuals will receive practical training in the classroom, in the shop and on tractors. Participants should be at least 13 years of age to receive credit for this certified course. Adults are welcome to participate.

The course is co-sponsored by Cooperative Extension, the Cumberland County Chapter of the Maine Farm Bureau, Hall Implement Co. of Windham, Wescott and Sons of Gorham, Chad Little Outdoor Power Equipment of Brunswick and South Portland, Beauregard Equipment Inc. of Scarborough, Tractor Supply Company of Scarborough and RC Hazelton Company of Cumberland.

More information is available from the Extension Office in Cumberland County at 1-800-287-1471 or visit the web site [www.umext.maine.edu](http://www.umext.maine.edu).

Registration is required, and space is limited to 25 participants.

## **Envirothon**

Envirothon is a problem solving competition that's all about the natural environment. Teams of 3-5 high school students (with 1 advisor and 1 alternate) compete in 5 different areas; soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and a current national issue.

This year's issue is recreational impacts on natural resources. The regional competition for southern Maine will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Wells reserve, and the winners from there will go on to the state finals at Unity College on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Competitors at the state finals are eligible to win a scholarship to the University of Maine at Orono, and could end up going to the national finals in Arizona.

Envirothon is a great opportunity for students to learn about the environment and work with scientists and professionals from all around the state. For more information, visit <http://www.maineswcde.org/envirothon.htm> or e-mail Christopher Dunn, your local resource at the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, at [Chris-Dunn@cumberlandswcd.org](mailto:Chris-Dunn@cumberlandswcd.org), or call him at 892-4700. We hope to see you at the Envirothon!

## **State of Maine Free Fishing Day**

Inland, Fisheries and Wildlife has declared February 16 and 17, 2008 free fishing days. You do not need a Fishing License to fish on these days. Get out and do some Ice Fishing!

## **Scholarships for 4-H'rs**

Are you a Graduating Senior? There are several scholarships available for you. Please check out this site: <http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/youth/scholarships.htm> or contact the office for more information.

## News from the State

### Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

Start making plans now to visit our Nation's Capitol during the week of July 5-12, 2008. Citizenship Washington Focus is a leadership program conducted by the National 4-H Council for high school youth ages 15 to 18. Delegations of 4-Hers from across the country spend six days touring the city and attending leadership skill-building workshops.

This summer, the Maine delegation will leave on Saturday July 5 and return on July 12. You will stay at the National 4-H Conference Center just outside Washington, DC. Visiting the most popular sites in Washington will be a part of the trip.

Contact the Extension office to find out how to apply for this trip. Each county has their own selection process.

### UMaine Day at the Legislature 4-H Honorary Page Program

*UMaine Day at the Legislature*, Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, is quickly approaching. Since legislators like to see 4-H members from their districts, 4-Hers [recommended age 13 or older] are encouraged to serve as Honorary Pages. The Maine 4-H program has reserved 20 spots for Honorary Pages.

*What does a Page do?*

Pages hand out information to Representatives or Senators or place the paper information on their desks. They also hand phone and other messages to Representatives and Senators on the floor. To learn more about what Honorary Pages do, visit the website listed at the end of this article.

If you are interested in serving as a page on March 27<sup>th</sup>, please contact Jane Haskell, Extension educator in Waldo County at 1-800-287-1426 x1013 or [jhaskell@umext.maine.edu](mailto:jhaskell@umext.maine.edu).

She will be serving as the coordinator of the 2008 program. We will attempt to have pages from different parts of the state. Slots, representing different state senators and representatives, will be filled in the order they are received.

If the slot for your legislative district has been filled, your name will be added to a wait list in the order it is received. If you are leaving a message, please be sure to say "*I am interested in serving as a 4-H Page at the Legislature on March 27<sup>th</sup>*".

Your slot will be reserved if you leave your:

- full name
- mailing address
- county
- phone number
- email address
- name of your school
- name of your 4-H club
- name of your State Representative
- name of your Maine State Senator

4-H Honorary Pages will be in the Capitol from 8:30am – 3:00pm. A parent or 4-H volunteer provides transportation and chaperoning. For a complete list of expectations and duties, visit the 4-H Honorary Page Program webpage at [www.umext.maine.edu/Waldo/4H/Pages](http://www.umext.maine.edu/Waldo/4H/Pages).

### Tanglewood 4-H Camp Offers February Vacation Day Camp

Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center, has announced a February Vacation Day Camp for children aged 6-14. The program will be at Tanglewood's Lincolnville campus and will take place on Thursday, February 21st and Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008, from 9am to 2pm. each day. The cost is \$20 per child for one day and \$35 for both days, and all materials and supplies are included (participants must provide own bag lunch).

For more information or to register, contact School Program Director Heather Francis by phone at 207-789-5805 or by e-mail at [hfrancis@umext.maine.edu](mailto:hfrancis@umext.maine.edu).

Participants will take part in a "Winter Ecology Adventure" while learning how to be wildlife trackers, discovering how animals adapt to survive the winter and doing winter tree identification. We will be hiking over two miles while exploring, so be prepared to be active! Snowshoeing will be available for ages nine and above.

### **2008 Brain Power Engineers Week Expo**

Saturday, March 1, 2008 at University of Maine, Orono. For more information go to [www.EngineeringME.com](http://www.EngineeringME.com)  
Cost: \$2.00 per person suggested donation

### **4-H Horse Project News**

Happy New Year to all in the Maine 4H horse project. We would like to remind you of some upcoming dates and ideas. See the Maine 4H website for more information on these.

Study groups will be offered starting in February at several high school sites throughout Maine. This is a chance for you to get together with others and study for the Eastern States Exposition (ESE) tryouts knowledge test or to gain more information for the National teams.

April 1: All animal approval forms must be on file at the county office for ESE participation, and Intent to Participate at the ESE tryouts is also due on April 1. See Maine 4H web page for forms.

A 4H Horse Get-Together Day is being planned for later in March or April. Come meet others and learn about the state events: Maine 4H Days, Eastern States Exposition team, Communications, Horse Judging, Horse Quiz Bowl and Hippology teams.

Eastern States Exposition tryouts: will be open to teen leaders, riders and DRIVERS this year. You may only try out in one area. Packets must be postmarked by May 10. Tryouts will be held June 20, 21, 22 at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds.

### **Maine 4-H Days**

Mark your calendars now for Maine 4-H Days this summer at Windsor Fairgrounds, June 27, 28, and 29. It will be a weekend full of personal enrichment workshops as well as livestock events. Camping is encouraged and entire families are welcome.

### **Meat Goat Seasonal 4-H Project**

Do you want to raise two meat goat kids this year as a 4-H Project? If so, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension is launching a pilot project where 4-Hers purchase castrated buck kids from meat goat producers in Maine for the purpose of raising them to market weight for resale.

If you are interested, you can find more information on the 4-H website at <http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/resources/goat/seasonal.htm>. You can also contact Extension Educator, Richard Brzozowski at 1-800-287-1471 or [rbrz@umext.maine.edu](mailto:rbrz@umext.maine.edu) for more information.

### **National 4-H Trips**

It is time to apply for the National 4-H Trips, **Conference** and **Congress**. To apply please fill out an application and submit your 4-H Story and your Resume. Mail your completed application to the State 4-H Office. Guidelines for writing your 4-H story can be found at <http://www.umext.maine.edu/4h/events.htm> and click on the event you wish to apply for.

You may also pick up an application at your local County Extension office. Nat'l 4-H Congress will be held in November in Atlanta and Nat'l 4-H Conference will be held in Washington DC in March 2009. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2008.

### **4-H EDGE Weekend 2008**

Don't forget to mark your calendars for... The 4-H EDGE Weekend: Connecting Kids to Campus – May 17 and 18, 2008. The 4-H staff is hard at work on plans for this year's

4-H EDGE Weekend. The event promises to be bigger and (dare we say) better than last year! We look forward to a wide variety of workshops for all you 4-H members ages 11-15 along with the on-campus experience that we hope will set you on the track for college!

Sleep in a residence hall, eat at the University Marketplace, take advantage of recreational activities, find out what interesting places are tucked away around the campus, and try out activities related to just some of the many majors and career paths available through the University.

Older youth, ages 16-18, are invited to a day-long set of sessions on Saturday that will prepare you for the college life that is right around the corner for you. Practice some of the skills you will need for admission, learn how to deal with some of the pitfalls of college life such as drug and alcohol abuse and (too) easy credit. Find out how to position yourself to receive scholarships and financial aid. Think the University of Maine is too close to home? Find out how UMaine can be a springboard to study across the nation and around the world!

Of course, there will also be parent workshops. Get comfortable with the admission process. Learn that application for financial aid does not need to be scary or impossible. Find out what your child needs to do to be "scholarship ready".

The registration forms will be ready about the beginning of March so watch the mail and save the date!! Get ready to get "connected to campus".

### **PAWSitively Youth Pre-Printing Specials**

NRAES is preparing to publish *PAWSitively Youth: A Guidebook about Dogs for Community Outreach Leaders*. The guidebook includes science-based information on behavior, anatomy, nutritional needs, breed characteristics, and over population issues that will be useful in developing excellent educational programs for

youth ten and older. It will be available in March 2008.

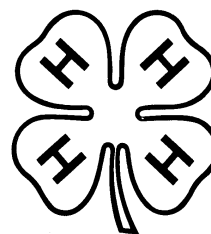
For more information, including a two-page flier, sample pages, and a table of contents, go to [www.nraes.org](http://www.nraes.org). You can place your order for books or sponsorship on NRAES secure web site. You can place your order for books or sponsorship on the NRAES secure web site

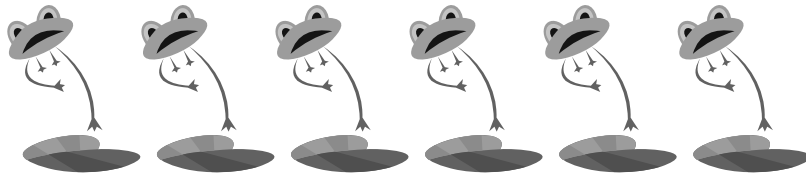
### **Congratulations to Maine 4-H Dairy Judging Teams**

This year two 4-H Dairy Judging Teams represented Maine at national competitions. The first team went to the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, September 28 to October 3, 2007. The 4-Hers were Alison Moon of Freeport, Alyssa Kenny of Gray, Jessyca Rankin of Cornish, and Devon Dekoschak of Levant. Leanne Moon and Chris Kimball were their coaches.

The second dairy judging team participated in the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky November 3 and 4, 2007. Holly Whitcomb (Waldo, ME), Alan O'Brien (Windham, ME), Marjorie and Andrew Hardy (Farmington, ME) proudly competed as the Maine 4H Dairy Judging team. Betsy Bullard, Mary Briggs, and Henry Hardy coached the team in preparation for these National competitions.

The team finished 16<sup>th</sup> out of thirty one 4-H dairy judging teams.





## Leap Year Synchs with Stars

This year is one where February has an extra day. This bonus day, February 29, 2008, gets us back on track with the stars and seasons. Our calendar is synchronized with astrological events and the Earth's seasons, which do not repeat at an exact number of full days. Yet, our calendar has a fixed number of days with the exact same number of hours in each day. Over time, little by little, the calendar drifts out of alignment, and the extra day in a leap year (approximately every four years) resynchs the calendar.



### How to know if a year will be a Leap Year:



Leap Years are any year that can be **evenly divide by 4** (such as 2004, 2008, etc)



except if it can be **evenly divide by 100**, then it won't be (such as 2100, 2200, etc)



**except if** it can be **evenly divide by 400**, then it will be (such as 2000, 2400)

### Why?

Because the Earth rotates about **365.242375** times a year but a normal year is **365** days, so something has to be done to "catch up" the extra **0.242375** days a year.

So every 4th year we add an extra day (the 29th of February), which makes **365.25** days a year. This is fairly accurate, but will still be wrong by about 1 day every 100 years.

So every 100 years we **don't** have a leap year, and that results in **365.24** days per year (1 day less in 100 year = -0.01 days per year).

**Still not accurate enough!** So another rule says that every 400 years **is** a leap year again. This gets us **365.2425** days per year (1 day regained every 400 years = 0.0025 days per year), which is close enough to **365.242375** not to matter much.

### So, which Are and Aren't?

So 1600, 2000 and 2400 **are** leap years but 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200 and 2300 **are not**.

Apart from that, **every year divisible by 4** (2004, 2008, 2012, etc.) is a leap year.