What’s Coming Up?

We have many events coming up that are likely to interest every horse enthusiast. Read on to discover more about these activities and think about adding them to your calendar!

February 1-2: MQHA/4-H Horse Judging Workshop
A great opportunity for horse judging teams to practice, or to just get an idea what a judging team is all about! Friday evening’s workshop will provide information on the basics of evaluating stock-type Halter classes, and developing a set of reasons. Saturday morning, participants will have the chance to judge high quality Quarter horses, and deliver a set of reasons. Each class will be critiqued by officials, and tips will be given on improving your reasons. We have divisions for Junior (9-13 yrs), Senior (14-19 yrs) and coaches or adults!

February 2: MQHA/4-H Benefit Clinic
This year’s clinic will focus on “Preparing the Pleasure Horse”. The clinician will be professional trainer and AQHA Judge and Professional Horsemanship Derek Hanscombe of Nova Scotia, Canada. Mr. Hanscombe will work with a select group of MI 4-H riders, while interacting with audience members to help troubleshoot common problems found in pleasure horses. Topics will include exercises to prepare for the show ring, improving your horse’s pace, effective horse and rider communication, and conditioning the show horse. Audience questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome to audit the clinic (tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door). We hope to see you there!

March 27th: Norma Agnew Memorial MSU Hairy Horse Show
This event is your opportunity to participate in a warm-up show, all while receiving valuable feedback from actual judges! Space is limited and you must have a stall to participate.

April 9th: Spotlight on Speed!
Are you looking for an opportunity to get your horse out and warmed up for the season? Hoping to shave a few tenths off your best run? This warm-up clinic/show is a great chance to get some coaching and feedback on technique in your gymkhana events. Space is limited and you must have a stall to participate.

April 19-20: Equine Education Expo
Formally known as the “State 4-H Horse Jamboree”, this event focuses on giving MI 4-H members a venue to share their equine expertise! This event includes the state-level contests for Horse Judging, Horse Bowl and Hippology, Public Speaking and Demonstration. Teams competing in the Horse Bowl portion will have qualified at their regional event. Additionally this event provides young people the opportunity to qualify for national equine events!

To learn more about ANY of these events, and many others, check out our website (http://www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth_extension_programs) for more information!
### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 16-18</td>
<td>4-H Teen Horse Leaders Conference</td>
<td>Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11-13</td>
<td>MSU Horsemens’s Assn Weekend Clinics, horse show &amp; more!</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion <a href="http://www.msu.edu/~msuha/">www.msu.edu/~msuha/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1-2</td>
<td>4-H Horse Judging Workshop</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<td>February 15-17</td>
<td>MSU Spartan Stampede Rodeo</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>North Regional Horse Bowl Contest</td>
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<td>U.P. Regional Horse Bowl Contest</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>South Regional Horse Bowl Contest</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Spring Galaxy Planning Meetings</td>
<td>MSU—Anthony Hall</td>
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<td>March 8-10</td>
<td>MHC Stallion Expo</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Norma Agnew Memorial MSU Hairy Horse Show/Clinic</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Spotlight on Speed Show/Clinic</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<td>April 19-20</td>
<td>Equine Education Expo</td>
<td>MSU, Anthony Hall &amp; Pavilion</td>
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**NEW & EXCITING!!**

**Equine Education Expo**

*April 19-20, 2013*

*MSU, East Lansing, MI*

Be sure to attend this can’t-miss event! This event will be replacing the previously titled “State 4-H Horse Jam-boree”. All Michigan 4-H youth with an interest in horses should take advantage of this great learning and networking opportunity. This 2-day event will hold the state-level contests for the following areas:

- **Hippology**
- **Public Speaking**
- **Demonstrations**

Youth can participate on a team, or as an individual. Only those participating on Horse Bowl teams are required to participate in a Regional event.

While participating in the contests, youth will have the opportunity to share their equine knowledge and skill, and potentially qualify for national equine contests. See the article on page 3 to discover more about how Michigan 4-H youth performed this year that those national contests!

That’s right, we have a new facebook page! Hop on over to [www.facebook.com/MI4HHorseLeaders](http://www.facebook.com/MI4HHorseLeaders) and “like” our page. We hope to keep this page current, informative and interactive!
While fall weather typically reminds us that it will soon be snowy and cold, Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project members are heating up national Equine education contests. Any 4-H member enrolled in a Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony project has the opportunity to share their knowledge through; horse bowl, hippology, horse judging, public speaking, individual demonstration and team demonstration. By competing at the State 4-H Horse Jamboree on the campus of Michigan State University in April, Michigan 4-H youth may earn the opportunity to represent our great state at one of three national 4-H contests.

Each year in mid-October, Michigan 4-H’ers travel to the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. This year Michigan had some very impressive results, Samantha Ludlam from Allegan County was eighth place in Public Speaking, Alyssa Tomei from Oakland County placed ninth in Individual Presentation and Emma Johnson, also from Oakland County, finished in 14th place. Horse bowl teams from Calhoun and Genesee Counties also had strong showings. Michigan was also well represented in the Hippology division by a team from Berrien County.

Additionally, each year at the beginning of November, more than 330 of the nation’s most knowledgeable 4-H Horse Program members head to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, an annual event hosted by the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky. Michigan 4-H was once again well-represented in several contest areas. The Hippology team from Berrien County proved to be strong competitors as did the Horse Bowl team from Leelanau County. Michigan was represented in the Public Speaking division by Shannon Ervin of Oakland County and in Individual Demonstration by Santana Mosher of Cass County. The horse judging team from Oakland County was crowned Reserve Champion team overall, they also received Reserve team in the Halter division, sixth in the Performance division, and seventh in Oral Reasons.

Lastly, although Michigan 4-H did not send a team in 2012, there is also an opportunity for 4-H horse judging teams to travel to Tulsa, Okla. to attend the U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show in late October.

Once again, a big congratulations goes to all of the hard-working Michigan 4-H youth that represented the Michigan 4-H Equine program at these national events. If you are interested in learning more about any of these MSU Extension sponsored events and activities visit the MSU Horse Youth Programs webpage or contact Taylor Fabus.

For a complete listing of results:

All-American Quarter Horse Congress Contests:
- Horse Bowl
- Hippology
- Horse Judging
- Communications Contests

AND
- Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup
Time for a Word Search!

Putting Social Media to Work for You!

Many popular social media platforms can be excellent ways to communicate, share information and publicize your MSU Extension Program! Explore how you can safely use social media to enhance your extension programs!

By Taylor Fabus, M.S.

With over 900 million active users, the most popular of all the social media platforms is Facebook (www.facebook.com). Besides catching up with old friends and sharing cute pictures, Facebook can be a very useful marketing and information sharing platform. This free website allows users to set up a profile and connect with friends who share common interests. You can set-up an Event Page for an upcoming 4-H or Extension activity. This feature allows you to invite other Facebook users to the event, share pictures and information, as well as quickly notify all attendees of any changes to the event. Additionally, Facebook allows users to establish pages and groups. These are another way to publicize an activity or spread the news about the wonderful things you’re doing in your Extension program. With permission, you may also highlight 4-H members and their accomplishments and encourage interaction with all of those involved in the page or group. We’ve recently created a facebook page for all MI 4-H Horse & Pony Project Leaders, be sure to “like” the page to stay up to date with our programs and events!

Twitter (www.twitter.com) is gaining in popularity across the nation. With over 140 million users, Twitter offers the opportunity to quickly share small pieces of information. “Tweets” can be a maximum of 140 characters which prevents long-winded users from over-sharing! Developing a Twitter account may be just the way to send out quick reminders and updates about upcoming club meetings or activities.

YouTube (www.YouTube.com) is a social media website centered around videos. Users can easily upload or view videos at no charge. If used appropriately YouTube can be a fantastic resource for useful, educational and even entertaining videos! The website is organized by channels allowing you to search for topics of interest. There are a plethora of instructional videos on anything from preparing your 4-H project animal for show to developing oral reasons for livestock judging, and even Robert’s Rules of Order for club meetings. These videos are a great supplemental resource to use while working with existing 4-H curriculum! Visit the YouTube channel for Michigan State University’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources: http://www.youtube.com/user/MSUANR. Visit this YouTube Channel for many useful equine-related videos: www.youtube.com/exhorses.

A fairly new website that is increasing in popularity is Pinterest (www.pinterest.com). Pinterest’s mission is to connect people through the things they find interesting via inspiration and idea sharing. Pinterest is a photo sharing website that allows users to create and manage theme-based image collections (Pinboards) such as recipes, events, interests, hobbies, and more. Users can browse other Pinboards for inspiration, ‘re-pin’ images to their own Pinboards or ‘like’ photos. Pinterest can make difficult tasks much easier by providing creative ideas for activities like stall decorating, craft projects, sewing, and pot lucks. Even better yet, each pin/photo is linked with instructions on how to create what you see in the picture (i.e. a recipe, craft, etc.) or where to purchase the product.

As with anything on the internet it is crucial to be safe and responsible with the information that you share. If used appropriately, social media can be a very positive resource. For more information on internet safety visit this great resource: http://www.netsmartz.org/internetsafety
Horsey Humor >>>

I CAN'T HEAR YOU! SPEAK UP!!!

I'M TRYING, BUT I'M A LITTLE HORSE.

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue
What’s Coming Up
Calendar of Events
Springtime Warm Ups
4-H Spotlight
And MORE!!

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