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!

April 19-20: 4-H Equine Educational Expo
This event includes the state-level contests for Horse Judging, Horse Bowl and Hippology. 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 4-H Horse Judging, Horse Bowl and Hippology events!

June 19-20: 4-H Exploration Days
Develop and expand career and personal interests. Explore the MSU Campus. Make a friend that’s not just on Facebook. Eat some famous MSU Dairy Store ice cream. All of these things can be done at 4-H Exploration Days!

Every year, approximately 2,500 youth and chaperones from every Michigan county (or close to it), come stay at MSU for 4-H Exploration Days. This really fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life!

This year we will be holding many exciting equine-related sessions; Hoof Care for your Horse, Equine Welfare Assessment, Bio-security on the Farm, Intro to Competitive Horse Judging, Trail Riding 101 and Communication with your Horse.

June 21-23: State 4-H Trail Ride
Have you ever been to the State 4-H Trail Ride? Recently? If not, (or of course if you have), think about attending this year! The 2012 State 4-H Trail Ride is June 22-24. This is a fun-filled event that YOU should add to your calendar this summer! Don’t have a horse? No worries! There are plenty of activities for non-riders. Plan on attending to meet other horse-enthusiasts, camp, and make great memories. This is a great event for the whole family to share! Read the story on page 2 for more details.

Camping fees and all meals are included with your low registration fee. Call your local county extension office for registration details. Registration deadline is Monday, May 23rd.

August 9-11: State 4-H Horse Show
Over 550 youth from the four corners of Michigan will be travelling to East Lansing, MI to participate in this annual, 3-day event! Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in the show. Competing at the show and being able to represent their county is an honor for the youth involved!

Stop by the MSU Pavilion to visit this event (which is FREE to spectators). There will be plenty of great opportunities to watch Michigan 4-H youth demonstrate their skills with their equine partners! Of course, the shopping is great too!

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!
That’s right, we have a facebook page! Hop on over to www.facebook.com/MI4HHorseLeaders and “like” our page. We hope to keep this page current, informative and interactive!

ask the experts>>> This question and response was taken from the Frequently Asked Questions on www.extension.org/horses

Q: What is the P Index?

A: The P Index is the Phosphorus Index, a risk assessment tool to quantify the potential for phosphorus runoff from a field. The P Index helps to target critical source areas of potential P loss for greater management attention. It includes source and transport factors. Source factors address how much P is available (for example, soil test P level and P fertilizer and manure application amounts). Transport factors evaluate the potential for runoff to occur (for example, soil erosion, distance and connectivity to water, soil slope, and soil texture). The P Index allows for relative comparisons of P runoff risk. When the P Index is high, recommendations are made either to apply manure on a P basis or not to apply manure at all. When the P Index is low, manure can be applied on a N basis. Also, if the P Index is high, the factors that are responsible for the higher risk of P loss are identified, and this information provides guidance for management practices to reduce the risk. For example, if the P Index is high because of high soil erosion, a recommendation to implement soil conservation best management practices (BMPs) may lower the risk and allow safe manure application.

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:

- Horse Bowl
- Horse Judging
- 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!
Join Us at the State 4-H Trail Ride!

The 2013 State 4-H Trail ride will be an event you won’t want to miss! The State 4-H Trail Ride Committee is excited to announce that it’s returning to Whiskey Creek Campground in Custer, MI. With this venue comes many new activities and amenities! This is an event for the whole family!

Whiskey Creek Campground is located on 80 wooded acres and surround by 22,000 acres of Manistee National Forest and 100’s of miles of trail systems.

Whiskey Creek Campground’s 16,000 sq ft lodge includes a lounge, a large in-door heated pool with hot tub, a patio, game area, laundry mat, banquette hall, a general store and ice cream shop.

We’ll be including even more educational activities for our youth attendees (including crafts and science projects!) and with the lodge, we’ll have a place to get together, rain or shine! This is a weekend for more than just the trail riding enthusiast, we encourage all MI 4-H members to attend, as the camaraderie **with or without horses** will be fantastic! For those of you bringing horses there will be ample opportunity to ride along the beautiful trails of Northern Michigan.

**The camping area allows for picketing horses. Here the horses enjoy a beautiful view of the pond!**

**The lodge allows for a great place for meals, making friends, building crafts, and other learning opportunities (even if the weather doesn’t cooperate)!**

**Time to live out that childhood fantasy. Join us at the giant slip & slide into the pond!**

As always, your registration fee will cover your camping fees and meals for the entire weekend (extra fees apply for campsites with **electric** hookup).

*For more details visit our website ([www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth_extension_programs](http://www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth_extension_programs))