Greetings from Passaic County 4-H! I hope all of you are fairing well this beautiful winter. Before you know it, bees will be buzzing, plants will be budding, and spring will be rolling around in no time. A lot has happened this season at Passaic County 4-H.

As we ended 2011, Passaic County 4-H reported over 300 youth participants in our after-school programming, nearly tripling the amount from 2010! There was a significant growth in our 4-H club program as well, growing close to 23% from 2010! We would like to thank all of our 4-H club members, leaders and families along with our program partners, for your endless support and contribution to 4-H. We are excited about our success, and anticipate reaching more youth and developing more relationships throughout Passaic County.

In December, club leaders, members, and family all gathered for our annual Awards Night/Holiday Dinner. Many were awarded pins and certificates for their years of dedication and participation in 4-H. We are thankful to everyone who attended and contributed their time and helping hands to the event. The night would not have been the same without all your help. Also, a special thanks to the United Methodist Church of Wayne for continuing to offer their space.

In January, some of our teens also attended the Teen Winter Camp. We finally got to see some snow this winter as our teens were able to enjoy a time of camaraderie and fun with Bergen, Somerset, and Warren County 4-Hers.

With spring quickly approaching, Passaic County 4-H is preparing for several events: Passaic County’s Bring Your Child to Work Day, 2012 Public Presentations, and 2012 North Jersey Teen Conference.

As my service term is coming to an end as an AmeriCorps VISTA, I want to thank everyone at Passaic County 4-H for giving me such a memorable experience. Passaic County 4-H has fostered growth and learning, as I have gained valuable knowledge I can continue to carry with me.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead

Madalyn Lee
Happenings

Winter 2012

2011 Awards Night & Holiday Dinner

Our 4-H family came together in December to celebrate the accomplishments of our club members and leaders. It was a great time filled with merriment and great food as we reminisced about the past year.

Welcome and Good Luck to our newest Club Leaders

36 years with 4-H! We are so proud of you Mike!

Congratulations to Colleen on her first year as a 4-H Club Leader

Welcome and Good Luck to our newest Club Leaders

15 years with 4-H Congrats Linda!

Club Updates

Power Paws

We have been having a great time in the Power Paws! Our dogs have been practicing making jumps and going through tunnels. They are improving every week! Our dogs always make us laugh when they are learning new things. Their personalities shine through - especially their fears and their playfulness! We also have a great time watching Paula, our instructor, with her dog Ella. Ella always sets a great example for the other dogs. Now we are getting ready for a 4-H dog show in Somerset County...wish us luck!

Preakness Aggies

The Preakness Aggies have been busy, we had a Holiday Party in December, volunteered in a nursing home, made Christmas Ornaments, and made personal dinner plates. We are now going to start working on our Presentations, and if we get enough snow we plan on going snow tubing. We meet the first and third Friday of the month, for more information call Julia Semeraro, President at (973) 696-1317
The Hoofers congratulate 3 of our Club Officers on becoming Teen Leaders. Ali Mahasky President, Natalia Dashnow Vice President and Amy Pfeiffer Treasurer and Safety Officer are the members receiving this recognition. Our officers have been giving clinics to our younger members and those who have less experience. By giving lessons the girls are honing their leadership and public speaking skills. We thank them for all their wonderful instruction and for being the backbone of The Hoofers. Ali and Natalia have been with us 7 years since the club started. When they joined the club they had no horse experience. Amy's interest in horses started at age 5. She did chores at stables in consideration for lessons. This past summer Amy leased Karl's quarter horse "Story" and had a very successful show season winning the title of Youth Circuit Campion at an American Quarter Horse (AQHA) show. They all took it upon themselves to go to the barn and learn the ropes over the years. The Hoofers are very proud of our Teen Leaders. Their perseverance and hard work earned them their Teen Leadership titles.

February 7th is a big day for The Hoofers. We will be introducing 4 new families to the club and we'll be having a riding lesson. The Hoofers will be welcoming Breann and Cathy Stackhouse, Katie and Julie Raudenbush, Brittany and Katie LaTour and Amada, Julie and Brian Fanning. The new families couldn't start at a better time than our riding lesson meeting. Our Teen Leaders will be behind the scenes brushing, tacking up and preparing our members for riding. Lessons are the highlight of the year and all our members always look forward to it.

It's a new 4-H year as of September and it's time for The Hoofers to put together their club presentations. It was fantastic last year when every member of the club participated. Our President Ali went on to give county and then state presentations. Amy our Treasurer & Safety officer gave a great county presentation as well. Both girls were awarded blue ribbons at county for "Excellent" rankings of their presentations. Way to go and lead the way girls! This year we're looking forward to many more Hoofers participation in county and state presentations.

I'd like to recognize and thank our club members for working so hard on honing their horsemanship skills. Everyone gets very involved and excited when we hold our hands on clinics and especially our riding lessons. You can just taste the passion our kids have for horses. I couldn't be working with a better combination of absolutely fantastic parents and members. Let's put our best foot forward and continue to enjoy another year with The Hoofers.

In closing I’d like to thank all our members and parents for the beautiful beveled glass head gift they gave me the last meeting. It's found its place in a prominent window of my home. There's nothing nicer than a thank you and recognition by our club. I thank you all.
Club Update— I See For You Puppy Club

In November, we welcomed five new pups; four new German Shepherds named Ensign, Fiona, Foxy and Alice, and a black Labrador named Harley. Our club pups have been doing lots of demonstrations lately including two elementary schools, various brownie troops and Boy Scout troops totaling over 1,000 children in the last month! Demos like these are excellent for the pups so they learn to be around large groups of children. In December, our club attended the Pompton Lakes Holiday Stroll. Puppies Sayrs, Dawn, Damen, Kristen, Allison, Fulton, Foxy & Fiona all benefited from this experience since the Holiday Stroll included loud noises, crowds, marching band noise, and distractions like other dogs. Also in December, puppies Dawn, Damen, Fulton and Kristen all enjoyed a showing of “White Christmas” at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Mullburn, NJ. The puppies finished out the year by donating to Toys for Tots. Fulton and Damen attended the Toys for Tots – Toy Train where the club members donated toys and the puppies were allowed to board the train – excellent exposure for the dogs! In February, Fantastic Sams in Kinnelon held a cut-a-thon to sponsor our club. They presented our club with a generous donation and all of our puppies enjoyed the day at the salon. Thank you Fantastic Sams!

Time for some bragging!.... Emerald passed formal training in November and her raisers were invited to her graduation town walk. Shortly after graduation in November, Emerald was placed with a woman from Texas in December 2011. Puffin passed formal training in December, had her graduation town walk, and was placed with a woman from Washington in January 2012. Congrats to our girls, Emerald and Puffin, as they are now working Seeing Eye® Dogs. We wish them a long and healthy working life with their new forever person. Specs also passed formal training recently and is hoping to find his forever person soon! Good luck to Specs! Sayrs returned to The Seeing Eye in January and Fulton returned in February. Once Sayrs and Fulton are altered and pass their medical tests, they will be assigned to a trainer and start learning how to guide.

The NJ Devils are offering discounted tickets to select games: 12/23, 1/19, 2/5, 2/26 and 3/11. Support The Seeing Eye by purchasing discounted tickets to select games. Seeing Eye® puppies are welcome to attend any of the games. Discounted tickets are $45 and include a $10 food and beverage card for each ticket purchased. $10 from each ticket sold will benefit The Seeing Eye. Seeing Eye Night (March 11th) will include demons with Seeing Eye® dogs and puppies in training, NJ Devils Mystery Puck Sale, and Seeing Eye giveaways! www.seeingeye.org/devils for more details. Fiona and her raiser enjoyed a game verses the Pittsburgh Penguins and most of our club pups plan to attend Seeing Eye Night in March.
During these winter months, the Teen Crusaders have been very active. They have been doing fun events along with service events. In the month of December, the Teen Crusaders attended the Annual Award’s Night and Holiday dinner. There they were awarded certificates and pins based on how many years they’ve been with 4-H. The night was one filled with joy, laughter, and a wonderful feast. The Teen Crusaders also got together during their own winter break and had a pancake brunch and went to the Ice Vault in Wayne to ice skate together. It was a fun event with friends, perfect for the winter time. By the end of the day even those who didn’t know how to ice skate, started to and the falls were minimized.

Starting the New Year off, the Teen Crusaders got together to attend Teen Winter Camp with 4-Hers from Bergen, Somerset, and Warren! It was a fun filled weekend where we went snow tubing, watched movies, and played games. Everyone had a blast getting to know each other and hanging out for the whole weekend. Teen Crusaders welcomed 2 new members Nileema and Zhara. Each member got to bring a friend with them to the meeting in hopes of growing our club. We saw many new faces and had fun getting to know each other. For this upcoming year, we have many new ideas for events we hope to start, such as an Easter Egg Hunt, new volunteering opportunities, and so much more!
Club Update — West Milford Velveteen’s

This has been a busy time for the Velveteen’s! We are excited to have received our official 4-H charter, and had a bonfire party to celebrate our new status and make maple syrup. After the State Fire Marshall John Carbone visited our farm and told us a good location for the fire pit, and gave us a two-week bonfire permit, George used the tractor to clear the area out. The week before, each club-member had tapped a maple tree by drilling a 7/16th's drill bit at an upward angle to the tree, and gently hammered a "tap" into the tree. The sap ran well all week, and ran out of the trunk through a hose into a gallon jug. We had gallons of sap boiling down on a gas burner during the campfire. Maple syrup will be made at the end of the process.

In January, the kids had one meeting at beautiful Camp Hope, where James lives. The next meeting The Velveteen’s visited the West Milford Animal Shelter for a behind-the-scenes tour of the cattery, the dog yard, and the new construction. The children got to meet the health officer for the animals, who also happens to be the mayor of West Milford, Bettina Bieri. The club adopted the WMAS Shelter as a community service project and delivered a basket of goodies, bleach, and supplies for the animals. There were 6 beautiful rabbit does available for adoption at the shelter. Every child wanted one to take home.

Our club has spent the winter planning a raised-bed children's "bunny garden". Each member will have 3 "plots" made from stacked tires to be donated by Richie Gomm Tire. One tire will have a root crop growing inside, another will have lettuce or other appropriate rabbit food and the last will be a vine crop. Already, club-members have each brightly painted some of the garden implements, and are looking forward to seeing how festive this garden will look. Last Monday, some club-members met at Rocky Hazelman Farm's greenhouse. Rocky donated seeds, dirt, and "cells" so the kids could plant lettuce in jiffy pots, two romaine and two leaf varieties for their future "bunny garden". The kids will return several times to document their outcomes with special paperwork provided by Mr. Hazelman. Hopefully, there will be some agricultural entries in our 4-H fair!

4-H Afterschool

Currently, Passaic County 4-H is implementing two 4-H programs throughout Paterson: Get Moving - Get Healthy and 4-H Science Programming. Our current sites include: Riverside Terrace Housing Development, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, New Roberto Clemente, School 4, and School 13. Get Moving - Get Healthy with New Jersey 4-H is designed for students in grades 2 to 6 where youth learn about and practice good nutrition and physical activity habits. The GMGH program is an interactive and fun way to learn healthy eating habits, portion sizes, and simple exercises. In our science program, youth have been participating in hands-on projects like Wiring a House, Making Oobleck, Architecture through Legos, Marshmallow Towers, and much more. Given the right guidance, there is no end to how long some children will explore all the different ways simple materials can be used for science. As always, we value our partnerships with Paterson’s community organizations and treasure the privilege of shaping these young minds.
Upcoming Events

March 2012

March 9th — 11th — North Jersey Teen Conference, Clinton, NJ

March 24th — 29th — National 4-H Conference, Chevy Chase, MD (Marycarmen will be chaperoning)

March 24th — State 4-H Equine Presentation, Columbus, NJ

April 2012

April 6th — Good Friday, Office Closed

April 20th — Public Presentation Night, Wayne, NJ

April 21st — 4-H Rutgerscience Saturday (Astronomy)

April 28th — Rutgers Day, Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ

PUBLIC PRESENTATION NIGHT

Public Presentation Night is right around the corner time to sharpen your public speaking skills and get ready to display your latest project in front of the 4-H community. Friday April 20th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the United Methodist Church 99 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ. Set up begins at 6:00 p.m., presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation Types

☆ Demonstrations, (including team Demonstrations)
☆ Illustrated Talk
☆ Formal Speech
☆ Performing Arts

Presentation Tips!

☆ Remember stay within the time limits; 5 minutes minimum - 15 maximum ; Cloverbuds 3-7 minutes
☆ Make it fun; Public Presentations are to help you become more comfortable talking in front of groups so pick a subject that you want to share with everyone.
☆ Practice, Practice, Practice; ask your club members or family to watch you present and give you some pointers. Just make sure the first time you present is not public presentation night!
☆ Don’t forget to introduce yourself; it okay to be nervous but make sure you let everyone know who you are!
☆ Speak slowly & clearly; don’t rush, you will be judged on your knowledge and presence not speed.
☆ Make eye contact & smile; it will put you and the audience at ease.
☆ Don’t forget to ask your audience if they have any questions, and be prepared to answer them.
☆ Keep it simple; don’t try to overcomplicate your presentation.

To register your Public Presentation, speak with your club leader.
Happenings In The Community

4-H Arts & Nature Day Camp

- This summer Passaic County 4-H is introducing a new and fun program: the 4-H Arts and Nature Day Camp. Join us as we spend a fun-filled week exploring the wonders of nature and art.
- **Dates:** June 25—June 29, 2012
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
- **Location:** The Rea House at picturesque Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne, NJ
- **Who:** Children in grades 1—5
- **Cost:** $150/child
- **Activities will include:** scavenger hunts, nature walks, gardening, arts & crafts, outdoor recreation and much more!

For camper registration materials please contact the Passaic County 4-H office

Phone: 973-684-4786 or Email: passaic4h@aesop.rutgers.edu

4-H Needs You!

- Passaic County 4-H is looking for some fun-loving teen and adult volunteers to assist at this year’s summer day camp
- **Adult volunteers will specialize in leading activities**
- **Teen volunteers are needed to be camp counselors**
- Interested teen volunteers must contact Passaic County 4-H by April 1, 2012
- Interested adult volunteers must contact Passaic County 4-H by May 15, 2012
Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp

Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp is located in the heart of Stokes State Forest in Sussex County, NJ. You will enjoy 100 acres of beautiful forest in the Kittatinny Mt. Range. Affordable Sessions are one week in length and open to those completing 3rd—10th grade. Enrollment is open to all youth, even if they are not a 4-H member!

For more information contact; Call: 973-948-3550 Email: 4hcamp@njaes.rutgers.edu

S.E.T. Camp: June 26 - June 29 - Campers in 5th – 8th grade will be spending four days focused hands-on science, engineering and technology fun.

Session One: July 2 - 7: Patriot Week - It is going to be a party in the USA as we celebrate our country from sea to shining sea.

Session Two: July 9 - 14 Down on the Farm - Experience life on the farm with our barnyard games. And don't forget fun on the farm with line dancing at the hoe down and a county fair.

Session Three: July 16 - 21 Decade Week - Come to decade week for a chance to experience ALL the fads and trends of the last few decades. Sock hops, afro's, Woodstock, break dancing and more!

Session Four: July 23 - 28 Everyday is a Holiday! - A different holiday each day! Come help us deck the halls and trick or treat during the dog days of summer.

Session Five: July 20 - August 4 Chaos Week - A week where everything comes with a twist, it might be dinner for breakfast one day or making your counselor into a human sundae the next.

Session Six: August 6 - 11 Book Week - If you like to get LOST in the fantasy worlds of reading, you will FIND fun at camp during Book Week.

Teen Week : Aug. 22 - 27 - Come to camp and do all the normal camp stuff with just teens! Campers must be 14 by 1/1/12 and no older than 17 by 8/13/12

Rifle Camp Park — Nature Center

Located adjacent to Garret Mountain Reservation, Rifle Camp Park is a major recreational component of the Passaic County park system. For information & directions Call 973-523-0024

Public nights at the Astronomical Observatory

☆ Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Orion Nebula — March 2nd  8:00pm
☆ Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Orion Nebula — March 16th  8:00pm
☆ Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Orion Nebula — March 30th  8:00pm
☆ Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Alcor & Mizar — April 13th  8:00pm
☆ Moon, Venus, Mars, Saturn, Alcor & Mizar — April 27th  8:00pm
☆ Venus, Mars, Saturn, Alcor & Mizar — May 11th  8:30pm

Children's Workshop

☆ Paper Airplanes — Saturday March 24th  1:00-3:00pm
☆ Gardening — Saturday April 28th  1:00pm-3:00pm
☆ Hiking — Saturday May 19th  1:00pm-3:00pm

Look for the Spring issue of 4-H Happenings in April
READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
It’s never too late to help. We are now seeking motivated individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of youth. To learn how you can help please contact:
Marycarmen Kunicki—passaic4h@rce.rutgers.edu or call 973-684-4786

Other Ways to Connect With 4-H
National 4-H Website: http://4-h.org
New Jersey 4-H: http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/4-h
On Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/4H

4-H Passaic County Newsletter
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Kenneth Faillace
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4-H Youth Development Program
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Madalyn Lee
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RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY
The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For additional information, contact: 973-684-4786 or nj4h.rutgers.edu. Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583.