



4-H Family News

Allegan County

NOVEMBER 2022



4-H Awards Celebration Highlights 11/5/2022

Look inside for details on honoring these folks

4-H Teen Leaders of the Year - Jack Allen, Kaylee Horton

4-H Teen Above and Beyond – Noel Vanderbilt

4-H County Award Beef & Horse – Sawyer Maurer

4-H County Award Horse & Sheep – Lena Germain

4-H County Award Horse – Abigail Allen

4-H Alumni Award – Vicki Swainston

Honoring Those 4-H Leaders that passed

Friend of 4-H Award - Dorr Septic and The Deer Barn

4-H Club of the Year – Watson Wranglers 4-H Club

4-H Team Leaders Award – Kevin and Amy Germain

Above and Beyond Award – Kim Marcus

4-H Leader of the Year – Mindy Laarman

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4-H Leaders Years of Service

1 YEAR OF SERVICE

Jeff Brinkhuis
Jennifer Brinkhuis
Laura Christophel
Danielle Cole
Tonia Cook
Cara DePree
Kerisa Desimone
Carianne Endert-Klaasen
Rosemary Graham
Kayla Jager-Smith
Jacquelyn King
Cynthia Merica
Anie Modreske
Izie Modreske
Lucas Schmidt
Tricia Shelton
Katrina Tucker
Kecia Visser

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Amanda Morse
Susan Ostrom
Rachael Veld

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tracey DeWeerd
Heather Kossen
Stephanie Meert-Huff
Ami Oliver
Tamara Smith

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Paul Balgoyen
Emily Berens
Jennifer Clark
Barry Gillhespy
Pamela Slinkman
Kerry Tucker

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Angela Boeske
Melissa Hiemstra

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dawn Dubbink
Victor Dubbink

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bonnie Luft

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Don Berens
Teri Boeve
Donna VanderKolk

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary Ann Schlack

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

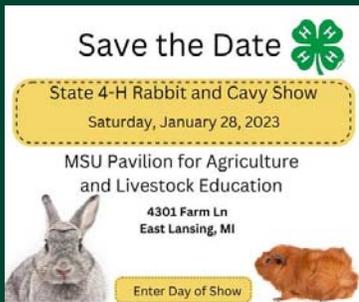
Allegan County 4-H November 2022 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 4-H Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration The Linking Center, Pullman
6 Set Your Clocks Back 	7 4-H Horse Leaders mtg. 7pm, Zoom or Russo's	8 	9	10	11  OFFICE CLOSED	12 4-H Creative Arts Workshop Nov. 11-13 at Ralph A MacMullan Center, Roscommon 4-H Horse Year End awards 5:30pm Camp Kidwell
13	14	15 4-H Council Mtg. 6:30pm, Zoom	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 4-H Leader training 7-9 Zoom (RSVP)	23	24  OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 	28	29 4-H Leader training 7-9 Zoom (RSVP)	30			



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show



The State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show will be held on January 28, 2023, at the MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education in East Lansing.

This one-day event is open to participants age 8 to 19.

Participants must enter the day of the show.

To be eligible to enter, exhibitors must be Michigan 4-H members and own the rabbits or cavies they wish to enter.

For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/state-4-h-rabbit-cavy-show-2023>.

November 3: 4-H in the Kitchen – Whodunit Edition

Baldwin, Scottville or online

Get your sleuth on and explore a world of mystery, intrigue, and espionage. 4-H in the Kitchen will explore the world of forensic science by learning how to prepare a pair of dishes inspired by some of the best mystery writers of the past 30 years. This will be a hybrid workshop so participants will have the option of attending in person or virtually.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-whodunit-edition>

November 8: Wild Spartans – Exploring Michigan's Largest State Park

Online

Take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! 4-H Wild Spartans Series will hike to the heights of the Porcupine Mountains and along the shores of Lake Superior as we meet Katie Urban, interpreter for the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free online series is open to youth ages 12-19.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-november-2022>

November 17: 4-H Entrepreneurship Guidelines and Resource Training

Online

Do you want to learn more about how to run an entrepreneurship club? Do you have questions about how to handle the income and profits from an entrepreneurship project? Are you looking for youth entrepreneurship resources? This workshop is for you.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-entrepreneurship-guidelines-and-resource-training>

December 3-4: Michigan 4-H Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute

Various locations

The institute will feature a wide variety of incredibly fun and interactive sessions focused on four tracks: personal development and leadership, community leadership, global citizenship, and leadership for diversity, equity, and inclusion. The institute will be held as an overnight event in East Lansing, Mich. (Dec. 3-4), and as a day-long program in Wayne County and Kalamazoo County on Dec. 3.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spectacular-youth-leadership-institute>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H to participate in Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29

On Nov.29, Michigan 4-H is once again participating in Giving Tuesday.

The Giving Tuesday movement is a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that make 4-H so extraordinary.

From 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. EST, Michigan 4-H supporters are invited to participate in Giving Tuesday by giving their support financially or helping spread the word via social media channels and word of mouth.

Michigan 4-H has a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

County 4-H endowments are funds created by gifts from one or more donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. These endowments provide a perpetual source of income for county 4-H programs, where the principal amount remains intact and the investment income supports annual needs for a county 4-H program.

Every dollar is an investment in 4-H! Learn more about 4-H Giving Tuesday at <https://mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/>.



Michigan 4-H Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute December 3-4

The Michigan 4-H Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute is an event for teens who want to improve their communities and our world through leadership and youth power! Attending the institute will help teens gain leadership skills and approach life with their head, heart, and hands open to new ideas, interesting people, and diverse cultures. Attend the institute and be part of the movement that has YOUth leading the way!

The institute will feature a wide variety of incredibly fun and interactive sessions focused on four tracks: personal development and leadership, community leadership, global citizenship, and leadership for diversity, equity and inclusion.

The institute will be held as an overnight event in East Lansing on Dec. 3-4, and as a day-long program in Wayne County and Kalamazoo County on Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Participants who register for the overnight event in East Lansing will attend a MSU Men's Hockey game on Sat., Dec. 3, as part of the evening entertainment!

This Michigan 4-H workshop is open to ALL teens (ages 13 and older by Jan. 1, 2023) and to adult leaders who have Gold Level volunteer status with MSU Extension. Space will be limited for this workshop. Learn more at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spectacular-youth-leadership-institute>.

The Michigan 4-H Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

4-H TEEN LEADERS OF THE YEAR 2022

2022 was this teens last year in 4-H. She was very active in helping teach the younger kids in Goats, Rabbits and Horse projects this year. She was always the first to help the younger kids with patterns for horses, she lead a couple of the goat meetings and was always the one to point out and help show them how to correctly and safely show their animals, she went above and beyond this year and we are super excited to have her come back and be a leader one day. **Kaylee Horton** was nominated by Amanda Morse, Purple Vision 4-H Club.

This teen has been active in fund raising and on the teen leader horse committee, He has helped lead our winter 4-H meetings teaching the younger ones in the club. He has also stepped in at 4-H shows and 5-day to set up and take down in the arenas. He has a great attitude while helping where needed. **Jack Allen** was nominated by Kim Marcus, Globe Trotters 4-H Club.



ABOVE AND BEYOND 4-H TEEN LEADER 2022

This Teen was nominated for her leadership skills and for going above and beyond in instructing riding in her club and the community. She has had such a positive impact on Allegan County youth, parents and leaders with her smile and the joy flowing through her. She has worked her project animals through anxiety and injuries, building trust with her horses that has made horse and rider a wonderful team. Several have watched in awe as Horse and rider perform in the show ring. They have worked through so many ups and downs and make a beautiful pair. It has been an honor to work with Noel as she took on a leadership role in our club and reached out to others in 4-H and the community. Noel represented Allegan County 4-H at the State 4-H Horse Show and was Grand Champion in Dressage. **Noel Vanderbilt** was nominated by Kim Marcus, Globe Trotters 4-H Club.

4H ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

This award winner was still in 4-H when I returned to Allegan County as 4-H Program Assistant. She was active in the Dairy project and I believe I helped her apply for District and State 4-H Awards in Dairy. She became a 4-H Leader and started the Kids & Kritters 4-H Club which also included light and draft horse projects. Vicki loves helping and supporting kids and it shows in her job as bus driver for Hopkins Schools. She is now a 4-H Resource Leader who also serves as the 4-H Horse Leaders Treasurer. Congratulations to **Vicki Swainston** 4-H Alumni for 2022. Vicki was nominated by Heather Maurer.



2022 COUNTY AWARD WINNERS

Abigail Allen received the county award in the **Horse** project. She says “4-H taught me to never give up.” To develop responsibility as people are depending on her. 4-H has expanded her network and she has made lots of friends.



Lena Germain received the county award in **Horse** and **Sheep** projects. Her passion is her horse project, but she cares for her sheep project also. Both projects have taught her responsibility and how to speak in front of people as she is club president now. 4-H has also helped her to get a job.



Sawyer Maurer received the **Beef** and **Horse** county awards. He has been an active 4-H member since he was a Cloverbud. He has learned more about his projects including showing and rate of gain. He has talked about his 4-H projects at school. He was on the county horse judging team. He volunteers at shows as well as participates in classes.

FRIENDS OF 4-H

Dorr Septic Service has always given the 4-H Horse program a good deal on porta johns for the shows and 5 Day Clinic. Taking care of them during the week and always available if needed. Nominated by Vicki Swainston.

The Deer Bar has actively supported 4-H for awhile now by having a meeting space, donating for prizes, sponsoring shows, plaques and giving money donations. They really do go above and beyond for Allegan County 4-H. Nominated by Amanda Morse.

2022 4-H CLUB OF THE YEAR

It was difficult selecting a club of the year for 2022. There were 4 clubs who all seemed to deserve it. Monterey Community, Purple Vision, Country Clovers and Watson Wranglers all had an excellent year with their 4-H Clubs. Holding meetings and club activities as well as participating in county wide and state wide events. In the end one club stood out just a little more than the others. Congratulations to Watson Wranglers 2022 4-H Club of the Year. Accepting the award for the club are those pictured at right.



REMEMBERING THOSE 4-H LEADERS WHO HAVE PASSED

Karin Wood

Karin definitely had a love for 4-H and kids. She showed kids how to be good sportsmen. She taught them to celebrate when they won and to learn from their disappointment. Karin was an Administrative leader for Riding Wild 4-H Club which later changed to Watson Wranglers as they added more than just horse projects. Her club was active in county wide 4-H activities including Horse shows and the 4-H Council Auction. Karin served as President of the 4-H Horse Leaders and as Secretary of the 4-H Council. She was dedicated to her club, 4-H Council and 4-H Camp. I took Karin to her Chemo treatment – even thru cancer Karin kept her passion for 4-H. A little over a month before she passed Karin left me a voicemail – I listen to this whenever I miss her and I smile, Karin you are still with us. Karin passed on Christmas day 2020.



Carl Vanderkolk



Born and raised on a dairy farm in Burnips, Carl began exhibiting dairy cattle at the Allegan County Fair as soon as he was old enough. Carl met Gail Buckham at the Allegan fair. Carl & Gail were the leaders of Burnips Beef 4H club for many years. Their three children, Craig, Kim, & Susan were all 10-year 4H members, exhibiting everything from gardening projects and chickens to dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, and hogs at the fair. Carl was always very supportive of his kids' 4H projects and enjoyed watching them learn and succeed with the animals. Now, 3 grandchildren, Bryce & Cooper Ostrom, and Jaxon Schut carry on the family tradition of exhibiting livestock at the Allegan County Fair. Carl took great joy in watching Bryce compete at the fair and could usually be found with a big smile ringside while he was showing. Unfortunately, Carl passed in December of 2020 and wasn't able to see the younger boys show in Allegan, but he can still be felt watching from above and beaming with pride.

Jean Modreske was a dedicated 4-H leader for 37 years. As a 4-H club leader in food, sewing projects and more, her passion for 4-H youth was evident throughout her lifetime. Financially supporting 4-H activities like the Carcass Contests, picture plaques as well as the 4-H Livestock Sale. Family members have fond memories of her coming to each show and sale to support many generations of 4-Her's in the family. Her three sons (Bruce, Bob, and Paul) all



showed Steers and pigs thru 4-H. Jean poured many countless hours into supporting the 4-H program and created many fond memories along the way. Her love for the program was passed on to her kids as they became leaders and in turn taught their own kids the values and hard work of a 4-Her. I remember Jean as being a kind strong woman. She almost always had a smile. She is dearly missed by us all. She passed in December of 2021.

Jean Modreske



REMEMBERING THOSE 4-H LEADERS WHO HAVE PASSED - continued



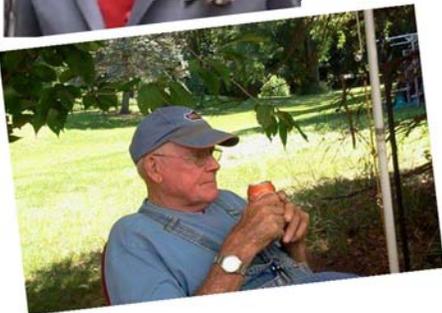
Lee Swainston

A former 4-Her in Kent County, Lee moved to Allegan county with wife Mary and continued the 4-H Dairy cow project tradition becoming a 4-H Dairy Leader while his daughters participated as 4-H Dairy members. As the next generation of grandchildren arrived his support diversified to horses, driving horses, rabbits, and dairy goats. He would ensure the kids had a ride to club meetings, provide advice, discuss show techniques, cheer from the stands and sponsor award plaques. Lee felt it was of utmost importance to have the 4-H kids answer questions for those walking thru the barn. For many visiting the fair barns, this was the only chance they had of learning about animals in person. Lee was a 4-H leader over 38 years, he stressed the importance of doing your best. If Lee was here tonight he would challenge you to show up to be present in kids' lives, letting them know you value them and you are proud of them for doing their best. Thank you Lee. Lee went home to his heavenly father in August of 2021



Harry Vanderkolk

Harry Vander Kolk started his 4-H journey as a kid showing Guernsey cows. He became a 4-H leader when his daughters started in 4-H. He was a 4-H project leader of cows, steers, pigs, and crops. In his later years he became a resource leader. Harry liked going to the 4-H Livestock Sale at the fair. He tried to buy something every year. He enjoyed supporting the small livestock 4-H members. Harry was not into the politics of 4-H. He often would say what does that teach the kids? Harry's daughters, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were all in 4-H. His daughter, Teri Boeve and his grandson Jeramie Boeve, are current resource 4-H leaders, and serve on the 4-H Council. Harry was a 4-H Leader for 53 years. For the last several years I had the opportunity to meet with Harry and Donna once a year to help them re-enroll in 4-H as leaders. We had a great time during these breakfast and lunches. It was during these times that I got to know them better. I appreciated Harry's quick wit and sense of humor.



Harry passed away in April of 2022 and is missed by many.

4-H TEAM LEADERS OF THE YEAR – a new award this year for couples who are 4-H Leaders and go above and beyond for their 4-H Club.

This couple are a dynamic duo who regularly open their home (and hearts) to all the kids in their 4-H Club, and kids from other clubs! The gentleman often goes well out of his way to pick up a club member who doesn't have a way to get their horse or pony to an event; he even waited until the wee hours of the day to make sure a competitor at one of the Horse Leader's hosted speed series shows made it home safely. He never hesitates to drop what he's doing to help a member of the club. Whether it's teaching proper lamb clipping technique, setting up the stalls at fair, or hauling the equipment trailer to each and every event. Always with a smile. And let's talk about The female side of this team. All the while he is doing the heavy lifting (literally!) she's in background making sure paperwork is in order, forwarding emails to make sure nobody gets missed, oh, how about setting a record for plaque sponsorships for the 4-H Horse Leader's - during a recession no less? Taking notes for both the 4-H Horse Leader's AND the 5-Day Clinic planning committee. she once made pancakes at 10:00pm for members of her club who were learning to fit lambs in her garage. No complaints, just a warm smile and a stack of pancakes. The nominator had the pleasure of being a barn manger with her during the 2022 4H 5-Day Horse Clinic and learned how much she truly cares about each and every kid who is involved in the program. Always, always, seeing the best in everyone. Both Kevin and Amy Germain embody what 4-H Leaders should be. Both work to make sure everyone feels included, both ensure that their club offers something for everyone. And if they don't know the answer - THEY FIND OUT! They are truly the reason the Watson Wranglers feel like a family. Congrats to **KEVIN AND AMY GERMAIN** 4-H Team Leaders for 2022, who were nominated by Pam McGill



Mary Ann Schlack was honored for 45 years as a 4-H Leader. A 4-H member herself Mary Ann believes in the power of 4-H. She used her 4-H skills to build a home for her husband and six kids and became a 4-H leader so her kids could be in 4-H. When her triplet grandsons were old enough she started a 4-H club for them as well. She has been a proud 4-H supporter serving on the camp board and helping to cook at 4-H camp. As a 4-H Resource leader she helps when she is asked and is always has a smile for the kids.

Congratulations Mary Ann (otherwise known as MOM!)

Written by Dian Liepe for my mom



A special thanks to Don Berens, 4-H Council President for helping to present awards and getting his picture taken with the winners. Don was also recognized for 35 years of service as a 4-H Leader.

ABOVE AND BEYOND 2022



Our 2022 Above and Beyond award winner truly embodies the sentiment of going above and beyond. A tireless volunteer, she showed up at every single horse leader's event; EVERY. SINGLE. ONE. Always with a warm smile and an uplifting word. She serves on the 5-Day Clinic planning committee, bringing her years of experience to table. She was at every fair horse show, She was seen loaning tack (and horses!) at 5-Day Clinic. And cheering not only her own 4-H kids on, but every kid - she cheers especially loud for the underdogs. The 4-H motto is To Make The Best Better, but I'm not sure they come any better than her. She has served on the 4-H Camp board for several years and was very instrumental in taking care of the toy sale at Festival of Trees last year. She has been at Camp cooking when help was needed and ran countless shifts at the 4-H food booth as well as get more volunteers to help fill in the gaps. She is everything that is good and true about the 4-H program and every county should be as lucky to have someone half as committed as this woman. Congrats to **KIM MARCUS** for going Above and Beyond in 2022 Kim was nominated by Peg Berens and Pam McGill

This person's nominator says she is a really fantastic leader because she manages both the paperwork and organizes the meetings to keep the club on track with such grace and cheerfulness! She finds experienced livestock showmen to give the kids not just instruction on "how to" prep and show their animals, but also insight into how they and their project animals are judged. She has the older kids work with the younger ones to review what to expect at the fair, which helps both. She is always trying to find a way to "make it work", no matter what request is made. She has welcomed kids from other clubs looking for more experience or a different perspective with their animals. My daughter started 4H just a few months ago, her leader has been nothing but available for her question and concerns about her rabbit. During the fair this leader included my daughter in all animals she was interested in, allowing her to help out on the show days made her feel like she was a part of the team even though she was not showing that particular animal. My daughter has learned a lot in a short amount of time. This leader's kindness and knowledge is truly been a blessing.

She seems to do a lot with her 4-H club. Then she also is at 4-H livestock leader's meetings and other committee meetings. She planned the rabbit carcass show again this year. She is the rabbit barn superintendent at the Fair and does a great job organizing all that goes with that. She not only is raising her own three children, but also is Mom to an exchange student this year, who is learning all about animals and more. I think she is well-deserving of this award.

Congrats to **MINDY LAARMAN** the 2022 4-H Leader of the Year. Mindy was nominated by Jennifer LaForest, Shelly & Elise Wedge and Peg Berens.

LEADER OF THE YEAR 2022

