Barry County 4-H



2026-2027 Welcome Packet

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Dear 4-H Families,

Welcome to Barry County 4-H, the youth development program of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. 4-H provides youth with positive learning experiences that help build character, while developing knowledge and skills that prepare them for the future.

We hope that your experience with MSU Extension - Barry County 4-H provides your family with a positive experience that you will look back on and remember for years to come. Participation in 4-H should be educational as well as fun for the whole family. We know that 4-H is a large program and can be difficult to navigate, especially for new families; and we hope that this guide will give you the information you need to find your way around.

As you become increasingly involved with 4-H, you will continue to have new opportunities – even beyond Barry County – because 4-H events occur at the county, state, national, and even international levels! All the fun starts at the club level. We encourage you to become very active with your 4-H club. Throughout the year, we ask that you keep in mind that most 4-H experiences are made possible by volunteers. Volunteers and 4-H staff will do their best to make the experience positive for your family. Throughout the year, you and your family may also be asked to lend a hand; please remember that many hands make light work, so if everyone pitches in a little the job will be done quickly. We understand that families are very busy, but any amount of help your family provides is appreciated to make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the experiences.

If you have any questions throughout your 4-H journey, you can always reach out to the MSU Extension office by calling 269-945-1388 or reach us via email. Please remember that MSU Extension staff may be out in the community doing programs or attending partner meetings and may not always be in the office.

We look forward to working with you and helping the best to become better!

Sincerely,

Lilyrose Arriaga - 4-H Program Coordinator
Makayla Casarez - 4-H Program Worker

MSU EXTENSION
Justin S. Morrill Hall
446 W. Circle Drive
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-355-2308
Fax: 517-355-6574
msuedir@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Michigan State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties cooperating.

Contents

1. MSU Extension, Barry County
3. Barry County 4-H Policies
5. Barry County 4-H General Information
7. Barry County 4-H Year Outline
9. Barry County 4-H Groups
13. Barry County 4-H Programs
14. Barry County Scholarships & Awards
16. Barry County Fair 101
19. 4-H Pledge & Emblem
20. National 4-H
20. Michigan 4-H Youth Development
21. Michigan 4-H Foundation
22. Michigan State 4-H Workshops & Events
25. 4-H Resources
26. 4-H Code of Conduct

MSU Extension- Overview

Michigan State University Extension is part of the national cooperative Extension network, which is housed at land-grant universities across the country. MSU Extension is funded through a partnership of federal, state, and county governments, and words with individuals, businesses, organizations and communities to identify and address Michigan's existing and emerging priorities.

The Smith-Lever Act formalized Coorperative Extension Service (CES) in 1914 to expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) partnership with land-grant universities to apply research and provide education to communities. Cooperative States Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)is the USDA agency responsible for 4-H and Extension. 4-H programming is delivered locally and operated at the state and national levels through a partnership between county governments, the Cooperative Extension Service at the state's land grant university (in Michigan, through Michigan State University Extension), and the USDA. 4-H is one of the programs offered by the county Extension office. Other programs include Master Gardeners, Food and Nutrition, and Agricultural Programs.

4-H is a youth education program for youth ages 5 through 19. It is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension system. Approved MSU Extension volunteers works with youth to provide fun educational experiences. Michigan State University Extension staff are responsible for the management of 4-H as well as providing support and resources for its members and volunteers. Youth who participate in 4-H develop the skills needed to be capable, productive citizens and leaders as they learn about new project areas or increase their knowledge in a variety of educational experiences.

For more information on CES, please visit

https://www.nifa.usda.gov/about-nifa/what-we-do/extension

For a helpful chart on the larger 4-H system, please see Appendix A at the end of this packet.

MSU Extension- Overview

Barry County Location and Contact Information

Patricia Snyder
County Office Manager
(269)-945-1388
snyder7@msu.edu

LilyRose Arriaga
4-H Program Coordinator
(269)-945-1388 ext. 1030
Arriaga4@msu.edu

Makayla Casarez
4-H Program Worker
(269)-945-1388 ext.1022
Casarez6@msu.edu

Laura Anderson
Health Educator
(269)-945-1388 ext. 1026
Ander359@msu.edu

Kai Gritter
District 7 Director
(616)-632-7887
gritten@msu.edu

Physical and Mailing Address
Barry County MSU Extension
Attn: Barry County 4-H
121 S. Church St., Suite B
Hastings, Mi 49058
Phone: 269-945-1388

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch.
Please call ahead if you plan to visit, as staff are not always present.
Office is closed during National, Barry County, and MSU Holidays.

Visit our website
General Barry County MSU Extension
https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/
Barry County MSU Extension 4-H
https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/

Barry County 4-H Policies

Non-Discrimination: 4-H clubs cannot discriminate by means of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

4-H Age: The 4-H year begins on September 1, but 4-H age is determined by the age that the child will be on January 1 of the programming year. Youth that have a 4-H age of 5 – 19 years of age may join the 4-H program. 4-H members are ages 8 – 19 and participate in both noncompetitive and competitive settings. Youth that are 4-H age 5 – 7 years old are considered Cloverbuds, who only participate in non-competitive settings. As part of a club, Cloverbuds often have their own hands-on activities separate from the older members. There are Cloverbud-specific projects available, and several regular 4-H projects are available to Cloverbuds as well. **All 4-H youth are require to complete a project notebook or alternative set by species committee.**

Enrollment/Re-enrollment: The enrollment/re-enrollment process begins each year on September 3rd. Youth and volunteers must re-enroll annually. Youth must enroll by June 1st to be eligible to show at the fair. New members can join 4-H anytime during the year, but they may not be able to meet all county, club, or project requirements to participate in fair. All enrollments and re-enrollments occur via 4-H Online, our online database. More information about 4-H Online and registration can be found at https://mi.4honline.com . Please note that you are not considered a 4-H member/volunteer until you have enrolled or re-enrolled in 4-H Online (including correct authorizations, club, and project participation) AND your enrollment has been verified by the MSU Extension office

Volunteers: Volunteers play a vital role in the ongoing growth and development of those in the 4-H Youth Development program. Any adult (ages 20+) that wishes to enroll as a volunteer with 4-H must successfully complete the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to enrolling in 4-H Online. The online application is located at http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/msu_extension_volunteer_selection_process. All volunteers have 60 days from the date their application is turned in to complete the process; volunteers who do not complete the process within 60 days will be moved to incomplete. Volunteers who are inactive (have not completed re-enrollment through 4-H Online) will be required to ensure registration in Volunteer Central prior to being considered an active volunteer. Note there are 2 levels of volunteers, silver and gold. Please research the differences prior to starting your application to be sure you are completing the correct application.

Barry County 4-H Policies

4-H Clubs: Clubs must complete charter paperwork and be registered with the Extension office to be considered a 4-H club and allowed to use the 4-H name and emblem. Clubs must consist of at least five youth members from two or more families, have at least two gold level approved adult volunteers, meet a minimum of six times per year, and offer educational opprotunties for youth. Club benefits include assistance and support from project superintedents, scholarships, educational training reimbursements, recognition for members and leaders, and much more.

Club Leaders: Club leaders are required to:

- Attend at least 50% of species committee meetings
- Offer a minimum of three projects to members
- Complete at least one community service project per year
- Participate in county fundraisers
- Turn in bank statements, treasurer reports and meeting minutes to the MSU Extension office
- Turn in their Annual Financial Summary in October for financial review
- Meet deadlines set by MSU Extension and the 4-H office
- Keep an updated club roster and contact families as needed

Financial Guidelines: All clubs, volunteers, members, and parents are required to follow the financial guidelines for Michigan 4-H clubs. The financial guidelines were updated in 2024. The volunteer book can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial_manual_for_4_h_treasurers and the youth/adult treasurer book can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial_manual_for_4_h_volunteers. Please contact the MSU Extension office with any questions.

Fundraisers: All 4-H fundraisers must have a completed fundraising authorization form submitted to the Extension office at least two weeks prior to the promotion and start of the fundraiser. Fundraising may not start until the club receives approval from the 4-H staff. A follow-up report form must be completed and submitted no more than 10 days following the event. Only authorized 4-H groups may use the 4-H name and emblem in fundraising, and all funds raised using the 4-H name and emblem are considered 4-H funds. This means that fundraisers for personal use may not use the 4-H name or club name. The fundraiser should have an educational component for the youth who are participating. Deciding on the best activity to raise the funds, making a good impression, money handling, and record keeping are good skills to acquire during a fundraiser.

Barry County 4-H General Information

The 4-H programs runs from September 1st - Auguster 31st. Every year, 4-H members and 4-H volunteers must sign up on 4-H Online AFTER the start of the new program year on September 3rd. Page 7 shows an outline of a typical program year in Barry County 4-H.

4-H is separated into groups. A 4-H group can either be a club, committee, council, OR board. Three major club structures exist in Michigan 4-H Youth Development, the community club, the project club, and the explorer club. Please view the Michigan 4-H Club Development Guide to learn more about types of 4-H clubs.

Barry County consists mainly of community clubs, which involves members of a variety of ages and interests. These clubs have general club meetings which may be held on a monthly basis that all club members attend and include club business and educational activities. These clubs may also hold project specific meetings throughout the year under the guidance of their project leader. 4-H members and volunteers may be involved with more than one club as fits their needs. If you wish to start a club, please reach out to the program coordinator for information on how to do so. **The MSU Extension 4-H program excepects 4-H members/families to attend a minimum of half of their 4-H clubs meetings. Individual clubs may set their own requirements for attendance.**

Barry County 4-H has a variety of committees to guide certain project areas and events. Under the guidance of 4-H staff, our volunteers create project guidelines, rules, and manage our 4-H events. The developmental committees provide educational opprotunites for youth involved in the various projects areas. **All clubs are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to send a representative to the committee meetings to have a voice in shaping our program.**

Barry County 4-H
General Information- Communication

There are many ways to stay informed and connected with Barry County 4-H. Families are encouraged to regularly check the following communication sources for program information, upcoming events, deadlines, and opportunities.

Committee Meetings

- County updates, upcoming opportunities, and other important information are shared during committee meetings. See page 9 for committee meetings dates and times.

The Hastings Reminder

- Look for the 4-H News and Notes section for program updates, upcoming meetings, events, and opportunites.

Barry County 4-H Website

- Visit our county website for program information, resources, forms, and dates and deadlines.
  - https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/

Social Media

- Follow Barry County 4-H on social media for program updates, upcoming events, reminders, photos, and opportunities. Individual committees may have their own private Facebook group where information is shared.
  - Facebook: Barry County 4-H Program
  - Instagram: 4hbarrycounty

4-H Online

- Important information, announcements, and reminders may be sent directly to families through the email connected to their 4-H Online account. Make sure your email address is current and a inbox you check regularly.

Barry County 4-H Year Outline

September:

- Enrollment for new program year begins
- Clubs usually hold their enrollment meetings in September/October
- Nominations and elections for clubs and committee officers are held in September or October
- Fall Leader Meeting
- 4-H State Dog Show

October:

- October 1st End of year paperwork (Annual Financial Summary Reports, Civil Rights Agreement, and Debit card Agreement, if applicable) is due for groups
- National 4-H week is the first full week
- 4-H group meetings

November:

- Rain of Gain Weigh In on 1st Saturday prior to Thanksgiving Day
- 4-H group meetings

December:

- January 15th Poultry market order forms DUE
- 4-H group meetings
- State 4-H awards forms for members ages 14-19 become available (usually due in February)

Janurary:

- 4-H group meetings
- January 15th Beef must be in youth's posession

February:

- 4-H group meetings

Barry County 4-H Year Outline

March:

- March 1st Horse pre-registration DUE
- 4-H Exploration Days registration is available
- 4-H group meetings

April:

- April 15th Livestock pre-registration DUE for Goats and Hogs. Hogs must be in youth possesion
- April 20th Hog paperwork DUE
- 4-H group meetings

May:

- May 1st 4-H Senior Scholarship application DUE
- May 1st Livestock pre-registration DUE for Rabbits, Poultry, and Dairy
- First weekend in May livestock pre-registration DUE for Beef and Sheep
- May 4th FairEntry registration opens
- May 15th Sheep must be in youth possession
- 4-H group meetings

June:

- June 1st 4-H County Awards DUE
- June 4th FairEntry registration closes
- 4-H group meetings

July:

- Barry County Fair is the 3rd full week

August:

- 4-H State Horse Show
- 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament
- August 31st end of the 4-H year

Barry County 4-H Groups

4-H Clubs

The current list of Barry County 4-H clubs, along with club contact information, project areas, and location is located on the Barry County 4-H website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/join_4_h .

Shooting Sports club and K9 club are county-wide clubs with specific requirements for participation. Due to project regulations, youth wishing to participate in a shooting sports project must be enrolled in a Shooting Sports Club, and youth wishing to participate in the dog project must be enrolled in the K9 Club. These projects cannot be completed through another 4-H club.

4-H committees

Barry County 4-H has a variety of committees to guide certain project areas and events. **Youth participation is highly encouraged** and many offer great leadership opportunites.

4-H Advisory Council

- 4-H Advisory Council is the association that helps assist in planning, helping, advising, and promoting the 4-H Youth program in Barry County. Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Tyden Center. 2026-2027 meetings dates are as followed- October 7th, January 13th , March 10th , May 12th, and June 9th . 4-H Advisory Council oversees the following activies:
  - Scholarships - the Council will reimburse youth and volunteers for up to 75% of registration fees for educational workshops. For specific requirements, please attend a council meeting.
  - County Awards - Recognition enhances member's self-esteem, increases their motivation to learn, to become more involved, to accept new responsibilites and set new goals. Find county awards on the 4-H website under Scholarshipss & Awards. https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/scholarships_awards
  - Hot Dog Sale - Saturday and Sunday of Barry County Fair. All profits are used to fund 4-H Senior Scholarships.

Barry County 4-H Groups

4-H Clubs

The current list of Barry County 4-H clubs, along with club contact information, project areas, and location is located on the Barry County 4-H website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/join_4_h .

Looking for a short term club? A 4-H SPARK club is a special interest club where five or more 4-H members get together to learn about a topic of interest. The SPARK club model provides increased flexibility in when and how long the group meets. Each club meets a minimum of six times, but no more than eight times within an eight-week period. Contact the program coordinator to get started with a SPARK club.

4-H committees

Barry County 4-H has a variety of committees to guide certain project areas and events. **Youth participation is highly encouraged** and many offer great leadership opportunites.

4-H Advisory Council

- 4-H Advisory Council is the association that helps assist in planning, helping, advising, and promoting the 4-H Youth program in Barry County. Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Tyden Center. 2026-2027 meetings dates are as followed- October 7th, January 13th , March 10th , May 12th, and June 9th . 4-H Advisory Council oversees the following activies:
  - Scholarships - the Council will reimburse youth and volunteers for up to 75% of registration fees for educational workshops. For specific requirements, please attend a council meeting.
  - County Awards - Recognition enhances member's self-esteem, increases their motivation to learn, to become more involved, to accept new responsibilites and set new goals. Find county awards on the 4-H website under Scholarshipss & Awards. https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/scholarships_awards
  - Hot Dog Sale - Saturday and Sunday of Barry County Fair. All profits are used to fund 4-H Senior Scholarships.

Barry County 4-H Groups

Large Livestock Developmental Committee

- The Large Livestock Developmental committee (LDC) is a committee that consists of leaders from the Beef, Sheep, and Swine projects areas. The large animal sale, policies, and procedures for Barry County beef, sheep, and swine projects are set by this committee. LDC meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except December, January, and February. Meetings take place in the Tyden Center. For more information regarding the Large Animal Sale, see Barry County Fair 101 on page 16.

Small Animal Livestock Sale Committee

- The Small Animal Livestock Sale committee (SAS) is a committee that consist of leaders from the Poultry, Goat, Rabbit, and Cavy project areas. The small animal sale policies and procedures are set by this committee. SAS meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Tyden Center. 2026-2027 meeting dates are as followed- October 14th , Janurary 6th , Feburary 10th, and May 5th . For more information regarding the Small Animal Sale, see Barry County Fair 101 on page 16.

Horse Developmental Committee

- The Horse Developmental Committee (HDC) is a committee that consists of leaders from clubs that involve a horse project. 4-H Horse shows, policies, and procedures for horse project are set by this committee. HDC also coordinates the annual tack sale and Barry County Open Horse Shows. HDC meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Tyden Center on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Non-Livestock Development Committee

- The Non-Livestock Developmental committee is a committee that consists of leaders from a variety of clubs. Members from the Non-Livestock committee coordinate Non-Livestock Day at fair. The committee provides educational opportunities for youth throughtout the year.

Barry County 4-H Groups

Dairy Developmental Committee

- The Dairy Developmental Committee is a committee that consist of leaders from clubs that involve a dairy project. Gallon of Milk program and Dairy Feeder Calf sale policies and procedures are set by this committee.

Goat Developmental Committee

- The Goat Developmental Committee (GDC) is a committee that consist of leaders from clubs that involve a goat project. GDC provides educational opportunites for youth involved in a goat project. GDC meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Tyden Center on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except for December and July.

Poultry Developmental Committee

- The Poultry Developmental Committee (PDC) is a committee that consist of leaders from clubs that involve a poultry project. PDC provides educational opportunities for youth involved in a poultry project. PDC meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Tyden Center on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. May 2027 PDC meeting will be on May 26th.

Rabbit and Cavy Development Committee

- The Rabbit and Cavy Developmental committee (RCDC) is a committee that consists of leaders from clubs that involve a rabbit and cavy project. RCDC provides educational opportunites for youth involved in rabbit or cavy project. RCDC meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Tyden Building on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Each species committee creates a project notebook for youth participating in that species. Some committees may offer an alternative project option that can be completed in place of the notebook. The completed notebook or alternative project is then presented at fair. Notebooks can be found on the Barry County 4-H website under individual species pages.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/animal_science/

Barry County County Programs

There are a variety of countywide programs offered each year to 4-H and non 4-H members. These can vary from one day workshops to a short-term program. These programs may have a small fee to help cover the cost of the program and some programs may require registration. Individual committees will also put on species specific programs throughout the year.

Examples of county programs held:

- **2026 Fall S.T.E.A.M. at the Library**- Held at the Hastings Public Library from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month from September to December. Youth will get to explore, create, experiment, and have fun with hands on activies related to S.T.E.A.M.

- **2026 Día de Los Muertos/ Day of the Dead program**- Held at the Hastings Public Library from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 2nd. . Youth will have the opportinity to learn about and take part in Día de los Muertos traditions.

- **2027 Homeschool Hangout** - Held at the Hastings Public Library from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month from January to May. Homeschool youth will have the opportunity to connect with other homeschool families and learn from hands-on activites ranging from topics in Engineering, History, Folk Arts, and Culture.

- **2027 S.T.E.A.M. at the Library**- Held at the Hastings Public Library from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month from January to April. Youth will get to explore, create, experiment, and have fun with hands on activies related to S.T.E.A.M.

Barry County 4-H Scholarships and Awards

Barry County 4-H offers scholarships and awards to recognize the accomplishments, leadership, service, and dedication of our 4-H youth, volunteers, alumni, and community supporters. Families are encouraged to explore these opportunities throughout their 4-H experience and nominate deserving individuals for county awards.

For applications/nomination forms and additional information, visit the Barry County 4-H Scholarships & Awards webpage.

Barry County 4-H Scholarships

Barry County 4-H members have several opportunities to receive scholarships that support continuing education and other 4-H experiences. Families are encouraged to watch for scholarship opportunities and deadlines throughout the year.

- Barry County 4-H Advisory Council Scholarship – Available to eligible high school seniors and graduates continuing their education at a college, university, or vocational program. Applications are due May 1, and recipients are recognized during the Barry County Fair.

- Travis Wenger Memorial Scholarship – Established in memory of Travis Wenger, a Barry County 4-H member who was passionate about the beef project. The scholarship supports eligible graduating seniors and college freshmen who have been active in Barry County 4-H and the Barry County Fair.

- Statewide Michigan 4-H Scholarships – Additional scholarship opportunities are available to Michigan 4-H members, including scholarships for youth planning to attend Michigan 4-H statewide events and other educational opportunities. Eligibility, award amounts, and deadlines vary by scholarship.

Barry County 4-H Scholarships and Awards

Barry County 4-H Awards

The Barry County 4-H Advisory Council offers several awards that recognize the accomplishments and contributions of 4-H youth, volunteers, alumni, and community supporters. Families are encouraged to learn about these opportunities and nominate deserving individuals.

Youth Awards

- Leadership & Citizenship Achievement Award – Recognizes youth ages 14–19 for achievement, leadership, citizenship, and involvement.

- Leader to Youth Award – Recognizes youth ages 15–19 for sportsmanship, leadership, achievement, and being a positive role model.

Volunteer, Alumni & Community Awards

- Outstanding Leader Award – Recognizes an outstanding 4-H leader who has made a difference for youth.

- 4-H Alumni Award – Recognizes a former 4-H member for their contributions to Barry County 4-H.

- Meritorious Service Award – Recognizes a business or organization for longtime support of 4-H.

- Citation for Outstanding Service Award – Recognizes longtime 4-H leaders for their service and dedication.

- Fair Book Honoree – Recognizes longtime leaders for their involvement and service to Barry County 4-H and the Barry County Fair.

Applications and nomination forms are available on the Barry County 4-H Scholarships & Awards webpage.

Barry County Fair 101

The Barry County Fair is the largest event of the year, where 4-H members have the opportunity to showcase the projects they have been working on. Fair is not a required event in 4-H. The Barry County Fair is NOT a 4-H Fair, therefore it is not run by 4-H. Instead the fair is put on in partnership with the Barry County Agriculture Society. Thus combining 4-H and Barry Expo Center rules. The livestock sales are the only portion of the fair under Barry County MSU Extension 4-H name. Youth who attend fair are required to be registered in 4-H Online.

The Barry County Fair is planned for the 3rd full week in July. 2027 Fair is set for July 17th through July 24th .

Below are few things to note about the Barry County Fair:

- The answer to most fair questions can be found in the fair book. The fair book is posted on the Barry Expo Center website. The fair book will include the schedule for fair activities and events, general rules, camping rules, livestock regulations, and class entry information. Current fair books are released in May or June from the Barry Expo Center office (fair office).

- General rule 7 in the fairbook states “Youth exhibitor status is available to young people age 9 through 18 years. Age is determined by the youth’s age as of January 1st of the exhibit year. “. Please note this is different from ages allowed in 4-H.

- All exhibitors must be registered in 4-H Online and FairEntry to participate in fair. FairEntry is an online system used to collect fair registration. FairEntry opens May 4th and closes June 4th . No exceptions will be made for those who do not register within the time frame.

- Record keeping is required for all market entries and appropriate forms/guidelines must be turned in and be judged at the fair. Failure to turn in complete records in at time of checkin or lack of required identification disqualifies entry.

Barry County Fair 101

- Participation in club booths is required for every club regardless of club size. Club booths are located in the Expo Building. They showcase the hard work youth have completed throughout the year and allow the public to see work done in 4-H. A judging sheet will be available ahead of time, with additional information on the Barry County 4-H website under Fair Information.

- A 4-H Graduation Booth is available to honor 4-H high school graduates. Those who wish to participate will need to fill out online form and provide an 8 x 10 framed photo to display PRIOR to fair week. Information about graduation booth can be found on Barry County 4-H website under fair information page.

- Youth awarded Best of Show or Outstanding for non-livestock projects will take a group picture together on Saturday of fair (Non-Livestock Day) at 2:30 p.m. in the MSU Extension Garden by the Expo Building. Please bring your ribbons with you for the picture!

- Superintendents are people in charge of a particular project area at the fair. Please remember that they are volunteers! They hold a wealth of information about their project area and are likely to know answers to quetions regarding their project area at fair. Each species has their own rules and policies that are located in the fair book. Contact information for each superintendent can be found in the fair book.

- Camping reservations forms are available at the Barry Expo Center and are accepted April 15th through June 1st. Exhibitors will be placed first, then the public will be placed at a first come, first serve basis upon receipt of application and payment in full.

- Youth who are exhibiting projects at fair may recieve a free wristband for entry into the fairgrounds during fair week. Wristbands are given out the Saturday (Non-Livestock day) and Monday of fair week at the Fair entry office. Parent passes are available for a discounted rate.

- As of 2026, all youth showing market, carcass, dairy or dairy feeder project will be requested to provide a W9 information to MSU at the time of fair registration. Families will provide this information through FairEntry. This includes providing social security number for each youth.

Animal Sales

- Small animal sale takes place on Thursday of Fair at 5:00 p.m. Buyer registration begins at 4:30p.m.

- Large animal sale takes place on Friday of Fair at 9:00 a.m. Buyer registration open at 8:00a.m.

- The sale rules can be found in the fairbook.

- Youth are required to provide a thank you letter and framed picture to their buyer by Labor Day. Buyer information will be given to club leaders.

- Youth receiving $2,000 or more in combined payments from small and large animal sales, still exhibits, or related activities will receive a 1099-MISC from MSU Extension.

- Exhibitors will be issued and mailed a cashier's check for their sale in a timely manner. Checks are void 90 days after the issued date posted on the check. If a new check is to be reissued after 90 days, a $30 fee will be paid by the exhibitor for the check to be reissued.

4-H Pledge & Emblem



4-H Pledge: The 4-H pledge, which should be said at the beginning of every club, project, and association meeting, addresses all four areas of youth development (cognitive, emotional, social, and physical). All youth should be encouraged to memorize the 4-H pledge.

4-H Emblem: The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The 4-H emblem (commonly called the 4-H clover) is protected by federal law from commercial and unauthorized use. Due to this protection, only chartered 4-H clubs and organizations are authorized to use the 4-H clover in publications and advertising. The clover must also always be seen with the 18 USC 707 trademark (with few exceptions). There are also very strict policies regarding how you may use the clover in documents, apparel, etc. (for example, text or images cannot be placed over the clover). For a quick reference guide to further explanation of these policies, visit https://www.nifa.usda.gov/4-h/national-headquarters/program-quality-accountability/name-emblem-pledge







National 4-H

4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering six million youth in the U.S. and is part of the Cooperative Extension system of landgrant universities.

National 4-H provides a wealth of resources, including curriculum and activities as well as fund development, for local 4-H programs. They coordinate National 4-H Week, which occurs in October each year. They partner with Tractor Supply Company to host the Paper Clover Campaign twice a year.

National 4-H also runs Shop 4-H, which is your go-to source for 4-H gear, including curriculum, apparel, club supplies, and more. Visit http://www.4-h.org/home.aspx to find all that they offer! For more information on National 4-H, please visit http://www.4-h.org/.

Michigan 4-H Youth Development

Michigan 4-H Youth Development operates under Michigan State University Extension. The program creates non-formal, hands-on educational opportunities to help youth thrive in a complex and changing world. There are eight essential elements (provided by National 4-H) that provide the foundation for educational methods, activities and events that positively affect the lives of Michigan's youth. These are:

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth feel welcomed into an environment regardless of their background, beliefs, ideas and culture.
4. Youth are actively engaged in different learning environments and are challenged to pursue their own learning.
5. Youth are given the opportunity for mastery of subject matters and able to share it with others.
6. Youth are given the opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future.
7. Youth are given the opportunity to see their own goals, determine how they will get there and who they want to become as an individual.
8. Youth are given the opportunity to value and practice service for others

Michigan 4-H Youth Development

Michigan 4-H provides a wealth of resources and activities around a variety of project and topic areas, including animal science, arts, careers and entrepreneurship, citizenship, leadership, community service, environmental and outdoor education, global and cultural education, healthy youth, life skills, science and technology, volunteering, and mentoring.

Michigan 4-H coordinates different awards and scholarships at the state level. Scholarships include

- Michigan Rabbit/Cavy 4-H Scholarship for those involved with the rabbit/cavy project area,
- Michigan State University 4-H Scholarship for high school seniors who have applied to MSU,
- Michigan State University Pre-College Program Scholarship for students in 8th, 9th, or 10th grade who attend an MSU pre-college program (such as 4-H Exploration Days, 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp, 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp, or 4-H Capitol Experience)
- Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarships

For more information on Michigan 4-H Scholarships , please visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships

Michigan 4-H Foundation

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is a non-profit fundraising organization that solicits and manages grants. They also steward support from private individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations to support Michigan 4-H Youth Development programs.

Michigan 4-H Foundation

Gifts made to the Foundation support:

- 4-H volunteer training at a reduced cost
- County 4-H volunteer recognition
- State 4-H youth awards and recognition
- College scholarships for 4-H youth
- County and state 4-H grant opportunities
- Creation of new curriculum and learning materials
- Development of new and current 4-H programs
- Development and maintenance of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens at MSU

Did you know?
The 4-H Motto is "**TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER**"
This expresses a continual goal of excellence—to always strive to build on our goals and skills.

For more information on Michigan 4-H Foundation, please visit http://mi4hfdtn.org/

State 4-H Workshops & Events

There are many statewide and national 4-H workshops and events that 4-H members can attend throughout the year.

Visit the website http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events to find more information about each event. Keep an eye on the Barry County 4-H Program Facebook page for more information closer to each event.

Some events have age requirements for youth to attend. Please see specific workshops for more information.

4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp – Youth ages 13-17 explore the fields of animal and veterinary science and engage in interactive, hands-on learning. Attend for your chance to practice veterinary medicine, research zoonotic conditions and discover careers!

Dairy Days – The event includes dairy activities, to showcase the Michigan dairy industry and to provide continuing education to the dairy industry in Michigan and nearby states. Dairy Days events are designed for young people who are interested in dairy cattle and the dairy industry.

State 4-H Workshops & Events

4-H Livestock Judging Camp – This overnight camp experience is for youth who are interested in taking a deep dive into livestock judging and sharpening their judging skills!

4-H livestock Judging Competition - participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills. This contest will include both individual and team competitions.

4-H Spring Livestock Workshop (beef, goats, sheep, swine)- Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of breakout sessions. Session topics include intro to your species project, animal evaluation, marketing your livestock project, reproduction, nutrition, and more!

4-H Horse Judging- Youth can take a deep dive into horse judging and sharpening their judging skills!

Hippology - Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest. Cloverbuds, Junior and Senior divisions as well as Junior Novice and Senior Novice allow for youth to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

4-H State Horse Show – This is an annual, four-day event that brings together 4-Hers from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event.

4-H Capitol Experience – Occurs at the State Capitol and surrounding area and is a four-day conference to prepare youth for active citizenship, focusing on civic engagement and public policy.

4-H International Exchange - There are several international 4-H programs available. Families may host inbound students from Japan, or students may choose to go overseas, being hosted by families in Japan (4 or 8 weeks), South Korea, Argentina, Costa Rica, or Taiwan. Call the 4-H office or visit the link for more information on the different exchange programs and other countries that may participate.

State 4-H Workshops & Events

4-H Exploration Days – The most popular 4-H event! It occurs in June on MSU's campus in East Lansing and is for youth ages 12-19. Youth spend three days at MSU and experience life like a college student. Youth attend fun hands-on workshops and events with approximately 800 youth from across the state. Registration begins in March; you will want to register ASAP when registration books are available as sessions fill up very quickly. Registration may be covered by Barry 4-H Advisory Council. Chaperones who attend will need to complete the MSU Extension Gold Level Volunteer Selection Process prior to registering and complete the chaperone training module.

4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp –Experience all that our great lakes have to offer as you go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hiking through forests, exploring dunes, and more. The application is due in May.

4-H Winterfest – This event for youth 8-12 years old occurs in February. Youth get to participate in a variety of workshops and explore winter activities.

Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference – This is an overnight event for 4-H members ages 12-19 (as of January 1st) who are interested in dairy science and animal science. This program will have dissections, guest speakers, and more.

National 4-H Congress - This five-day conference in Atlanta, Georgia, offers workshops on topics such as diversity, cultural experiences, leadership and team development.

4-H Ignite – For four days, teens from all over the country come to D.C. to collaborate, connect, and cultivate a passion for expanding their minds and their world – becoming resilient and ready for everything life has to offer. Teens will immerse themselves in hands-on workshops, experiences, and activities in their key programming track of Ag science, Animal Science, Community Accelerators, CWF @ Ignite, Healthy Living (featuring soccer), or STEM to continue to find their spark. With the addition of public speaking, career and life readiness, and presentation workshops, teens will be able to apply what they learn to their own lives and take a step forward to become Beyond Ready for the future.

4-H Resources

All 4-H resources are available online on the Barry County 4-H website on the Leader Information page.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/barry/barry_county_4_h/leader_information .
Information is pulled from MSU Extension 4-H Club Development website
https://www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/ .

The Leading a 4-H Club website provides resources to help volunteers plan, organize, and lead a successful 4-H club. Resources include tools for planning the club year, running club meetings, parliamentary procedure, officer and youth leadership roles, group activities, 4-H Online, and building a strong club environment.

Key Resources to Check Out

- Characteristics of Beyond Ready 4-H Clubs – Learn what makes a strong 4-H club and how clubs can support belonging, relationships, engagement, youth interests, and positive youth development.

- Tips and Tools for Planning Your Club Year – Resources to help leaders and members plan an organized and engaging year of club activities.

- 4-H Club Meeting Outline – A helpful guide for organizing and structuring club meetings.

- Parliamentary Procedure Resources – Information on parliamentary procedure, voting, elections, and conducting productive meetings.

- Officer & Youth Leadership Resources – Role descriptions and resources for club leaders, teen leaders, officers, secretaries, and committees.

- Activities for Club Meetings – Find icebreakers, group-building activities, sportsmanship activities, science activities, project resources, and more to incorporate into meetings.

4-H Code of Conduct

The Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct is required for participation in MSU Extension 4-H programs. Youth participants and/or their parent or guardian acknowledge the Code of Conduct each year as part of the 4-H Online enrollment process. The Codes of Conduct help ensure that youth, families, volunteers, and staff work together to create a positive 4-H experience for everyone.

4-H volunteers also follow a Volunteer Code of Conduct. Volunteers are expected to positively represent 4-H and MSU Extension, follow program policies and guidelines, treat others respectfully, and help provide a safe and welcoming environment for youth.

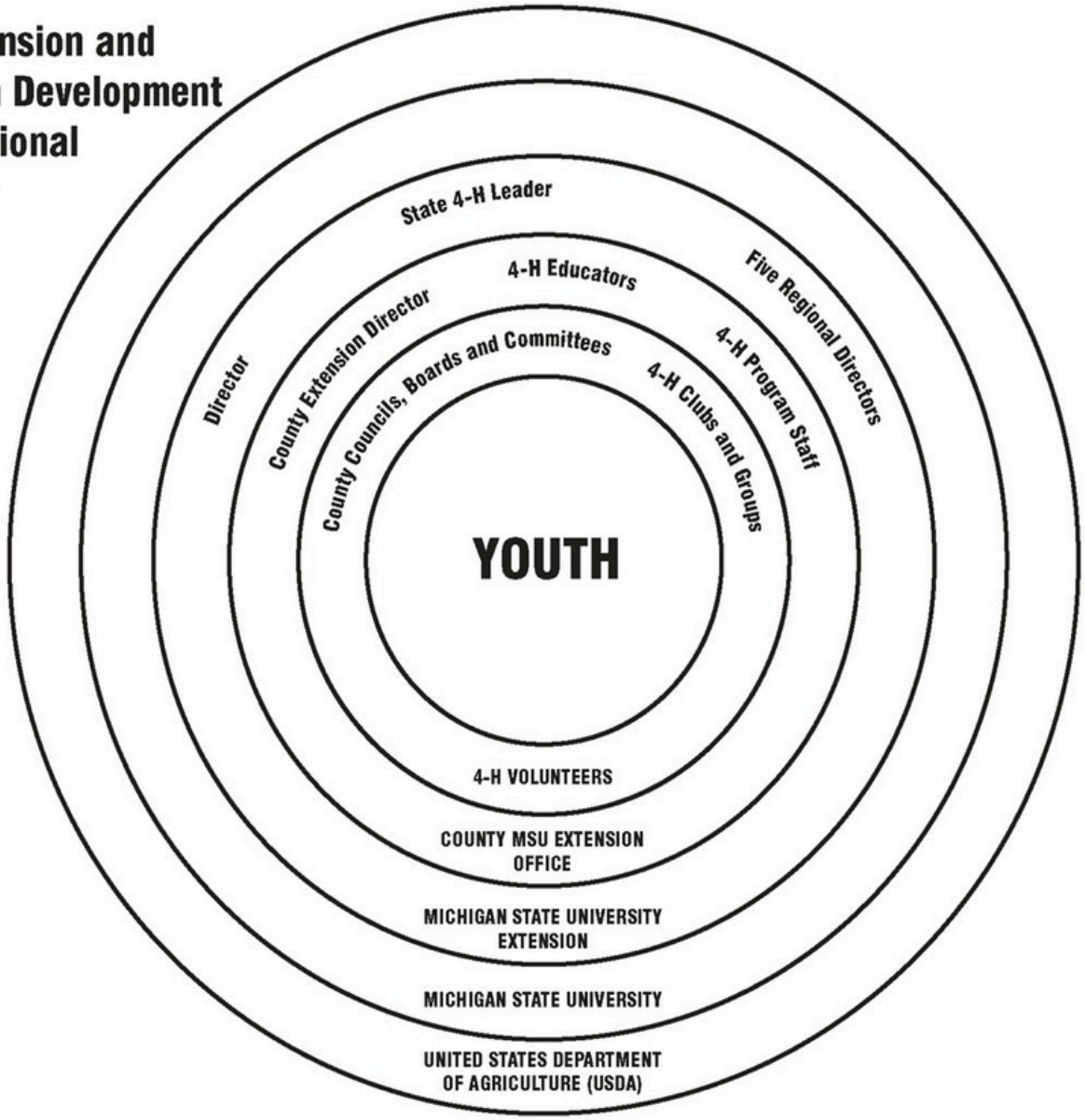
Families are encouraged to review the Code of Conduct together so youth understand the expectations that come with being a 4-H member.

Michigan 4-H members will:

- Show respect for, and cooperate with, fellow members, volunteers and staff.
- Follow 4-H policies and procedures when participating in any 4-H sponsored event.
- Under no circumstances, commit or threaten violence toward any individual, group or the program.
- Under no circumstances, possess, sell or consume alcohol or possess, sell or use controlled substances at an MSU Extension 4-H youth activity or event.
- Under no circumstances, attend or participate in an MSU Extension 4-H youth activity or event under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances including tobacco, electronic cigarettes, etc.
- Under no circumstances, bring dangerous or unauthorized materials (such as explosives, weapons or similar items) to an MSU Extension 4-H youth activity or event.
- Abstain from harassment or bullying of another participant, volunteer or staff member (either in face to face interactions, through social media or other communication venues), particularly when the behavior is disrespectful or regards a person's gender, race, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability or appearance.
- Not cheat or falsely represent efforts related to 4-H project activities.

Appendix A

MSU Extension and 4-H Youth Development Organizational Structure



4-20-06 MMR