



Benzie County

4-H Family News

December 2020

Closing the Door on 2020

As we approach the conclusion of 2020 and the New Year 2021, it is important to remember the highlights of 2020. Some highlights of 2020 include a successful virtual 4-H Showcase and Auction, new and innovative virtual 4-H learning opportunities and programs.

I understand that the previous year has been long, stressful, and uncertain and that 2021 may be beginning to look that way as well. However, I want to reassure all of our 4-Hers, new and current, that we are committed to providing you the best experiences in the safest way possible.

Going into the New Year, deadlines are deadlines. Every effort will be made to communicate these with plenty of time to meet them. I would also like to remind everyone about my "open door" policy, my contact information is to the right, please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns. If you do not contact me, I cannot answer your questions or give you the help that you may need.

I wish you and your families a safe and prosperous Holiday Season and New Year.

Sincerely,

Ali Olson

4-H Program Coordinator

Contact Us

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines!

› **STEER REGISTRATION:** If you are planning on showing a Steer Animal Project in 2021, please know when your registration is due!

Manistee Co. 4-H Steer Registration is due December 31, 2020! Now a Fillable PDF!

Find it here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/manistee/4-h/4-h-club-resources>

Northwest Michigan 4-H Steer Registration is due January 4, 2021 for Large Beef!

› Manistee 4-H Livestock Council Meeting: December 17, 2020 @ 7pm Open to the Public via Zoom. Contact 4-H PC for Zoom Link.

› MSU Exploration Days Registration is Coming Soon!!!! Start thinking about what courses you might want to explore!

**Connect with
youth from across
the globe!**



Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid-April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY.

4-H Events and Workshops

December 1: 4-H Giving Tuesday

Everywhere

Help grow a county 4-H endowment in your area and join the #GivingTuesday movement. Consider making a donation to grow funds that support 4-H youth today and in the future.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-giving-tuesday>

December 2: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-on-volunteer-led-programs-december-2nd>

December 7: Flour Tortilla Making 101

Zoom

Join in making tortillas — a staple in Mexican cooking. In this class, tortillas will be used as an appetizer, entrée, dessert or stand alone ingredient.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/flour-tortilla-making-101-dec-7>

December 8: Wild Spartans Series

Zoom

Join 4-H staff as we meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. December's event will explore invasive species with MSU researcher Taylor Haas.

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

December 8: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-in-virtual-volunteer-led-programs>

December 19: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Holiday Scones

Zoom

Join 4-H in the Kitchen Live for a special holiday episode! Learn how to make a batch of eggnog scones—perfect for any holiday feast — with special guest Ruth Myers.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-eggnog-scones>

Save the Date!

February 19-21, 2021: Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration

Online

The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration will be going virtual this year! Adult and teen 4-H leaders are encouraged to join this exciting online event to learn new ideas for working virtually with youth in the areas of visual and performing arts, crafts, sewing, clothing and textile projects. Stay tuned for registration information!

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.



Virtual showcase and auction success

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform

that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual learning showcases and auctions provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU.

Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- \$1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions



"We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H'ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them," said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension's state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. "We're also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation."

Participating youth also had positive feedback:

- "The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!"
- "Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can't thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can't thank you enough."



Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!



Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.

Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (<https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0>) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (<http://www.joann.com/4-h/>) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.