

*Benzie County*

# 4-H Family News

November 2020

## A Season of Thankfulness

As the Fall season descends and Thanksgiving approaches it is important to remember all of things there are to be thankful for this year.

I am thankful for the new families we are welcoming to Benzie County 4-H for the 2020-2021 4-H Year, the positive feedback on the first Pippin's Pantry SPIN Club meeting, and all our Volunteers and community partners.

Take time this month to appreciate the positives in life and take care of yourself. Self care is always important and this year has proven just how much. Do not neglect yourselves, and if you or your family are having a difficult time, please reach out. Michigan State University Extension has an abundance of resources available to help our 4-H families in their time of need or times of hardship.

Thank you to our Club Leaders who are meeting with me this month via Zoom to discuss annual updates and the future direction of Benzie County 4-H. If you, a 4-H Member or family, have anything you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Allison Olson

4-H Program Coordinator

## Contact Us

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## REMINDERS!

- › Please complete your 4-H Online enrollments by November 15.
- › If you are planning on showing a Steer Livestock Project at the Manistee County Fair or Northwest Michigan Fair please make sure you turn in your Livestock Registration by the deadline! The deadline is usually December 30 or January 1. Contact your Livestock Council if you are unsure!
- › If you are a Club Leader that has not scheduled your Annual Leader Update, please contact me ASAP.
- › Check our Facebook Page regularly for all the excellent SPIN Clubs being offered virtually by MSU Extension and 4-H all over the state! Volunteers can find details about training and support resources for hosting virtual meetings!

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**MSU's Institute of  
Agricultural  
Technology Virtual  
Open House!**



**Institute of  
Agricultural  
Technology**

You're invited to attend a virtual open house for the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology to learn more about [MSU's academic programs](#) and many [partnerships with Michigan community colleges](#).

The open house events begin at 6:30 p.m. and will run approximately 45 minutes. The presentation will include information about academic programs, career pathways, enrollment process, resources for student success, and key campus life opportunities, as well as providing an opportunity for youth to ask questions at any point throughout the presentation.

To register, click on the preferred date below:

[Tuesday, November 3](#)  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/iat-virtual-open-house-3-nov-2020](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/iat-virtual-open-house-3-nov-2020)

[Tuesday, November 17](#)  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/iat-virtual-open-house-17-nov-2020](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/iat-virtual-open-house-17-nov-2020)

Questions?  
Contact [ati.iat@msu.edu](mailto:ati.iat@msu.edu) or  
call 517-884-7334.

## 4-H Events and Workshops

**November 6-11: Michigan Youth Fall-a-thon**

*Online via GooseChase*

Join the fun on the GooseChase app as youth compete as household teams to complete challenges in this fun, self-paced, virtual fall event!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-youth-fall-a-thon>

**November 9-13: 4-H Minecraft SPIN Club**

*Online via Zoom*

Join the 4-H Minecraft SPIN Club and explore computer coding through the world of Minecraft.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-minecraft-spin-club-nov-9-13>

**November 9-12: MSU Tollgate Farm Virtual Vet Science Interactive Series**

*Online via Zoom*

Explore veterinary science through interactive sessions as you visit Tollgate Farm virtually to learn about livestock and companion animals through STEM challenges and learning!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-fall-virtual-vet-science-interactive-week-long-series>

**November 9-12: Youth Armory Babysitting Training**

*Online via Zoom*

Join this four-day training designed to teach teen youth everything they need to know about being safe, effective, trustworthy and responsible babysitters.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-armory-babysitting-training>

**November 10: Wild Spartans Series**

*Online via Zoom*

Join 4-H staff to meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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

**November 25: 4-H Sooper Yooper GooseChase Scavenger Game**

*Online via GooseChase app*

Learn fun facts about the U.P. while completing missions on the Goose Chase app! Participate in the UP Scavenger Hunt from your backyard, home, or wherever your family will be during this time!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-sooper-yooper-goosechase-savenger-game>

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



## Instructors wanted for 2021 4-H Exploration Days!

Plans are underway for an exciting and enhanced 4-H Exploration Days in 2021—and we need your help! MSU Extension's 4-H Exploration Days is a pre-college program for youth ages 12-19 years old. Volunteers are crucial to this exciting program that allows youth to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friends that can last a lifetime.

The 2021 event is slated to be held June 23-25, 2021 on the campus of MSU. During this tumultuous time, MSU Extension is committed to ensuring that participants and volunteers of Exploration Days have a safe and enjoyable experience. While we hope to host this event in person for 2021, we are also preparing for the potential of having a virtual experience. We will continue to keep both volunteers and potential participants informed as to any updates as time progresses.

To make the most of our 2021 event, regardless of format, we are currently looking for instructors to host fun and engaging sessions. Please consider submitting a session proposal before December 1. Session proposals include a session title, description, basic idea of cost, any co-instructors/session supports (youth or adult) you plan to engage and their contact information.

New for this year, sessions will take place on Thursday (morning, afternoon or both) or Friday morning in either, 2.5, 3 hour or 6 hour time slots. To learn more about instructor roles and to access the form, please visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/Volunteer-Information/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/Volunteer-Information/) or contact Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu.

## 4-H'ers excel at 2020 Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase; \$50,000 in youth scholarships awarded

Michigan 4-H youth didn't let the COVID-19 pandemic slow down their opportunity to demonstrate the skill, mastery and hard work they have put into this year's 4-H projects. These outstanding 4-H'ers took part in the first-ever Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase, hosted by the [Michigan State Fair](http://www.michiganstatefair.org) and [MSU Extension](http://www.msu.edu). This virtual platform allowed youth ages 5-19 to exhibit their work in all project areas alongside peers from across the state.

In addition to the opportunity to showcase their skills and receive accolades for their hard work, participants in the statewide event also had the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 in scholarships, generously provided by the Michigan State Fair and in partnership with the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Among those scholarships were new funds provided in 2020 to support 4-H Virtual Scholarships, specifically for 4-H youth. Recipients of the 4-H Virtual Scholarships are:

- Magdalene Callender, Ingham County
- Rebecca Havelka, Menominee County
- Travis Liford, Oakland County
- Adrian Noecker, Antrim County
- Elizabeth Shane, Washtenaw County
- Alexis Fisher, Monroe County
- Sarah Liford, Oakland County
- Allison Littlefield, St. Joseph County
- Kylie A. Ossege, Oakland County
- Troy Todd, Osceola County

"I have always dreamed of competing at the Michigan State Fair, but due to distance that was not possible," said scholarship recipient Rebecca Havelka. "The positive in this whole experience is that I had the ability to compete virtually at more shows than I could have ever imagined. Thank you so much for making this possible!"

In total, more than 400 youth from 62 Michigan counties entered more than 2,000 projects in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. Evaluation began on August 24 with youth receiving an A, B or C rating, as determined by project standards. To view placings for the 2020 Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase, visit [www.michiganstatefairllc.com](http://www.michiganstatefairllc.com).

## Getting crafting — for free!



Through National 4-H Council's partnership with JOANN Fabric and Crafts, 4-H'ers can expand their hearts, hands, and minds through new crafting projects on Creativebug.com!

When you sign up for a JOANN 4-H Rewards Card, not only will you save 15 percent off every purchase and have a portion of the sale go back to support 4-H, but you also will get free access to Creativebug.com!

Creativebug.com has thousands of award-winning arts and crafts video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists. Already have a rewards card? Go to [www.creativebug.com/lib/4-h](http://www.creativebug.com/lib/4-h) and use your rewards card number to sign up for free Creativebug access today.

Don't have a JOANN's reward card? Sign-up at [www.joann.com/4-h/](http://www.joann.com/4-h/).