



BERRIEN COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

**4-H Family News**

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2 — December 2019/January 2020

Berrien County MSU Extension Office

County Closed Dates:

**December 24 and December 25, 2019**

**December 31 and January 1, 2020**

**January 20, 2020**

The **Mission** of our 4-H Youth Development Program is to provide personal growth opportunities for youth in Berrien County through educational programs and activities which utilize quality volunteers, trained staff, and community partners.

Our **Vision** is to make a positive difference in the lives of Berrien County youth.

**Contact Us**

Berrien County  
MSU Extension Office

1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI  
49022

**Office Hours:**

Monday thru Friday  
8:30 a.m.—Noon  
&  
1:00—5:00 p.m.

**Phone**

269-927-5674

**Fax**

269-944-4128

**Web Site**

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/  
county/berrien/  
berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h)

**Facebook**

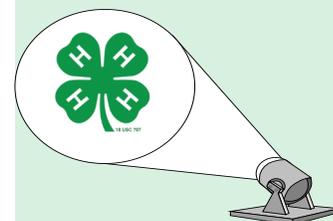
Berrien County 4-H  
Youth Development

**Your 4-H Youth  
Development Staff**

**Kelly Stelter**

**4-H Program  
Coordinator**

grandtke@msu.edu



**Upcoming Workshops & Deadlines:**

November 30	All Volunteers & Leaders National Background Check Due
December 14	Treat Yourself Countywide Project Workshop
December 14	Leaders Council Election Ballots Due
December 17	National Youth Agri Summit Scholarship Applications Due
January 1	Re-enrollment Deadline
January 16	Club's December Financial Bank Statements
June 1	New Member Enrollment Deadline

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## 4-H Spring Achievement Event Feedback Needed

The 2020 4-H Spring Achievement Planning Committee is looking for your feedback to assist them with planning the event. Please take the short survey below to aid us with direction we should go. The survey takes an estimated 10 minutes to complete. Survey can be found at:

[https://msu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1YcwimtKrGDI9W1](https://msu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1YcwimtKrGDI9W1)

We ask that all feedback be provided until January 12, 2020.

Paper copies of the survey can be requested by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269.927.5674. Thank you for your time and dedication to the Berrien County 4-H Youth Development Program.



## Club Coordinator—Annual Financial Summary Report Forms

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit Annual Financial Report Forms was November 1, 2019. If your club still needs to submit these forms please do so ASAP to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office in Benton Harbor. Forms can be mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, dropped off at the after hours drop mailbox out front or faxed to 269-944-4128.

Forms that need to be submitted include the Annual Financial Report, Civil Rights Statement, Club Profile and Inventory Record. If you have any questions, contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

## 2019 Leaders Council Annual Election

The Leaders Council Annual Elections are now under way! This year, adult leaders and teen members are encouraged to practice responsible citizenship by casting their ballot.

Adults will vote for three adults and teen members will vote for two teens. Ballots are sent via mail to eligible voters. If you have not received your ballot, please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office. Ballots must be returned by 5:00 PM on December 14, 2019 either fax, mail or drop off.



This year's 2019 Leaders Council candidates are:

### Adult Candidates:

Bobbi Lawson  
Darlene Mattson  
Elaine McKee  
Amanda Pullins

### Teen Candidates:

Benjamin McKee  
Reese McKee

## 2019 Annual Fall Candy Bar Fundraiser

The annual Fall Fundraiser has come to a close. Thank you to all the clubs that have participated in selling Gertrude Hawk Candy bars.



This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for ALL money to be turned in was December 2. If you still have money to submit, please do so ASAP to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office. All checks should be made out to: Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association.

Money can either be mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor MI 49022; dropped off during office hours or through after hours mailbox. All money that is dropped off via the afterhours drop mailbox must be via check. A club's portion of the candy bar profits cannot be distributed until all money that is owed by the club has been turned in.

## Annual Volunteer National Background Check—**DUE ASAP**

Beginning September 1, 2019, MSU Extension is now requiring all of its volunteers to complete background checks annually. A national background check, performed by backgroundcheck.com will help streamline this process for MSU Extension. Please complete your national background check by visiting :

<https://business2.backgroundchecks.com/invitation/welcome/vDVW>

This secure link will allow you to complete the process.

A few important notes:

- ◆ This link is unique to Berrien County; if you are a volunteer in more than one county, please complete the check using the link from your primary county.
- ◆ There is no charge to you as a volunteer for these background checks.
- ◆ You will be asked to complete this simple process every year as long as you remain a volunteer.
- ◆ You can only use one unique email address per check (so a family sharing an email for 4-H Online would need to use separate emails for each volunteer completing this check).
- ◆ If you have previously completed your background check at this site and have forgotten your password please use the forgot password feature to have it reset. MSU Extension staff can not reset your password for this site.

If you need any assistance with the background check or would like to request a paper form, please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674. Please complete the background check by **November 30, 2019** along with your 4-H Online re-enrollment. If you still need to submit your annual background check please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office immediately!

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## 4-H Senior Award Plaques **CHANGES**

Starting in the current 4-H program year, the Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program will be transitioning its 4-H Senior Award Plaque achievement into the 4-H Senior Award. 4-H Senior Awards will be presented to Berrien County 4-H members who have been a member for five or more years and have plans to graduate from high school this current 4-H year.

NEW, this year 4-H Senior Award recipients will receive 4-H cords along with a certificate to honor their achievement and dedication to the Berrien County 4-H Youth Development Program.

Please note, due to this transition moving forward for the graduating class of 2021 seniors will be invited to attend the annual Member and Leader Recognition Banquet in order to receive their 4-H Senior Awards. Please note, cords will not be replaced if lost once received. Current graduating seniors that meet the requirement for the 2020 year, will be honored at a separate event/activity to be determined in Spring 2020. Please talk to your local Club Coordinator on how to be nominated. We ask that 4-H Families ask permission from their designated school in advance if there are any restrictions when it comes to wearing cords during graduation. If school restrictions do apply, we ask that all families respect school policy accordingly.

Club Coordinators are asked to submit there 4-H Senior Award nominations to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office no later than February 24, 2020.



3



### **4-H Day at the Lions**

Once again this year, the Detroit Lions will be offering a 4-H Day at the Lions. 4-H Members, Families and Friends are invited to cheer on the Lions while supporting Michigan 4-H!

Each ticket purchased includes \$10.00 donation back to your county's 4-H program and a special gift!

Detroit Lions  
Vs.  
Tampa Bay  
Buccaneers

Sunday,  
December 15, 2019

1:00 p.m. Kickoff

Ford Field  
200 Brush Street  
Ford Field, MI 48226

Learn more  
and purchase tickets  
online at

[https://  
www.detroitlions.com/  
tickets/partners/4-h](https://www.detroitlions.com/tickets/partners/4-h)

## Upcoming 4-H Horse and Pony Workshops & Events:

January 31—February 1  
MI 4-H Judging  
Workshop

February 1  
MI 4-H Benefit Clinic

February 2  
Barrels & Poles Jackpot

February 4  
Berrien County 4-H  
Horse Leaders Associa-  
tion Monthly Meeting

March 3  
Berrien County 4-H  
Horse Leaders Associa-  
tion Monthly Meeting

March 21—22  
MI 4-H Hippology &  
Horse Judging Contest

March 28  
Norma Agnew Hairy  
Horse Show

July 15  
Berrien County 4-H  
Equine Educational  
Scholarship Deadline

August 14—16  
State 4-H Horse Show

August 16  
Berrien County 4-H  
Versatility Scholarship  
Event

## Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team Places Top Ten at Eastern National

This past month, the Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team members took their horse evaluations skills to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up in Louisville, Kentucky to represent Michigan 4-H. Senior team members were given their opportunity to represent Michigan 4-H through placing third at that State 4-H Horse Judging Contest held in annually in March.

Members of the senior team included Evie Clare, Sarah Jannings, Haileigh Badtke, and Emma Fanslau. Members showcased their passion, resilience, and decision-making skills learned over the course of the season to aid them through evaluating various classes.

Through their hard work and dedication, the team placed eighth overall at the Eastern National 4-H Round-Up. In addition to receiving top ten finishes in Team Performance, where they placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall and followed it up with a finish of 8<sup>th</sup> overall for Team Conformation.

Currently, the team is kick-offing its new season with a second practice scheduled to be held at Rossman Stable in Three Oaks on Sunday, December 8, 2019. If you are interested in joining please reach out to your local Horse and Pony Project for more information.

The Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team is coached by Tom Rossman and Kaitlyn Miller.



Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team Members win 8th Overall at Eastern National



2019 Equine Educational Scholarship Award Recipient.

## Equine Educational Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Mitchell Alsbro of Berrien Springs for being the first recipient of the Berrien County 4-H Equine Educational Scholarship Award sponsored by the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association.

Mitchell was presented with a certificate and a scholarship award in the amount of \$500.00 to go towards his continuing education.

Mitchell is currently attending Northwestern Ohio State University. Mitchell was a member of the Double Bridle 4-H Club for over three years, where he participated in various activities and events. Through his club he gained a deeper understanding for the horse and pony project as well as was involved in riding saddle seat and pleasure driving with his horse Ozzie. Mitchell graduated from Berrien Springs High School where he also was a member of the Berrien Equestrian Team.

For questions on the Berrien County 4-H Equine Educational Scholarship, please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269.927.5674.



## 2019 Thanks 4 Giving Community Service Project

On November 23, 2019, in collaboration with Berrien County Farm Bureau and Southwest Michigan Collegiate Farm Bureau, local Berrien County 4-H Clubs came together to participate in the Thanks 4 Giving community service project. Clubs were asked to provide items and assist in assembling baskets to give out to individuals and families in need throughout Berrien County during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Over 110 baskets were assembled and delivered to families. Each bushel basket was overflowing with enough food for a family to enjoy a

traditional Thanksgiving feast, including a turkey, locally grown lettuce, apples, potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, fresh baked dinner rolls, a pumpkin pie and vouchers for milk and butter from local grocery stores. Each basket contained at least 35 pounds of food and a total of 3,850 pounds of food was distributed!

There were over 60 4-H members, leaders and parents that assisted with assembling the baskets to help families across the county. Along with 17 Berrien County 4-H Clubs that participated in providing food for each of the baskets.

Furthermore, Berrien County Farm Bureau gave five door prizes away in the amount of \$100.00 each to participating clubs. Clubs did not have to be present on assembly day to win. The winners of the door prizes were as follows:

We Can Ride 4-H Club

Great Expectations 4-H Club

Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club

Redbud Country Goat 4-H Club

Backyard Renegades 4-H Club

5

*Thank  
You*

**A big THANK  
YOU to all of the  
clubs that  
participated in  
the Thanks 4  
Giving  
Community  
Service project.  
Without the  
many helping  
hands we  
couldn't have  
been  
successful!**

**THANK YOU!**





## 2019 Berrien County 4-H Member & Leader Recognition Banquet

The Berrien County 4-H Youth Program proudly recognized 4-H members and leaders annual achievements during the 2019 4-H Member and Leader Recognition Banquet on Sunday, November 10 at Pebblewood Banquet Hall in Bridgman. This year the program provided award recipients and their families with a buffet style dinner following the awards presentation. Congratulations to 4-H Members and Leaders on their successful 2018—2019 4-H Year. We would like to take a moment to make everyone aware of the top awards given out during the banquet. Please note, the Berrien County 4-H Member and Leader Recognition Banquet is sponsored by the Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association, Inc. and the Berrien County 4-H Foundation, Inc.

### Leo Stanley Outstanding 4-H'ers Award

*The Leo Stanley Outstanding 4-H'er Award is the highest honor a 4-H'er can receive and is sponsored by the Southwest Exchange Club of Michigan. Selection is made encompassing a member's whole 4-H career. A maximum of two youth can receive this honor in a given year.*

Karen Smith

Reese McKee

Galien Chanters 4-H Club, Baroda  
Bunnies 4-H Club & Fuzzy Friends 4-H  
Club

Redbud Country Goat 4-H Club

### "I Dare You" Award

*The I Dare You Award recognizes youth that have been selected as a the runner up to the Outstanding 4-H'er. Recipients are selected through submission for the Outstanding 4-H Award.*

Matthew Carpenter

Town & Country Paws and Pals 4-H Club  
Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club

### County Project Medals

*The county project medals recognizes members within a project area that they have completed for at least three years. Youth are only able to receive one project medal in a project area in their 4-H career.*

Civic Engagement—Darlene Mattson of the Best Friends 4-H Club  
Leadership & Personal Development —Evie Clare of the Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club  
Rabbit & Cavy Science—Aiden Conley of the Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club  
Pocket Pets—Aiden Conley of the Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club  
Expressive Arts—Sydney Melton of the Galien Chanters 4-H Club  
Food & Nutrition—Morgran Gruss of the Countrysiders 4-H Club  
Dog Science—Isabel Widdis of the Best Friends 4-H Club

### Outstanding 4-H Leader

*The Outstanding 4-H Leader Award recognizes 4-H leaders for their volunteer service and leadership within their 4-H clubs as well as their leadership on county programs, committees, and activities that benefit the more than 500 youth and their families enrolled in Berrien County 4-H.*

Charity Hackett

Keith Krieger

We Can Ride 4-H Club

Straight Shooters 4-H Club

### Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation.

Recipient received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education.

Darlene Mattson

### Best Friends 4-H Club & Straight Shooters 4-H Club

### Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation.

Recipient received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education. Scholarship is sponsored by the Cerny Family.

Mitchell Alsbro

### Double Bridle 4-H Club

### Clover Years of Service Awards

Presented to 4-H Leaders for achieving milestones for years of service.

#### Silver – 5 years of service

Angela Widdis

Carly Case

Todd Case

Randi Eckstein

Brenda Kneibes

Lisa Myers

Amanda Pullins

Lori VanArkel

#### Gold – 10 years of service

Tracie Baker

Lisa Mattson

Kaitlyn Miller

#### Pearl – 15 years of service

Charity Hackett

#### Emerald – 25 years of service

Freida Keefer

Elaine McKee

Wendy Monroe

#### Sapphire – 35 years of service

Donna Janke

Jane Krueger

#### Diamond – 40 years of service

Carolyn Sommers

### All—Achievement Award

Presented to member's in recognition of their leadership and experience within a project area that they have completed for at least four years.

Darlene Mattson of the Best Friends 4-H Club – Civic Engagement

Paige McKean of the Town and Country Paws & Pals 4-H Club – Dog Science

Isabel Widdis of the Best Friends 4-H Club – Dog Science

Ross Clare of the Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club – Rabbits & Cavy Science

Sydney Melton of the Galien Chanters 4-H Club – Cat Science

Ross Clare of the Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club – Personal Development

Sydney Melton of the Galien Chanters 4-H Club – Photography

### Club Award

Presented to a club for recognition in outstanding achievement at the club level. The club award recognizes clubs for their accomplishments through participating in various community service projects, leadership opportunities and other events/activities through the program year.

### Straight Shooters 4-H Club



# STATE 4-H RABBIT & CAVY SHOW

## Classes:

Rabbit and Cavy breed classes ONLY. Judging by ARBA Standards (breed, fur, meat). No showmanship classes offered.

## Other events during the show:

- » Breed ID Contest
- » Educational Poster Contest
- » Supply Vendors
- » Scholarship Silent Auction

## Cost:

\$3.00 per class

## Who can participate:

Open to all Michigan 4-H members 8-19 years of age (as of January 1, 2020). A non-competitive Cloverbud division for 5-7 years of age is also available.

Want to become a 4-H member? Contact your county MSU Extension Office today!

## Find out more...

For more information, event catalog, and online pre-registration, contact your local MSU Extension office or visit the website at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/rabbitcavyshow2020/>



**January 25, 2020**

**MSU Pavilion,  
East Lansing, MI**

**On-site registration  
begins at 6:30 a.m.**

**Online Pre-Registration  
available at [https://  
events.anr.msu.edu/  
rabbitcavyshow2020/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/rabbitcavyshow2020/)**

**The Michigan 4-H Rabbit  
and Cavy Show is  
sponsored by Michigan  
4-H Youth Development  
Programs, Michigan  
State University  
Extension.**

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY | **Extension**

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The Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program is offering a scholarship in the amount of \$16.00 per a member who attends. Scholarships are available by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674. Scholarships are on a reimbursement process. Scholarships are provided through funds from the Berrien County 4-H Foundation, Inc.



## 4-H National Youth Agri-Science Summit Michigan 4-H Delegation

### DATE & TIME:

January 9-12, 2020

### LOCATION:

National 4-H Conference  
Center; Chevy Chase, MD  
(near Washington, D.C.)

### COST:

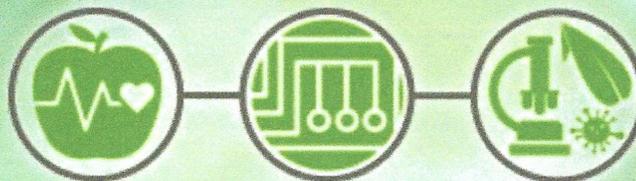
\$400

Includes lodging, airfare,  
transportation, most meals,  
conference registration,  
chaperones.

The Michigan delegation  
will be flying from Detroit  
(DTW)

#### Conference Features include:

- ◆ Issues Identification & Action Planning
- ◆ Career Exploration
- ◆ Educational Sessions
- ◆ D.C. Tour
- ◆ Guest Speakers
- ◆ Networking



## NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT SERIES

HEALTHY LIVING • MAKER • AGRISCIENCE

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Michigan youth grades 9-12

### DESCRIPTION:

At the National Youth Summit on Agri-Science high school students develop the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security and sustainability. National 4-H Council and National 4-H Conference Center have partnered with agricultural scientists, researchers, leaders, politicians, and advocates to host the National Youth Summit on Agri-Science. This Summit emphasizes hands-on educational experiences led by experts in the agricultural community. Participants will prepare a community action plan to address a local agriculture science or food security issue.

### HOW TO REGISTER

Register online by **December 20, 2019**

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/agrisciencesummit20>

Participants must also be currently enrolled in 4-H Online.

### CONTACT:

Betty Jo Krosnicki at [nashbett@msu.edu](mailto:nashbett@msu.edu) or 810-648-2515

### SPONSORS:

Scholarships for conference registration fees and transportation for provided by Bayer and National 4-H Council.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. 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. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations.

The Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program is offering at least one scholarship in the full amount of the registration cost.

Scholarships are based on an application process. Applications can be found at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/uploads/files/Agri-Science+Summit+Application.pdf>

Applications are due to the Berrien County MSU Extension office or emailed to [grandtke@msu.edu](mailto:grandtke@msu.edu) by December 17, 2019.



**2020 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus** participants learn about our nation's government by participating in hands-on leadership workshops and touring of historical sites in Washington, D.C. 4-H CWF is scheduled for June 20-27, 2020. Michigan 4-H CWF Participants will travel by charter bus to Washington D.C. visiting the 911 Memorial in PA and stopping overnight in Gettysburg, PA. While in Gettysburg, youth will visit the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum, travel the battlefields with a licensed tour guide and see the Gettysburg Cyclorama Map of the Civil War.

4-H CWF groups stay at the National 4-H Center just outside Washington D.C. and travel to all of the sites of the area including Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, U.S. Capitol, Iwo Jima Memorial, National Cathedral and the Holocaust Museum. Participants will also visit the Smithsonian Museums, Toby's Dinner Theatre, and the Armed Forces music program, Twilight Tattoo. Participants will tour the Capitol and meet with legislators and visit hearings on Capitol Hill Day.

4-H CWF participants join committees such as legislative and communications to help conduct the program. Participants also attend leadership workshops and work as a group to write and pass bills.

Michigan 4-H CWF is limited to 45 participants. Please contact your local MSU Extension Office if you are interested in attending the program. The cost of the 2020 4-H CWF program is \$1,500.00 which includes all meals (except 7 meals in transit), lodging and transportation.

#### **2020 4-H CWF Payment Schedule**

**Check with your county MSU Extension Office for scholarship opportunities before completing the registration.**

Payments must be made with credit card online or paid by check to Michigan State University and returned to your county MSU Extension Office by deadlines below. Payments must include information: 4-H CWF, county name, names of participants and amount for each participant. Send check payments to Connie Lange, Branch County MSU Extension at 570 Marshall Road, Suite C, Coldwater, MI 49036.

**The total cost for CWF is \$1,5000.00.**

- Jan. 6 2020: Online registration with a \$500.00 payment is due.
- Feb. 6, 2020: Additional \$500.00 of payment is due. Cancellations received after Feb. 6, 2019 will not be refunded, unless a substitute is found. The completed 4-H CWF Form packet is due to Connie Lange, MSU Extension Branch County, 570 Marshall Road, Coldwater, MI 49036 or emailed to [langec@msu.edu](mailto:langec@msu.edu) . A head and shoulders (school) picture should be mailed (or emailed) with the forms packet.
- March 13, 2020: Final \$500.00 final payment due.

**Staff:** Staff should reserve space by emailing Connie Lange, [langec@msu.edu](mailto:langec@msu.edu). Payments must be made with credit card online or paid by check payable to Michigan State University and sent to 4-H CWF, Connie Lange, Branch County MSU Extension, 570 Marshall Road, Suite C, Coldwater, MI 49036. Payments can be made from MSU Accounts also. Please include the "2020 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus Payment Form with check or account payments.

#### **Accommodations**

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact at the time of registration. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

#### **Contact Information**

For program information please visit the [Michigan State University 4-H Leadership and Citizenship page](#) or contact Connie Lange at [langec@msu.edu](mailto:langec@msu.edu) or at the Branch County MSU Extension Office, 517-279-4311.

Berrien County 4-H is offering one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 to a member to attend the 2020 CWF trip. Applications for the scholarship can be requested by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674. Applications are due by January 4, 2020 no later than 5:00 p.m. If youth are chosen for the scholarship a deposit of \$250.00 must be made no later than January 6, 2020 to



2019 State Award winners with their plaques at 4-H Exploration Days.

### Get ready for the 2020 4-H State Award applications process!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding

knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years old), junior state award (13-15 years old), senior state award (16-19 years old) and group awards (13-19 years old). The application process and selection is determined by the age of the 4-H member. Final candidates for the junior, senior and group level awards in each project area will be selected to participate in the State Awards program during 4-H Exploration Days in June where final selection and announcement of winners will take place.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-scholarships-and-recognition-program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition>. Applications are due Feb. 1, 2020. For more information, contact Betty Jo Krosnicki at [nashbett@msu.edu](mailto:nashbett@msu.edu).

### What can you do because of 4-H? Share for a chance to win!

Michigan 4-H'ers ages 11-12 are encouraged to share how 4-H has impacted them through the 4-H Mark of Excellence Essay Contest. A great introduction to the Michigan 4-H State Awards program, Mark of Excellence contestants write a 500 word essay on the topic of "Because of 4-H, I can..." Winners will receive a certificate of recognition and medal to commemorate their accomplishment.

Essays are due to respective county 4-H offices by February 1. County 4-H programs then select up to two youth essays as their representatives and submit those names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. The committee uses the essays to inform the public about what 4-H means to youth and copies are also shared with the Michigan State 4-H Office, Michigan 4-H Foundation, and Kettunen Center.

For more additional information and instructions, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-scholarships-and-recognition-program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition> or contact Kelly Stelter at [grandtke@msu.edu](mailto:grandtke@msu.edu).

### 4-H Dog Patch Program



The Michigan 4-H Dog Patch Program is designed to recognize the personal achievements of individuals participating in the 4-H dog project area.

The program has been in existence since 1987 and provides youth with goals to work towards in this project area. There are numerous patches available to reflect the varying disciplines in which youth can participate. In 2019, three new patches have been added; the Rally Intermediate, Rally Master and Beginning Novice.

For more information about the Michigan 4-H Dog Patch Program or to order patches, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4-h-dog-patch-program>.

Berrien County MSU Extension  
1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**Upcoming Reminder Deadlines:**

Returning Member & Leader Enrollment Deadline  
**January 1, 2020**

New Member/Final Enrollment Deadline  
**June 1, 2019**

All New Leaders must go through the Volunteer Selection Process prior to being approved in 4-H Online. All Returning Leaders must go through a national background check.

For questions or issues, please contact the Berrien County MSUE Office.

