



APRIL 2026

4-H Family News

Charlevoix County



WELCOME

Happy Spring 4-H Friends!

4-H is committed to reducing financial barriers so all youth can take part in meaningful experiences. Scholarships are available for a wide range of opportunities, including local 4-H opportunities such as soccer, swim school, tennis; statewide workshops such as Exploration Days, Capitol Experience; National events like National 4-H Congress and Conference.

Local Partners including the Charlevoix County 4-H Council, Emmet-Charlevoix 4-H Market Livestock Association, City of Boyne City, and a very generous private donor from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation – provide for many scholarships to support youth in Charlevoix County 4-H. If you're interested in participating in more of what 4-H has to offer, we encourage you to contact the extension office as well as explore the resources shared in this newsletter and on our website. 4-H welcomes young people from all backgrounds and interests, and we want to ensure no one misses out.

Making the Best Better,

Leah

CONTACT US

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WEBSITE:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/charlevoix/c/charlevoix_county_4_h_general_forms/general-info

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Charlevoix 4-H Council Meeting – 6:30pm.....Date: NO MEETING

Emmet-Charlevoix Market Livestock Meeting – 7:00pm.....Date: 04-20-2026

Emmet-Charlevoix Horse Council Meeting – 7:00pm.....Date: 04-16-2026

Animal Husbandry forms due MAY 1, 2026

Horse Membership Enrollment form due May 1, 2026

Senior Scholarship Applications due April 17, 2026

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Building awareness in 4-H experiences



Beyond Ready

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Online (Goosechase App)

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions

April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Comerica Park, Detroit

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers

April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

Online

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart

April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Stores everywhere

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

Online

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21

April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let's Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease

Online

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease

April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk

Online

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.

Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html. For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

MICHIGAN YOUTH LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP



MICHIGAN YOUTH LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

JUNE 16-17, 2026
MICHIGAN STATE CAMPUS

Co-hosted by Michigan 4-H and the MSU Collegiate Livestock Judging Team

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Reasons training from MSU team members
- One-on-one coaching in swine, small ruminants, and cattle
- Numerous Practice Classes

Open to ages 12-19
Registration closes May 15 (or when all spots are full)

Scan to Register!



Registration for Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp is now OPEN!

This camp is for teens who are looking to sharpen their livestock judging skills and will be a great practice opportunity prior to the State Contest! It is open to youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1) and will be held June 16-17 on the campus of Michigan State University.

Full details and a link to register can be found here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-youth-livestock-judging-camp-2026>



4-H AND FFA MEATS JUDGING STATE CONTEST



4-H and FFA Meats Judging State Contest

May 6, 2026

MSU Meat Lab

Registration is now open for this year's 4-H and FFA Meats Judging State Contest! The contest will take place on Wednesday, May 6th at the MSU Meat Lab. Youth who participate in 4-H and FFA can compete in both divisions at this contest. Find more information, including the registration form, here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-meats-judging-state-contest-2026>

Registration will close April 24.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H PAPER CLOVER CAMPAIGN WITH TSC



April 17 - May 3, 2026

Since 2010, Tractor Supply has partnered with 4-H to prepare youth to be ready for work and life. The success of the Paper Clover campaign has raised more than \$24 million to impact local youth with the technical skills and life skills that prepare them for whatever comes their way. 100 percent of funds raised through the bi-annual Paper Clover campaign directly benefits 4-H youth. 90 percent of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state where the funds were raised, and the remaining 10 percent supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally.

MICHIGAN 4-H LICENSE PLATE

**SPORT THE
PLATE.
SUPPORT 4-H.**



Sport the plate, support 4-H!

Show your love for Michigan 4-H every time you hit the road. The Michigan 4-H license plate is more than just a cool design—it helps fund life-changing 4-H programs for youth across the state.

AVAILABLE FOR
\$35 AT THE
MICHIGAN SOS



For every plate purchased, \$25 benefits Michigan 4-H! Order yours today and drive with purpose!

Learn more:
extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate



Learn more at

extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2025-2026 Charlevoix 4-H Council Meeting Dates

*Every 1st Monday of the month unless it falls on a holiday week
at Boyne City - City Hall in the Commission Chambers (2nd floor) or Zoom*

**Youth (8-19) are required to attend 2 council meetings & 1 Educational Event
OR 3 Council meetings to be eligible to show at fair.**

September 8, 2025 - BC City Hall - Commission Chambers 6:30 pm

October 26, 2025 - Sunday, 2:00 pm Awards Banquet @ Veteran's Park Pavilion

November 3, 2025 - Zoom 6:30 pm (*Leader In-service following mtg*)

**Hilltop Renegades*

December 14, 2025 - Sunday, 2:00 pm Holiday Party @ Veteran's Park Pavilion

**Mavericks & Charlevoix County Critter Club
(Responsible for Holiday Games & Activities)*

January 2026 - *NO MEETING*

February 2026 - *NO MEETING*

March 2, 2026 - Zoom 6:30 pm

**Jordan Valley All Breed Horse Craft & Critter Club*

April 2026 - *NO MEETING*

May 4, 2026 - Veteran's Park Pavilion 6:30 pm

**Maple River Hoof Prints*

June 1, 2026 - BC City Hall - Commission Chambers 6:30 pm

**Charlevoix County Creature Clan*

July 19, 2026 - Sunday, 2:00 pm Annual Picnic @ Veteran's Park Pavilion

**Country Kids*

August 2026 - *NO MEETING*

**4-H club responsible for Education/Social Activity at meeting*



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Emmet - Charlevoix 2025-2026

4-H Horse Council Meeting Dates

Every 3rd Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at 7:00pm at the Equestrian Center or T-Barn in Petoskey

Youth (8-19) are required to:

- *Attend 3 horse council meetings with one of them being a pre-fair meeting in July or August*
- *Participate in 1 fundraiser*
- *Attend 1 Horse Sponsored clinic/show/club ride*
- *Complete a horse record book*

***Cloverbuds (youth 5-7) are strongly encouraged to attend meetings but MUST attend one pre-fair meeting in July or August & complete a cloverbud horse record book*

September 18, 2025

October 16, 2025

November 2025 - NO MEETING

December 2025 - NO MEETING

January 2026 - NO MEETING

February 19, 2026

March 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

May 1, 2026 (Friday) - *Horse Membership Form Due

May 21, 2026

June 18, 2026

July 16, 2026 - Pre-Fair Meeting *Horse Registration Form Due

July 20, 2026 (Monday) - *Fair Registrations Due in Fair Entry

August 6, 2026 - Pre-Fair Meeting



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Emmet - Charlevoix 2025-2026

4-H Market Livestock Meeting Dates

**Every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00pm at the
Community Center or T-Barn in Petoskey**

Youth (8-19) are required to attend 5 Market Livestock meetings, 2 work bees, 1 Fundraiser as needed by the association and actively participate on a committee to be eligible to show at fair.

Youth are required to be at October or November Meeting

Youth are required to be at July or August Meeting

September 28, 2025 (Sunday) - cookout at 4:00 pm, meeting at 6:00 pm October 20, 2025

October 20, 2025 - Review and approval of Bylaws, Rules, Enrollment & Contracts

November 17, 2025 - Enrollment Form & Large Beef Contracts Due

December 2025 - NO MEETING

January 19, 2026 - Held on Zoom (No in person meeting)

February 16, 2026 - Held on Zoom (No in person meeting)

March 16, 2026

April 20, 2026

May 18, 2026 - Dairy Feeder, Goat, Jr. Beef, Lamb & Swine Contracts Due

June 15, 2026 - Duck, Geese, Rabbit & Turkey Contracts Due

July 20, 2026 - Pre Fair Meeting, Fair Registration & Chicken Contracts Due

August 3, 2026 - Pre Fair Meeting

August 23, 2026 - Fair Animal Weigh-In from 7:00 - 12:00pm & meeting at 1:00pm



COUNTY 4-H NEWS



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Kick Off Meeting - Shot Gun Only
Youth must be 12 as of
January 1, 2026

Wednesday April, 29, 2026 at 6:00pm
Charlevoix Rod & Gun Club
11330 US 31 Highway North, Charlevoix

We will discuss safety, equipment needs, cost, shooting schedules and fill our paperwork

For questions contact Coach Paul Haver
Cell - 231-330-6984 or Home - 582-7739





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H
SMALL ANIMAL
CLINIC & SHOW
MAY 23rd

REGISTRATION AT 8 AM
CLINIC: FREE!
AFTERNOON SHOW: \$10 PER CLASS
\$5 to register for the Grand/Reserve Championship classes at judge discretion
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
EMMET COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS • PETOSKEY, MI

SCAN HERE
For Information Contact:
Heather Holzschu
231-330-7074
hemyers@hotmail.com

PRE-REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/PuFFBsVhyuq7ru7QA>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

2026 Charlevoix County 4-H Tennis Clinic



Rotary Park in Boyne City

All classes are designed to have fun & help players learn to love the sport!

Tennis Sessions

Registration fee per session
\$65.00

Scholarships are available upon request.

Checks made payable to:
Charlevoix Community 4-H Tennis



JUNE CLINIC

Dates: June 22-26, 2026

Session 1: 9:00 - 10:30 am

This session is ideally for ages 5-13 and for players wanting to learn the game & play fun drills.

Session 2: 10:30 am - 12:00pm

This session is ideally for ages 8-16 and for players who have had tennis experience & want to play more competitively.

Meet Our Instructor! Susan Lahti

She played tennis for Michigan Tech & has been teaching 4-H for 21 years and plays competitively for the USTA.



You're All Invited to
HIT The Courts!



AUGUST CLINIC

Dates: August 3-7, 2026

Session 3: 9:00 - 10:30 am

This session is ideally for ages 5-13 and for players wanting to learn the game & play fun drills.

Session 4: 10:30 am - 12:00pm

This session is ideally for ages 8-16 and for players who have had tennis experience & want to play more competitively.

If you have questions
or for weather cancellations,
please contact:

Program Leader: Susan Lahti
(231) 313-6968

OR

Leah LaVanway: 4-H Coordinator

319 B North Lake Street
Boyne City, MI 49712
Phone: 231-582-6232
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COUNTY 4-H NEWS



2026

LOCATION: WHITING PARK OFF LAKE SHORE RD
(BETWEEN ADVANCE AND THE IRONTON FERRY)

JUNE 29 – AUGUST 11, 2026

COST: REGISTRATION FEE \$120.00 PER CHILD
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Child must be 5 years old as of January 1, 2026. Payment must accompany registration to secure a spot.

REGISTRATION OPEN from Now – FRI. JUNE 19th

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM PH. 231-582-6232

CASH OR CHECK (PAYABLE TO BOYNE 4-H SWIM SCHOOL)

CLASSES OFFERED:

SWIM LEVELS 1 - 7

MONDAY'S & WEDNESDAY'S **or** TUESDAY'S & THURSDAY'S

Each class is 30 minutes long

A.M. SESSIONS (9:30, 10:00, 10:30) **or** P.M. SESSIONS (12:00, 12:30, 1:00)

Class size max of 8 youth with one instructor and one beach aide

LEVEL 5 & UP - TRIANGLE SWIM OPTION: FRIDAY'S 10:00-12:00PM **this option is in addition to M/W or T/Th classes, if needed**

Levels 5 & up: require 5 miles of triangles to be eligible for the lake swim

INTSTRUCTIONS



1. Select your child's swim level
2. Select M/W or T/Th classes during the week
3. Select A.M. or P.M. time slot option - you cannot pick a specific class time

Exact class times will determined after registration closes

Phone calls & emails will be made the week of June 22nd with exact class times and instructors names.

* PLEASE NOTE: SWIMMERS WILL BE TESTED THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. CLASS TIMES MAY CHANGE IF THEY ARE AT AN INCORRECT LEVEL.

Updates for 2026 :

- Swim school will be 6 weeks long & end with beach games/award day on the last day so for Mon/Wed classes it will be August 10th & for Tue/Thur classes it will be August 11th.
- Pre Lake Swim: Friday, July 31st at 10:00 a.m.
- LAKE SWIM - Friday, August 7 at 8:30 a.m. (make up date due to weather August 10)
~YOUNG STATE PARK TO WHITING PARK~

For more information: call 231-582-6232

4-H SWIM SCHOOL IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE SWIMMING INSTRUCTION ON LAKE CHARLEVOIX AND PROMOTING WATER SAFETY TO THE COMMUNITY OF BOYNE CITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS. BOYNE AREA 4-H SWIM SCHOOL STAFF ARE TRAINED AND CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS/AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IN WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTION OR LIFE GUARDING AND CPR / FIRST AID. MSU IS AN AFFIRMATIVE-ACTION OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. 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.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

MICHIGAN YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOWCASE SERIES

Join Michigan Junior Livestock Society and Michigan 4-H for a hands on event. We'll be covering showmanship, clipping/ fitting clinics in the morning, followed by a showmanship showdown for those who bring their animals in the afternoon!
Bring your own animals or just observe!
Open to all Michigan 4-H members ages 5-19!



Beef Showcase

May 3rd 9am-3pm

Emmet County Fairgrounds

1129 Charlevoix Ave. Petoskey MI 49770

Cost \$25

Register in 4-H Online



MICHIGAN Youth Livestock Conference



Lamb/Goat Showcase

May 30th 9am-3pm

Alpena County Fairgrounds

627 S. 11th Ave. Alpena, MI 49707



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