

Hi 4-H Family,

Thank you for your continued flexibility and patience in working through changes in our 4-H program during these challenging times. Below you will find information on the county 4-H program, upcoming meetings, and additional upcoming educational opportunities.

A big congratulations and **thank you** for thinking outside the box to Donyaellie Wheaton from Millerburg 4-H Club, who was chosen to be featured by the state for her work and efforts to engage with 4-Hers during this time! Read more here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/michigan-4-h-volunteer-spotlight-eaton-countys-donyaellie-wheaton>

As a reminder, all in-person 4-H meetings, programs, and events through September 1 are to be postponed, rescheduled, moved to video conference, or canceled. MSU Extension has released an FAQ document for 4-H programming recommendations with consideration of fair partners. That document can be viewed at (see email sent from 4HOnline for link to document).

I know that you may be frustrated, disappointed, or sad regarding these decisions. Please take time to process and grieve for the loss of the in-person gatherings in which we are used to participating. If you have questions, concerns, or need clarification about the decisions, please contact me and I will do my best to answer. Change is hard and is not without some road blocks, stumbling, and uncertainty, but how we interact with each other and how we behave can get us through these challenging times. Although there are no 4-H programs or club meetings taking place in-person this summer, if we work together, we can support each other through these times and create unique ideas to engage virtually and think outside the box.

If you have any questions, feedback, or assistance needed in the county 4-H program, you can fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/vYdEAoQzbhCLAAjr5>. As always, you are also welcome to reach out to me via email or the county Facebook page. If you have questions that are related to the Eaton County Fair, please contact fair board or the fair office. Information can be found on their website at <https://eatoncountyfair.com/>.

#### **Eaton County 4-H meetings and events:**

\*\*Please note: We are attempting to keep the Events Calendar as up to date as possible at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton\\_county\\_4\\_h/4\\_h\\_events\\_calendar](https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/4_h_events_calendar).

- 4-H Council meeting on Monday, 5/4, moved to video conference. Join the meeting on 5/4 at 7pm by clicking this

link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/429657657> password: council  
Minutes from the March meeting and agenda for this meeting are posted at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton\\_county\\_4\\_h/eaton\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_assoc\\_ations\\_and\\_committees/4\\_h\\_advisory\\_council](https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_assoc_ations_and_committees/4_h_advisory_council).

- Virtual Fireside Chat for Volunteers. This chance for volunteers to touch base, ask questions, share ideas, and connect will now occur on Tuesdays at 6pm every 2 weeks starting May 12 (dates: 5/12, 5/26, 6/9, and 6/23)! To connect via Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97921492415> Password: fireside
- DIY Spa Products SPIN Club: Students 9-13 are invited to join us as we learn how to use botanicals to make all-natural skin care products. We will introduce the basics of plant science, stress management and entrepreneurship through interactive activities. Students will learn how to use the power of plants to make their own bath bombs, sugar scrubs, lip balms and more! This club is being moved to occur virtually. Reserve your spot by contacting Rachel at [ochylski@msu.edu](mailto:ochylski@msu.edu). View more information at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/virtual-diy-spa-products-spin-club>.
- Virtual Gardening SPIN Club May 20 & 27, June 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 4pm - 5pm. Do you love to garden? Are you interested in understanding what plants need to grow, and why? Join the 4-H Gardening SPIN club! We'll cover plant science, nutrition, fresh food preparation, and more! We are planning that Eaton County youth will be able to pick up supply kits from the nearest approved pick up location before the club starts, all state guidelines at the time will be followed. If the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Order is extended past the start date, the club will be rescheduled for a later date. There are a limited number of seeds available for registered participants. Reserve your spot by contacting Rachel at [ochylski@msu.edu](mailto:ochylski@msu.edu) or visiting <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/virtual-gardening-spin-club>.

## Michigan 4-H Mask Project

As the novel coronavirus pandemic grips the world, the Michigan 4-H community has stepped up to help. Cloth face coverings are among the strategies to protect against virus spread and 4-H families across the state have sewn homemade cloth face coverings to protect the public, essential workers, and healthcare workforce. To date, more than 2,400 cloth face coverings had been donated to more 25 different organizations.

Though an amazing feat, **the need is still great**. MSU Extension has a goal of providing 5,000 cloth face coverings for area community members. Fortunately, the Michigan 4-H community is as great as the need! Join us in working together to address this need and more! Our newly launched **Michigan 4-H Mask Project site has instructions for making and donating to our efforts – check it out today!** If

you have made masks and donated them to other organizations, please fill out the survey found on page 2 so that the state office can see all our efforts!

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/community\\_service\\_learning/4-H-Mask-Project/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/community_service_learning/4-H-Mask-Project/)

### **Other upcoming educational opportunities and new resources:**

- Need help planning your week? There is a new resource on weekly activities for the upcoming week that can be found at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/family/Educational-Resources-for-School-Closures/Weekly-Activities-for-Youth/>
- Home Alone - Safely virtual series, May 4-7 from 10-11:15 am via Zoom. Learn about fire safety, 911, healthy snacks, safe food prep, physical activity, boredom busters, first aid, and more! Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/homealonesafely3>
- Virtual Rabbit Education Series - lots of topics on rabbit education from meat pens, to breeding, to showmanship, to nutrition, and more! Visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/virtualrabbit/> for dates and times and to register.
- Learn what life is like in other countries during this time! Join our international program for conversations. The next conversation is on May 8 with Norway and Ukraine. Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/5-8-2020-international-conversations-with-michigan-exchange-alumni> to register.

Email and our county Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EatonCounty4H/>) will continue to be the main sources of information sent out from our county office. I highly recommend making sure you have liked the Facebook page and marked "See First" and "Notifications On" under the follow settings so that you see our posts (Facebook's algorithm sometimes does not show page posts in newsfeeds, so this is the best way to ensure you will see all posts)! You can also find these update emails on our newsletter website for reference. Please follow the most recent letter posted for guidance on changes from the state and from our organization. You can find them at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton\\_county\\_4\\_h/4\\_h\\_newsletter](https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/4_h_newsletter).

You may see many meetings or educational opportunities moved to video conference. The platform that MSU Extension uses is Zoom. You can join Zoom meetings from your computer or phone (via the app) using the specific links provided for the different opportunities. To download Zoom, visit <https://zoom.us/download>.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me.

Thanks,

Kristy

**Kristy Oosterhouse**

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Pronouns: She, her, hers

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