

*Gladwin County*

4-H Family News

May Newsletter

Hey its May!

May is here and that means things are going start moving quick. Fair will be here before you know it. Make sure you are keeping track of dates and times for when things are due. The fair has all dates posted on their webpage and the 4-H will be sending weekly reminder emails. Due to restrictions there will be no 4-H Food stand at the fair this year. Melissa Maxwell is working on putting on a shot clinic for horses this year through the fair, so we will keep you posted on this. There is no sheep/swine weigh in this year, photos of your animal are due to the Fair Office by May 11th. Lastly, don't forget about your Still Exhibit projects. I know you all have been doing amazing crafts all winter long and will have great gardening projects this summer that deserve to be shared.

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Important Dates

Livestock Committee Meeting- May 6th at 6pm Via Zoom

Sheep/Swine Weigh in Paperwork Due- May 11th by 4:30pm to the Gladwin County Fair Office

JR.Livestock/Fair board meeting- May 18th starting at 6pm at the Fair Grounds

Fair 101 Webinar- May 20th at 6pm Via Zoom

Fair 101 Workshop

Is this your first year at fair? Are you unsure of how to fill out the paperwork? Get the help you need to make fair less stressful by attending the Gladwin County 4-H Fair 101 Workshop. This workshop will go over the need to know when attending fair. The workshop will discuss

- What should I pack
- Who to talk to when problems arise
- Show Dates
- How to fill out paperwork

And so much more. This workshop will take place over zoom May 20th at 6pm and is open to all not just first years. Members must pre-register at <https://msu.zoom.us/j/6445555555>

All members who attend will get a helpful guide!

Keeping away the “I’m Bored” Blues

Parents are you struggling with your kids coming to you with the “I’m Bored Blues.” or maybe your trying to find ways to just keep them learning that doesn't always involve a computer. MSU Extension has some great resources to keep your kids busy and learning. “Heads In Hearts In” offers dozens of activities from literacy to science. These activities are not only engaging but they help your kids keep learning even when school is not in session. I’ve included the link for all lessons here <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/heads-in-hearts-in-science-activities>

Have you asked an Expert ?

Have you ever found an insect and wondered what it was? Maybe you have a plant or weed in your horse pasture you want to make sure is safe for your horses to be around? All these and many more questions can be answered by an expert. Michigan State University Extension offers a great service called “Ask an Expert”. This service is provided free to the public and allows you to get your questions answered by MSU faculty and volunteers who have extensive knowledge in their field. With a few simple clicks you can upload your question and photos and within a few short days, your answer will arrive via email, along with links to additional information. The best part, each answer is based on research so it's accurate and unbiased. So if you have a question and you need an expert to help answer it, Go to <https://ask.extension.org>

Cooking over the Campfire Camp.

Clare and Gladwin County are partnering to bring camp to your home this year. Keep a look out in the coming few weeks to register. This fun camp in a box will be about cooking over the open fire. Kids who register will receive fun recipes, camp-fire tools and lots of other fun goodies.



May Birthdays

Adison Greer

Bailey Hays

Braden Huckins

Brenna Buzzell

Brenna McKimmy

Carol Hoag

Cole Bailey

Delaney Conley

Elijah Townsend

Elizabeth Hoag

Erin Breault

Gwen Tweed

Harlie Lamson

Jacob Simons

Jaidyn Quick

Kathy Hawkins

Lyndsy Bock

Madison Archibald

Nathan Townsend

Sophia Dillon

10 Tips for a better buyer's letter

Sara Keinath, Michigan State University Extension - July 25, 2014

Practicing good written communications contributes to a successful market livestock project.

As many youth prepare their market livestock for the fair season, one important aspect of a successful project is a well-written buyer's letter. This piece of communication is a crucial way to convey information to potential customers about your project and the auction, while also making a personal connection. Whether this is your first market project or you've been doing it for several years, Michigan State University Extension has some tips to help make your letter stand out.

Plan ahead! Send out letters well in advance of the auction so that buyers can make plans to come. In general a buyer's letter should go out at least one month before the auction.

Personalize it. Include a personal greeting to the potential buyer (ex: Dear Mr. Smith, Dear Ms. Jones or Dear Wayne County Farm Bureau.) Sometimes it is more appropriate to address it to a company or business, but make an effort to learn the specific names of people if you can.

Tell a story. Your letter should include the story of your product/project (how you chose the project, what care or feeding choices you made, what makes your product/project stand out) as well as information about you, such as your age, how many years you've been in 4-H or what your agribusiness project is supporting (college, next year's project, etc.). Help the buyer get to know you more by telling them a little bit about yourself. Answer questions such as: What other animals do you raise? What have you learned through 4-H? What club and community are you a part of? Why would you like buyers to come to the auction? What are your long-term goals?

Think of yourself as a business. Include information on the "product" you are producing. What are they buying? What can they do with it? Why is it a good idea to buy a 4-H animal? What is the nutritional value?

Market your opportunities. Invite them to the auction. Clearly state the date, time and location of the auction. Include important details such as parking or admission information. Never pressure the prospective buyer into buying your animal – but rather encourage them to support 4-H youth of your county. Be positive!

Have a customer service mindset. If you are writing to previous customers, you can communicate appreciation of their past support, which may contribute to another sale. Remember, though, that even if they don't end up purchasing your animal, getting more customers to the sale will benefit everyone.

Meet and greet Invite the buyer to come early to meet you and see your animal(s). Keep your pens and animals "buyer-ready" (clean) at all times. Practice your business handshake and professional pitch ahead of time so you can make a good impression!

Be creative. Add something special that your buyer will remember about you. A picture of you and your animal, sample recipes or a quote are just a few examples. Share a personal story or memory from 4-H or from the auction. Consider adding a link to a YouTube video, blog or website with information about you and your animal.

Spell check! Your letter should be typed (but include a hand-written signature), use proper business letter structure and be proof-read by someone else. Grammar, spelling and punctuation matter!

Safety first. Reminder on personal information: always check with your parents before distributing information about yourself!

Writing buyer letters is a great way to raise awareness of your project and encourage potential buyers to attend the auction! If your letter is well-written and interesting, you will make a good impression on your customers.

Leaders Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting for Leader's Council, on April 19, 2021 via zoom meeting;

Called to order at 6:01 pm by Melissa Preston, waiting for Kristie to login

Pledges: No Pledges, No Flags available

Minutes of last meeting approved as: ___X___ read ___ corrected

Motion made by: Audrey Greer Seconded By: Trista Harrell

Treasurer Report:

As Of April 19, 2021 Bal of all accounts: 37,779.22

Regular Share Account – \$1366.81

Smart Business Checking – \$16173.38

Willford Donation – \$0.00

Livestock Committee- \$12111.38

Horse Account – \$30.24

Scholarship –\$5019.89

Fun/Recreation - \$3101.17

Interest Gained from accounts as follows: Reg \$0.21, Fun/Rec \$0.46, Horse \$0.00, Scholarship \$0.75, Livestock \$1.80, We had a \$15 transfer from Scholarship to Regular Checking

Motion to approve by Kristie, Audrey Greer, Second Kelly

Outstanding Bills/ Monies Received: NONE

Correspondence: NONE

Extension Report Read By: Melissa P.

56 youth in the second Passport Kitchen

Beaverton Sparks and Hope Academy joined in on it

All work/help congrats on that, Melissa is hoping to take it to their Spring Conference and receive an award for a created program and then have campus turn it into a Curriculum

Chaotic Crafters is coming

Campus has a Task Force working on face to face learning again, etc. Supposed to know more in May

Scholarships have been submitted and awarded. Thank you to our Scholarship Committee board

Poultry projects have been ordered. They should be here the 3rd week of May, looking at a plan for pick up, possibly by times and the alphabet.

Conservation Tour: kids in Gladwin, 3rd grade will be doing an in the classroom Pizza Kit Garden, mushrooms on paper towels etc. Melissa is waiting to see if Beaverton 3rd grade would also like to join on this.

Fair 101 will be held in May for anyone new or struggling with fair paperwork, questions, etc.

Fair Board Report Gave By: Kristie

Fairboard Meeting will be April 20th at the Fair Grounds

There will be no pen fees again this year

Swine Youth: No Pen Class, 1 barrow, 1 guilt, USDA 840 tags are self provided this year (if you need help finding these please see Melissa)

Photos of Swine and their 840 tag clearly visible are due to the FAIR OFFICE by May 11th

Photos of Swine and their scabies tag clearly visible are due to the FAIR OFFICE by May 11th

Fair Registration forms are due to the FAIR OFFICE by June 14th, there will be still exhibits this year, just no club decorations of booths, They are asking about Best of Show being in the Auction

Camping forms are available online, along with the fair forms

The Fair Office Address is 401 S State St., Gladwin MI 48624

Old Business

No Old Business to Report

New Business

Summer Programs: basically going to be an on demand program for June, July, August as kids get busy with fair projects and summer sports

Nutrition clinic is coming;

Outdoor Cooking Class Kit coming soon

Expo days will be online, there are over 500 classes available

Club Needs

Nothing brought to our attention

Next Meeting Date: July 5th at 6 pm (via zoom, unless changes are made)

Motion to Adjourn by: Jennifer Seconded: Audrey Time Adjourned: 6:38 pm

MANAGING YOUTH STRESS



The novel coronavirus pandemic has been stressful for everyone. Families and youth are navigating new challenges, including social distancing, uncertain health outcomes and “a new normal.” These new stressors may spill over into their relationships and compound other stressful conditions in the family.

MSU Extension's “Managing Youth Stress” document shares warning signs, ways to help and resources for stressed youth and parents of stressed youth. View or download the factsheet at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/managing-youth-stress.

4-H Events and Workshops

May 5—26: Shiawassee Small Animal Online Workshop

Online

Join us each Wednesday in May for a small animal workshop! Great for 4-H youth, parents and volunteers, the May 5 presentation will focus on goats, May 12 on poultry, May 19 on rabbits and May 26 on biosecurity and animal health.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/shiawassee-small-animal-online-workshop

May 1—29: Michigan 4-H Horse Programs' Virtual Communications Contest

Online

Youth ages 5-19 have the opportunity to demonstrate their communication skills and earn prizes through various contests including public speaking, demonstration, infographics and photography. Entries must be submitted during the appropriate contest time frame.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2021-mi-4-h-horse-program-s-virtual-communications-contest

May 8: MSU Tollgate Farm Homegrown Gardening Series

Online

Interested in starting a vegetable garden for the first time or an experienced veggie gardener looking to explore new ideas? Join this new monthly series designed to encourage and support home vegetable gardeners! The May session will focus on growing fun with kids.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-may-8

May 11: Michigan 4-H Virtual Meats Judging Contest

Online

Evaluate carcasses and identify meats online in both individual and team competitions. The contest will include three beef classes, three pork classes, identification of 20 retail cuts, beef yield grade, quality grade of beef, two classes with questions, and one set of oral reasons.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-virtual-meats-judging-contest

May 11: Wild Spartans Series—Conservation & Management of Tribal Natural Resources

Online

Learn about researching and protecting species with cultural significance and discover how one Michigan tribe is preserving the natural world. Doug Craven, natural resources director for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, will share his field work, education and career path.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-may

May 21: MSU Tollgate Farm Virtual Sustainable Stewards Series

Online

Explore climate science and climate change with PhD candidate Lindsey Kemmerling as she shares climate science basics to help build your knowledge and understanding. Explore your own carbon footprint and engage in conversation about how you can make a difference.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-virtual-sustainable-stewards-series-may-21

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

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2021-22 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2021-2022 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs, as well as recognize members of the 4-H community. All applications are due June 1.

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$350.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award (includes \$1,000 grant).** This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of 4-H agricultural volunteers that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.



The 4-H After-School Robotics Club in Iosco County received a \$1,000 Michigan 4-H Legacy Grant to use VEX Robotics as a tool to help club members develop life skills.

Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters Walking Challenge



The MSU Extension 4-H Alumni Engagement Committee is excited to share a fun engagement opportunity for alumni and supporters!

Starting May 2, MSU Extension will host a 4-H Alumni & Supporters Walking Challenge, where participants will track their miles walked and compete for a top spot in the contest! Each week, top contestants will win a 4-H alumni swag prize and the county who logs the most miles throughout the whole challenge will earn a \$100 cash prize for their county 4-H program!

Learn more and register at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-alumni-and-supporters-walking-challenge.



Plug into 4-H this summer with 4-H Exploration Days 2021-22: Expanded

Make plans to attend an exciting summer opportunity and choose your own adventure with 4-H Exploration Days: Expanded. This MSU precollege program has something for everyone, ages 12-19!

From June 22 - 24, youth from across Michigan can participate in this fun and engaging virtual learning experience that offers more than 60 different topics. Attendees will also hear from keynote speakers Justin and Alexis Black, authors of *Redefining Normal*, and come away with new energy and a desire to make a difference.

Registration for this event will open May 1 and close May 28. The cost to attend is \$20 and all youth will receive a swag bag, with the option to order their own 4-H Exploration Days: Expanded apparel. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days.



GLADWIN COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS

FAIR 101 WEBINAR

May 20th, 2021 • Starts at 6pm

Pre register at:

<https://msu.zoom.us/join/register/tJAfceyqrDstHdHWdMgnMIEIXeKkSvWKGLL5>

Fair is stressful, but it doesn't have to be. This free webinar is a fun way to get prepared before fair week.

Join us as we go over paperwork, dates, need to know & more.

Participants will get a free survival guide with project checklist.

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NATURE CRAFTS TO MAKE YOUR HOME GREEN!

BRING OUTSIDE (SP)IN

A nature crafts 4-H Special Interests Club.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Bring nature inside and make your home green! Join us and make terrariums, dry flowers, and paint rocks using materials you gather yourself! This FREE virtual club will get you outside and leave you with living art to remember the experience. This club is open to 4-H members ages 9 and up and will be held virtually from 4-5pm ET, Tuesdays May 11th to June 15th. Register online here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/bringoutsidespinclub/>



4-H Exploration Day: Expanded

June 22-24, 2021

Registration Opens

May 1

Registration Link:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/explorationdays21/>

4-H Exploration Days: Expanded is June 22-24th. This MSU Pre-College Program is open to any youth age 12 to 19 years old. With more than 60 fun and engaging sessions planned for youth to choose from there is something for everyone to enjoy. In addition, youth will hear from keynote speakers Justin and Alexis Black, authors of *Redefining Normal*. Youth will also have the opportunity to participate in free time sessions that include things like Virtual Clue, trivia, 10 Tips for Creating Your Own Podcast, and more! Cost of this program is \$20.00 and includes a swag bag that will be mailed to youth. Register quickly to get the sessions you want! <https://events.anr.msu.edu/explorationdays21/>



Calling all YOUNG horse enthusiasts!

Do you love horses? Do you like to create things while learning? Then this is the camp for you! The Michigan 4-H Colts & Fillies: Kick off to Summer Virtual Camp is now open for registration!!

Camp kits and t-shirts will be shipped to each participant with camp supplies and we will meet on Zoom three times during camp week (June 21, 23, & 25 at noon) to go over activities and learn all about equine science. Each day of camp we will cover a different topic and play a game. Youth will only need to register one time for the entire week's camp, register soon as this camp has limited space.

Register HERE: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MI4HVirtualColtsandFilliesCamp/>



ADULTING 101- SPRING SERIES

High School Youth

May 5, 12, 19

4:00 PM EST

Register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/adulting101spring/>

For info: Beth Martínéz Mart1751@msu.edu

Ready to be out on your own? Learn some important skills to be successful as an adult. Our Adulting 101-Spring Series includes: resume writing, public speaking, and information about renting. Bring questions and gain practical skills you can use in your everyday life. Webinars will be held on May 5, 12, and 19 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/adulting101spring/>