



JUNE 2023

# 4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



## Goodbye & Goodluck!

Hope everyone is doing well and ready for summer! I'm sending out the June newsletter a few days early as today (May 26<sup>th</sup>) is my last day with you all. Thanks again for sharing a small part of your 4-H journey with me over this past year.

We've had a great month of May from Project RED, to horse camp, to high school graduations (updates on p. 3 and 4). The next couple of months will continue to be busy with summer programs and fair season. Make sure to check out the upcoming 4-H council education series class, cloverbud day, and watch for fair registration deadlines (details on p. 5).

State events are also in full swing, with many of the state shows and contests coming up soon. Be sure to check out the calendar on page 7 and follow social media for the latest updates.

I wish you all continued success with your 4-H projects and future endeavors. Please refer to the box below regarding contacts and job postings during this transition period.

Take care & continue to "Make the Best Better!"

- Stacey Woggon

### Transition in Staff

The Gratiot County 4-H Program Coordinator position will be re-posted soon and MSU is also hiring a summer temp to cover a couple of central Michigan counties, including Gratiot. Position descriptions and application links can be found on the [MSU Careers website](#). Please spread the word and encourage qualified candidates to apply!

In the meantime, 4-H questions and correspondence can be routed through the front desk at the Gratiot MSU Extension Office. Contact information is in the box to the right. Advisory boards (in our case 4-H Council and Horse Developmental) will be working through 4-H Supervising Educator Roxanne Turner. Roxanne can be reached at [turnerr@msu.edu](mailto:turnerr@msu.edu). We appreciate your patience as MSU finds a new 4-H program coordinator for Gratiot County!

## CONTACT US

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MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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[https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot\\_county\\_4\\_h/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/)

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# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stacey's Last Day.....	May 26, 2023
Memorial Day – Extension Office Closed.....	May 29, 2023
4-H Summer Temp Job Posting Closes.....	May 30, 2023
4-H PC Job Posting Opens.....	May 31, 2023
GCFFY Fair Board Meeting.....	June 1, 2023 @ 7pm, Fair Office
GCFFY Registration Deadline – Rabbits & Cavy.....	June 1, 2023
GCFFY Registration Deadline – Fair Queens.....	June 2, 2023
4-H Council Education Series – Herb Gardens .....	June 10, 2023 @ 10am, Fair Pavilion
Floral Artisan Fair – Exchange Club .....	June 19, 2023
4-H Council Fundraising Committee Meeting.....	June 26, 2023 @ 6pm, TBD
4-H Council Meeting.....	June 26, 2023 @ 7pm, TBD
Exchange Club Host Week.....	June 27–July 5, 2023
GCFFY Registration Deadline – Non-Market/Still Exhibit.....	July 1, 2023
4 <sup>th</sup> of July – Extension Office Closed .....	July 4, 2023
Fair Clean Up Nights .....	July 19, 23 & 26, 2023, Fairgrounds
Rural Urban Day.....	July 20, 2023, Fairgrounds
4-Her of the Week Radio Ads Conclude.....	July 21, 2023, WMLM
Cloverbud Day.....	July 25, 2023, Fairgrounds
Gratiot County Fair for Youth.....	July 29– August 5, 2023, Fairgrounds
Kid's Day Booth.....	August 3, 2023 @ 10am-2pm
Ag Olympics.....	August 5, 2023 @ 1pm

Follow us on  
Social Media



Don't forget to like and follow our new Facebook page "Gratiot County 4-H MSU Extension" for the latest updates and reminders!





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Congratulations 4-H Seniors

The Gratiot County 4-H Council has been busy attending high school honor nights to recognize our graduating seniors. Currently enrolled 4-H members who have been active in 4-H for 4 or more years were presented a certificate and a 4-H green and white honor cord. Congratulations and best of luck with all your future endeavors!



Ithaca High School graduates Haley King, Parks Allen, Emilee Fish, Jeffrey Lombard, and Lane McDonald.



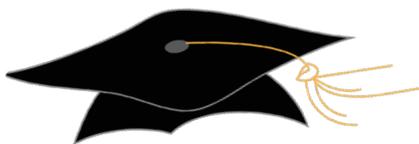
Alma High School graduates Benjamin Cary, Emily Lewis, Abigail Redman, and Michael Fox.



Breckenridge High School graduates Ryan Wolfgang, Shayla Jolliff, Calista Goward, Julie Becker, and Marissa Bloomquist.



Left: Vestaburg High School graduate Lauren Gorsuch.



Right: St. Louis High School graduate Phoenix Shaw with 4-H Council President Kelly Becker.





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Project RED



4-H staff had a great time at Project RED on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We spoke to over 400 4<sup>th</sup> graders about how water quality relates to agriculture. Did you know, the more diverse bug species found in the water, the healthier it is? Students got to sort through pond samples and identify different types of water bugs – our winning class found 17 different species! Thank you to Gratiot County Farm Bureau for having us out for this event.



## Horse Camp/Open Shows

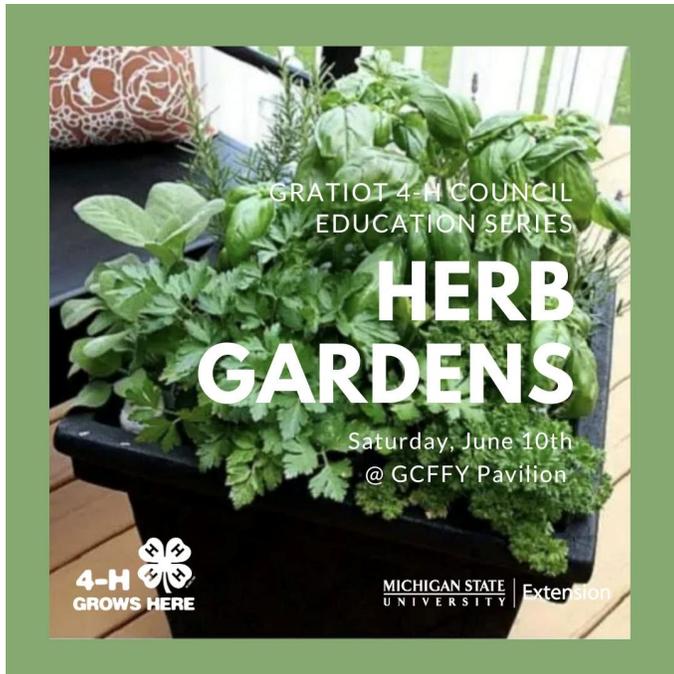
Gratiot County 4-H Horse Developmental hosted their annual horse camp on May 12-13<sup>th</sup>. Friday evening sessions focused on gymkhana drills and Saturday sessions included showmanship, horsemanship, leg wrapping, record books, and a craft. Thank you to our clinicians, Brian and Will from B&W Ranch, and to all the volunteers who made this event possible.



Gratiot County 4-H Horse Developmental also hosted an open speed show on May 13<sup>th</sup> and an open pleasure show on May 14<sup>th</sup>. These were point shows for our 4-H youth, and the following members qualified for the State 4-H Horse Show: Jaidyn Butcher, Bethany Bowerman, Rebekah Ross, Karlee Whitmore, Alyssa McPherson, Sarah Munger, Macie Akers, and alternate Kaylee McPherson. Good luck at MSU on August 18-20<sup>th</sup>!



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS



## Education Series: Herb Gardens

The next 4-H council education series class will be held June 10, 2023 beginning at 10am at the GCFY pavilion. Join us to make your own herb garden! Pots, soil, and a variety of herbs will be provided. This class is open to all Gratiot County 4-H youth ages 5-19 and is FREE of charge thanks to generous donations and the support of the Gratiot County 4-H Council. Please RSVP by calling the Gratiot County MSU Extension Office at 989-875-5233.

## Cloverbud Day

Cloverbud Day will be held Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the GCFY Fairgrounds. 4-H youth ages 5-7 are invited to join us "Under the Sea" for fun games, food, and crafts. Register through the Gratiot County MSU Extension Office by July 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 and includes all activities, snack, lunch, and a t-shirt. Additional details can be found on our website:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot\\_county\\_4\\_h/cloverbud-day](https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/cloverbud-day)



## GCFY Reminders

While the GCFY is not a MSU/4-H sponsored event, this information is of interest to many in our 4-H community. Please contact the GCFY directly at [info@gcyy.org](mailto:info@gcyy.org) or 989-466-5071 for any fair-related questions.

### Registration deadlines:

- Rabbit & Cavy – June 1
- Fair Queens – June 2
- Non-Market Animal/Still Exhibit – July 1

### Fair clean up nights:

- Wednesday, July 19
- Sunday, July 23
- Wednesday, July 26



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Scholarships Available

Don't forget, the Gratiot County 4-H Council provides scholarships! Active 4-H members can receive 50% up to \$250 to offset the cost of a county or state event and 50% up to \$500 to offset the cost of a national event.

Scholarship application forms can be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/uploads/files/scholarship%20application%202023.pdf>



## Club Updates

- **Somethin' Special 4-H Club & Gratiot County Livestock** teamed up to clean out the flowerbeds and spread mulch at the fairgrounds.
- **Critters & Crafts 4-H Club** put their hands to larger service by planting flowers at the Gratiot County Animal Shelter.
- **Gratiot County 4-H Exchange** has their plans in place for host week and is looking forward to Texas visiting June 27-July 5. They are also helping at the Floral Artisan Fair on June 19.
- **Circle B 4-H Club** had a successful bake sale on May 13. They also had a livestock clinic where members learned showmanship for a variety of species.
- **Wags & Wiggles 4-H Club** will be resuming dog practices after Memorial Day. If you are interested in showing dogs this year, join their Facebook group and connect with leader Nicole Gorsuch.

Remember to send in your club updates and event photos to be featured in our newsletter and on social media!





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Register for the 2023 State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament



The 2023 State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament is once again returning to Centerline of Calhoun County on August 19! This annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition with other 4-H members from all over the state.

Registration is now and closes July 16.

For registration information, tournament rules or additional information, visit 4-H State Shoot website at [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_state\\_shooting\\_sports\\_tournament](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_state_shooting_sports_tournament).

### June 8: Adulting 101 – How To Buy a Car

*Online*

Buying a car is an important and costly decision to make. Attend this session to learn about choosing a vehicle, purchasing it, and all of the considerations when making your decision.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-6-8](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-6-8)

### June 16: Head, Heart and Hands for the Health of Tanzania – 100 Dresses Challenge

*Online*

Join us in a Zoom sew along as we make pillowcase dresses to send to little girls in Tanzania! Our goal is 100 handmade dresses. All sewing levels are welcome!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/100-dresses-challenge-1](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/100-dresses-challenge-1)

### June 17: 2023 Michigan 4-H State Goat Show

*MSU Pavilion, Lansing*

Begin your show season at the Michigan 4-H State Goat Show! Registration closes June 1 and spectators are welcome to attend.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-state-goat-show](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-state-goat-show)

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

### July 12: Michigan 4-H/FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

*MSU Pavilion, Lansing*

In the livestock judging contest, participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills. Registration information coming soon!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-ffa-state-livestock-judging-contest-2023](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-ffa-state-livestock-judging-contest-2023)

### July 15: 4-H Bullseye Bash Archery Tournament

*Wexford County Civic Center, Cadillac*

Archers to the line! Test your skill and meet fellow competitors at this 4-H archery event. Registration opens soon.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-bullseye-bash-archery-tournament](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-bullseye-bash-archery-tournament)

### July 18-20: 4-H Forestry Camp

*Gahagan Nature Preserve, Roscommon*

This fun and interactive three-day camp gives youth the opportunity to learn all about forestry in Michigan. Registration closes July 14.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-forestry-camp-23](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-forestry-camp-23)



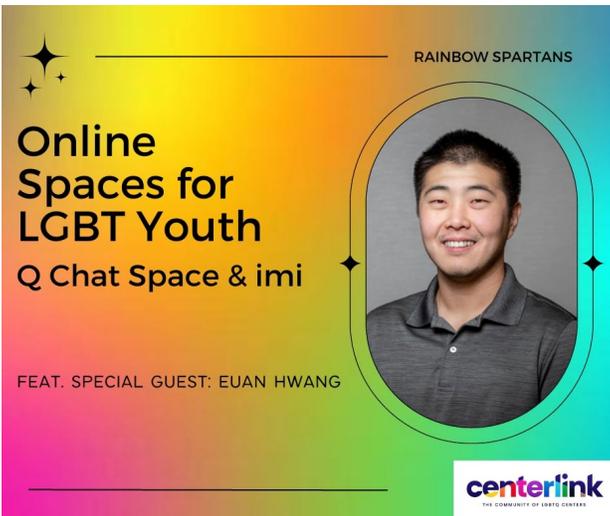


# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Michigan 4-H Day of Wellness

Save the date! The Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid Team and Walmart Healthy Habits mini grant recipients are planning a Michigan 4-H Day of Wellness. October 10th is World Mental Health Day and we will promote healthy ways to decrease stress and practice mindfulness. This day will include local and statewide face to face and virtual activities that will take place simultaneously on Tuesday, October 10th.

They are looking for teens to help plan and lead activities. Examples of possible activities include a mindfulness lesson at a local library, a wellness fair at a school, or a virtual activity where youth make calming jars while talking about how to decrease stress. The Walmart Healthy Habits grant will cover supplies and expenses for the various lessons or activities. Please reach out to the Extension Office if you or a teen you know would be interested in assisting with this day.



## Rainbow Spartans Series

Join the Rainbow Spartans series on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM via Zoom to learn about 2 online resources for LGBTQ+ youth: Q Chat Space & imi! CenterLink, a community organization for LGBT centers in Michigan, will be joining us to share these resources with youth and families. Chat Space is a live chat-based support groups for LGBTQ+ teens. Imi is an online guide built for and with LGBTQ+ teens to help explore their identity and support their mental health. For more information about the Rainbow Spartan series and to register, check out the website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-hwrh/rainbow-spartans>

## International Exchange Program

Invite an international youth into your home and share an American experience! Your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new cultural perspectives. Applications to host can be found at [www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org) For more info contact Jan Brinn at [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## 2023 Michigan 4-H Mark of Excellence award winners

Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 11 and 12, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The essay theme is "Because of 4-H, I can..." and the youth referred to a variety of memorable experiences in their time as 4-H'ers.

As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners. In 2023, the following 11 4-H members from nine counties were selected as the 2023 Mark of Excellence county winners.

- Allegan: **Ezri Westrate**
- Berrien: **Brady Pullins**
- Cass: **Levi Johnson and Conner Shirk**
- Monroe: **John Jinks and Cecelia Aulph**
- St. Claire: **Jinger Vantroostenberghe**
- Alpena: **Jazzmyne Kowalski**
- Branch: **Gwendolyn Berry**
- Menominee: **Dodge Sundberg**
- Oakland: **Natalie Keen**

Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning essays will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winners!

## Twenty-three Michigan 4-H volunteers honored for 50 years of service

Adapted from: [www.canr.msu.edu/news/twenty-three-michigan-4-h-volunteers-honored-for-50-years-of-service-by-michigan-state-university-extension](http://www.canr.msu.edu/news/twenty-three-michigan-4-h-volunteers-honored-for-50-years-of-service-by-michigan-state-university-extension)

As generations came together for Join Hands Day on May 6, MSU Extension celebrated 23 volunteers who united with youth for half a century. These individuals have provided 50 or more years of service to Michigan 4-H and youth in their communities.

"Volunteers are critical to many of our MSU Extension programs," said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "While we owe a debt of gratitude to all our volunteers, these 23 individuals in particular have made a remarkable impact. They have given their time and talent to 4-H for five decades. We truly cannot thank them enough."

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2023 are:

- Carol Callovi, Iron County
- Nancy Ciravolo, Monroe County
- Gaylord Kutzley, Lenawee County
- Jane Lloyd, Kalamazoo County
- Charles McCarthy, Cass County
- Beverly Rajzer, Cass and Van Buren counties
- Margaret Schaefer, Clinton County
- Barbara Vagt, Monroe County
- Cathy VanOrden, Isabella County
- Wanda Warner, Calhoun County
- Gladys Welker, Ingham County
- Donald Wyant, Cass County
- David Callovi, Iron County
- Suzanne Gillhespy, Allegan County
- Linda Lefcheck, Monroe County
- Catherine Martens-Nitschke, Kent County
- Judith Missler, Monroe County
- Karl Schaefer, Clinton County
- Marilyn Tkaczyk, Shiawassee County
- Kenneth Vagt, Monroe County
- Joyce Vincent, Newaygo County
- Margaret Wegner, Midland County
- Linda Willman, Wayne County

Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at: <https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>  
To learn more about volunteering with Michigan 4-H, visit [4h.msue.msu.edu](http://4h.msue.msu.edu).

**Mailing Panel**

**County Name**

**Address**

**City, State, Zip Code**

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# 4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



**4-H**   
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