



MARCH 2023

4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



WELCOME TO MARCH!

Can you believe we are already halfway through our 4-H program year? Spring is right around the corner, and before we know it, summer programs and fair season will be here!

If you are not going anywhere for spring break, plan to join us for our "Alternative Spring Break" program. We'll be hosting an activity each day, March 27-31 – details on page 3. We also have a couple of other county-wide workshops coming up this spring, including a creative arts sampler and youth swine day.

At the state level, registration opens this month for 4-H Exploration Days. Make sure to check out the details on page 6 and tune into our virtual info session on March 14th to learn more. We are hoping to have a large delegation from Gratiot County attend this summer!

Applications are also now open for the 4-H State Awards program. This is an excellent opportunity for 4-H members 11 and older to develop their career skills and be recognized for their achievements. Details are on page 7. Let me know if you need assistance with your application!

All the best,
Stacey Woggon
4-H Program Coordinator

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Did you know the Gratiot County 4-H Council provides scholarships to help offset the cost of attending events? Gratiot County 4-H members can receive 50% up to \$250 for a county or state event and 50% up to \$500 for a national event. Scholarship application forms can be downloaded on our website:

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



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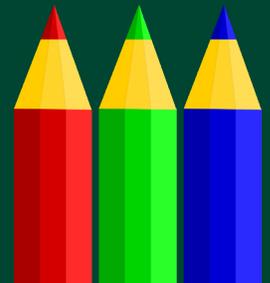
COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- GCCFFY Fair Board MeetingMarch 2, 2023 @ 7pm, Fair Office
- Expo Days Virtual Info SessionMarch 14, 2023 @ 7pm, Zoom
- Alternative Spring Break (schedule on page 3).....March 27-31, 2023
- T-Shirt Design Contest.....entries due March 31, 2023
- 4-H Council Meeting*April 3, 2023 @ 7pm, Extension Office
- *Meeting is postponed a week due to spring break. Council typically meets the last Monday of the month.
- Horse Developmental Committee Meeting.....April 11, 2023 @ 7pm, Fair Office
- Creative Arts Sampler.....April 15, 2023, Extension Office
- GCCFFY Market Feeder Registration Deadline.....April 15, 2023
- Horse Developmental Coggins/Vaccine Clinic.....April 22, 2023
- Youth Swine Day.....April 29, 2023, Fairgrounds

Save the Date!

Creative Arts Sampler

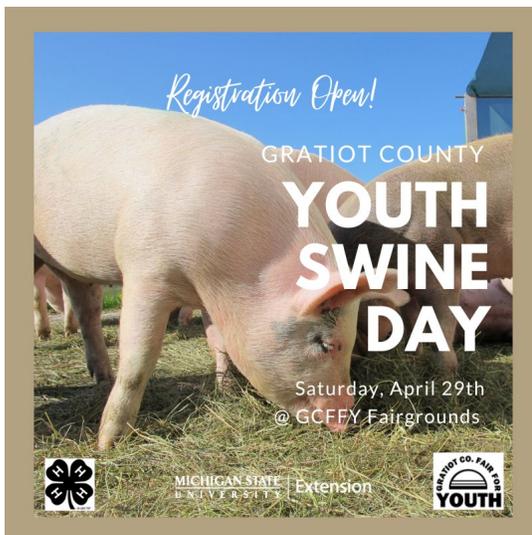
Gratiot County 4-H will be hosting a “creative arts sampler” on April 15th. This half-day workshop will be open to 4-H members ages 8-19 and Gold Volunteers. Instruction will be provided for three art projects: glass etching, can embossing, and quilling. Watch for registration to open in mid-March!



YOUTH SWINE DAY

Registration is now open for Gratiot County Youth Swine Day! This all day seminar will focus on improving youth's knowledge of swine. Topics include YQCA class and test, fair preparation, youth panel, and pig selection. This event is open to all youth ages 5-19. For more information and registration forms, please visit

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/gratiot-county-youth-swine-day2023>





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Alternative Spring Break

We are excited to announce our line-up of activities for spring break week! Plan to join us for some fun while you are off school.

Please note, pre-registration is required by March 15th for the paint party, flower arranging class, and STEM challenge. We would also appreciate RSVPs for the animal shelter tour. Stop into the office or download registration forms from our website:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/alternative-spring-break



Gratiot County 4-H
Alternative Spring Break
 March 27 – 31, 2023



Activities are being sponsored by the Gratiot County 4-H Council, resulting in a lower participant cost!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>T-Shirt Day! *</p> <p>Design Contest & Open Office Hours 10am – noon</p> <p>Stop by to work on your t-shirt design (see contest info below) and ask any questions you have about 4-H. Staff will be available to help with 4-H Online, Volunteer Central, etc. Pick up flyers for upcoming events.</p> <p>Open to all youth and families. FREE to attend!</p>	<p>Paint Party!</p> <p>Begins at 10am @ Extension Office</p> <p>Join us to paint a watermelon design on canvas.</p> <p>Open to all youth ages 5-19. Cost \$5/youth.</p> <p>Pre-registration is required; spots are limited.</p>	<p>Animal Shelter Day!</p> <p>Begins at 10am @ Gratiot County Animal Shelter (2675 Washington Rd, Ithaca, MI 48847)</p> <p>Come take a tour, learn about the great work happening at the shelter, and visit with furry friends.</p> <p>Open to all youth and families. FREE to attend!</p> <p>Please RSVP.</p>	<p>Flower Arranging Class w/ Flowers by Patty Macha, LLC!</p> <p>Begins at 10am @ Extension Office</p> <p>Make your own flower arrangement with fresh blooms.</p> <p>Open to all youth ages 5-19. Cloverbuds must be accompanied by an adult. Cost \$10/youth.</p> <p>Pre-registration is required; spots are limited.</p>	<p>STEM Challenge!</p> <p>10am – 2pm @ Extension Office</p> <p>Test out your engineering skills and see what you can build from everyday items. Hot dogs and chips will be provided for lunch.</p> <p>Geared towards youth ages 5-10. Cost \$5/youth.</p> <p>Pre-registration is required; spots are limited.</p>

* T-Shirt Design Contest – help us design our next Gratiot County 4-H shirt! Forms are available in the office or online and must be submitted by 4:30pm on Friday, March 31st. The winner will be chosen at the April council meeting and the design featured on our 2023 4-H shirts. You must include “Gratiot County” and “4-H” in your design. One design submission per 4-H member.

For additional information and registration forms visit our website!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/alternative-spring-break

Questions? Contact Stacey Woggon, 4-H Program Coordinator, at woggonst@msu.edu or 989-875-5233.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Save the dates for summer programs!

Gratiot 4-H Day Camp

July 17-18

@ Reed County Park

Gratiot 4-H Cloverbud Day

July 25

@ GCFFY Fairgrounds



CLUB UPDATES



Gratiot County Livestock 4-H Club learned about judging sheep at their February meeting.

Cake and cookie decorating was the monthly activity for Somethin' Special 4-H Club.



Circle B 4-H Club had a representative from MAC attend their February meeting to talk about animal nutrition.

All clubs are encouraged to send updates for our newsletters and social media to woggonst@msu.edu





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Win prizes with 4-H Money Contests



Money, money, money! In honor of Financial Awareness Month held each April, MSU Extension is coordinating two contests with an opportunity to win... money!

Youth ages 9-12 can write a short essay of 300 words or less for a chance to win a \$100 gift card in the Cash Composition Contest.

Youth ages 13-19 can participate in a 30-question online challenge for a chance to win a \$25 gift card in the Show Your Money Smarts Contest.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts. Prizes for the contests are generously sponsored by Extra Credit Union and the Michigan Credit Union Foundation.



March 2: Build Your Future - Career Education for Youth

Online

Adults who work with youth are encouraged to join this webinar session to learn ways to implement career education and workforce development skills with youth!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/build-your-future-mar-2

March 3: Hinamatsuri Japanese Girls' Day Celebration

Online

Join Michigan 4-H and University partners for a virtual learning opportunity to celebrate Japanese Girls' Day!

<https://forms.gle/zkH768iMh2GezC3Y6>

March 11-12: Tollgate Farm Maple fest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Identify and tap a maple tree, tour the sugar shack, explore fun maple-themed activities, take a wagon ride, taste maple sap, syrup and sugar, and explore maple tools and technology. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, coffee, cocoa and real maple syrup in the historic 19th-century barn.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-maplefest

March 14: Wild Spartans Series - Upland Bird Conservation

Online

Meet Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Education and Outreach Manager Marissa Jensen. Learn about her field work and the education and career path she followed to get there.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-march-2023

March 16: Adulting 101 – Paycheck and Taxes

Online

Understanding why and how taxes and other items are deducted from a worker's paycheck is an important step toward gaining financial knowledge. Explore what taxes are and why we pay them. See how taxes affect your salary vs. your take home pay.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting3-16-23

March 18: 4-H Hippology Contest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Participants will be able to demonstrate their experience and knowledge gained in horse judging, quiz bowl, speeches and practical horse management. Register by March 3.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/mi-4-h-hippology-contest





STATE-WIDE 4-H NEWS

Get ready for 4-H Exploration Days!

4-H Exploration Days provides a hands-on experience of what 4-H and Michigan State University have to offer and helps youth develop life skills to use now and in the future.

Looking for something for your teenaged youth to do this summer? Consider signing them up for an affordable pre-college program designed for and by youth. With more than a 50-year history of bringing youth from across Michigan to the campus of Michigan State University, 4-H Exploration Days will return June 21-23.

This 3-day pre-college program is open to any youth 12-19 years of age as of January 1. Youth will experience campus living, develop and expand their career and personal interests, and increase their responsibility, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision making and time management skills. They will also have the opportunity to listen to an inspirational speaker and build connections with other youth from across the state.

Breakout sessions include topics such as animal care, creating crafts, practicing mindfulness, building rockets, playing pickleball, writing short stories, gardening and many more topics. Youth will have the chance to hear from professionals in career paths such as veterinary science, health care, early childhood education and more. In addition to breakout sessions, youth can also pick free time activities that will take place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. These free time activities will offer a glimpse into MSU, allow youth to build relationships with peers, learn about a new project or just have fun!



Registration for 4-H Exploration Days opens March 21 and closes April 20. The cost to attend is \$220 and include meals, lodging, all event activities, and a t-shirt. Gratiot County 4-H members can apply for a scholarship through 4-H council to cover up to half the cost (\$110) for this state event.

Interested in learning more?

Gratiot County 4-H is offering a virtual info session on March 14th at 7pm. Register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/gratiot-4-h-exploration-days-virtual-info-session> and the Zoom link will be emailed to you.

You can also find more info on the Exploration Days website: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Apply for Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills 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.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found online at <http://bit.ly/stateaward> . **Applications are due April 1.** Have questions or need assistance with your application? Contact your 4-H program coordinator.



MICHIGAN 4-H VOLUNTEER WEBINAR SERIES

February 28th
Building the Value of Your 4-H Club

March 16th
Creating a Welcoming 4-H Club

April 13th
Energizing Your 4-H Club Meetings

ALL TRAININGS OFFERED 12-1PM EST AND 7-8PM EST

REGISTER HERE:
www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series

Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series!

Join Michigan 4-H for an online webinar series that will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers.

There will be a minimum of six topics offered throughout the year, with each topic offered twice (once as a daytime and once as an evening option). Everyone who attends at least four of the live webinars will receive a certificate at the end of the series.

Upcoming session dates and topics include:

- **Creating a Welcoming 4-H Club:** This session will allow you to learn new strategies as well as share methods that have worked for you.
 - March 16, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Energizing Your 4-H Club Meetings:** Learn quick and engaging activities to make your next meeting both fun and functional. Have fun and learn ways to help everyone participate at their own comfort level.
 - April 13, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Explore Extension Careers with “A Day in the Life” 4-H Webinar Series!

This statewide series will focus on agricultural careers at MSU Extension. Are you animated by animal science? Have a knack for business? Join us for this free, 6-week virtual opportunity! Beginning March 8th and ending May 17th, this biweekly series will be a great, informational guide into agricultural careers! Our speakers will describe their typical workday, what internships and guidance led them to their roles, and what their favorite elements of their jobs are. Registration is now open at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HCareers/>

A DAY IN THE LIFE

4-H WEBINAR SERIES

Explore agricultural careers within Michigan State University Extension

6:30pm Wednesdays
Bi-weekly from March 8th- May 17th





Animal Agriculture Agribusiness Farm Stress Management

For 4-H youth ages 12-19

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
% 4-H GROWS HERE



Register for the 4-H Hippology & Horse Judging Contests!

Attention 4-H horse members! Registration is now open for the hippology and horse judging contests. The 2023 4-H Hippology Contest will be held on March 18, 2023 in Anthony Hall at Michigan State University. The 2023 4-H/FFA Horse Judging Contest will be held April 16, 2023 at the Michigan State University Pavilion. For contest rules and registration information please visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/registration-information

Save the Date – Livestock Judging Camp!

Save the date for a livestock judging camp on Saturday, June 3rd. This event will be held at the Ionia County Fairgrounds and is open to both youth and coaches/volunteers. Additional information and registration will be available soon at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/mi-4-h-livestock-judging-camp>

Save The Date!

Michigan 4-H

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

Saturday June 3rd, 2023
Ionia County Fairgrounds

Registration Link & More Details to Come!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute registrations due March 15!

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 11 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas related to global food security with experts and other Michigan youth while learning how university faculty and staff members, researchers and students are working to address world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a two- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 20 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. They also participate in interactive activities related to global food challenges and engage with area experts to discuss solutions to global hunger and poverty.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/> Registrations and papers are due March 15.

Host a Japanese Youth through States' 4-H International!

Michigan 4-H will be having 12 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2023 for interested families possibly opening their home and hearts by hosting! A host family needs to complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (be within 4 years of age), adults be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, participate in an interview and home visit process. Applications to host can be found at www.states4hexchange.org



States' 4-H International Exchange Programs

2023 INBOUND PROGRAMS

Host a delegate in your home this summer and give your family a global perspective!





Host a Japanese youth in Summer 2023 through States' 4-H International!

Invite an international youth into your home for three and a half weeks and share an American experience. Expand your family's cultural understanding, learn about new foods and customs, and possibly a new language all while sharing your own. Your children will build lifelong friendships and will gain new perspectives on their own country too!

Check out the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Michigan-4-H-International-Exchange-Programs-164923776970132> and the States 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange> to keep up to date on all the wonderful opportunities available. Please feel free to contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu or Co-Coordinator John Wurm wurmj@msu.edu with any questions.

Mailing Panel

County Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

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4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



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