



Gratiot County 4-H

2023 Clubs & Program Information

Gratiot County MSU Extension

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https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/index

<https://www.facebook.com/GratiotCounty4H>

<https://www.instagram.com/gratiot4h/>

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About 4-H

4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. 4-H is found in almost every county across the nation and enjoys a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), state land-grant universities (in our case MSU), and local county governments.

4-H is about youth and adults working together as partners to design and implement activities and events. Positive youth development is the primary goal of 4-H. The project areas serve as a vehicle for members to learn and master life skills, with the ultimate goal of 4-H members gaining the skills necessary to successfully live and lead in a diverse and changing world.

Participation in 4-H has many positive outcomes for youth. 4-H participants are more likely to contribute to their communities and be civically engaged, earn higher grades, and develop more healthy habits than other youth who are not involved in 4-H (Learner et al., 2015).

4-H Age

4-H is open to all youth from age 5 to 19. 4-H age is determined by the member's age as of January 1st of the current program year (program years run September to August). Youth ages 5 to 7 are considered Cloverbuds. The cloverbud program is designed as an introduction to 4-H and is focused around participation instead of competition.

4-H Volunteers

At the core of Michigan 4-H, and critical to the success of its youth, are the volunteers who give their time and talents to grow 4-Hers. These volunteers serve in a number of capacities: some choose to help at camp, some may teach workshops or lead clubs, while others chaperone events or lend their professional skills. As they provide hands-on guidance and real-world experience, these volunteers also offer young people another crucially important element – a healthy adult role model who helps to grow their confidence and ignite their dreams for the future.

To ensure the safety of 4-H youth, MSU Extension has a thorough screening and selection process for volunteers. This includes an application, background and reference checks, an interview, and online training modules. To learn more and apply to volunteer, please visit

https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/

4-H Parents

4-H is considered a family program and parents are encouraged to participate with their own children. Please remember that many hands make light work! Any time or help you are able to pitch in ensures the job gets done and everyone is able to have an enjoyable experience. For the safety of all our participants, parents cannot work directly with other youth or attend any overnight activities until they complete the MSU Extension volunteer selection process (see link above under 4-H volunteers section).

4-H Staff

The Gratiot County MSU Extension office is here to help you navigate all things 4-H! Please call the office (989-875-5233) if you have any questions. Stacey Woggon is the 4-H Program Coordinator. You can also email Stacey at woggonst@msu.edu

4-H Enrollment Information

4-H has year-round enrollment, meaning you can join at any time during the program year (which runs September through August). Please be aware that many events have deadlines in order to participate, so it is best to enroll as soon as possible. 4-H enrollment opens each September and members must re-enroll annually. 4-H enrollment is handled through 4-H Online. Please visit <https://v2.4honline.com/> to submit your enrollment. Keep in mind, you are not considered a 4-H member until you have enrolled in 4-H Online AND your enrollment has been approved by the Extension office.

New 4-H members should contact a club prior to enrolling in 4-H Online. The club leader will be able to give you additional details about the club and help determine if it is a good fit for your family. Club contact information can be found on pages 5-7. Please contact the Extension office if you need assistance finding a club.

Costs Involved

Joining 4-H is FREE! Some clubs and experiences may charge a club due, project fee, or other registration/experience fee. This is a great question to ask before you join a new club or sign-up for an activity. The Gratiot County 4-H council provides scholarships to help offset the cost of attendance for many workshops and events. We do not want finances to be a barrier to participation. Please contact the Extension office for additional scholarship and funding opportunities when needed.

Stay in the Loop

Make sure your email address in 4-H Online is current and one you check on a regular basis! Most communication is done via email through the 4-H Online broadcast system. Watch for our monthly newsletter – this includes important information about upcoming events and opportunities, registration deadlines, and other ways to get involved. Our social media sites are also updated on a regular basis. Please follow @GratiotCounty4H on Facebook and @gratiot4h on Instagram.

Calendar of Events

The 4-H program year runs from September 1 – August 31. There are a variety of opportunities offered at the county, state, national, and even international levels! Below is a sample of a typical program year.

September:

- New program year begins
- 4-H Online enrollment opens
- Gratiot County 4-H fall leader update meetings are held
- Gratiot County 4-H award nominations/applications are due

October:

- National 4-H Week (first full week of October)
- Fall paper clover campaign at Tractor Supply Co.
- Gratiot County 4-H awards banquet is held
- Gratiot County 4-H council election is held

November:

- National 4-H Congress
- Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration – November 11-13, 2022

December:

- Michigan 4-H Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute – December 3-4, 2022
- Gratiot County 4-H holiday workshops

January:

- Michigan 4-H State Rabbit & Cavy Show – January 28, 2023

February:

- Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin – February 12, 2023
- Michigan 4-H Animal Science Career Quest – February 18-19, 2023

March:

- Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference – March 3-5, 2023
- Skillathon – qualifiers March 4 & 11, state championship March 18
- Michigan 4-H Capital Experience – March 19-22, 2023
- Gratiot County 4-H alternative spring break workshops

April:

- Gratiot County 4-H spring leader update meetings are held
- 4-H National Conference – April 14-19, 2023
- Michigan 4-H Horse Judging Contest – April 16, 2023
- Spring paper clover campaign at Tractor Supply Co.

May:

- World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute– May 11, 2023
- Gratiot County 4-H Horse Camp/Open Horse Show – May 19-21, 2023

June:

- Michigan 4-H State Goat Show – June 17, 2023
- Michigan 4-H Exploration Days – June 21-23, 2023
- 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus – June 24-30, 2023
- Michigan 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp

July:

- Michigan 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
- Gratiot County 4-H Cloverbud Day
- Gratiot County 4-H Camp
- Michigan 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp
- Gratiot County Fair for Youth – July 29-August 5, 2023

August:

- Michigan 4-H State Dog Show – August 12, 2023
- Michigan 4-H State Horse Show – August 18-20, 2023
- Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament – August 19, 2023

Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/events/> for a listing of 4-H events. Additional Gratiot County workshops and SPIN Clubs will be scheduled as time and funding permits. Be sure to also check with your club leader to obtain your club’s meeting and activity schedule.

Gratiot County 4-H Clubs

There are several different types of clubs through which 4-H programs can be delivered. 4-H members may be involved with more than one club. Members in a community club will often join project clubs or SPIN Clubs, or members will join multiple community clubs that focus on different project areas. The table below shows a listing of currently registered community and project clubs in Gratiot County.

Community Clubs:

Involve members of a variety of ages and interests. These clubs typically meet year-round and include business meetings and educational activities that all members attend. They may also hold specific project meetings throughout the year led by a project leader and attended by members with specific project interests.

Project Clubs:

Focus on one specific project area. These clubs may meet year-round or seasonally and aim to teach members knowledge and skills in one specific area.

SPIN Clubs:

SPIN clubs focus on one particular area of interest and are short-term in length. They typically meet for 1-2 hours per week for around 6 weeks. SPIN club offerings vary throughout the year, so stay tuned to the newsletter and social media for information on upcoming SPIN club opportunities.

4-H Community & Project Clubs in Gratiot County

Club Name	Contact Person	Location	Areas of Focus
Ashley Ithaca Livestock	Doreen Slavik 989-838-4110	Ashley, MI	Animal evaluation, beef, clothing & textiles, community service, dairy cattle, food & nutrition, horticulture, rabbits/cavies, sheep, soils & soil conservation, swine, veterinary science
Backyard Barn Believers	Nicole Gorsuch 517-526-3344	Vestaburg, MI	Animal evaluation, beef, birds & poultry, cats, citizenship & civic engagement, clothing & textiles, dogs, expressive arts, food & nutrition, horticulture, small animals/pocket pets, swine

Barnyard Bunch	Aileen Waldron 989-463-6381	Sumner, MI	Wide variety – STEM, most large and small animals, expressive arts, horticulture, citizenship & community service, food & nutrition, life skills development, environmental/biological sciences, workforce prep/financial literacy
Beebe Beef	Becky Graham 989-928-6171 Ashlee Jensen 989-708-7761	Ithaca, MI	Animal evaluation, beef, birds & poultry, cats, community service, dogs, expressive arts, food & nutrition, goats, rabbits/cavies, sheep, small animals/pocket pets, swine, veterinary science
Circle B	Kelly Becker 989-239-0510	Wheeler, MI	Agronomy, beef, birds & poultry, business & entrepreneurship, clothing & textiles, communication, community service, dairy cattle, dogs, food & nutrition, goats, horse & pony, rabbits/cavies, sheep, swine
Critters & Crafts	Angela Munro 989-763-5630 Kalin Lombard 989-620-7920	Ithaca, MI	Beef, birds & poultry, community service, dairy cattle, food & nutrition, goats, leadership development, rabbits/cavies, sheep, small animals/pocket pets, swine
Double C	Merilyn Argersinger 517-262-6047	Ithaca, MI	Beef, birds & poultry, clothing & textiles, expressive arts, food & nutrition, horse & pony, horticulture, outdoor education, rabbits/cavies, swine, technology & engineering
Farm Friends	Jerry Lewis 989-285-0192	Sumner, MI	Birds & poultry, expressive arts, food & nutrition
Gratiot County 4-H State Exchange Club	Patty Macha 989-763-4246	County-wide	Global and cultural education (this club is on a 2-year travel/host cycle with the 4-H interstate exchange program, members must be at least 14 years old and parents must become MSU Extension volunteers)
Gratiot County Livestock 4-H Club	Angie Lake 989-330-1269	County-wide	Animal evaluation, beef, dairy cattle, goats, meat science, sheep, swine (this is our county livestock judging club with opportunities to join teams at the state competitions)
Gratiot County Lucky Stars	*Not currently accepting new members*		Beef, birds & poultry, cats, dairy cattle, goats, horse & pony, rabbits/cavies, sheep, swine
Gratiot Livestock Crew	Carrie Jolliff 989-708-3777	Wheeler, MI	Animal evaluation, beef, birds & poultry, cats, child development,

			clothing & textiles, community service, dairy cattle, expressive arts, food & nutrition, goats, horse & pony, horticulture, sheep, small animals/pocket pets, swine
Hooves N Boots	Samantha Sinclair 517-677-6418	Alma, MI	Animal evaluation, beef, birds & poultry, community service, food & nutrition, rabbits/cavies, sheep, swine
Kidz N Kritters	Kim Reisterer 989-620-0643	Ithaca, MI	Community service, dogs, environmental science, food & nutrition, horse & pony, horticulture, outdoor education, veterinary science, wildlife & fisheries
Kountry Kids	Leann Grace 616-824-1130	Alma, MI	Horse & pony
Moonlight Clovers	*Not currently accepting new members*		Beef, goats, sheep, swine
North Gratiot Livestock	Ashlee Gibson-Smith 989-488-7047	Elwell, MI	Beef, birds & poultry, clothing & textiles, dairy cattle, food & nutrition, rabbits/cavies, sheep, swine, veterinary science
Seville Superstars	Shelley Cary 989-506-6143	Elwell/Alma, MI	Animal evaluation, beef, birds & poultry, career exploration, clothing & textiles, community service, expressive arts, food & nutrition, horticulture, leadership development, plant science, rabbits/cavies, sheep, swine
Somethin' Special	Angie Lake 989-330-1269	Middleton, MI	Beef, birds & poultry, clothing & textiles, communication, community service, dairy cattle, dogs, expressive arts, food & nutrition, goats, health & fitness, horse & pony, horticulture, leadership development, sheep
Wags & Wiggles	Nicole Gorsuch 517-526-3344	County-wide	Dogs

Please be sure to contact a club prior to enrolling in it in 4-H Online. The club leader will be able to give you additional details about the club and help determine if it is a good fit for your family. Not yet connected with a club and need to complete your 4-H Online enrollment to attend an event? Select "Undecided 4-H Club" as your club in 4-H Online. Need assistance finding a club? Please contact the Extension office.

Gratiot County 4-H Committees

Gratiot County 4-H has a couple of committees that help to guide certain project areas and events. Committees have open meetings and participation is highly encouraged. Serving on a committee is also a great leadership opportunity for youth members and adult volunteers.

Gratiot County 4-H Council:

4-H council provides a common meeting ground for youth and volunteers to work with 4-H staff. Made up of Gold volunteers and teen representatives, this group provides guidance and direction in developing and conducting 4-H programs that meet the needs and interests of youth in Gratiot County. They oversee scholarships and recognition activities, provide educational workshops, and promote 4-H throughout the county. Meetings are typically held the last Monday of the month, 7pm at the Extension Office. All clubs are encouraged to send representatives to this meeting to have a voice in shaping our county program.

Gratiot County 4-H Horse Developmental:

This committee provides support in planning and conducting 4-H horse and pony programs in Gratiot County. They organize horse camp, open horse show, and the selection of delegates for the State 4-H Horse Show. Membership is made up of one adult and one youth representative from each 4-H horse club. Attendance by anyone active in the horse project is encouraged.

Gratiot County Fair for Youth

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth (GCFY) is a great opportunity for 4-H members to showcase the projects they have been working on all year. GCFY is a separate entity from MSU Extension/Gratiot County 4-H. Youth do not have to exhibit at the fair to participate in 4-H, nor do youth have to be in 4-H to exhibit at the fair.

GCFY is spearheaded by the fair board. Fair board typically meets at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month at the Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office at the fairgrounds. Meetings are open to the public.

The fair is typically held the last week of July/first week of August (2023 dates are July 29-August 5). The answers to many fair questions can be found by looking in the fair book. This is available on the GCFY website and includes the fair schedule, fair rules, camping, livestock regulations, and entry information. Fair specific questions should be directed to the fair office. Contact information is below.

Address: 701 S Lincoln Ave, Alma, MI 48801

Email: info@gcfy.org

Phone: 989-466-5071

Website: www.gcfy.org