



JANUARY 23rd, 2026

# 4-H Family News

Ingham County



Join Us Online

## WILD SPARTANS

SCIENCE \* RESEARCH \* CAREERS \* CONSERVATION

"WALKING A PATH OF CONSERVATION"

WITH CARLY GRAFF

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA TRAILS SPECIALIST  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 10 | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/WildSpartansSeriesFall2025Spring2026/>

## Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

NEW  
DATE!

April 12



### Contact Us:

**Glenda Weiss**

4-H Program Coordinator  
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Ingham County 4-H

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/ingham/4-h/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Ingham4Hyou>

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# 2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo

- Breed, Market, Fur Class Entry Fee: \$4.00
- Rabbit Hopping Fee: \$2.00
- Other Contests Entry Fee: \$2.00  
(Photography, Educational Display, Breed Identification, Skillathon)

Showmanship registration deadline  
January 14, 2026

Jan 24, 2026

Enter animals day  
of Show  
7:00 am-10:00am

MSU Pavilion

for Agriculture and  
Livestock Education

Perpetual trophy for all  
Best In Shows!

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.



**\$4**  
Entry Fee



State Rabbit  
and Cavy Show  
Web Page:

[shorturl.at/bKwsV](https://shorturl.at/bKwsV)



SCAN HERE

We are happy to announce that this spring States' 4-H are offering another round of the **Spring Pen Pal Program!** They are currently working to recruit international youth, but please mark your calendar for the below dates.



•Program Dates

1.March 1: US registration opens

2.April 1 - June 1: Pen pal program runs with weekly emails

•Age: Participants must be between the ages of 9 – 18 as of April 1, 2026.

•Frequency: participants will be expected to send one email/letter weekly for the duration (approximately 10 emails/letters). There will be weekly discussion topics to help get the conversation going, but these are only suggestions.

•Regular Email Schedule Between Participants: For example, international students send emails to their U.S. partners every Monday, and U.S. students reply every Friday.

•Cost: \$10 USD that can be paid online only.

•Registration deadline: Friday, March 20, 2026, or when all spots are filled. Please keep an eye on your emails for notification of when registration opens! Feel free to reach out to me Jan Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu) if you have any questions about this years Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs.



# Michigan 4-H State Awards Program



## 4-H State Award Recognition Areas

- Achievement (18-19 only)
- Beef Science
- Birds & Poultry Science
- Career Development
- Civic Engagement & Service
- Companion Animal Science
- Consumer & Family Science
- Dairy Science
- Environmental Science
- Equine Science
- Food, Nutrition, Health & Fitness
- Gardening & Horticulture
- Goat Science
- Leadership
- Rabbit & Cavy Science
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Sheep Science
- Shooting Sports
- Swine Science
- Versatility
- Visual, Performing & Expressive Arts
- Group Award



The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program provides 4-H members an opportunity to receive recognition while expanding their network and improving their leadership skills. At the conclusion of this program, participants have a cover letter, resume and a portfolio highlighting their 4-H experiences. Many of these resources will be transferable to future applications for jobs, college and scholarships.

### Age Categories

- » Mark of Excellence Contest:  
10-11 year-old 4-H members
- » Junior State Award  
12-15 year-old 4-H members
- » Senior State Award  
16-19 year-old 4-H members
- » Achievement Award  
18-19 year-old 4-H members
- » Group Award  
12-19 year-old 4-H members

### PRIZES

- ⇒ \$50 scholarship for all finalists attending 4-H Exploration Days
- ⇒ CASH prizes for winner in junior and senior division in 20 categories & group award winner
- ⇒ Plaques awarded to winners

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This experience provides 4-H members a hands-on experience to practice valuable skills everyone needs as they enter adulthood:

- ✓ Completing an application
- ✓ Creating a resume
- ✓ Writing a cover letter
- ✓ Interviewing
- ✓ Networking

### Recent Program Updates

- Versatility Award added for members with multiple projects
- Achievement Award added for 18-19 year old members
- Senior interviews & Group presentations held via Zoom
- Cash prizes increased

### Submit Application Online

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateAwards26>

**Application deadline: April 1**



### Questions?

msue.4hwards@campusad.msu.edu  
Betty Jo Krosnicki  
nashbett@msu.edu or 810-648-2515  
Janice Zerbe  
rajzerj@msu.edu or 269-657-8213

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting 4-H State Awards Coordinators at msue.4hwards@campusad.msu.edu by March 15 to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

**This could be you!!**



**Start your application today!**

**Application deadline: April 1**



# Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



**April 12**



*reversible bucket hat with purchase*

# 2026 Money Smart Mission



## GooseChase Game

**Who:** Michigan residents aged 13-19

**What:** Fun online missions to show your money smarts and learn about finances and entrepreneurship!

**When:** 4/1/26 - 4/21/26

**How:** Register online to access contest



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# Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Tickets now available!

March 1, 2026

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**Beyond Ready**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



## Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop



**March 7, 2026**



# STATES' 4-H SUMMER HOSTING



Youth from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan seeking  
host families this summer!

HOSTING BRINGS THE RICHNESS  
OF THE WORLD TO YOUR HOME!

- JULY 21 - AUGUST 16, 2026
- HOST A YOUTH AGED 12-18  
OR AN ADULT CHAPERONE
- THIS PROGRAM IS  
VOLUNTARY; NO STIPENDS  
ARE PROVIDED

## HOST FAMILY REQUIREMENTS

- Have a child of the same gender  
within 4 years age of hosted  
youth (ages 9+ are eligible to  
host)
- Families with no children (or  
younger children) may host an  
adult chaperone
- No special activities need to be  
planned - host youth want to  
experience American culture,  
make new friends, and improve  
their English by becoming a  
member of your family.

For more information, visit:  
[states4hexchange.org/state-contacts](https://states4hexchange.org/state-contacts) to find contact  
information for your state

\*Host family selection dependent on completion of  
application and screening process and student  
availability.





# 2026 ADULTING 101



- FRAUD FIGHTERS - JANUARY 21 AT 6:30 PM
- INFORMED RENTER - FEBRUARY 19 AT 5:00 PM
- SLEEP WELLNESS - MARCH 4 AT 5:30 PM
- EAT SMART: HEALTHY MEALS ON A BUDGET - APRIL 13 AT 5:00 PM
- COOKING WITH CONFIDENCE - MAY 18 AT 6:30 PM
- AI AND YOU: SMART, SAFE & SAVVY - JUNE 11 AT 6:00 PM
- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK - JULY 8 AT 6:00 PM
- ROADMAP TO A SMART USED CAR PURCHASE - AUGUST 12 AT 5:00 PM
- ARE YOU READY? - SEPTEMBER 23 AT 5:00 PM
- MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT - OCTOBER 7 AT 6:00 PM
- REALITIES OF ANIMAL CARE - NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM

\*ALL TIMES LISTED ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME



FREE ON ZOOM



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Beyond Ready

## 2026 4-H OUTDOOR EDUCATION Workshop

April 25-26, 2026  
at Camp Newaygo

This workshop is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation



Looking for the perfect gift for the 4-H member, teen leader, or volunteer in your life?

**Give the gift of a great experience!!**

4-H Spark & Share Summit

March 7, 2026

Frankenmuth

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026>

Make it a weekend get away for the family; enjoy Michigan's largest indoor waterpark at Bavarian Inn!!








## Michigan 4-H

# WINTER/ SPRING 2026 VOLUNTEER WEBINAR SERIES




- ✕ January 26
- ✕ Beyond Ready Basics:  
Bringing the Vital Elements  
to Life in Your 4-H Club

For more information:  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>





## SMALL GAME AND PREDATOR HUNTING


February 8, 2026  
1-3PM  
Cost \$12  
Ages 8-19  
Location: 6197 Shepherd Rd Adrian  
Dress for the weather, class is held outside.  
Register by Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/smallgame26/>  
Questions? Call Cole at 517-420-5626  
Registration Questions? Call the 4-H office at 517-264-5300






## FISHING - WOODS - WATER 4-H WORKSHOPS

Make an Ice Fishing Jigging Rod  
Fly Tying  
Learn about wildlife - snakes and mussels

 FEBRUARY 4 & 10  
2026






 6:00-7:30PM

Thomas Township Nature Center








## Tracking, Wildlife Identification and Habitat

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2026  
1-3PM  
Ages 8-19  
Cost \$12

Outdoor class held at 6197 Shepherd RD Adrian.  
Dress for the weather!  
Questions? Contact Cole at 517-420-5626  
Register by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/trackingwildlifeID26/>



## 4-H CHEF TASTY DOG TREATS

FEB 11, 2026

Demo Kitchen  
1040 S Winter St Adrian MI  
6:30-7:30 PM  
Open to Ages 5-11 Ages 5-7 need  
an adult helper  
Cost is \$5  
Register by February 6<sup>th</sup> at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/dogtreats26/>

Bring a cookie sheet to prepare your  
delicious treats to bake at home

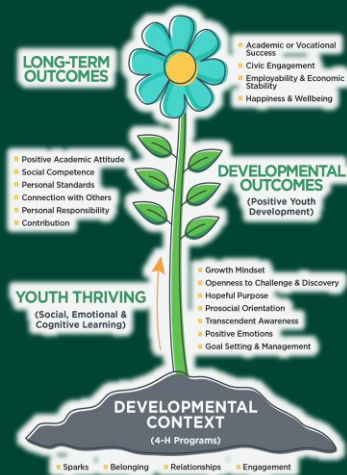






# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Relationships are the foundation of a successful 4-H program! These relationships include building friendships with other members and leaders, building great working relationships and trust between program leaders and members, and adult leaders working together to organize great opportunities for youth.

We hope you can find others in the 4-H program in which you can build positive friendships and/or mentorships. Join us for any events and meetings to get to know everyone in the program.

Youth thriving is the first step in building youth who are #BeyondReady! Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

### January 13: Wild Spartans

Online

This month's session is "Nature's Detectives: How Insects Help Solve Crimes Against People, Animals and the Environment through Forensic Entomology." Tiny creatures can tell BIG stories about the world around us: explore creepy-crawly clues and learn how science and nature work together to solve puzzles. Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-january](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-january)

### January 13: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

In today's digital world, young people are increasingly targeted by fraudsters, scammers and predatory lenders. This interactive webinar will empower youth with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and their personal information.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-jan13](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-jan13)

### January 21: Adulting 101 – Fraud Fighters: How to Stay Scam-Free

Online

From fake jobs offers to phishing texts, scammers are everywhere. This workshop breaks down the latest tricks and shows you how to guard your info, your credit, and your peace of mind.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>

### January 24: 2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

4-H'ers exhibit rabbit and cavy projects and participate in educational knowledge contests: showmanship, skillathon, breed identification and rabbit hopping. **Register by January 14.**

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-state-4-h-rabbit-and-cavy-show-and-expo](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-state-4-h-rabbit-and-cavy-show-and-expo)

### January 26: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Beyond Ready Basics

Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. Explore the four vital elements that help youth thrive: discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-basics-bringing-the-vital-elements-to-life-in-your-4-h-club](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-basics-bringing-the-vital-elements-to-life-in-your-4-h-club)

### February 7: 4-H Winterfest

Eagle Village Retreat Center, Hersey

4-H Winterfest is a hand-on learning camp for youth ages 8-12. Youth pick workshops and participate in team building activities. Come and have fun this winter! **Register by January 23.**

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-winterfest](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-winterfest)







# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



## Register for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 15-17, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on: agriculture; civil rights and youth advocacy; crime and law enforcement; education and teacher retention; environment and natural resources; health; and jobs, the economy and infrastructure.

The cost to attend is \$365, which includes lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/).

## Earn prizes with the Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Did you know youth are being targeted by scams too? That's this year's theme for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! Michigan youth aged 9–19 are invited to participate through writing an essay on this year's question.

Top entries receive a \$100 gift card, thanks to contest sponsor, Extra Credit Union. MSU Extension will host two webinars to help with fraud awareness and essay writing. Essays are due by March 1. For contest details and essay submission information, visit: [www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest).



## Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 10 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 contest (10-11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). An Achievement Award was added last year for 18–19-year-olds. Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found online at [bit.ly/stateaward](http://bit.ly/stateaward). Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at [nashbett@msu.edu](mailto:nashbett@msu.edu) or Janice Zerbe at [rajzerj@msu.edu](mailto:rajzerj@msu.edu).





## 2026 MI 4-H Dairy Conference

Registration for the 2026 MI 4-H Dairy Conference is now OPEN!

Join the MI 4-H Dairy Youth Program from February 27th-March 1st, 2026, at Michigan State University for a fun-filled educational opportunity for any 4-H youth ages 12-19 and gold-level 4-H volunteers! This conference will feature industry professional guest speakers that cover topics that include dairy judging, nutrition, calving, carcass evaluations, and more! Participants will also go on tours of the MSU Meat Lab and the new MSU Dairy Cattle Teaching & Research Center! The conference utilizes hands-on learning experiences that include dissections and a nutrition lab.

Saturday evening will include a trip to Zap Zone XL for all participants!

Registration closes on February 5th, 2026.

Registration Link:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026michigan4hdairyconference/>

Questions? Please reach out to Kendra at [vanorde4@msu.edu](mailto:vanorde4@msu.edu).



## National 4-H Conference

### National 4-H Conference



April 10-15 Arlington, VA

For youth ages 15-19 who are currently enrolled in 4-H

Registration: <https://MI-National4HConference.4honline.com>

Changemakers ages 15-19, want to strengthen your leadership skills, learn how to advocate for 4-H and other causes you care about, and experience our nation's capital all at once? National 4-H Conference is now open for registrations! Join us April 10-15, 2026 to learn more about the federal government and its agencies, and how to use your voice to impact change at every level!

More information is available on our website at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/national-4-h-conference/>.

The registration link is: <https://MI-National4HConference.4honline.com>.

## Avoiding Money Mishaps Webinar

Avoid Money Mishaps!

Learn how to protect yourself from fraud, scams, and identity theft in our FREE webinars—plus, get ready for an upcoming essay contest on the same topic!

Pick your date:

Jan 13 @ 6 PM EST or Feb 11 @ 6 PM EST

Same content, two chances—don't miss out!

Register now: <https://bit.ly/avoidingmoneymishaps>





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



**PRE-REGISTRATION IS OFFERED AND  
APPRECIATED FOR CLINIC PARTICIPATION,  
EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS, AND CLINIC  
AUDITING.**

**CLINIC PARTICIPATION IS LIMITED TO THE  
FIRST 12 RIDERS/HANDLERS.**

SATURDAY CLINICS: \$50.00 FOR ONE OR \$90.00 FOR BOTH  
CLINICS

SUNDAY CLINICS: \$50.00 FOR ONE OR \$125.00 FOR ALL THREE  
SUNDAY SESSIONS

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS \$15.00/DAY OR PAY @20.00  
AT THE DOOR FOR EACH DAY**

**4-H CLUBS QUALIFY FOR A GROUP DISCOUNT IF  
THEY PRE-REGISTER UNDER THEIR 4-H CLUB**

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# **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

**6:30PM-8:30PM: HORSE JUDGING CLINIC**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31**

**MQHA TACK SALE: 9AM-4PM**

**NO ADMISSION FEE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**8:30AM-12PM: PRACTICE HORSE JUDGING  
CONTEST**

**1-3:30PM: EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS IN  
CLASSROOMS A, B, AND C**

**1-3PM: LEVEL 1 SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC WITH  
RYAN COTTINGIM**

**4-6PM: LEVEL 1 HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC WITH  
RYAN COTTINGIM**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**9AM-12:00PM: PRACTICE HIPPOLOGY CONTEST IN  
CLASSROOM A/B/C**

**8-10:00AM: "REFINING YOUR SHOWMANSHIP SKILLS"  
SHOWMANSHIP LEVEL 2 CLINIC WITH RYAN  
COTTINGIM**

**11AM-1PM: LEVEL 2 HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC WITH  
RYAN COTTINGIM**

**2-4PM: TRAIL CLINIC WITH RYAN COTTINGIM**





# 2026 EQUINE CONNECTION WEEKEND

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 THROUGH**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026**  
**AT THE FARM BUREAU PAVILION AT**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

- HORSE JUDGING
- HIPPOLOGY
- SHOWMANSHIP
- HORSEMANSHIP
- TRAIL

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FUN AND  
LEARNING!

CLINIC SESSIONS WITH AQHA  
PROFESSIONAL RYAN COTTINGIM AND  
OTHERS!

**\*\*HORSES ONLY NEEDED FOR COTTINGIM  
CLINICS, LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS\*\***



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**[HTTPS://PCI.JOTFORM.COM/FORM/253146086083053](https://pci.jotform.com/form/253146086083053)**





# 4-H WINTERFEST FEBUARY 7-8 2026



LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE - HERSEY, MI

COST: \$120 FOR 4-H MEMBERS

REGISTER TODAY: [HTTPS://4HWINTERFEST2026.4HONLINE.COM](https://4hwinterfest2026.4honline.com)

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Youth who attend 4-H Winterfest will spend two days learning about team building and different project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Winterfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Eagle Village in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands-on sessions.

### Workshop 1 - Saturday

**Amaze Your Friends With Magic**

**Launch into Science**

**Broom Ball**

**Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts**

**Crafts Around the World: North America**

**Ice Dyeing**

### Workshops- Sunday

#### Workshop #2

#### Workshop #3

**Cat Curiosity**

**Cat Curiosity**

**Lego Science**

**Lego Science**

**Paper to Pulp**

**Paper to Pulp**

**Stop Motion Animation**

**Stop Motion Animation**

**It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping**

**It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping**

## WORKSHOP 1 DESCRIPTION:

**Amaze Your Friends With Magic-** Come and learn several easy magic tricks that will amaze your friends and family.

**Launch into Science-**Get ready to build, launch & learn! Participants will dive into hands-on STEM challenges – including designing & testing their very own marshmallow catapult. From creative problem solving to engineering fun, this session will spark curiosity & teamwork while showing how science & innovation come to life!

**Broom Ball-** Learn the skill and techniques to broom ball. Have fun outdoors on the ice challenge your coordination and teamwork to score the most goals!

**Crafts Around the World: North America -**Enjoy and be introduced to a simple cultural traditional craft from North America. We will learn how to make the simple craft of "Guatemalan Worry Dolls" and having fun creating as we learn about the culture and the country.

**Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts-** A hands-on session using basic tools to create and personalize leather goods like bracelets, book markers, and coasters and craft a dazzling suncatcher using pony beads and crystals for an instant touch of sparkle wherever it hangs.

**Ice Dyeing-** Discover the science behind stunning, and surprising, designs when colors split. You'll explore how melting ice and dye interact, creating vibrant patterns while learning about chemistry and color theory in action. This session blends art and science for a colorful experiment you can wear or share!

## WORKSHOP 2& 3 DESCRIPTION:

**Cat Curiosity-** Ever wanted to learn about cat showmanship? Fun facts about our fancy furry friends? Want to pet one up close and personal? Well, here's your chance! Join us for 4-H related activities and information regarding cat showmanship at the county fair level. We will have hands-on demonstrations and even have a live cat to examine. Please be allergy aware!!

**Lego Science-** Use Legos to answer science questions such as: Can you building a hurricane-proof building? How do wrecking balls work? and How many Lego can you balance off one brick?

**Paper to Pulp-** Get creative from start to finish! In this session you will make your own paper, design a custom journal & learn simple journaling techniques. Have fun, reflect, create & express yourself one page at a time!

**Stop Motion Animation-**Bring your ideas to life by transforming everyday objects into exciting stories. You'll design, snap, and edit your own stop motion mini movies using creativity and digital tools. This session combines science, technology, and creativity to show how innovation moves—literally—frame by frame!

**It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping-**Enjoy and be introduced to the art of jewelry wire wrapping. You will learn the basics and wrap special stones of Michigan, creating necklaces, keychains, or whatever your creative minds discover and make.



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## CONTACT US:

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>



For questions, please contact:

Christine Heverly

[sisungch@msu.edu](mailto:sisungch@msu.edu)

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## 2026 Michigan 4-H Volunteer Winter/Spring Webinars

This webinar series will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a Michigan State University and Michigan 4-H volunteer.

All webinars take place at 12pm (noon) EST. Registration is required for each individual webinar- registration is free! Recordings will be posted on the website for later viewing.

### Sessions include:

**January 26, 2026: Beyond Ready Basics: Bringing the Vital Elements to Life in Your 4-H Club:** Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. In this session, we'll explore the four Vital Elements that help youth thrive, discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

**February 11, 2026: Building Belonging: Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences:** Teambuilding isn't just an activity—it's a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

**March 25, 2026: From Sparks to Skills: Using AI Responsibly in 4-H:** This webinar will help volunteers understand what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within the 4-H program. We'll explore practical guidance from MSU Extension resources, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth as they navigate this evolving technology.

**April 22, 2026: Let's Talk It Out: Handling Conflict with Ease:** Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. This laid-back session is all about learning how to handle tough conversations without the stress.

**May 4, 2026: Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs: Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects:** Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's curriculum *Youth Business Guide to Success*.





## 2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

### 4-H Animal Science Staff

**Autumn Converse**  
4-H Livestock and Veterinary  
Science Educator  
[conver20@msu.edu](mailto:conver20@msu.edu)

**David Lindsay**  
4-H Equine Educator  
[lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu)

**Kendra Van Order**  
4-H Dairy Educator  
[vanorde4@msu.edu](mailto:vanorde4@msu.edu)

**Jermo Reese**  
4-H Animal Science Program  
Instructor  
[reesejer@msu.edu](mailto:reesejer@msu.edu)

**Jacob Stieg**  
4-H Poultry Point of Contact  
[stieg@msu.edu](mailto:stieg@msu.edu)

**Kat VanDouser**  
4-H Dog Point of Contact  
[krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu)

**Glenda Weiss**  
4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact  
[weissgle@msu.edu](mailto:weissgle@msu.edu)

<b>January 24</b>	4-H State Rabbit Show
<b>Feb. 27- March 1</b>	4-H Dairy Conference
<b>March 7</b>	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
<b>March 14</b>	4-H Horse Communications Contest
<b>March 21-22</b>	Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show
<b>March 21</b>	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop
<b>March 22</b>	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl
<b>April 11</b>	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
<b>April 12</b>	4-H Hippology State Contest
<b>May 13</b>	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
<b>June 16-17</b>	Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp
<b>June 27</b>	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
<b>July 1</b>	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
<b>July 6-7 &amp; 8-9</b>	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
<b>July 13-16</b>	4-H Youth Dairy Days
<b>August 13-16</b>	4-H State Horse Show
<b>September 19</b>	4-H State Dog Show

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**Scan me** for more  
information about these  
programs!



### **Cloverbud Award**

Walden Weber

Autumn Narlock

Borgan Floyd

Quinn Mayer

Easton Floyd

Matilda Randall

Arthur MacGregor

### **Outstanding Young Member Award**

Blue Ribbon – Walden Weber

Dansville 4-Leaf Clovers – Sophie Zimmerman

Fit To Show – Lolaah Bradley

Happy Hustlers – Benjamin Regan

Happy Hustlers – Dakota Regan

Happy Hustlers – Emma Gee

Ingham County Sharpshooters – Aurora Wieferich

Sandhill – Preston Block

Town N' Country – Hudson Sheridan

Trailblazers – Evelyn Strank



## 4-H Club All Stars

Blue Ribbon–Adelline LaDuke

Dansville 4-Leaf Clovers–Elle Heiden

Fit To Show–Teagan Hall

Happy Hustlers–Emma Marshall

Ingham County Sharpshooters–Eleanor Backhaus

Ingham County Sharpshooters–Will Zimmerman

Livestock, Equine and Pets Committee–Sophia Neilson

Sandhill–Liam Lower

Sandhill–Michael Curtis

Town N' Country–Ellie Koppin

Trailblazers–Ruby Eastman

Williamston–Addison Anway



## Good Citizen Award

Eleanor Backhaus

Abigail Eastman

Oliver Fusiler

Nathan Gehrs

Liam Lower

Emma Marshall

Zander Morlock

Luna Wieferick

Sophie Zimmerman



## Outstanding Teen Leader Award

Eleanor Backhaus–Winner

Elizabeth Leibrand–Winner

Helen Curtis–Honorable Mention

Gabe Gonzales–Honorable Mention

Alan Hill–Honorable Mention

Michaela Hill–Honorable Mention

Danielle Hood–Honorable Mention

Emma Morlock–Honorable Mention

Chloey Ranta–Honorable Mention



## National Congress

Lizzy West–Town N' Country

Eleanor Backhaus–Ingham County Sharpshooters and Golden Stride Riders



## **Head and Heart Award**

Abby Eastman–Winner

Ray Roberts–Winner

Evan Roberts–Honorable Mention



## **Top Club**

Town N' Country

Fit To Show

## **10 and 15 Year Member**

Chase Sommer–Happy Hustlers 4–H Club

## **2025 Michigan 4–H State Youth Leadership Council**

Sophia Nielson–Sandhill 4–H Club

# 2025 County Medal Recipients

## Junior (Ages 13-15)

Eleanor Backhaus- Poultry

Eleanor Backhaus-Shooting Sports

Ryan Burchman- Rabbits

Charli Eastman-Horses

Charli Eastman-Clothing & Textiles

Charli Eastman-Photography & Video

Emma Eastman- Horses

Emma Eastman-Food and Nutrition

Emma Eastman-Industrial Arts



Evan Roberts-Dairy

Evan Robert-Visual Arts

Evan Robert-Industrial Arts

## Senior (Ages 16-19)

Ellie Koppin- Cavy

Ellie Koppin-Rabbits

Ruby Eastman-Industrial Arts

Ruby Eastman-Clothing & Textiles

Ruby Eastman-Photography & Video

Elizabeth Leibrand-Dogs

Elizabeth Leibrand-Poultry



Emma Morlock-Bees

Emma Morlock-Clothing & Textiles

Emma Morlock Gardening & Horticulture

Ray Roberts-Food & Nutrition

Ray Roberts- Photography & Video

Ray Roberts-Visual Arts



Reagan Robison-Food & Nutrition

Reagan Robison-Goat

Reagan Robison-Horses



## **Bill Wheeler Memorial Scholarship Winners**

Elizabeth Dase-White Oak 4-H Club

Chellis Hall-Town N' Country 4-H Club

Ellie Koppin- Town N' Country 4-H Club

Ava Palmatier-Webberville 4-H Club



## **Master Stockman**

Senior Champion-Sophia Nielsen

Senior 2nd Place- Alivia Block

Senior 3rd Place-Reagan Robison

Junior Champion-Helen Curtis

Junior 2nd Place-Violet Rice

Junior 3rd Place-Sadie Tolbert



## Club Community Service

Happy Hustlers



Fit To Show



## Leader of the Year Award

Sara Zimmerman (1-5 Years of Service)

Sally Backhaus (6-10 Years of Service)

Dave O'Daniel (16+ Years of Service)

## Friend of 4-H

Gladys Welker

Ingham County Farm Bureau