MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

4-H Family News

Ingham County

DECEMBER 12, 2025

Contact Us:

Glenda Weiss
4-H Program Coordinator
weissgle@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension
Ingham County Hilliard Bldg
121 E. Maple Street, PO Box 319
Mason, MI 48854
Ph: 517.676.7207

Rachel Ochylski
4-H Urban Program Coordinator
ochylski@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension
Ingham County Human Services Bldg
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911
Ph: 517.676.7300

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

$4 Entry Fee

- 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	MSU Pavilion
Enter animals day of Show 7:00 am-10:00am	for Agriculture and Livestock Education

Perpetual trophy for all Best In Shows!

State Rabbit and Cavy Show Web Page:

shorturl.at/bKwsV

SCAN HERE

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National 4-H Animal Science Career Night

DECEMBER 18, 2025
7-8pm EST | 6-7pm CST

Presented by
National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals, Animal Science Working Group

Join us for an evening to hear from noted speakers in the animal science industry as they share career exploration insights, advice, and more! Open to youth in grades 7–13 (ages 12–19).

FREE

Register by December 17, 2025 11:59pm est

For more information Contact:
mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu

Position Description

Application

SEEKING

4-H STILL LIFE SUPERINTENDENTS

What You'll Do:

- Host one county-wide educational activity
- Support fair exhibits and judging
- Promote inclusive, engaging learning experiences

Commitment:

Year-round with peak activity around the Ingham County Fair (July/August)

Open Project Areas Include:

RC Cars · Rockets · Archery · Cloverbuds · Crops · Science · Woodworking · Clothing & Textiles · Firearms · Photography · Hoticulture/Floriculture · Communications · Food & Nutrition · Cats

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2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

January 24	4-H State Rabbit Show
Feb. 27- March 1	4-H Dairy Conference
March 7	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
March 14	4-H Horse Communications Contest
March 21-22	Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show
March 21	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop
March 22	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl
April 11	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
April 12	4-H Hippology State Contest
May 6	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
June 10-11	Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp
June 27	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
July 1	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
July 6-7 & 8-9	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
July 13-16	4-H Youth Dairy Days
August 13-16	4-H State Horse Show
September 19	4-H State Dog Show

Scan me for more information about these programs!

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse
4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay
4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order
4-H Dairy Educator
vanorde4@msu.edu

Jermo Reese
4-H Animal Science Program Instructor
reesejer@msu.edu

Jacob Stieg
4-H Poultry Point of Contact
stieg@msu.edu

Kat VanDouser
4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glenda Weiss
4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR INGHAM COUNTY 4-H YOUTH!

We're thrilled to announce that two outstanding youth from Ingham County 4-H have been awarded the MSU Pre-College Scholarship!

After participating in a 4-H pre-college program in 2025, these youth were nominated to represent 4-H in the statewide scholarship competition—and their hard work paid off! Each recipient will receive a $2,000 scholarship to attend Michigan State University in the future.

👏 Join us in congratulating: ✨

Grant Evans

Cooper Krystyniak

Huge congrats on winning the scholarship!
All your hard work paid off—so well deserved

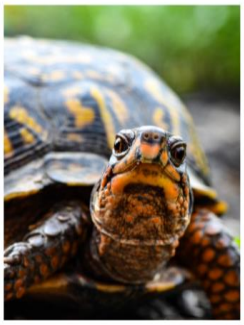
Capitol Experience

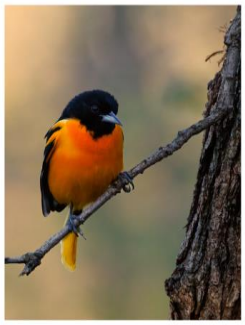
COMING SOON

MARCH 15-17TH, 2026

Cost $365

Scholarships may be available through your local 4-H office!





Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

January 13, 2026 6:30 PM EST

Nature's Detectives: "How Insects Help Solve Crimes Against People, Animals, and the Environment Through Forensic Entomology" with Dr. Samantha Sawyer, Forensic Entomologist at the University of New Haven

Registration Required

4-H WINTERFEST FEBUARY 7-8 2026

LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE - HERSEY, MI **COST: $120 FOR 4-H MEMBERS**

REGISTER TODAY: 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.

SPARTAN WINTER JUDGING INVITE

JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL WINTER LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST AT MICHIGAN STATE!
CATTLE, SHEEP, AND HOG CLASSES AVAILABLE

REASONS DIVISION: $25/STUDENT
QUESTIONS DIVISION: $20/STUDENT

WEDNESDAY
12/17/2025

CHECK IN 8:00-8:45 A.M.
CONTEST START 9:00 A.M.

FARM BUREAU PAVILION
4301 FARM LN, LANSING, MI 48910

REGISTER BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

4-H Volunteer Nomination Required

Outstanding Young Member

Requirement to Apply: 4-H member 8-11 years old (4-H Age)
Number of Awards: One per club
Application Process: Nomination Form completed by 4-H volunteer based on young member's character
Award: Certificate

Outstanding Teen Leader

Requirement to Apply: 4-H teens recognized for outstanding leadership 4-H volunteer
Number of Awards: Two
Application Process: Nomination Form completed by 4-H volunteer (can nominate up to two teens)
Award: Certificate and pin

All Star Award

Requirement to Apply: Any youth nominated by a 4-H volunteer for any reason determined by the 4-H volunteer
Number of Awards: One per club
Application Process: Nomination Form completed by 4-H volunteer
Award: Certificate and pin

Good Citizen Award

Requirement to Apply: All youth are eligible to be nominated (by anyone) for going above and beyond normal expectations through their actions. (Please no nominations for normal daily activities such as feeding own animals, barn duty, etc.)
Number of Awards: Up to five winners and honorable mention recognition to additional nominees
Application Process: Completion of nomination form
Award: $5 Gift Certificate for up to 5 winners: Certificate for honorable mention

Club Awards

Club Community Service Award

Requirement to Apply: Completion of a community service project by the 4-H club
Number of Awards: Three
Application Process: A report explaining how the youth in the club were involved in the planning and completion of the community service project and why that service project was chosen. A poster with pictures and a description of the service project needs to be presented at the Fair in the club's booth.
Award: 1st Place-$50; 2nd Place-$25; 3rd Place-$15

Top Club Award

Requirement to Apply: All registered 4-H clubs are eligible
Number of Awards: Four; (2 small clubs; 2 large clubs)
Application Process: Completion of Top Club application packet
Award: $25 gift certificate for club pizza party

Individual Member Awards-Self Nomination

Cloverbud Certificate

Requirement to Apply: Open to all Cloverbuds ages 5-7 (4-H age)
Number of Awards: All Cloverbuds who apply will receive a certificate
Application Process: Cloverbuds complete the certificate application themselves
Award: Certificate

County Medal

Requirement to Apply: 4-H member at least 12 years old (4-H age). Must have a minimum of two years completed in the project area
Number of Awards: Up to four different members in each project area: youth can only win one medal per project area during their 4-H career
Application Process: Completion of County Medal Form & Essay: Youth can apply for up to three different county medals each year, but can only be awarded two per year
Project Areas: Juniors (ages 13-15) and Seniors (ages 16-19); for Aerospace; Agriculture; Aquaculture; Beef; Biological Sciences; Cats/Companion Animal; Cavies; Clothing & Textiles; Computer Technology; Consumer & Family Science; Consumer Education; Dairy; Dogs/Companion Animal; Electricity; Engines, Tractors & Field Equipment; Entomology & Bees; Food & Nutrition; Forestry; Gardening & Horticulture; Goats; Healthy Living; Horses; Industrial Arts; Judging; Outdoor Education & Recreation; Performing Arts; Photography & Video; Physical Science; Plant Science; Poultry; Rabbits; Safety; Sewing; Sheep; Shooting Sports; Swine; Technology & Engineering; Veterinary Science; Visual Arts; Wildlife/Fisheries Achievement; Citizenship & Civic Engagement; Communications; Community Service; Leadership; Personal Development; Public Speaking
Award: Certificate and Medal

Head and Heart Award

Requirement to Apply: 1. At least 15 years old (4-H age); 2. Completed 4-H projects in at least two project areas; 3. Participated in at least three county and/or state 4-H events
Number of Awards: Four
Application Process: Completion of Ingham County Awards Application: Recommendation by 4-H volunteer
Award: $50

Ingham County 4-H Ambassador

Requirement to Apply: 4-H member 12-19 years old (4-H Age), Desire to promote the 4-H program and develop leadership Skills, One year commitment (group meets 8-10 times per year)
Application Process: Completion of Ingham County Awards Application: Recommendation by 4-H volunteer
Award: Certificate and Notebook

10 and 15 Year Member Awards

Requirement to Apply: 10 Year Award: Applicant must be a high school senior or graduate; must have 10 years of consecutive membership between the ages of 5-19. **15 Year Award:** Applicant must have 15 years of consecutive membership between the ages of 5-19
Number of Awards: No limit
Application Process: Completion of Ingham County Awards Application
Award: Framed certificate

Michigan 4-H Key Club Award

Requirement to Apply: At least 15 years old by December. 1st;
Completed three calendar years of 4-H work by Jan. 1st of the current year;
Completed 4-H work in at least two project areas;
Completed a Teen Leadership project;
Participated in at least three county, state or national 4-H events

Number of Awards: Top 0.5% of the total county delegation

Application Process: Completion of the Michigan Key Club application

Award: Key Club Pin

Danforth National "I Dare You" Leadership Award

Requirement to Apply: 15-18 years old (4-H age)

Number of Awards: Two

Application Process: Completion of "I Dare You" essay

Award: $20 gift certificate; American Youth Foundation's National Leadership Award certificate; *I Dare You* book; nomination for "I Dare You' scholarship; opportunity to attend AYF's National Leadership Conference

Ignite by 4-H (March)

Requirement to Apply: 14-19 years old (4-H age)

Number of Awards: Two

Application Process: Completion of Citizenship Washington Focus Delegate Application

Award: Certificate; Participation in Citizenship Washington Focus in Washinton, D.C.

National 4-H Congress (November)

Requirement to Apply: 14-19 years old (4-H age)

Number of Awards: Two

Application Process: Completion of National 4-H Congress Delegate Application

Award: Certificate; Participation in National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia

Community Awards

Leader of the Year

Requirement to Apply: Active 4-H volunteer nominated (by anyone) for being an exceptional leader

Number of Awards: One for 1-5 years of leadership; One for 6-10 years of leadership;
One for 11-15 years of leadership; One for 16 or more years of leadership

Application Process: Completion of Nomination Form by anyone.

*Each club is encouraged to nominate one leader from the club who is deserving of this award

Award: Engraved Plaque

Friend of 4-H

Requirement to Apply: Person/Business/Organization that is nominated (by anyone) for making signigicant contributions to Ingham County 4-H

Number of Awards: One

Application Process: Completion of Nomination Form by anyone.

Award: Engraved Plaque

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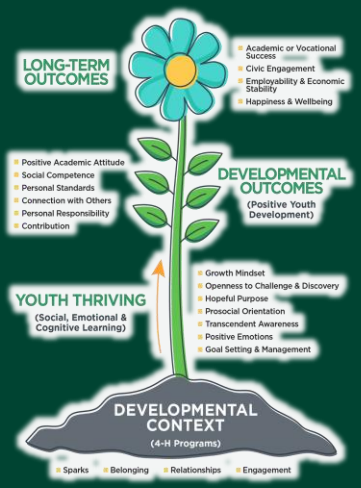
STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Thriving Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 28 – December 14: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign
Local Tractor Supply Co.
Support 4-H by purchasing a $1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

December 2: Giving Tuesday
Online
Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise $5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.
mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/

December 9: 4-H Wild Spartans
Online
Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-december

December 13: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah
Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland
Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8.!
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah

December 20: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway
Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland
Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory reporting guidelines (www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. *In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.*
2. *Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file DHS-3200 (available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) within 72 hours.*
3. *All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at ocr.isr@msu.edu.*
4. *Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.*

Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!

Michigan Shop 4-H Store: *Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store! Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit https://bit.ly/30pdNJw.*

My Pottery Place: *Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/.*

Mickman Brothers: *Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at 4hwreaths.com will benefit 4-H.*

Twisted X: *Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection.*

Georgia Boot: *Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at georgiaboot.com.*

Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos.

View the updated manual at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual.