



Kalamazoo County

# 4-H Family News

March 2022



We have been hard at work re-imagining the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and we are excited to be planning an outstanding event that will focus on highlighting the 4-H programs and youth education, while also providing agricultural education to children and families in our community.

- 4-H livestock and horse shows along with additional 4-H activities will take place starting Wednesday, August 10,
- With the 4-H livestock auction on Friday afternoon.
- The fair will culminate with a new family festival for the public on Saturday, August 13 that will offer fun entertainment and activities, plus hands-on demonstrations and educational activities for the community.

***2022 is going to be a GREAT  
Kalamazoo County Youth Fair & Family Festival!***

Additional information will be coming over the next few months, but in the meantime visit [www.kalamazoocountyfair.com](http://www.kalamazoocountyfair.com) and click on the 4-H Participant Info link to see the tentative event schedule, Fair Book, and camping information.

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## Contact Us

**Veronica Bolhuis**

4-H Program Coordinator  
(269) 383-8867  
bolhuisv@msu.edu

**Amanda Williams**

4-H Urban Program Coordinator  
(269) 383-8878  
will1975@msu.edu

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.  
Suite 306  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

## Phone

269-383-8830 main line  
MSU Extension

## Email

msue.kalamazoo@campusad.  
msu.edu

## Web Site

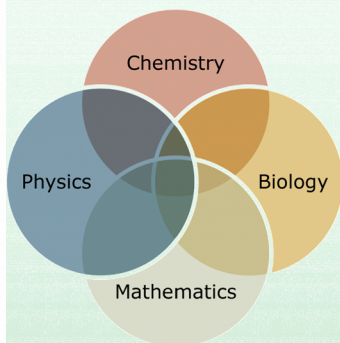
[http://canr.msu.edu/  
kalamazoo4H](http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H)

## Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/  
Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-  
Program-122047197873078](https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078)



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## Join Us Online **WILD SPARTANS**

SCIENCE \* RESEARCH \* CAREERS \* CONSERVATION  
GREAT LAKES FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS  
WITH BRAD UTRUP, FISHERIES RESEARCH TECHNICIAN  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 12 | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2022/>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Join Us Online

## **MASON COUNTY 4-H ST. PADDY'S DAY SLEUTHS VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT**

March 14 thru March 26, 2022

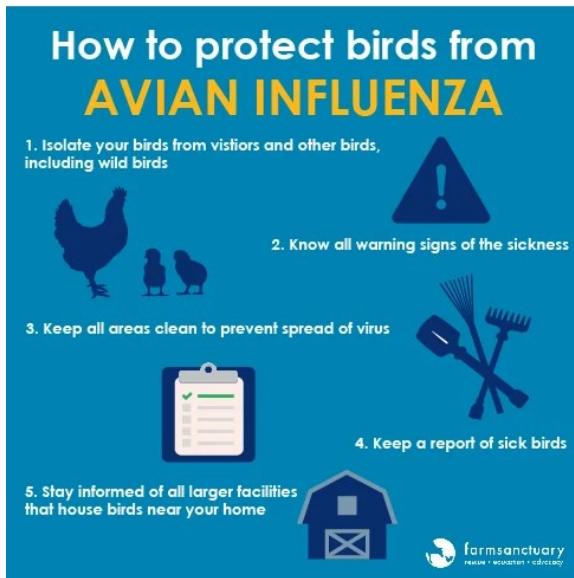
 **4-H GROWS HERE**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension





Dear 4-H poultry participants and volunteers:



In recent weeks, there have been [several confirmed cases](#) of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) throughout 11 states in the U.S. These include commercial flocks in Delaware, Kentucky and southern Indiana, backyard flocks in Michigan, Maine, New York and Virginia, and wild birds in South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, Florida, Delaware and New Hampshire. All states are working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to contain the spread of the virus on the infected flocks and facilities.

MSU Extension and its state partners are continuing to monitor the situation. *At this point, 1 case of HPAI has been found in Michigan; and there has been no ban on poultry shows, exhibitions and swap meets in the state.* However, the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (MDARD) is urging all owners and caretakers of poultry and other domestic birds to take proactive measures to defend against a potential outbreak in Michigan.

To help protect your flocks and bird projects, [MDARD recommends the following biosecurity practices](#):

- Prevent contact between domestic and wild birds by bringing them indoors or ensuring their outdoor area is fully enclosed.
- Wash hands before and after handling birds as well as when moving between different coops.
- Disinfect boots and other gear when moving between coops.
- Do not share equipment or other supplies between coops or other farms.
- Clean and disinfect equipment and other supplies between uses. If it cannot be disinfected, discard it.
- Use well water or municipal water as drinking water for birds.

Keep poultry feed secure so there is no contact between the feed/feed ingredients and wild birds or rodents.

In addition, MDARD asks poultry owners and caretakers to watch for unusual deaths, a drop in egg production, a significant decrease in water consumption, or an increase in sick birds. If avian influenza is **suspected**, contact MDARD **IMMEDIATELY** at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours).

To stay up-to-date with MDARD updates and alerts regarding the status of avian influenza in Michigan, 4-H families can subscribe to receive notifications from MDARD. Visit [MDARD's website](#) and click on the "Avian Influenza" link to enter a valid email address to receive notifications whenever there are new developments to report.

As a reminder, HPAI [does not present an immediate public health concern](#) and properly handled and cooked poultry products remain safe to consume.

For additional information regarding HPAI, visit MSU Extension's [avian influenza website](#).

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## Swine Club Members

1<sup>st</sup> meeting is Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Expo Center (this will be a combined meeting with other live-stock species) - pick up tags

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Expo Center - last chance to pick up tags, forms due May 31st

Looking forward to seeing everyone then!



## Poultry Project News

Plans for Fair 2022 are well underway!

We have 4 more fun and instructional meetings planned for the 3rd Thursday of March, May, June and July.

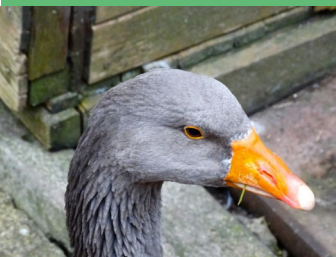
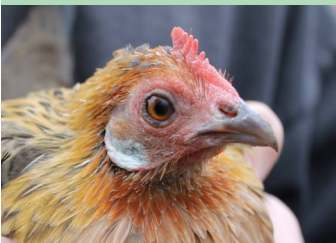
For the last 2 years the meeting attendance requirement has been waived but the **requirement for three meetings is now back in place.**

So make sure to get the meeting dates on your calendar!

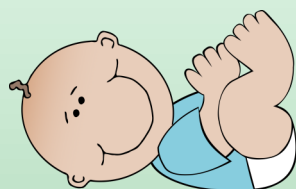
Here are the order dates for market birds. Please call

Ann Hollister at 685-2301 to place your order.

Please respect that the dates are NOT flexible.



Poultry	Order Date	Pick up date
TURKEY	FEB 25	MARCH 29
MARKET GEESE	N/A	N/A
HEAVY DUCK	APRIL 15	MAY 17
ROASTER	MAY 6	JUNE 1
MARKET (PEKING) DUCK	MAY 13	JUNE 14
BROILER	MAY 27	JUNE 21
CORNISH	JUNE 3	JUNE 28



## 4-H SPIN Club: Introduction to Babysitting

**DATE & TIME:**  
Every Tuesday night  
April 19—May 24  
6:30—7:30 PM

**LOCATION:**  
Oshtemo Public Library

**COST:**  
Free

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>



### INTRODUCTION TO BABYSITTING:

Youth ages 11-19 who want to learn about caring for children and being a great babysitter should join this short term 4-H Club. Youth who participate will:

- Learn about the responsibilities of babysitting and becoming a capable, caring, trustworthy and responsible sitter.
- Learn and practice skills and techniques needed to become a good babysitter.
- Help develop the confidence needed to handle situations that could happen when babysitting.
- Develop a positive attitude about the care of children.
- Prepare youth in the business aspects of babysitting.

### HOW TO REGISTER

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> (choose SPIN Club, babysitting spring 2022)

Registration deadline is April 14, 2022

### CONTACT:

Veronica Bolhuis—[bolhuisv@msu.edu](mailto:bolhuisv@msu.edu)

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## 4-H Mark of Excellence Award

The 4-H Mark of Excellence Award is a division of the 4-H State Awards Program for 11 and 12-year-old 4-H members.

To enter, a 4-H member writes an essay on the theme, “Because of 4-H I can ...” Essays are submitted to the local county MSU Extension office **by April 1**. County 4-H programs then select up to two youths’ essays as their representatives and submit those names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. For more additional information and instructions, view the following:

[2022 Overview and Instructions for Michigan 4-H State Awards Program & Mark of Excellence Award](#)

If you have ever thought about applying for a 4-H State Award but you just do not know where to start or maybe you have submitted an application in the past but you need suggestions on your cover letter or resume? Consider joining a virtual training (schedule below) or watching [training videos](#).





Kalamazoo County 4-H is looking to hire a *temp on call* staff person to help deliver programming over the next few months!

More information will be coming out soon so keep your eyes open for the job posting and share with those you know might be interested in applying.



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### Leaders Council is looking for volunteers for the following Committees:

- Expansion and Review Committee (Diversity?): 9 volunteers needed for this committee with a minimum of 3 youth volunteers
- Fair Planning Committee: Need 1 teen volunteer
  - Plan and organize 4-H events/activities during the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair
- Fall Achievement/Awards/Leaders Banquet - 1 volunteer needed
  - Assist in selecting award recipients and evaluating the awards program
- Fundraising: 1) Food Booth - 1 volunteer needed 2) Scrap -a-loo Scrapbook event - 1 volunteer needed
  - Assist with planning the fundraising event
- Nominating and Constitution: 1 volunteer needed
  - Recommend candidates for Leaders Council offices, annual review of by-laws and Policy and Procedures; recommend changes if required.
- Vehicle (4-H Bus): 2 volunteers needed
  - Keep council informed on the condition, use or any problems with the bus along with an annual review of qualified bus drivers

Please contact Andrea McCubbin for more information:

Email: [jamccubbin@aol.com](mailto:jamccubbin@aol.com) Cell: 269-598-5231 Call or Text





# 2022 ARGENTINA EXCHANGE

Travel on a GROUP EXCHANGE and  
immerse yourself in another culture!



## Introducing our newest Outbound Exchange Program!

Develop your global perspectives and cross-cultural understanding while participating in group activities in and near Córdoba, Argentina.

### STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS:

Dates:	June 29—July 17, 2022
Capacity:	15 delegates maximum, 5 delegates minimum
Cost:	\$1,895 + airfare estimate (\$1,300 - \$2,000) + \$50 travel agent fee (Airfare varies based upon applicant's location)



Delegates will stay in group accommodations in Córdoba, Argentina (arranged by Argentina 4-H) for the duration of the program. Each day, participants will engage in a variety of structured group activities facilitated by Argentina 4-H, including cultural excursions, Spanish language activities, and participation in local 4-H activities. This program model will allow participants to lead, learn, and grow as a cohort throughout their international experience. Particular emphasis will be placed on soccer and orchestra, two of Argentina 4-H's primary youth activities.

#### About Argentina 4-H

Argentina 4-H is a non-profit organization located in Córdoba, Argentina that develops programs to support under-served youth in the local community. In particular, their youth programs focus on:

- ⇒ A music academy using recycled instruments. This program develops environmental awareness, confidence, and leadership skills in participants
- ⇒ A soccer club for local youth to develop leadership skills, teamwork, and healthy habits





#### For more information:

Web: [www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org)

Email: [ob@states4h.org](mailto:ob@states4h.org)

Phone: (206)-462-2200

 [@states4hexchange](https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange)

 [@states4hinternational](https://www.instagram.com/states4hinternational)

### 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshops



Interested in leading shooting sports with a 4-H club? Become a certified instructor at this one-day, hybrid workshop!

Held at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon on April 9 and 10, workshops will offer hands-on training that compliments virtual video instruction.

Participants will learn about the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports' mission and policies, risk management, safety, equipment use and care, teaching methods, positive youth development and more.

Each day will offer different certifications with choices among archery, rifle, shotgun, and hunting and wildlife disciplines. First Aid/CPR and Project WILD/Learning Tree will be concurrent sessions.

Register by March 15. To learn more, contact Laura Quist at [quistla1@msu.edu](mailto:quistla1@msu.edu).

## 4-H Events and Workshops

### March 2: Virtual School Garden Education Sessions

*Online*

This six-week series that will occur every other Wednesday through May 11. Attendees will leave each session with 2-3 lesson ideas for teaching in the garden.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/virtual-school-garden-education-sessions-spring-2022>

### March 3: Paying for Post-Secondary Education

*Online*

Learn the many ways to fund your education after high school so you can minimize your debt while investing in yourself.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-money-3-3>

### March 5: 4-H Shooting Sports Trainer Workshop

*Demmer Shooting Sports and Education, Lansing*

Become a trainer for the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports program! Trainers facilitate instructor certification workshops for teen and adult volunteers in the 4-H shooting sports project area.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ss\\_trainer\\_workshop](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ss_trainer_workshop)

### March 8: Wild Spartans Series

*Online*

Are you a Wild Spartan? Join us for this free monthly fisheries and wildlife research webinar series for families interested in exploring science, careers and conversation

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-march-2022>

### March 9: 4-H State Awards Preparation Training — Resumes and Cover Letter Review

*Online*

Meet individually with staff to receive feedback on your resume and/or cover letter.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-state-awards-preparation-training-resumes-and-or-cover-letter-review>

### March 16: 4-H State Awards Preparation Training—Application Review

*Online*

Meet individually with staff to receive feedback on your application.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-state-awards-preparation-training-application-review>

### March 18—20: Animal Science Career Quest

*Anthony Hall, East Lansing*

Learn about all the opportunities an animal science education can bring them, not just as an undergraduate student, but long-term post-graduate, career options, and beyond.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/animal-science-career-quest>

### March 26: 4-H Hippology Contest

*Anthony Hall, East Lansing*

Demonstrate your knowledge of equine science and husbandry in a competitive setting. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-hippology-contest-2022>

### March 27: 4-H/FFA Horse Judging Contest

*MSU Pavilion, East Lansing*

Demonstrate your knowledge of equine conformation and performance while giving an oral explanation of your class evaluation.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-ffa-horse-judging-contest-2022>

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.



### Apply for a 2022 4-H State Award!



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. 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).

### New training required for 4-H volunteers

Since 2013, Michigan State University (MSU) has required all MSU employees and volunteers conducting business on behalf of the university to report child abuse and other harm to children. To help MSU Extension volunteers better understand the reporting expectations, a new online learning module titled "Child Abuse Reporting Protocol" has been developed. The module can be completed in 10-15 minutes.

All 4-H volunteers are required to complete this training in the upcoming year. Deadlines are as follows:

- New volunteers must complete the module as part of the screening and onboarding process.
- Current 4-H volunteers due for annual compliance and background checks on April 1 or later must complete the training before their 2022 annual compliance date.
- Current 4-H volunteers due for annual compliance and background checks in February or March must complete the training before their 2023 annual compliance date. However, these volunteers are encouraged to complete the training prior to this date.

To review the training, 4-H volunteers may either:

- Log into [Volunteer Central](#) and complete the module through the system. Within Volunteer Central, the module will be visible on either the screening dashboard (applicants) or the annual compliance dashboard (volunteers). Once completed, Volunteer Central will log this as "completed".
- Check with your local 4-H program coordinator to determine if they will be hosting a local training or meeting to review and discuss the material. For trainings conducted by MSU Extension professionals, attendance will be recorded in Volunteer Central on your behalf.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment as a 4-H volunteer. Questions about the training? Contact your local 4-H program coordinator.

**Help youth find  
their SPARK  
with JOANN**



#### Fabrics

From now until April 30, every dollar can make a difference in helping a young person find their SPARK. While visiting your local JOANN store or shopping online, you can support 4-H by adding a donation at checkout.

The funds donated will support the 4-H program with 50% going back to local 4-H programming and 20% supporting Michigan 4-H.

To find out more information about this partnership, visit [joann.com/4h](http://joann.com/4h).