



# 4-H Family News

April 2025

Kalamazoo County



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS THROUGH 4-H  
MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

## Exploration Days Orientation

May 14

6:30 pm

Expo Center

Room B . Kalamazoo Expo Center  
2900 Lake St . Kalamazoo, MI 49048

## 4-H Showcase Enrollment opens May 14 in Fair Entry! It's Easy!

1. <https://faireentry.com>
2. Click "Find Your Fair" at the top
3. Search "Kalamazoo" on the keyword search or look where sorted by state.
4. "Sign in with 4-H online"

Follow the prompts to register for our 4-H Showcase!!

Find more Fair Entry registration tips here:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/fair-information](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information)

Fair Entry

## CONTACT US

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4-H Program Coordinator  
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[bolhuisv@msu.edu](mailto:bolhuisv@msu.edu)

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

## MSU Extension Office Phone & Email-

269-383-8830  
[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

Facebook Page

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

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# **Congratulations Class of 2025 Graduating Seniors!**



**Layla P.**

**Lauren P.**

**Trey P.**

**Lucas N.**

**David S.**

**Gabriel H.**

**Collin L.**

**Emily P.**

**Emmit N.**

**Collin H.**

**Isaac R.**

**Lukas S.**

**Holley C.**

**Natalie B.**

**Lucas P.**

**Natalie H.**

**Howard D.**

**Olivia E.**

**Tyler L.**

**Sophie B.**

**Elizabeth R.**

**Miles F.**

**Kayla H.**

**Michaela H.**



# Exploration Days Orientation Will Be Held May 14 at 6:30 pm at The Expo Center

## Fee Deadlines, Cancellations & Refunds

- Cancellations through May 2, 2025 are fully refundable. (Pre-payment is non-refundable for cancellations after May 2.)
- Cancellations between May 3 and May 26, 2025 will receive payment minus the \$50 pre-payment.

**All fees balance due by May 26th** – This is the remaining balance, that includes additional fees or minus any applicable scholarship credits/coupon codes for local scholarships.

- Anyone not fully paid by May 26th will be canceled. Anyone who is canceled due to lack of full payment by May 26th is not eligible for a refund.
- Cancellations by participants after May 26th will lose \$120 of their payment(s).

Cancellations after June 15th are considered no show and refunds will not be given.

## Payment Options:

- Credit/Debit Card and e-check through the registration system.
- Cash or Check through the MSU Extension county office.

Key and Access Card Replacement Fees: \$75 for keys and \$20 for access cards not returned at check-out.



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS THROUGH 4-H  
MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS



## 4-Hers Invited to Earth Day Spring Garden Festival, May 17, Growing Community Garden



4-Hers, family members, and friends are among the invited to the Growing Community Garden, 2800 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048, for the May 17 “**Earth Day Spring Garden Festival**” from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. The event is an opportunity for community service/volunteering throughout the day. There will also be booths/tables with special interest presentations, demonstrations, games/challenges, information sharing, and other activities related to environmental justice, earth care, gardening, nutrition, conservation and more, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. **4-H Clubs are welcome to reserve a booth/table to offer one of the activities above.**

A luncheon is set for 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm with a litany dedication of the community garden for the growing season, 2025.

**A 4-H garden interest gathering is tentatively scheduled for 2:00 pm that Saturday afternoon.** The gathering will be an opportunity for 4-H club leaders, 4-H youth (all ages), and any 4-H curious youth to identify ways that Growing Community Garden and its leadership may facilitate projects and interests in gardening and nutrition. One possible outcome would be a **Special Interest (SPIN) Garden Club** for the summer months with dedicated space in the community garden or provision of *fabric growing containers* for porch or patio gardening. Advance notice of interest may be communicated by email to [GCG.Kzoo@gmail.com](mailto:GCG.Kzoo@gmail.com). To learn more about Growing Community Garden, visit the website [GrowingCommunityGardenKzoo.com](http://GrowingCommunityGardenKzoo.com).



### Community Service/Volunteering at the Growing Community Garden this summer

The following dates are set for individuals or groups to volunteer (and harvest) at the Growing Community Garden, 2800 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048.

May 17 (Earth Day Spring Garden Festival, Sat. 9 to 4); May 20 (Tues. 4-7:30); May 31 (Sat. 10-2); June 10 (Tues. 4-7:30); June 14 (Sat. 10-2); June 24 (Tues. 4-7:30); June 28 (Sat. 10-2); July 8 (Tues. 4-7:30); July 12 (Sat. 10-2); July 22 (Tues. 4-7:30); July 26 (Sat. 10-2); Aug 5 (Tues. 4-7:30); Aug 9 (Sat. 10-2); Aug 19 (Tues. 4-7:30); Aug 23 (Sat. 10-2); Sept 9 (Tues. 4-7:30); Sept 13 (Sat. 10-2); Sept 23 (Tues. 4-7:30); Sept 27 (Sat. 10-2).

Volunteer/community service arrangements for other times can be arranged by contact with David Newhouse at [gcg.kzoo@gmail.com](mailto:gcg.kzoo@gmail.com). Learn more about Growing Community Garden at [www.growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com](http://www.growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com).



There is only 1 YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) sessions left in 2025. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and Family Festival in 2025. There are two options, one of the 6 face-to-face sessions or an online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. The online version is \$12.00 but the curriculum is age specific. This certification is good for one year. There need to be a minimum of 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class.

19 yr old 4-Hers are required to complete the Online Version

The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center in room B:

May 29 - 6:30 PM

**All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2025**

**Youth who would like to take the face-to-face session will need to do the following:**

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

**Youth who would like to take the online session will need to do the following:**

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

**Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to [msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu) by July 1, 2025.**

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:  
[https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources\\_for\\_youth\\_parents.php](https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



## We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County

2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>

3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/index)

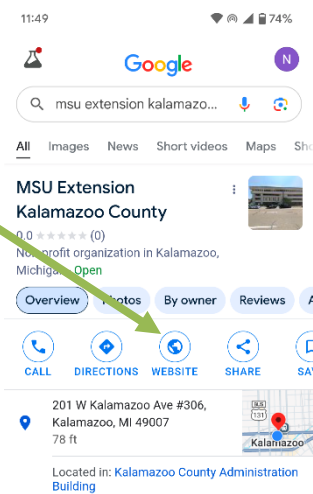
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

5 – Click on project guidelines

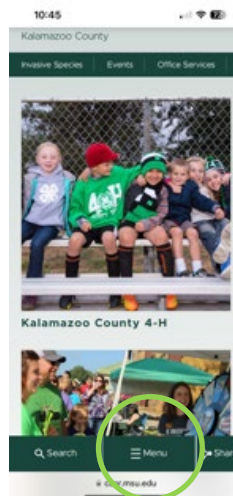
6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!





# Fair Entry opens May 14!

Kalamazoo County 4-H is using a system called [FairEntry](https://fairent.com) for 2025 Showcase registration.

It's easy to sign in to FairEntry!

- Go to <https://fairent.com/Public/FindYourFair>
- search by state to find your fair
- sign in with your 4-H Online credentials!



If you would like help with Registration:

**Veronica will be available on**

**6:30-8 pm on Tuesday May 20 in Room C at the Expo Center**

On-line help is available too! Dates and time listed on page 8.

When signing in to Fair Entry,

✓ ***Always use the 4-H Online Option.***

✗ ***Do not use the FairEntry sign up option.***

## **Please note:**

Only 4-H members can show animals at the Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase

*If you need assistance signing in with your*

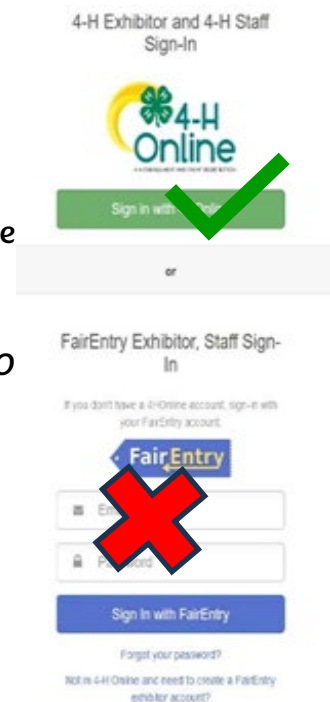
*4-H Online username or password, Please contact us at 269-383-8830*

To learn more about 4-H Online Registration, please visit:

- [4-H Online 2.0 Existing Family Profiles Video Tutorial](#)
- [4-H Online 2.0 Creating A New Family Profile Video Tutorial](#)
- [4-H Online 2.0 Volunteer Enrollment Video Tutorial](#)

For Step-by-Step FairEntry registration, please visit the links below:

- [How to log in to Fair Entry](#)
- [FairEntry Help](#)
- [FairEntry tip sheet](#)
- [FairEntry important reminders](#)





## ***Do you need help with Fair Entry?***

**Live help is available and no appointment is needed!**

- 1. Pick a time or day that works for you below.**
- 2. Log in on that time and date at the listed link**
- 3. Enter the meeting ID and Passcode,**
- 4. Veronica will be there waiting to help!**

**May 20 – 10AM – 11AM**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92884439032>

Meeting ID: 928 8443 9032

Passcode: 538067

**May 29 -5PM – 6PM**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93601601981>

Meeting ID: 936 0160 1981

Passcode: 424409

**June 2 – 6pm – 7pm**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96141116509>

Meeting ID: 961 4111 6509

Passcode: 489944

**June 9 – 12pm – 1pm**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96010196505>

Meeting ID: 960 1019 6505

Passcode: 818409

**June 11 – 7:30pm – 8:30pm**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95647213410>

Meeting ID: 956 4721 3410

Passcode: 867857





## 2025 Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth Showcase Camping Fees & Information

Beginning on May 1, 2025 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.

Camping Fees:	Weekly Rate - \$175.00 per week (8/2-8/9) Reservations made after July 25 are \$210 per week
Advance Reservation Fee:	One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all advance reservations
Septic Service:	A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 6.

**Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!**  
**Deadline for Camping Registration**  
**July 25, 2025**

Campground check-in will begin at 9am on Saturday, August 2.

**NO EARLY ARRIVALS**

All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 9:00pm on Saturday, August 9

### CAMPING POLICIES:

Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.

Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.

Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.

Cancellations will be accepted until July 25, 2025. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 25, 2025 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 25, 2025.

Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.



# YOUR 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved. It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*. ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming\\_a\\_4\\_h\\_volunteer/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/)) Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at [https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_home](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home) prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in the following projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to work with the youth !

- Arts & Crafts
- Calligraphy
- Cloverbud (variety of activities to introduce Cloverbuds to projects and pique their interest)
- Communication & Expressive Arts
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Drawing
- Engines/transportation/tractors/field equipment
- Fishing/Hunting
- Food & Nutrition
  - Cake decorating
  - Candy Making
  - Food Preparation
- Hunting
- Horticulture
  - Flowers/house plants
  - Fruits/vegetables
- Jewelry making
- Knitting/cross-stitch/embroidery
- Music – vocal/instrumental
- Painting
- Performing arts
- Public speaking
- Sewing/Quilting
- Wood Crafts

**SPREAD THE  
WORD**

## Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase Volunteers

Those who will be helping **in any way during the showcase** need to be, at minimum , a screened and approved, **silver level volunteer**.

If you are **working directly with youth** you will need to be a screened, and approved, **gold level volunteer**.

All applications need to be submitted **no later than June 20, 2025** in order for screening to be completed prior to the events. **Those completing the application after June 20<sup>th</sup> may not be able to complete the process and will not be eligible to help during the 4-H showcase.**

The definitions of silver and gold level volunteers can be found at [FAQ](#).

The application to apply to become an MSU Extension Volunteer can be found at [Volunteer Home](#).

For those who are currently approved silver level volunteers please read over the definition.

If you would like to change your status to gold level please reach out to Veronica and she will work with you to make those additions to your profile.



## Mini Horse Meeting-

Saturday May 26 from 10 to noon for Mini project people

at the Federinko farm. 7250 W. Hickory Road ,Hickory Corners, MI 49060

We will be working with the minis there on hand, making educational posters and more! Dress for the barn.

If you are interested in showing a mini at fair this year and are new to the program, please follow our Facebook page: Kalamazoo County 4H Miniature Horses and contact Julie Sheppard with any questions you may have. [jsheppard@shps.org](mailto:jsheppard@shps.org)

This year we will offer the following classes for minis: Showmanship, in hand trail, in hand jumping (not open to cloverbud), costume and gymkhana in hand classes. We will also have a fun game night before show day to practice. Here are 10 things to know about miniature horses:

They are real **horses**, not ponies:

Miniature horses are a breed of horse, not a type of pony, and are known for their small size, typically standing under 34 inches tall at the withers.

They have a gentle and social personality: Miniature horses are known for their friendly and calm temperaments, making them excellent pets and service animals. This of course can differ within genetics and backgrounds.

They are easily trained: Due to their disposition and intelligence, miniature horses are relatively easy to train for various tasks, including riding, driving, and even as service animals.

They require similar care to larger horses: While they require less feed, miniature horses still need regular hoof care, dental care, veterinary attention, and access to healthy forage.

They can be used as service animals: **The Americans with Disabilities Act recognizes miniature horses as legitimate service animals**, providing comfort and assistance to people with disabilities.

They have a lifespan of 25-35 years:

Miniature horses typically live for 25 to 35 years, making them long-term companions if given proper care and of sound genetics.

They can be used for various activities:

Miniature horses can be used for riding, driving, and even participating in agility courses, similar to dogs.

They have a small but strong build:

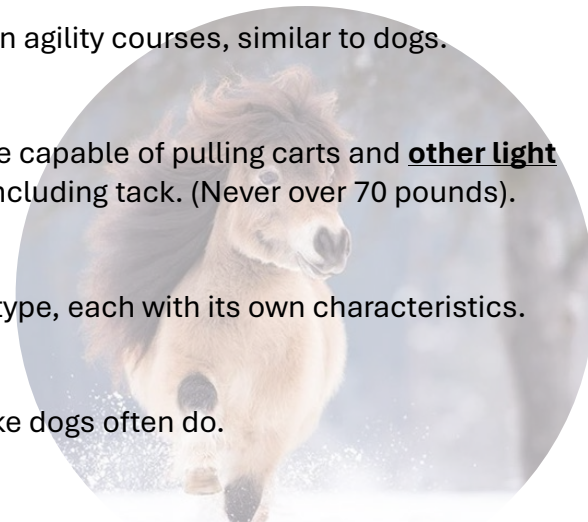
Despite their small size, miniature horses have a muscular build and are capable of pulling carts and **other light tasks**. They are not built for riders more than 20% of their body weight including tack. (Never over 70 pounds).

They are often bred for specific types:

Breeders focus on two main types, a "stock horse type" and a "refined" type, each with its own characteristics.

They are relatively easy to groom:

Miniature horses are easy to groom and don't shed or trigger allergies like dogs often do.





# Dairy Club Update

We are going to have a dairy meetings at Vlietstra Dairy Farm 6:30 pm on:

Monday, April 28

Monday, May 19



Please dress for the weather.

Dairy club members: join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Dairy 4-H club Facebook page for more education/ announcements pertaining to the project. Contact Sara if you have questions







# Swine Project updates



All 4-H pigs must be in your possession by **May 1st**, and registration forms and photos are also due by **May 1st**. Pictures should include each pig with ear tags visible and the 4-Her. Each pig needs to have 2 ear tags prior to **May 1st** (both county and state ID tag info must be included on the registration form). **If you haven't picked up your green Kalamazoo County tags yet, please let us know asap.**

Our next swine meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 28th**, at 6:30 pm at the Expo Center. At this meeting we will have individual doses of the swine flu vaccine available. As a reminder, all pigs coming to our fair must be vaccinated for swine influenza (original dose plus a booster dose prior to July 15). There are several ways you can accomplish this:

- If your breeder already vaccinated your pigs, please send us their name, name of the vaccine, and the dates of administration
- If you or your local vet are vaccinating your pigs, please send us the name of who is administering, name of the vaccine, and the dates of administration
- If you want to administer it yourself, we will have individual doses of vaccine available at our next meeting on May 28, but **please let us know by May 1st how many doses you'll need**. The Zoetis FluSure XP vaccine comes in a 50-dose bottle and must be used within 24 hours once we mix it up, so we can offer individual doses on May 28th, which will have to be given to your pigs either that night or the next day. We will then have a second round of doses available on June 16, to complete the required vaccinations.

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center is your last chance for an in-person YQCA session. YQCA (Youth for Quality Care of Animals) certification is required annually (for all species exhibitors). Pre-registration is required at the YQCA website prior to attending [YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals](#), and the registration fee is \$3.00.

We have set a date for our summer swine "fit and show" meeting - **Monday, June 16**, at the Sattler's house in East Leroy, MI. We will have the second round of swine flu doses available at this meeting. As a reminder you must attend at least 2 of the 4 county-wide meetings to show at fair, so if you haven't already met those requirements, please plan to join us on **May 28** and **June 16**.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Pam (#517-930-1297) and TJ (#269-903-9991)



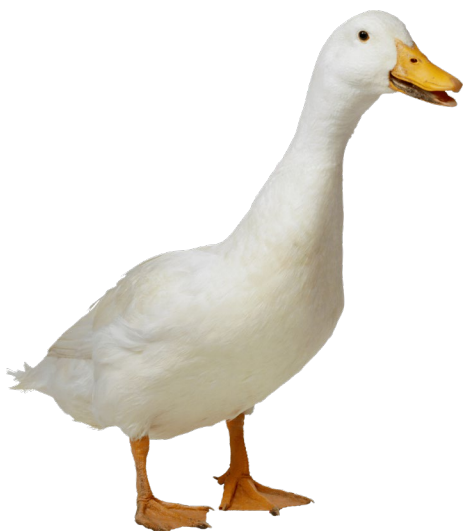
## Poultry Project News

### May Poultry Order Pick Ups :

Heavy Ducks	May 13
Roaster Chickens	May 28

### June Poultry Order Pick Ups:

Market (Pekin) Ducks	June 10
Broiler Chicken	June 17
Cornish Chicken	June 24







# Make the Most of Your Market Livestock Project

- A FREE webinar series this **April 30-May 28, 2025** on **Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30 pm** for youth ages 8-19

You will learn:

- ✦ Marketing strategies
- ✦ Communication skills
- ✦ Record-keeping tips
- ✦ Goal-setting techniques

...and so much more!

📢 Take your small or large livestock project to the next level and gain tools for success in and out of the ring! Sessions will ***not*** be recorded and will take place **Wednesdays at 6:30- 7:30 pm** on Zoom.

👁 See dates and topics and save your spot now:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-all>

The poster features a green header with a white four-leaf clover logo on the left. The title 'Make The Most Of Your Market Animal Project Webinar Series' is in white text, with 'April-May 2025' below it. The background is a close-up photo of a white and brown cow's face. A light blue triangle on the left contains a green star icon and text about the target audience and topics. The Michigan State University Extension logo is at the bottom left.

**Make The Most Of Your Market Animal Project Webinar Series**

April-May 2025

**Youth 8-19 years old**

Covers marketing, communication, record-keeping, goal-setting, and more so you can maximize your market potential

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

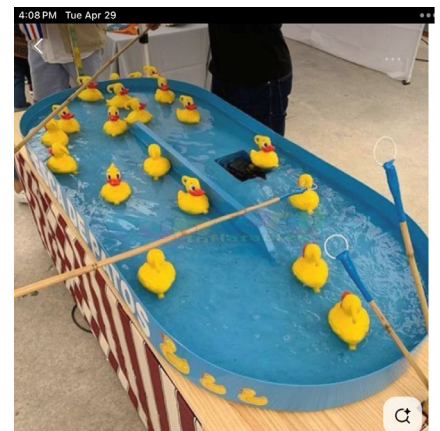
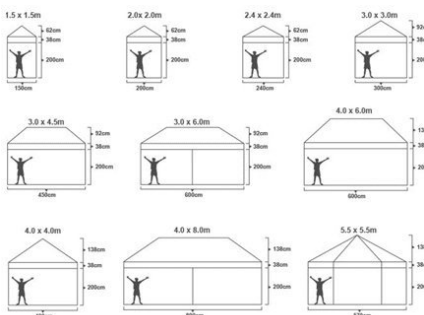
## ***We are looking for Carnival Games and Tents for the Showcase!***

Do you have some wood working skills? We are looking for someone to build some fun Carnival type games.

Maybe you have old harvest or lawn games hidden away that we can borrow?

Also: Does anyone have, or know of someone who has, a **Large Canopy** we might be able to use for a game tent?

Please contact [christinamariechase@gmail.com](mailto:christinamariechase@gmail.com) if you can help!





# Kalamazoo 4-H Showcase Schedule

Entries for the Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase will take place through the FairEntry website <https://fairent.com/Fair/SignIn/21320> from May 14 – June 20, 2025.

**There may be additional events/activities added to the schedule as more plans are made.**

**The following events will take place off-site prior to the Showcase:**

**Monday, July 28, 2025**

6:00pm	Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation	Pease Packing – Scotts, MI
(Animals must arrive before 5:30pm)		

**Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

10:00am	Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements	Pease Packing – Scotts, MI
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**Friday, August 1, 2025**

7:00pm	Dairy Show	Vlietstra Dairy Farm – Kalamazoo, MI
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**These events will take place at the Kalamazoo Expo Center**

**Saturday, August 2, 2025**

9:00am – 12:00pm	Still project judging	TBD
Campers may be dropped off, but no camping will be allowed until Sunday		

**Sunday, August 3, 2025**

12:00pm – 3:00pm	Horse drop off and vet check	behind the horse arena's
4:00pm – 7:00pm	-livestock arrival, swine vet check in	livestock barns

**Monday, August 4, 2025**

9:00am	Horse Showmanship & English Performance Classes	Horse Arenas
9:00am -12:00pm livestock drop off, swine vet check in		
2:00pm	Rabbit Show	Rabbit Barn
Cavies and Critters Show (following Rabbit Show)		TBD location
Rabbit Showmanship		
6:00pm	Sheep Show	Livestock Show Arena

**Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

9:00am	Horse Western Performance & Trail Classes	Horse Arenas
9:00am	Swine Show	Livestock Show Arena
2:00pm	Feeder Calf Show	Livestock Show Arena
5:00pm	Rabbit Agility	cement pad near rabbit barn
6:00pm	Beef Show	Livestock Show Arena



## Showcase schedule continued

These events will take place at the Kalamazoo Expo Center

### Wednesday, August 7, 2025

9:00am	Horse Dressage & Jumping Classes	Horse Arenas
9:00am	Poultry Show	Livestock Show Arena
10:00am	Miniature Horse show	Grass area near 4-H concession stand
2:00pm	Goat Show	Livestock Show Arena
6:00pm	Auction set up	Livestock Show Arena

### Thursday, August 8, 2025

9:00am	Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes	Horse Arenas
10:00am	Livestock Sale (Small Animals)	Livestock Show Arena
1:00pm	Livestock Sale (Large Animals)	Livestock Show Arena
6:00pm	Fashion Review, Demonstration and Performances	TBD

### Friday, August 9, 2025

10:00am	Horse Costume Class	Horse Arenas
12:00pm	Horse Drill Team Demonstration	Horse Arenas
1:00pm	Horse fun and games	Horse Arenas
1:00pm	Livestock Enduro	Livestock Show Arena
TBD	Horse Awards program	Horse Arenas
5:00pm	Milk drinking contest	Livestock Show Arena
7-10pm	4-H Dance	Livestock Show Arena

### Saturday, August 10, 2025

9:00am	Dog Show	Main Expo
12:00pm	Thank you notes turned in deadline	project superintendents
1:00pm	Livestock Judging	Livestock Show Arena
3:00pm	Master Showmanship	Livestock Show Arena
4:00pm – 6:00pm	still project pick up	still project barn
Following master showmanship – breed livestock and some market animals moved out		
Campers moved out		

### Sunday, August 11, 2025

TBD	Market chickens and rabbits moved out
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## Auction – Start To Finish

We presented this topic at the All-Species meeting in February but thought it might be helpful to summarize the key takeaways to get ready for the livestock auction at the fair.

### 1. **Prior to Fair Week (May, June, July):**

- a. Invite buyers
  - i. Who are you are going to invite?
    1. The list of potential buyers is endless – family (grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins), friends, parents' business acquaintances or coworkers, doctor, dentist, local feed supply company, car salesman, etc.
  - ii. How do you plan to invite your buyers?
    1. This can be accomplished by writing and mailing a letter or even better taking your letter/brochure/flyer and visiting your potential buyers in person!
  - iii. What might you include within a letter/brochure/flyer?
    1. Youth information – name, years in 4-H/project, what animals you are exhibiting at the fair
    2. What have you learned in 4-H?
    3. Maybe a picture so they recognize you on the day of the auction.
    4. Auction information – date, time, location, sale order
  - iv. Other information to share with potential buyers:
    1. They can do an “add-on” if they are unable to be present at the auction. The QR code is included in the auction letter sent out closer to fair time by the MSUE 4-H Office.
    2. They could have someone come in their place with a defined budget amount to purchase an animal.
    3. What happens when you purchase an animal? There are options:
      - a. Have it processed
      - b. Resell it (sheep, beef, and swine can be resold)
      - c. Donate the animal
- b. Take and print 4x6 pictures for the auction green boards – pictures to be submitted to species superintendents. Picture should consist of clean finished animals & 4-Her in show clothes.

### 2. **Fair Week:**

- a. Hang up a thank you sign over your pen for the previous year's auction buyers
- b. Reach out to your buyers to remind them of the auction and tell them how you did in the show

### 3. **Auction Day (August 7, 2025):**

- a. Wear show clothes – the same kind of outfit you wore on show day!
- b. Greet your buyers, thank them for coming, shake hands
- c. Get lunch with them, show them your animals
- d. After you sell in the auction:
  - i. Find out who bought your animal
  - ii. Go find them in the stands (ask others if you don't know who they are)
  - iii. Shake their hand, say thank you, and give them a small gift of appreciation (not required but many do provide gifts)
    1. Examples of gifts:
      - a. Purchased gifts or gift baskets such as popcorn, candy, BBQ kit, candles, etc.
      - b. Homemade goods such as jam, cookies, honey
      - c. Other: customized cutting boards, tumblers, ornaments, etc.
- e. Other things to do ASAP after the auction:
  - i. Print out list of buyers with addresses after the auction at the check-out station or find the list posted in your species barn later that night Hang up new thank you signs for this year's buyers
  - ii. Write thank you notes – due Saturday of fair week by 12noon.





## Thank You Notes Guidelines:

- a. Hand-written, addressed, return-addressed, stamped, not sealed
- b. Submitted to superintendents by Saturday of fair week by 12noon
- c. Superintendents will review and mail the following week
- d. Must write thank you notes for any awards/trophies received in addition to buyer thank you's.
- e. Notes should be sincere, best handwriting, at least 3 sentences each

### What does a good buyer thank you note consist of?

- a. A greeting with the buyer's name or company.
- b. An acknowledgment of the specific reason for thanks (i.e., the purchase of your project).
- c. The reason why you appreciate the buyer. For instance, they supported you and your 4-H project, have been generous to 4-H, or took time to benefit youth.
- d. How you plan to use the money from the sale (i.e., savings or to purchase next year's project, etc.)
- e. A comment or details about yourself or an update on your life. For example, you can explain how you enjoy 4-H or something you learned in your project.
- f. A repeat of your thank you.
- g. A closing and your signature (e.g., With thanks, name or Sincerely, name)







# Share the Clover—

**Give one lucky child the experience of a lifetime this summer**

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2025 for interested families opening their homes and hearts by hosting!

They are scheduled to arrive in

**Grand Rapids, MI, on July 23<sup>rd</sup> (Matching Ceremonies July 24<sup>th</sup>)  
and depart on August 18<sup>th</sup> (Departure program August 16<sup>th</sup>)**

to meet host families for a 3.5-week stay. We have 7 of the 10 Japanese already matched for 2025!!

A host family must:

- complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application,
- have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within 3 years of age),
- be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, and
- participate in an interview and home visit process.

2025 Online Applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

Applications to host can also be found at [www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org)





**Applications are open** for KRESA Career Connect's career pathway planning programs.

**There are several paid opportunities for ages 14 to 24, including:**



#### **MyCITY (ages 14-24)**

- Ages 14 - 15: 4-week paid career exploration, project-based learning and career pathway planning.
- Ages 16 - 24: 7-week paid internships and professional development.

#### **CareerNOW (ages 18-24)**

- Paid 8-week career exploration opportunities in the fields of Skilled Trades and Healthcare.
- Employability skills training, mentorships, career pathways development, and connections to training, employment and apprenticeships.

#### **2GEN (Families)**

- 7-week career exploration program for families (youth 14-18 + adult).
- Families explore their strengths, career interests and opportunities in the community.
- 2-hour weekly sessions with a paid stipend awarded upon completion.

#### **Career Coaching**

- Gain skills, craft a customized action plan, and overcome barriers with one-on-one personalized guidance.
- Tailored support, development of essential skills, and customized actions plans.

Learn more and apply at [kresa.org/summerprograms](https://kresa.org/summerprograms).



Since its founding in 2019, the National Society Descendants of American Farmers has awarded over 104,000.00 in agricultural farming scholarships to 47 students.

- Scholarship is specific to higher education students majoring in an agricultural field of study
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- A written essay is required
- A personal interview may be required
- Students may reapply each year that they are in school
  - 2 annual deadlines to apply: July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1st

If Awarded:

- Funds are paid to the accredited institution and not to the individual
- This scholarship may be accepted in addition to other awards
- Students can be part-time or full-time through each semester/quarter
- For more information, contact Joy Linn at [linnranch@hotmail.com](mailto:linnranch@hotmail.com)

**More information and the application can be found at**

<https://www.nsdoaf.com/scholarships>

**Or on our website under:**

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/4-h-member-resources-forms](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-forms)



# Animal U

From Iowa State University Extension

Check it out at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/animalu/>



**ANIMAL U** promotes involvement in animal agriculture and allows all youth the opportunity to increase their knowledge. It also enables more young people to become involved through accessible, straight-forward, and research-based information.

The program goals are to:

- Connect more young people to animal agriculture and promote its application to everyday life.
- Create an understanding of the relationship between animal agriculture and the science and technology that supports it.
- Promote the variety of potential careers associated with food production through real-world experiences.

Animal U is a program developed through [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](#) and [Iowa State University Department of Animal Science](#). The program manager is [Dr. Amy Powell](#), Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist. This project is a collaboration of Extension subject matter experts, faculty members, commodity groups, and industry partners.





## Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

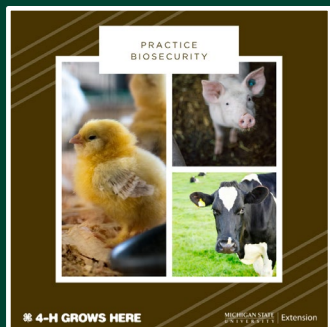
1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group’s decisions.
7. **Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
8. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

**Have fun!**



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Livestock and poultry owners encouraged remain vigilant about biosecurity



In recent years, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in cattle, cats and poultry across the country and Michigan. Livestock and poultry owners are strongly encouraged to take proactive measures to defend against additional outbreaks in Michigan. Check out the following resources helpful information on biosecurity:

- [www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity](http://www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity)
- [www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms)
- [www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza](http://www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza)
- [www.canr.msu.edu/avian-influenza/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/avian-influenza/)

### May 7: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Talk the Talk

Online

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. This session covers tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value, and empower youth with practical tips for impactful auctions and markets.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-may-7](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-may-7)

### May 7: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn how to keep track of what you spend and earn so you can make smart choices for your project. Discover the power of record keeping and learn how to calculate your break-even point to make smarter decisions in livestock marketing.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-14](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-14)

### May 15: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Fueling or Squashing the Rumor Mill

Online

This webinar will focus on supporting youth who face rumors about their projects and how to prevent the spread of misinformation.

12 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-noon)

7 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-7pm)

### May 15: Adulting 101 Webinar – Stay Safe Out There

Online

Practical strategies to help you stay aware, prepared and confident, no matter where you go.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/staysafe](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/staysafe)

### May 19: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Engaging Parents in 4-H Experiences

Online

Discover strategies to engage parents and implement shared leadership in your 4-H club.

12 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-noon)

7 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-7pm)

### May 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the 5 Ps of marketing and explore innovative strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales, and build valuable connections in the industry.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-21](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-21)







# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Michigan 4-H license plate now available!

Michigan drivers have a new way to show their 4-H pride while supporting 4-H youth development programming: through the purchase of the newly released Michigan 4-H license plate. Available at the Michigan Secretary of State, the plate prominently displays the signature 4-H clover and part of the proceeds from every sale and renewal will go to support Michigan 4-H youth.

“We are elated that the Michigan 4-H license plate is officially here,” said Quentin Tyler, director of Michigan State University Extension, which is home to the Michigan 4-H program. “We hope the many members of our Michigan 4-H community – youth, parents, alumni and supporters – will consider supporting 4-H by purchasing a plate as they renew their licenses this year.”



Similar to other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate will cost \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee will also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting [Michigan.gov/sos](http://Michigan.gov/sos), by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks.

To learn more, visit [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](http://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).

## Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2024-25 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2025-2026 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs. **All applications are due June 1.**

“County 4-H programs and clubs have so many unique programs,” said Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. “Thanks to the support of our generous 4-H donor community, we are pleased to offer mini-grants to support these many wonderful programs.”



Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$500.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.