

*Kalamazoo County*

4-H Family News

March 2022



We are excited to be back on MSU's campus this June for Exploration Days!

Anticipated registration opening is mid-April and will be done on a first come first served basis. The session listing has been posted on the [website](#) (under Participant Information). This is a great resource for families and youth serving organizations who might send youth. Please consider sharing the [Exploration Days Facebook page](#) post on your social media platforms for youth who may not 4-H members.

Key points on sessions:

- Sessions have different age requirements or are more advanced. Some sessions are duplicated (asterisks next to session title) and so youth can choose which time slot they want to attend that topic. It is important that youth consider those two items when making choices.
- There are also different maximum number of participants. While those maximums are not listed on the document, participants may want to have 2nd, 3rd and 4th choice in case a session they have interest in becomes full.

Some sessions also have other considerations such as downloading an app or wearing long-sleeves or closed toed shoes. Reminders to youth will be sent through the registration system to those enrolled in those sessions, however, it is good to note that when looking at sessions, too.

This is a great opportunity for youth to try something new! Michigan 4-H Exploration Days is an opportunity to gain new skills and perhaps challenge the comfort zone. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth to attend sessions that might help them experience a career path that might interest them or grow in their personal development.

The registration number is 1000 youth participants with volunteers, staff and other adults making up the remaining registration numbers, bringing us to the estimated total of 1500 total attendees on campus. There will be a waiting list for youth.

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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>

Facebook Page

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



Y Kalamazoo County **Youth Fair** and Family Festival August 10-13, 2022

2

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 and click on the 4-H Participant Info link to see the tentative event schedule, Fair Book, and camping information.



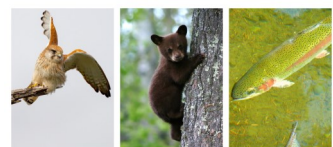
3

Join 4-H staff for the "Wild Spartans" series for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife!



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/>

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Join Us Online
WILD SPARTANS
 MONTHLY WILDLIFE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES
 FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
 SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION
 Begins January 11 | 6:30 PM EST
 then on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
 Registration required
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2022/>

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Follow along as we climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet researchers, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm EST through May 2022. Each 60 minute session will feature 1-2 guest researchers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

This **free series** is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

Upcoming Program Dates and Topics:

April 12, 2022:

[Great Lakes Fisheries Investigations, with Brad Utrup, Fisheries Research Technician, MI DNR](#)

LOCATION: Online Meeting will be held using the free app called Zoom. Link/password for the meeting will be emailed about a week prior to each presentation.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: This is an ongoing program that will continue through May 2022. Register once and receive monthly emails directly related to this program for the duration of the series. Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2022/>

CURIOSITY GROWS HERE.

4-H GROWS HERE

Are you interested in being a chaperone for MSU Exploration Day?



Here is what you need to know:

Each county will need to identify 1 chaperone for every 8 youth per gender identity.

Counties will also need to also identify one person of each gender identity to be the Lead Chaperone.

This will be the person responsible for picking up county packets for check-in, turning in nightly bed checks, turning in county check-out paperwork, and serving as the main point of contact for the county.

You can see the role descriptions at one of these two links - [Lead Chaperone](#) and [Chaperone](#).

All chaperones will need to be an Active Gold volunteer and be enrolled in 4-H Online. In addition, this year all chaperones will need to complete the **4-H Chaperone Learning Module in Volunteer Central by June 3rd.**

Exploration Days-specific, Chaperone Zoom trainings will be provided to cover the basics with chaperones for the event. Please share and encourage your chaperones to save the date for one of these **Zoom** training sessions on:

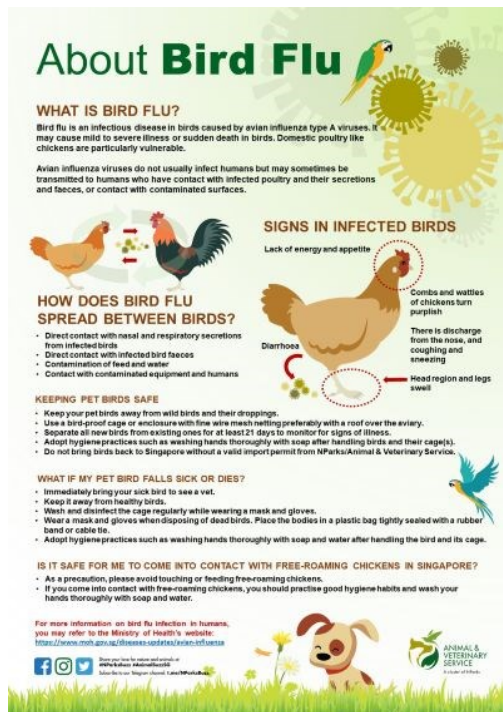
- June 2nd from 3-4pm
- June 2nd from 8-9pm
- June 6th from 12-1pm
- June 6th from 6:30-7:30pm

If you are interested in being one of the chaperones or lead chaperone please contact Veronica at bolhuisv@msu.edu.



4





Avian influenza confirmed in MI wild birds

Infected birds found in Macomb, Monroe and St. Clair counties

PUBLISHED ON **March 25, 2022** ANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced March 24 that highly pathogenic avian influenza is now confirmed in the state's wild bird population. The disease was identified in free-ranging Canada geese and tundra swans from St. Clair County, in snowy owls from Macomb County and in a mute swan from Monroe County. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect both free-ranging and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail, geese and swans.

Six Canada geese and two tundra swans collected last week at St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area and two snowy owls from Macomb County were delivered to the DNR's Wildlife Disease Laboratory for necropsy. Initial testing was performed at Michigan State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. These tests were non-negative, and the samples forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa, for final confirmation. The DNR received confirmation Thursday, March 24, the geese, swans and owls were infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza, subtype H5N1. An additional positive case was identified in a mute swan from Monroe County on March 15.

This disease detection comes after the state's first HPAI detection in a backyard, non-commercial poultry flock in Kalamazoo County in late February 2022. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has continued to urge poultry owners to step up their own biosecurity precautions by minimizing the number of people coming in contact with birds, isolating birds from wild birds whenever possible, and disinfecting hands and clothing after coming in contact with poultry.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from HPAI viruses to be low. To date, no human HPAI infections have been detected in the United States. Avian influenza has been found in backyard poultry flocks, commercial flocks and in wild birds.

With this type of highly pathogenic avian influenza, there may be an absence of many of the routine signs of illness in domestic poultry. Sudden death and high death losses are major indicators of HPAI. However, sick birds may experience neurological signs; difficulty walking; lack of appetite, energy or vocalization; significant drop in egg production; swollen combs, wattles, legs or head; diarrhea; or nasal discharge, sneezing or coughing.

Wild birds commonly have avian influenza and sometimes spread it to domestic birds through direct or indirect transmission. Ducks and geese are considered carriers; however, geese generally do not pass it on.

Residents who notice the death loss of three or more free-ranging birds should report it to the DNR through the [Eyes in the Field app](#) or by calling 517-336-5030. If your domestic poultry is experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939.

For more information, go to Michigan.gov/BirdFlu, Michigan.gov/AvianInfluenza or Michigan.gov/AvianDiseases.

— Michigan Department of Natural Resources

How to Recognize a Sick Bird

It's important to be able to recognize the symptoms of avian influenza.

Sick birds may experience...

- Sudden death
- Significant drop in water consumption
- Lack of appetite, energy, or vocalization
- Drop in egg production
- Diarrhea
- Swollen comb, wattles, legs, or head
- Nasal discharge, sneezing, or coughing
- Abnormal behavior like difficulty walking



Hey! Did you know you could buy Michigan specific apparel from the 4-H Mall?



Check It OUT!

<https://shop4-h.org/collections/msu-extension-collection>



Swine Project Reminders:

Thank you to everyone who attended the March meeting! We're looking forward to a great year! Just a reminder on project dates, all 4-H pigs must be in your possession by May 1st, and registration forms and photos with tags are due by May 31st. Our next swine meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24th. Please call, email, or text with any questions.

Thank you, Pam Acker

swihart20@hotmail.com



Poultry Project News

Plans for Fair 2022 are well underway!

We have 3 more fun and instructional meetings planned for the 3rd Thursday of 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!

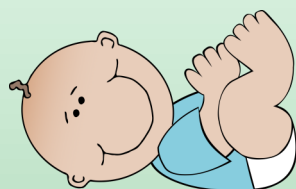
Here are the order dates for market birds. Please call

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

7



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

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Applications are being accepted from youth ages 14-19 and adults to join the State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Committee!

Visit <https://forms.gle/i3oVGPLYthX61h836> to apply.

Three references will be needed (one of them from your county 4-H staff member, references are submitted at <https://forms.gle/CdrDZYkVoGdyVLon8>).

Application and references are due April 16, 2022.

Contact Glenda at weissgle@msu.edu or (517) 676-7303 for further information or assistance.

State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Committee Seeking Adult and Youth Volunteers

Join the state committee that hosts state-wide clinics, the state show and helps drive the rabbit and cavy project area

Youth Ages 14-19 may apply for up to a 2 year term
Adults may join for longer terms

Interested youth and adults apply at
<https://forms.gle/i3oVGPLYthX61h836>
Three references needed (1 county staff)
<https://forms.gle/CdrDZYkVoGdyVLon8>

Applications and references due
April 16, 2022

Contact Glenda for more information weissgle@msu.edu or (517)676-7303



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.



8



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 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

Email: ob@states4h.org

Phone: (206)-462-2200

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

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

4MSU Masking Guidelines Lifted

In early March, Michigan State



University (MSU) updated their COVID-19 mask guidance. These changes impact attendees of MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H programs occurring on and off MSU property.

As of March 8, masks are no longer required at MSU Extension or Michigan 4-H programs, events, offices or meeting rooms.

While not a requirement, Michigan 4-H in-person events are still encouraged to follow best practices that include meeting outside when possible, keeping participant numbers below maximum capacity to allow for social distancing, offering hand sanitizer and respecting the continued use of masks by those who choose to wear them.

As always, the most up-to-date guidelines for Michigan 4-H can be found at extension.msu.edu/approvedactivities.

4-H Events and Workshops

April 2: Reality Fair

Heilmann Recreation Center, Detroit

Gain experience making real-life financial decisions in this money management simulation.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/realityfair>

April 4: Michigan 4-H Month of the Military Child Goosechase

Online

Join Michigan 4-H to celebrate military families and children during the Month of the Military Child! New missions will be released every week through May 4.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-month-of-the-military-child-goosechase>

April 7: Adulting 101—Paying for Post-Secondary Education

Online

This series helps youth and young adults prepare for life on their own. Different topics will be offered each Thursday in April. The first session will explore different ways to help pay for the cost of college, trade school, and other post high school educational opportunities.

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

April 9 or 10: 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshop

Ralph MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon

Interested in leading shooting sports with a 4-H club? Become a certified instructor at this one-day workshop! Each day offers an independent workshop leading to its own certification.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ss_instructor_certification_spring22

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-workshop-2>

April 12: Wild Spartans—Great Lakes Fish Investigations

Online

Head out onto the Great Lakes to learn about fish of all sizes - from tiny venomous catfish to massive lake sturgeon. Meet Michigan DNR Fisheries Technician Brad Utrup and learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there.

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

April 16: Montcalm County 4-H Goat Show

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville

Do you have a goat who you think is the GOAT (Greatest of All Time)? Bring them to the Montcalm County Fairgrounds for the 4-H Goat Educational and Fun Show. Open to all.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/montcalm-county-4-h-goat-show>

April 23: Mock Interview Day

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center, Novi

Gain confidence, communication and career readiness skills as you also gain tips on networking and interviewing. Includes opportunities to practice and receive feedback.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/mock22>

April 28: Line Dancing Lessons with Lia

Montcalm County Fairgrounds Ash Building, Greenville

Join an evening of fun on your feet! Lia of Lia's Line Dance will teach you the basic steps of line dancing. This event is free and open to all.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/line-dance-lessons-with-lia2>

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

Michigan 4-H Presents April Money Management Contests!



Join Michigan 4-H for a series of fun contests and workshops leading up to National Financial Literacy Month in April. Expand your knowledge and compete with other youth across Michigan to earn prizes in money management challenges. For more details visit www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts.

Cash Composition Contest (9-12 years old)

Youth residing in Michigan, age 9-12 have a chance to win \$100 by writing a 300 word (or less) essay on “paying yourself first.” Contest registration and essay submission must be complete by April 11. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest.

Show Your Money Smarts Contest (13-19 years old)

Michigan youth age 13-19 will compete in an online quiz challenge taking place the entire month of April for a chance to win \$100. High scoring youth will be entered into the drawing for four \$100 prizes. Contest registration must be complete by April 28. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/show-your-money-smarts-contest.

Youth who want to prepare for the contests may take part in a webinar on April 13 at 4:30 p.m. (www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-money-4-13) or a self-guided learning experience (www.canr.msu.edu/courses/grow-your-money).

4-H Exploration Days registration coming in April!

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan 4-H's largest pre-college program and could be the highlight of your summer—maybe even change your life! This exciting event is open to any Michigan youth age 12 –19 as of Jan. 1.

4-H Exploration Days is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Michigan 4-H youth who participate have the opportunity to stay in MSU campus residence halls while attending classroom and field trip sessions throughout their stay.

With more than 100 session choices held on and off campus, there are topics for everyone including animal science, business and entrepreneurship, international language and culture, performing and visual arts, and science, engineering, and technology. As youth gain important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication, they'll also have plenty of time for fun with free time activities such as skating, bowling, basketball and a dance.

Registration for 4-H Exploration Days will open in mid-April. The cost for the 2022 event is \$220. Check with your local 4-H program coordinator for additional information regarding county sign-ups and scholarships or visit www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-exploration-days for more details.



Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters



Walking Challenge

Starting May 1, MSU Extension will host a 4-H Alumni & Supporters Walking Challenge, where participants will track their miles walked and compete for a top spot in the contest! Each week, top contestants will win an alumni swag prize and the county who logs the most miles throughout the whole challenge will earn a \$100 cash prize for their county 4-H program! Random weekly winners will also be chosen amongst registered participants who have actively engaged in the contest during the previous week.

Learn more and register at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h