

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

LAPEER COUNTY 4-H CHALLENGE CLUB
"4-H CHALLENGED ME"

Dear Parents,

Lapeer County 4-H is excited to offer a unique opportunity for special needs youth ages 5-26 (as of January 1 of the current year) to participate in a peer to peer 4-H livestock club and a livestock show designed especially for them at the Eastern Michigan State Fair. Participants will learn about different farm animals including pigs, sheep and goats and will be assigned a 4-H or FFA coach who will work hand in hand with each child and family. Each child will work with the animal they will be showing and the coach will teach the child about basic care, handling and how to show the animal in the show ring. We understand that each child has different learning and physical abilities and we will work closely with each coach and child to make this a great experience. This is a community event designed to expose your child to 4-H, livestock programs and clubs in Lapeer County and to allow them to say "4-H Challenged Me" at the Lapeer County 4-H Challenge Show. But most importantly this program is about forming positive, lasting peer to peer relationships outside the school classroom. This program is open to youth, who are eligible for special education. Participants must be pre-registered because of enrollment limits and preference will be given to those attending Lapeer County schools, but we will make every effort to accommodate all applicants. To register your child, complete the attached form and return it to the address on the form. If you have questions please contact:



MICHIGAN'S OLDEST COURTHOUSE

LAPEER COUNTY

**Michigan State University
Extension**

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Department of Agriculture and
Lapeer County cooperating.
MSU is an affirmative action equal
opportunity institution.*

Tiffany Howell
4-H Challenged Me Club Leader
Tiffanyhowell@hotmail.com

Michelle L. Peel
4-H Challenged Me Club Leader
curellmi@hotmail.com

Event Schedule:

- March 15th: Applications due for members
- Mid-April (date to be announced): Challenge Me member and 4-H/FFA coaches orientation and introductions
- July 27: Challenge 4-H Show, Walker Memorial Barn, Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds, Imlay City



LAPEER COUNTY 4-H CHALLENGED ME CLUB

Description: To provide an opportunity for youth with disabilities (4-H Challenged Me Club Member), physical and mental, to safely participate in a livestock exhibition environment, while building a positive peer to peer relationships with 4-H or FFA youth.

Outline: 4-H Challenged Me club members will be matched with 4-H and FFA coaches. Program will conclude the last week of July at the Eastern Michigan State Fair. The Challenge Show will be held Saturday morning of the Eastern Michigan State Fair, in the Walker Memorial Barn.

Club Information

Challenge Youth:

- Must be eligible (enrollment not required) for special education services through a Michigan public school.
- Must be 5 years old by January 1st of current year
- Must enroll in the Lapeer County 4-H Youth Program through the Lapeer County MSU Extension Office and pay a \$20 4-H participation fee at or before the orientation meeting.
- Are asked to share pertinent medical and behavioral information on the application. Providing this information is optional and will not exclude a child from participating in 4-H Challenged Me. This information will be shared with the 4-H/FFA Coach that club members are matched with, to make all reasonable accommodations to meet the physical and social needs of each child, to ensure the safety of participants and that each participant has the best experience possible.
- Strive to meet at least eight times to learn about, handle and practice with the animal
- Club members will need to register for the Eastern Michigan State Fair, as a 4-H Challenge Show participant and will receive a 4-H wristband to enter the fair free each day (small fee is associated with fair registration). 4-H wristband admission does not include carnival rides.
- There will be a limited number of partnerships for cattle. Those applying to be members for cattle will be evaluated and screened to ensure the safety of both members and coaches. Those not selected to work with cattle will be matched with coaches with another species.

Youth Coaches:

- Must be actively enrolled in Lapeer County 4-H or Lapeer County FFA and be interested in serving as a coach to youth, sharing their knowledge and skills with a 4-H Challenged Me club member.
- Must agree to allow club members to show their animal in the 4-H Challenge Showmanship Show.
- Must agree to meet with club member for project area education, as well as handle and practice with their animal.
- Help ensure a safe, non-threatening learning environment for Challenge youth to learn about and handle their project animals. Reasonable accommodations should be considered depending on Challenge youth's physical limitations.
- Should attend coach and members orientation.
- There will be a limited number of partnerships for cattle. Those applying to be coaches for cattle will be evaluated and screened along with their animals to ensure the safety of both members and coaches.

Expectations:

- 4-H Challenged Me Club Leaders will seek volunteer 4-H/FFA coaches to match with club members. They will help coaches identify and accommodate member's needs. Club Leaders will discontinue the coach/member relationship at either parties request and will make every attempt to match Challenge member with a new coach and/or attempt to identify an appropriate alternative activity.
- Since this is a non-conventional 4-H club experience, our hope is that club members may enroll in the conventional 4-H program and participate in the many projects and programs 4-H and MSUE has to offer, however this is not required.
- It is required that parents or a responsible adult remain with participants during meetings with 4-H/FFA mentors and be available at the show.

LAPEER COUNTY "4-H CHALLENGED ME" CLUB APPLICATION

Please return to Tiffany Howell: 5940 Clear Lake Rd. North Branch, MI 48461 or email tiffanyhowell@hotmail.com.

Participant Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Participant Age (as of January 1 of current year):	
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Email:	T-Shirt Size: Youth: S M L Adult: S M L XL XXL Other

We will make all reasonable accommodations to meet the physical and social needs of each child, to ensure the safety of participants and that each participant has the best experience possible. In order to do those things we are asking that the following information be provided, to be shared with the 4-H/FFA coach your child will be matched with. Parents or a responsible adult must remain with participants during meetings with 4-H/FFA coaches and be available at the show.

Please rank your child's preference (1 thru 4) of animal to learn about and show:

Lamb _____ Pig _____ Goat _____ Cattle _____ (cattle partnerships limited to 6)

This section is voluntary and declining to share this information will not exclude your child from the program.

Does your child have physical limitations? Examples include, but not limited to: balance, hearing impaired, speech impaired, sight impaired, non-ambulatory/wheel chair user, etc.

Does your child have a learning impairment and/or developmental delay? If yes, please give example of learning level.

Does your child have any sensory issues that may be affected by proximity to animals, farm equipment, loud noises, etc.?

Does your child have behavioral issues that may affect him while working with animals or 4-H/FFA coaches? If yes, please explain triggers, escalation behaviors, etc. that may help a 4-H/FFA coach when dealing with your child.

Does your child have a seizure disorder? If so, please list seizure symptoms that 4-H/FFA coaches need to alert an adult.

I give permission for my child's strengths and challenges to be shared with their coach in order assist in their experience.

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____