



MARCH 2026

4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Celebrating Growth, Learning & A Little Luck!

March is a month full of energy, anticipation, and celebration—and 4-H youth across our community have plenty to look forward to! As we watch the first signs of spring begin to peek through, March invites us to explore new skills, honor the work that nourishes us, and enjoy a few fun holidays along the way.

This newsletter is packed with information about upcoming events including Exploration Days and Summer Camps.

We also look at some of the holidays and observances that happen in March. Did you know that there is a National Cheese Doodle Day!

March sets the stage for brighter days, new projects, and fresh opportunities for growth. As we welcome spring, may your month be filled with curiosity, creativity, and all the joy that comes from being part of the 4-H community.



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Looking Ahead! Save the Dates:

Spark & Share Summit | March 7 | Frankenmuth

Exploration Days Registration Opens | March 12

Spring Achievement | March 14 | North Branch

4-H Day with The Tigers | April 12 | Comerica Park

Fundraiser Auction | April 17 and 18 | Bells Event Center

Small Animal Clinic | June 13 | EMSF

Exploration Days | June 24 - 26 | MSU Campus

Lapeer County 4-H Day Camp | July 8 - 10 | Camp Lael

Eastern Michigan State Fair | July 28 – August 1 | EMSF

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H EXPLORATION DAYS – JUNE 24-26, 2026

Ready for the ultimate summer experience?

Each year, about 1,000 youth ages 12–19 from across Michigan come together for 4-H Exploration Days—an MSU pre-college adventure that could spark new passions, build lifelong skills, and even change your future.

Why join?

- Build confidence, independence & leadership
- Discover new interests and explore careers
- Meet friends from all over Michigan
- Get a taste of college life—live in an MSU dorm, eat in the dining halls & learn from experts
- Choose from 100+ sessions on and off campus
- Enjoy tons of fun activities, from skating to exploring campus to the big Thursday night dance

2026 cost: \$250 (includes meals, dorm stay, sessions & a T-shirt).

All Lapeer County 4-H members will receive a scholarship for at least \$100!

Registration opens March 12 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Sessions fill fast—don't wait!

Find the session booklet and all details on the Registration Information page here:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/

GREAT LAKES NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP

Registration is now open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources (GLNR) Camp, taking place July 26–August 1, 2026 at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, MI. This week-long residential camp for youth ages 13–15 features hands-on learning about the Great Lakes and Michigan's natural resources, along with swimming, sailing, fishing, archery, campfires, and more. Cost is \$525 through March 31 (early bird) and \$550 beginning April 1, which includes lodging, meals, a t-shirt, and all activities. Interested teens ages 16–20 may apply to serve as counselors. Campers must register online and enroll in 4-H Online. Scholarships to attend are available.

LOCAL SUMMER CAMPS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

2026 Summer Day Camp Program

Wednesday, July 8th – Friday, July 10th, 2026

Camp Lael, Ferns Road, Lapeer, MI

Join Lapeer County 4-H for 3 days of "Dino Discovery" camp this summer, as we learn about the pre-historic creatures through songs, games, crafts, explorations, nature hikes, and more. Lapeer County 4-H Day Camp offers youth the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, connect with the outdoors, and ultimately have a great time with other kids!

2026 Camp Registration is planned to open April 27, 2026!



2026 4-H Exploration Days

June 24-26th, 2026
 Michigan State University Campus
 East Lansing, Michigan



Who?
 All young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! You don't need to be a 4-H member to attend. Adults interested in chaperoning should contact their county 4-H program coordinator.

What?
 Live like a college student while exploring careers, building skills, and envisioning your future. This three-day pre-college program offers over 100 fun learning sessions across MSU campus led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff, and experts.

How much? 2026 cost is \$250 for youth, which includes two nights' lodging, meals, sessions, free-time activities, and an event T-shirt.

Need more info? Scan here:

Contact Information:
4h.expodays@msu.edu



2026 Thumb Area 4-H Over-Night Camp Program
 Monday, June 15th – Wednesday, June 17th 2026
Camp Stapleton
 Lexington, MI
 Camp activities are designed for youth ages 9-14 (as of 1/1/26).
 More information is coming soon!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

DARE TO LEVEL UP YOUR COUNSELOR GAME!

Calling all current & future 4-H Camp Counselors (ages 12–19)!

Join us for a Regional 4-H Camp Counselor & Volunteer Training Workshop and get beyond ready to lead the games, rock the campfire songs, and handle whatever camp throws your way.

April 11, 2026 ~ 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center (Frankenmuth)

Training is FREE ~ Optional CPR/First Aid certification card = \$20

Register by March 27 at:

<https://regional4-Hcampcounselortraining.4honline.com>

Hosted by 4-H Programs serving Bay, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair & Tuscola Counties.

CALLING ALL 4-H MARKET ANIMAL PROJECT YOUTH!

Want to boost your marketing skills and make the most of your market project this year? Join our *Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project* webinar series! From goal setting and communication to marketing, records, and buyer outreach—you'll gain the skills to shine in the show ring *and* the sale ring. Attend one or attend them all! 🌟 Open to youth ages 8–19. Let's level up those market skills!

📅 April 21 – May 19, 2026 ~ 🕒 6:30–7:30 PM EST ~ 💻 On Zoom

For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/make-the-most-of-your-market-livestock-project>

LET'S GROW 4-H TOGETHER!

Lapeer 4-H is looking for volunteers to help lead outdoor, STEM, and life skills programs for local youth.

Do you enjoy fishing, archery, agriculture, survival skills, creative arts, bowling, Legos, reading books to animals, or chess?

You could help lead a short-term club or assist with a day camp this summer!

Most programs are 6 weeks long and meet once per week.

You don't need teaching experience – just a passion and willingness to help youth grow.

Interested? Send us a message or email the 4-H office to learn more about the volunteer onboarding process.

Sarah Griffin – graversa@msu.edu or Debbie Studebaker – studebad@msu.edu



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

SHOP OUR ONLINE RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER NOW!



100% USA MADE, KITCHEN PRODUCTS!



Visit radafundraising.com and search for "Lapeer County 4H Camp" to make a purchase to benefit Lapeer County 4-H Camp.

Spend \$35 and save \$5 on shipping with code "SHIPDEAL"

Support Our Fundraiser!

Shop our online Rada Cutlery fundraiser today and get prepared for all your upcoming gatherings with 100% USA-made kitchen products!

Every purchase made through our unique shopping link helps support Lapeer County 4-H Camp. Your contribution truly makes a difference.

Shop Here: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=8906913.9bbe73>

Special Offer: Spend \$35 and save \$5 on shipping with code SHIPDEAL

In July 2025, 60 youth campers and 19 teen counselors enjoyed a 3-day summer camp supported by 11 dedicated volunteers and thanks to community support, more than 20 local youth attended through camp scholarships!

In July 2025, 60 youth campers and 19 teen counselors attended the 3-day Lapeer County 4-H summer camp facilitated by 11 volunteers. More than 20 local youth were able to attend through the camp scholarship program.



40TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE!

We're excited to announce that our 40th Annual 4-H Fundraiser Auction will be held on April 18, 2026, and the 33rd Annual Celebrity Autographed Items Auction will be held on April 17, 2026. Both events will be held at The Bells Event Center in Almont.

Profits from the auction help support the county 4-H program with camp, club activities, local and state educational workshops, conferences, leadership training, community service, college scholarships and more. The success of the auction relies heavily on 4-H leaders, club members and volunteers assisting with collecting business donations. If you would like to help collect donations, please contact Rae Haskins as soon as possible. Clubs that complete business visits to collect donations earn a percentage of sales.

Clubs may also take part in auction efforts by donating a themed basket of items. Clubs will receive 50% of their basket's selling price. Selected basket themes should be submitted to 4-H Staff ASAP to avoid duplication of baskets. Baskets need to be delivered to the 4-H office by April 3, 2026.

Save The Date!

The 40th Annual 4-H Fundraiser Auction will be Saturday, April 18, 2026 The Bells Event Center, Almont

The Celebrity Autograph Auction will be Friday, April 17, 2026 The Bells Event Center, Almont



Fred the Bear has been hanging out with us at the Extension Office. However it is nearly time for him to find his Forever Home. Come bid on Fred at the Annual 4-H Fundraiser Auction!

Call the office at 810-667-0341 or e-mail us at msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. 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 three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.

Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.



Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.



County Calendar of Events

March

Spring Achievement Registration Deadline.....	3/2
Auction Committee Meeting.....	3/3: 5:30pm
EMSF Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	3/4: 7:00pm
Spark and Share Summit.....	3/7:10:00am
Camp Committee Meeting.....	3/10: 6:00pm
Exploration Days Registration Opens.....	3/12: 7:00pm
Spring Achievement Set-up.....	3/13: 5:00pm
Spring Achievement.....	3/14: 9:00am
Livestock Committee Meeting.....	3/16: 6:00pm
Council Meeting.....	3/16: 7:00pm
4-H AgriQuest Homeschool Club.....	3/18: 10:00am
Horse Committee Meeting.....	3/23: 6:30pm

April

EMSF Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	4/1: 7:00pm
Regional Camp Counselor Training.....	4/11
Fundraiser Auctions.....	4/17 & 4/18

Get Involved in Shaping the Lapeer County 4-H Program!

We're looking for passionate people (parents, adult volunteers, and youth members) to join our committees and help plan and organize 4-H events. More committee members = more amazing opportunities for our youth! If you're ready to make an impact and keep our program thriving, reach out to Sarah or Debbie, or stop by at one of the committee meetings listed above. **Let's make great things happen together!**



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions





March Celebrations



March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March wouldn't be complete without St. Patrick's Day. Whether your club chooses to wear green, explore Irish traditions, or highlight themes of luck and kindness, the day offers plenty of opportunities for cultural learning and fun. Consider activities such as making shamrock crafts, discussing global heritage, or hosting a "green-themed" community service challenge.

Here are a few fun facts about St. Patrick's Day!

- Saint Patrick was born in Britain (likely Scotland or Wales) in the 5th century, not Ireland.
- At age 16, Patrick was captured by Irish pirates and worked as a shepherd in Ireland for six years before escaping.
- Legend says St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland, but in reality, Ireland has never had snakes because the ocean is too cold for them to swim across.
- Leprechauns are mischievous fairy creatures in Irish folklore known for making shoes and hiding pots of gold at the end of rainbows.
- It is believed that wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, who will pinch anyone they can see.
- St. Patrick used the three-leaf shamrock to teach about the Holy Trinity, and it is now a national symbol of Ireland.
- Since 1962, the city of Chicago has dyed its river green to celebrate.
- Corned beef and cabbage is considered a traditional meal, but it is actually an Irish-American dish, not something commonly eaten in Ireland.
- The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in America (not Ireland) in 1601.
- A four-leaf clover is considered lucky because it is a rare mutation of the common three-leaf clover.
- The largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world is held in New York City.



🍀 Simple Irish Soda Bread 🍀

This simple Irish soda bread recipe requires only 5 minutes of hands-on time. Made with a simple dough that includes baking soda and buttermilk, it emerges from the oven with the perfect crumb, and perfect for slathering with butter or marmalade. No yeast required! Ready in one hour, start to finish.

Visit [Alexandra's Kitchen](https://alexandracooks.com/2016/03/11/irish-soda-bread-two-ways/) (<https://alexandracooks.com/2016/03/11/irish-soda-bread-two-ways/>) for step-by-step instructions and a video to bake this traditional Irish recipe.

Leprechauns and Shamrocks!



Create this cute leprechaun to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Supplies Needed:

- Manila folder
- orange and green construction paper
- glue stick
- 2 large googly eyes
- Crayons

Follow the directions found at [iHeartCraftyThings](https://iheartcraftythings.com/leprechaun-craft.html) (<https://iheartcraftythings.com/leprechaun-craft.html>)!



Transform simple heart shapes into an adorable clover plant to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. You can make both 3 leaf clovers and 4 leaf clovers with this easy method!

Check out the video tutorial and instructions at: [onelittleproject](https://onelittleproject.com/felt-shamrocks/) (<https://onelittleproject.com/felt-shamrocks/>)



March Celebrations

March 5 - National Cheese Doodle Day



March 5th marks **National Cheese Doodle Day!** Cheese doodles are part of an exclusive list of foods that were made by accident, which includes popsicles, ice cream, and potato chips. While this lighthearted holiday may bring smiles and orange fingertips, it's also a playful gateway to conversations about snack production, food science, and how everyday items get from farm to shelf. Youth might enjoy learning how corn is grown, processed, and transformed into the crunchy treats many people love.

March 20 - First Day Of Spring



We are getting closer to seeing the tulips appear in our yards! While we wait you can create your own indoor tulip garden with this cute Toilet Paper Roll Tulip craft! Join Miss Daisy as she shares a video for creating a Tulip Garden.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezHpeHjboFw>

Materials Needed:

- Toilet paper roll
- Scissors (with adult supervision)
- Paint (any colors you like)
- Paintbrush

This craft helps kids practice fine motor skills, creativity, and gets them excited about the colors and beauty of springtime.

Happy National Crayon Day!!!

National Crayon Day is celebrated annually on March 31st to honor the invention of the wax crayon in 1903 by Binney & Smith (creators of Crayola). It is a day to encourage creativity for all ages by coloring, creating art, and, in some cases, retiring old, crayon colors. Activities include melting, old crayons to create new ones, coloring, and, donating used crayons.



Answer Key

February's Word Find

```

. B C A R D . . . . .
. . O . . . . .
. . . W . . . . . D . .
F A M I L Y . . . . A . .
. B . . . N O T E T . .
. A . . . . . E . .
F L O W E R S . . . . .
. L . . . . . C . .
. O . . . . . U . .
. O . . . . . T . .
. N . H E A R T . . . E
. . . . . G I F T . .
    
```



March Celebrations

March 1 – 7: National Chocolate Chip Cookie Week



March 1st – 7th is
National Chocolate Chip Cookie Week!

What a sweet reminder that learning happens everywhere—even in the kitchen! Baking teaches youth measurement, teamwork, patience, and creativity. If your club is looking for a simple hands-on activity, consider hosting a cookie-themed meeting where members experiment with flavors, practice safe food handling, or package baked goods for a community service project.

Chocolate Chip Cookie History

Ruth Wakefield invented the chocolate chip cookie in 1938 at the [Toll House Inn](#) in Whitman, Massachusetts, by intentionally adding chopped Nestle semi-sweet chocolate to a butter-drop cookie dough.

- **The Invention (1930s):** While popular legend suggests an accident (either running out of baking chocolate or expecting the chocolate to melt), research suggests Wakefield intentionally created the cookie to add variety to her menu. She used an ice pick to break a Nestle semi-sweet chocolate bar, intending for the pieces to stay intact.
- **The Name:** The cookies were named after the Toll House Inn, which she and her husband ran
- **Nestle Partnership:** The recipe was published in her 1938 cookbook, *Toll House Tried and True Recipes*. Nestle noticed a surge in chocolate bar sales, leading to a deal where Wakefield gave them the rights to the recipe in exchange for a lifetime supply of chocolate.
- **WWII Popularity:** During the war, soldiers from Massachusetts shared the cookies from care packages with others from across the U.S., resulting in nationwide demand.
- **Evolution:** Following the cookie's success, Nestle introduced "morsels" or chips for easier baking in 1939.

Find the original recipe here:

<https://www.verybestbaking.com/toll-house/recipes/chocolate-chip-cookies/>

March 15 – 21: National Agriculture Week

This month we also celebrate **National Agriculture Week**, a perfect fit for our 4-H mission. Agriculture is at the heart of our everyday lives, and this week gives us an opportunity to recognize the farmers, scientists, and educators who help feed our communities. It's a great time for clubs to explore ag-related projects—from animal science to gardening to STEM innovations that shape the future of farming.





March 15 – 21: National Agriculture Week

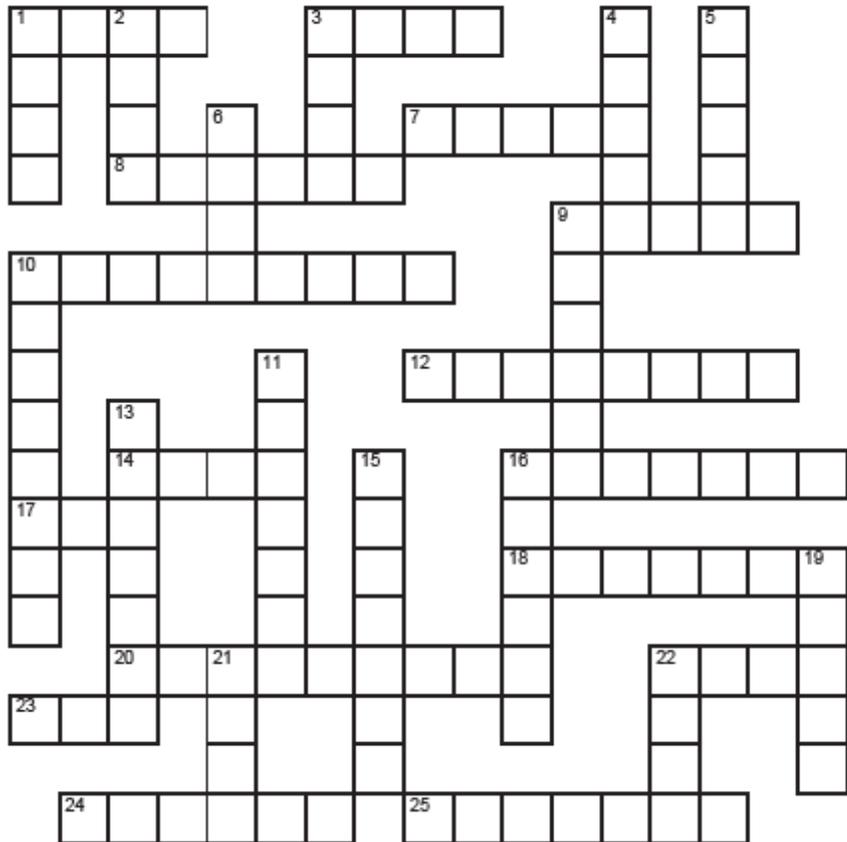
Across

1. Baby cow.
3. Might be used to make cheese.
7. Used for irrigation.
8. Could be used for carrying water.
9. More than one goose.
10. Used to frighten birds away from crops.
12. Structure that makes energy from wind.
14. What you find in the chicken coop.
16. Slow moving vehicle used to tow things.
17. A female sheep.
18. A male chicken.
20. Colorful plant grown for food.
22. Shelter for many farm animals.
23. Tool for weeding.
24. Group of animals on a dairy farm.
25. She lays eggs.

Down

1. Grain that grows on a cob.
2. Baby sheep.
3. Offspring of a donkey and a horse.
4. Animal you can ride.
5. Barley, wheat, corn, etc.
6. 43560 square feet.
9. Male goose.
10. They watch over a flock of sheep.
11. Where animals graze.
13. Where honey is made.
15. Where fruit trees grow.
16. Poultry raised for Thanksgiving Day.
19. A large cattle farm.
21. It might be a billy or a nanny.
22. Large, tied bundle of straw.

Down on the Farm



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4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Learn more about how you can grow with Lapeer County 4-H!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer/lapeer_county_4_h/

Facebook: @LapeerCounty4H



**Beyond
Ready**