



4-H Family News

Macomb County, MI | Volume 6 Issue 4 | Dec. 2020

Macomb County 4-H News & Events



Club and Committee Officer Training - December 16

A Club Officer Training will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. on December 16, 2020 for 4-H teen leaders, officers, and those aspiring to hold officer positions. Designed for ages 11 and up, this training will cover officer roles, parliamentary procedure, and best practices around club and committee finances, fundraisers and budgeting. Register online at <https://bit.ly/35WsoMD>. For more information, contact Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran at (586) 846-1249 or duraneli@msu.edu.

Art + Activism 4-H SPIN Club

Hey! Are you interested in learning more about being an activist while being creative? Michigan youth ages 9-13 are invited to join us for discussions and activities related to activism. Michigan AmeriCorps members will lead the meetings from 6:00-7:00 PM EST Tuesdays from January 5 - February 23, 2021. To receive club access, please make sure all youth interested are registered on 4-H Online. For more information on how to register, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5djuaxb> under "4-H SPIN Clubs." Please email [Ally Baird](mailto:AllyBaird) with questions.



Video recognizes 4-H horse project members who aged out

A special recognition video was created to celebrate and recognize the Macomb 2020 4-H horse project members who aged out. We wish them success in all their future endeavors! View the video online at https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/t/1_a2zanmnk.

Keran Walkowicz honored with 2020 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award

It is with great pleasure and much thanks from the Michigan State University Extension staff and the Macomb County 4-H community to award Keran Walkowicz the 2020 Macomb County 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award.

This prestigious award is given to volunteers who have served Macomb County 4-H for 21 or more years. The nomination was submitted by Keran's close friends Al and Pat Rinke and the Rinke family. They state that, "Keran has given 40 years of her time, energy and leadership to the Macomb County 4-H program. She has made a difference in the lives of many children and their families. She is deserving and long overdue for this prestigious award."



Macomb County 4-H Youth Council Vice President and President of Bit of Luck 4-H Club Aubrey Schultz congratulated the stunned volunteer during an interview held via Zoom. Aubrey asked Keran if she would share her 4-H story. What a story it

was. For the next hour everyone sat captivated as Keran fondly shared her memories.



It all began when her children joined Ray Community 4-H Club. They were a large and active craft project club. After a while there were members who were talking about starting a horse project. Keran admitted she didn't know much about horses. The Extension office gave her all the resources she needed to learn how to run a horse project. Eventually, the horse project grew and she along with Barry Zink and John Beier broke off on their own to form Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club. Today, the club is still thriving under the guidance of Michelle and Rod Porter.

Keran's contributions to Macomb County 4-H didn't stop there. She was instrumental in improving the Macomb County 4-H Horse Program. She noticed that not all youth who wanted to learn about horses could have one. She felt strongly that every 4-H member who wanted to participate in a horse project should be able to. She developed a Grooms Class. The class was a very good way for anyone, riding or not, to participate in and learn the basics before sitting in the saddle. Members who did not have a horse of their own were allowed to borrow someone's horse. In the Grooms Class, members learned all the parts of the horse and the parts of the saddle and bridle. They had to be able to put them on the horse correctly. They had to know all the different grooming tools used on a horse and demonstrate to the judge how they are used. The class was accepted and added to the Horse Show bill. For years, Keran provided weekly instruction from April to the beginning of the show season in June. She is still called on to teach these classes.



In addition to guiding the Horse Program, Keran also developed the 4-H Horse Tack Sale, a very successful annual fundraiser that still takes place in March. Keran was always finding more and more ways for her members to stay engaged. She had a talent with crafts and taught both 4-H members and other volunteers many craft projects. She was an active volunteer at the Armada Fair and encouraged members to enter many different types of projects in the Fair. Fair was very important to the members. It was a good experience for them to participate. The life skills and confidence kids gained from showing at the fair was immeasurable.

It is with great pleasure and much thanks from the Michigan State University Extension staff and the Macomb County 4-H community to award Keran Walkowicz the Macomb County 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you for your many years of service to the youth of Macomb County 4-H. Keran says that 4-H became a second family to her and she gained lifelong friendships. She loves it when she sees kids that were in her club grow up to form clubs of their own.



A [video](https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h/Awards-Recognition/county-awards/) highlighting Keran's 4-H involvement has been created by the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council. For more information about The Macomb County 4-H Awards Program go to <https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h/Awards-Recognition/county-awards/>.

Winter Horse Projects, Hippology and Horse Judging Meeting - December 7

Are you interested in learning more about horses? The Winter Projects, Hippology and Horse Judging Meeting on December 7th is open to youth in Macomb and St. Clair counties. This is a great way to get involved, whether you want to compete or not.

Winter Projects starts at 6:30 p.m. with Marianne Moskal (St. Clair County 4-H Leader) and is great for those new to horses or younger youth. Cloverbuds are definitely welcome.

Hippology is at 7:15 p.m. with Nikki Scott (St. Clair County 4-H Leader) and is certainly good for all ages and skill levels. You can never know too many random horse facts, and Nikki makes it fun.

Judging starts at 8 p.m. Don't ever want to be a horse show judge? Not a problem. Most don't, but learning what the judge is looking for is a great way to improve your own results in the show ring. Youth ages 11 and older typically get the most out of this session, but all ages (5+) have loved it and are welcome.

We also have **Communications**, which consists of public speaking, individual demonstrations, and team demonstrations. If kiddos are interested in those areas, make sure they let me know so I can get them some great resources and put them in touch with Stephanie Gill (St. Clair County 4-H Volunteer) who has graciously agreed to help coach communications.

Truly ALL are welcome. No horse ownership or experience is necessary. Participants just need to be interested. If you're not in 4-H yet, we'll help you get enrolled. Parents/leaders are more than welcome to attend with their children.

For more information or to request the Zoom meeting link, contact 4-H Volunteer Lucy Brown at lamckier@yahoo.com by December 6.

4-H Online 2.0 tips for members and volunteers

The answers below address common questions received by Macomb County MSU Extension. If you have questions about 4-H Online 2.0, please email them to macomb.4h@macombgov.org.

- **Adding projects to approved 4-H Online 2.0 records:** Members and volunteers whose 4-H Online enrollments are already approved are not able to add additional projects to their records. If you need projects added to an approved member or volunteer record, please email the member or volunteer name and the projects that need to be added to macomb.4h@macombgov.org to have them added at the county level.
- **Leader type and role:** If a volunteer is enrolling or re-enrolling in 4-H Online and doesn't see club or project choices, it could mean that the volunteer type and role haven't been chosen properly. Leaders need to select a leader type and a leader role. In Macomb County, most club project leaders will choose Type: Club Leader>Project Leader AND Role: Project>Project Leader. The volunteer type chosen will determine if the volunteer is given the option to select a club or not. The chosen volunteer role will determine whether the volunteer is given the option to select projects.
- **4-H Online 2.0 reports:** Some report functions have yet to be turned on in 4-H Online 2.0, so our ability to run reports is currently limited. At this time, the Macomb County 4-H staff is able to run club rosters and reports by club that show member and volunteer projects. Feel free to request either.

Rehoming a pet? Resources are available

Macomb County MSU Extension 4-H will no longer be handling requests from the public to rehome pets. Livestock rehoming requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

To assist you in finding a new home for your animal, try contacting your local veterinarian or visit the Macomb County Animal Control web page, <https://animalcontrol.macombgov.org/>. The page has links to [animal rescue organizations](#) and <https://rehome.adoptapet.com>, a place where you can create a profile for your pet and review adoption applications.



Connect with youth from across the globe!

Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid-April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY.



<https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HEggnogScones/>

4-H in the Kitchen Live! Eggnog Scones - Dec. 19

Join MSU Extension for a special 4-H in the Kitchen Live at 2 p.m. on December 19, 2020 and learn to make Holiday Eggnog Scones with guest chef Ruth Myers. Open to youth who are ages 8-19 as of Jan. 1. Participants will receive a digital book of scone recipes for all occasions. Register by Dec. 16 at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HEggnogScones/>. For more information, contact Aaron Myers: myersaa1@msu.edu.



LEGO Digital Creations Virtual 4-H SPIN Club

Are you a fan of LEGOs and wanted to bring your imagination to life? Now YOU can with the LEGO Digital Creations Virtual 4-H SPIN Club. This club will meet on Thursdays and Tuesdays beginning on December 3 through December 22, on Zoom to design our very own LEGO creations. This free club is open to youth ages 9 and up. Register here for some building fun: <https://bit.ly/4-HLEGO>.

Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!

Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.



Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the [SHOP 4-H Online Store](#) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H! JOANN Fabrics shoppers who use their [free 4-H loyalty card](#) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.

Discover additional ways you can support 4-H this shopping season here:

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/shop-online-to-support-michigan-4-h/>

Voting in virtual 4-H club meetings

Find out more about voting in virtual 4-H club meetings by reading this article by Extension Educator Jackelyn Martin: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/voting-in-virtual-4-h-club-meetings>.



Cloverbud Social/Emotional Wellness Kit

Emotions can be hard for youth to deal with, and even identify at times. Help them explore their emotions with a variety of fun activities in this new kit. Learn more and register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MissaukeeCloverbudWellness/>

Agents of Kindness 4-H SPIN Club starts December 14

Are you interested in getting involved in your community from the comfort of

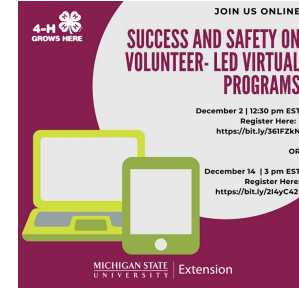


your home? Join the Agents of Kindness SPIN Club as we explore ideas for generous actions that encourage youth voices and promote the common good, even when we are apart. Michigan youth ages 9-13 are invited to join us for discussions and activities related to service learning, and participants will learn how to match their interests to community needs through investigation, planning, action and reflection.

Michigan AmeriCorps members will lead the meetings from 4:00-5:00 PM EST Mondays from December 14, 2020 until January 18, 2021. To receive club access, interested youth need to be registered in 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com>). Please email Rachel Ochylski (ochylski@msu.edu) with questions. For more information about this club, visit <https://bit.ly/AOKSPIN>.

Success and Safety in Volunteer-Led Virtual Programs

MSU Extension volunteers: With more virtual programs and meetings taking place, have you considered how you are keeping youth and adult participants safe and creating a positive learning environment? Attend Success and Safety in Volunteer-Led Virtual Programs and learn about best practices and strategies to use when programming virtually with youth and adults. This hour-long session will cover important points to remember and resources to help you in your role. Register for December 2, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. EST at <https://bit.ly/361FZkN> OR December 14, 2020 at 3 p.m. EST at <https://bit.ly/214yC42>.



MSU Extension learning resources available

MSU Extension has a variety of remote learning resources available for adults and youth. Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/rlr/> to learn more.



Giving Tuesday - December 1

December 1, 2020 is Giving Tuesday. Please visit <https://mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/> and help Extension reach its goal of \$5K to grow county endowments. Every dollar is an investment in 4-H!

MI 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Steering Committee seeks members

The Michigan 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Steering Committee is open to new members. The committee welcomes committee membership applications from 4-H adult volunteers and youth ages 14-19.

The purpose of the committee is to coordinate and host, in cooperation with MSU Extension staff, activities in the rabbit and cavy project area. In the past few years, these activities have included the State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show, Virtual Rabbit Showmanship Workshop, Rabbit and Cavy Leader and Teen Workshop, and selecting and awarding the State Rabbit and Cavy Scholarships.

The committee meets a minimum of four times per year via ZOOM. Committee members assist and implement planned activities and event.

The membership application can be found at <https://forms.gle/n8Boe1nCHAWvcBHG8>.

Questions about the Michigan 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Steering Committee should be directed to [Glenda Weiss](#).

Calling all creative and crafty people!

The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration is going VIRTUAL Feb 19-21, 2021. We need instructors interested in teaching an activity session online via zoom.

To teach a session complete this google form no later than December 1st:

<https://forms.gle/rgYtaXy2ChWM5WAF8>.

What you need to know:

- All sessions are scheduled for 2.5 hours online through Zoom – 2 hours of activities (this could be multiple short activities) and 30 minutes for technical difficulties and questions.
- Each participant will need to purchase their own supplies – consider activities with easy to find and inexpensive supplies
- We are looking for sessions in 3 primary areas: 1) Arts and Crafts, 2) Performing Arts and 3) Clothing and Textiles
- All Instructors need to be 4-H Volunteer Selection Process certified Gold Level Volunteers



Virtual showcase and auction success

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual learning showcases and auctions

provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU.

Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- \$1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions



“We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H’ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them,” said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension’s state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. “We’re also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation.”



Participating youth also had positive feedback:

“The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!”

“Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can’t thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can’t thank you enough.”

Marketing your livestock project on social media

Marketing your livestock animal virtually is a great way to increase the number of potential buyers bidding on your market animal. To have a successful social media marketing plan, you need to employ a strategy that grabs your audience’s attention right away and will be remembered. These articles by Extension Educator Dave Radloff offer helpful tips for marketing your livestock projects virtually:

- [Marketing your livestock project on social media - Part 1: The psychology of using pictures](#)

- [Marketing your livestock project on social media - Part 2: Visual storytelling](#)

New resources available to help keep kids safe

New resources designed to help keep kids safe have been developed by MSU Extension:

- [Keeping Kids Safe: Preventing Grooming by Child Sexual Predators](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe: How Child Sexual Predators Groom Adults, Families, and Communities](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe: How Child Sexual Predators Groom Children](#)

Other child safety resources available from MSU Extension:

- [Keeping Kids Safe: Ages 12-17](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe: Ages 6-11](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe: Ages 0-5](#)
- [Keeping Kids SAFE: The downside to "sharenting" on social media](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe Virtually: Best Practices](#)

4-H Calendar of Events

December 1

[4-H Giving Tuesday](#)

Everywhere

Help grow a county 4-H endowment in your area and join the #GivingTuesday movement. Consider making a donation to grow funds that support 4-H youth today and in the future.

December 2

[Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs](#)

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

December 3

[LEGO Digital Creations 4-H SPIN Club](#)

Zoom

Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from December 3-22, 2020.

December 7

[Flour Tortilla Making 101](#)

Zoom

Join us in making tortillas — a staple in Mexican cooking. In this class, tortillas will be used as an appetizer, entrée, dessert or stand alone ingredient

December 7

[Winter Horse Projects, Hippology and Horse Judging Meeting](#)

Zoom, open to youth in Macomb and St. Clair counties.

December 8

[Wild Spartans Series](#)

Zoom

Join 4-H staff as we meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. December's event will explore invasive species with MSU researcher Taylor Haas.

December 8

[Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs](#)

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

December 14

[Agents of Kindness SPIN Club](#)

Online

Club meets December 14, 21, 28, January 4, 11, 18

December 14

[Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-Led Programs](#)

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

December 16

[4-H Club Officer Training](#)

Zoom

December 19

[4-H in the Kitchen Live! Holiday Scones](#)

Zoom

Join 4-H in the Kitchen Live for a special holiday episode! Learn how to make a batch of eggnog scones—perfect for any holiday feast — with special guest Ruth Myers.

Save the Date!

February 19-21, 2021

[Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration](#)

Online

The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration will be going virtual this year! Adult and teen 4-H leaders are encouraged to join this exciting online event to learn new ideas for working virtually with youth in the areas of visual and performing arts, crafts, sewing, clothing and textile projects. Stay tuned for registration information!

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

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