

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Macomb County 4-H. Don't forget to add [macomb.4h@macombgov.org](mailto:macomb.4h@macombgov.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



May 2020

## Message from the State 4-H Office

On April 3, we made the difficult decision to modify, cancel or postpone all face-to-face youth events and programs managed by MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H until September 1. These are complex decisions that take time to digest-especially considering the current stressors added by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all navigating a unique and complex situation that really is about life and death.

While this is a heartbreaking decision for us and the community, our first obligation is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of staff members and all of those associated with our work, including 4-Hers and volunteers. We will continue to work with local entities, including fair boards and livestock councils, with whom we partner throughout the state to determine solutions.

We are proud of how our staff members are adapting to the new normal by providing virtual opportunities so 4-H'ers and their families can continue learning to do and doing to learn.

*Jeff Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension*

*Amy Bonomi, Director, MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute*

## Macomb County 4-H News & Events

### Macomb County 4-H Open Office Hours - May 5th

A 4-H Open Office Hours webinar for leaders, parents and members has been planned for May 5, 2020 at 6 p.m. to give the most up to date information regarding programming and upcoming events. The meeting link has been emailed to families through 4-H Online.

Because regulations and other items related to COVID-19 are changing on a daily basis, answers to every question is not likely. However, we want to give everyone the chance to ask questions in advance so that best efforts can be made to answer those questions.

Please send questions by email to Lizz Duran: [duraneli@msu.edu](mailto:duraneli@msu.edu).

### Brighten the day of a senior

Many seniors in assisted living and rehab facilities currently cannot have visitors due to the risk of COVID-19. This can leave them feeling isolated. Through May 31st, send a card, letter or picture to

## Macomb County 4-H Staff

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Oakland & Macomb Counties

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MSU Extension  
VerKuilen Building  
21885 Dunham Road, Ste. 12  
Clinton Township, MI 48036  
Phone: (586) 469-6431

MSU Extension  
Max Thompson  
Family Resource Center  
11370 Hupp



seniors and brighten their day. Your letters may be sent to the Advantage Living Center in Roseville, or to a facility of your choice if they are allowing mail.

Warren, MI 48089  
Phone: (586) 469-7614

**Join Our List**



 **Forward to a Friend**

For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-makes-a-difference-mail-to-seniors> or contact Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator Katelyn Burns at [burnska9@msu.edu](mailto:burnska9@msu.edu).

## Macomb County 4-H'ers make masks to aid the fight against COVID-19

Macomb County 4-H member contributions to the [Michigan 4-H Mask Project](https://bit.ly/3aBuvoe) were highlighted in the Macomb Daily: <https://bit.ly/3aBuvoe>. Learn more about the Michigan 4-H Mask Project online at <https://bit.ly/2S4lcXt>

## Volunteers are appreciated

Volunteer Appreciation Week was April 20-25. Many smiles are made possible because of our Macomb County 4-H Volunteers! Volunteers, thank you today and every day for all that you do! This [video](#) is for you.

## Whitenights recognized for their 4-H service

Joe and Theresa Whitenight, leaders of Macomb 4-H Outdoor Adventure Challenge Club, were recognized for their outstanding volunteer service by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners on April 30, 2020. The longtime leaders were nominated for a 2020 Macomb County Volunteer Recognition Program award by 4-H Program Coordinator Seth Martin for their dedication to 4-H and the youth of Macomb County. Congratulations, Joe and Theresa!

## Virtual 4-H Home Gardening Program

Have fun while growing your own plants! Youth in Macomb and Wayne counties will be able to register soon for MSU Extension's Virtual Home Gardening Program. All supplies will be provided for this free self-paced program. Registration will be required by mid-June. Watch for the registration link. For more information, contact Lizz Duran, [duraneli@msu.edu](mailto:duraneli@msu.edu), or Milaina Macklin, [macklin3@msu.edu](mailto:macklin3@msu.edu).

## Other Local News & Events

### Livestock tagging dates

Livestock tagging will take place at the Armada Fairgrounds in Armada. Dates and times vary by species.

- Swine: Sunday, June 7th, 8-10:30 a.m.
- Poultry & Rabbits: Sunday July 19th, 10 a.m.-noon
- Goats, Sheep & Prospect Beef: Sunday, June 7th, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

### 2020 Armada Fair Open & 4-H Youth entries

Effective as of 2020, The Armada Agricultural Society will no longer accept paper applications. Exhibitors are encouraged to transition to the online system in the coming year. The online system will be up and running at the beginning of May 2020. In 2017, the system was integrated with great success. Computers or tablets will be available in the Armada Fair Office for those requiring assistance with the



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to 22828 to get  
started.**

system. If you have any questions please contact the Armada Fair Office at [office@armadafair.org](mailto:office@armadafair.org).

Source: AAS Newsletter, March 2020

## Fair & 4-H update

The Armada Fair (August 17-23) is on schedule for this coming season. In the near future, the fair board will release more information about 4-H operations and the fair. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please email [office@armadafair.org](mailto:office@armadafair.org).

Source: AAS Newsletter, April 2020

## Septic System 101 During Stay at Home Webinar

One unintended consequence of the stay home/stay safe order is septic system issues. In the past, many homes were empty for 8-10 hours each weekday while homeowners were at work, school and other activities. Today with families staying home 24/7, more hand washing, more food preparation and more toilets flushing is causing more stress on septic systems. More septic system issues - back ups, overflows, etc. - are occurring.

MSU Extension in partnership with the Macomb County Environmental Health Division is holding a free educational webinar, "Septic Systems 101 During Stay at Home". This 90-minute webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2019 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. The webinar will focus on septic system use, maintenance and troubleshooting your system followed by a real time question and answer portion.

To register for the webinar, go to

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/septicsystem101macombmay2020/>

The link to downloadable handout materials will be sent with the reminder email for the webinar.

Contact [gibb@msu.edu](mailto:gibb@msu.edu) with questions.

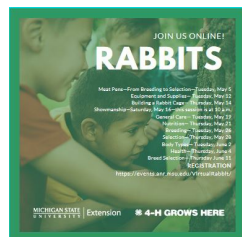
## Gardening/Community Service Opportunity



Hazon Detroit has a [COVID-19 relief garden program](#) that is able to do home deliveries of two buckets of compost and cold weather seeds to homes in Metro Detroit who are willing to start a garden and give 10% of their harvest to local food banks or people in need of food. You do not have to be affiliated with the organization to participate. Sign up at [www.tinyurl.com/reliefgarden](http://www.tinyurl.com/reliefgarden).

## Statewide 4-H News & Events

### Virtual Rabbit Education Series - May 5-June 11



Learn more about rabbit projects! Volunteers and youth ages 5-19 are invited to join MSU Extension for the free [Virtual Rabbit Education Series](#). Register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/VirtualRabbit/>

A link will be provided when you register. For more information, email [weissgale@msu.edu](mailto:weissgale@msu.edu).

## Weekly online resources for parents and caregivers

MSU Extension has put together a new calendar of online programs and DIY activities to help you plan out your week. Choose from daily childhood development, career exploration, STEM, healthy living and leadership activities - or choose them all! There's even two quick resources for parents and caregivers. Find out more online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/family/Educational-Resources-for-School-Closures/Weekly-Activities-for-Youth/>

## Managing Youth Stress

The novel coronavirus pandemic has been stressful for everyone. Families and youth are navigating new challenges, including social distancing, uncertain health outcomes and "a new normal." These new stressors may spill over into their relationships and compound other stressful conditions in the family.



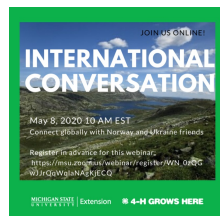
To help families better understand this stress and how to cope, MSU Extension has developed a new resource, "Managing Youth Stress." To access the resource, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/resources/managing-youth-stress](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/managing-youth-stress).

## Virtual School Garden Education Sessions

Join MSU Extension for a series of free virtual school garden education sessions! This series of four interactive, educational garden sessions will be offered every other Wednesday starting May 6 through June 17, 2020 at 10 a.m. Learn about Cool Kid Plants, Designing a Pollinator Garden, Planning the Fall School Garden, and Cover Crops for School Gardens.

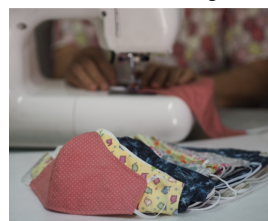
By registering online at <https://bit.ly/2W7ly0Q> for the entire series, you will be able to attend each session using the same link. Email Kaitlin Wojciak at [kaitwoj@msu.edu](mailto:kaitwoj@msu.edu) with any questions.

## International Conversation to feature participants from Norway and Ukraine



Join MSU Extension for its 4th International Conversation on Friday, May 8, 2020 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and learn more about Norwegian and Ukrainian culture and current events. Visit <https://bit.ly/2xhOKtu> to learn more or register.

## Help Fight COVID-19 with the Michigan 4-H Mask Project



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Michigan 4-H community has stepped up to help. CDC guidelines encourage the use of cloth face coverings to protect against disease spread; 4-H families across the state have sewn homemade cloth face coverings to protect the public, essential workers, and healthcare workers.

By mid-April, more than 2,400 cloth face coverings had been donated to over 25 organizations. These cloth face coverings were created in 32 counties by more than 40 4-H youth and adult

volunteers.

Though an amazing feat, the need is still great. Fortunately, the Michigan 4-H community is as great as the need; by working together, we can help to address this need and more.

The newly launched [Michigan 4-H Mask Project website](#) has instructions for making and donating to these efforts, using basic sewing skills and a few simple supplies. Join in making a difference in the fight against COVID-19.

Questions about this project? Contact MSU Extension Staff: Anne Kretschmann at [kretsc11@msu.edu](mailto:kretsc11@msu.edu) or Gary Williams at [will1009@msu.edu](mailto:will1009@msu.edu).

## Daisy 4-H Shooting Sports Scholarship



Has 4-H Shooting Sports impacted your life? Apply for a Daisy 4-H Shooting Sports Scholarship by May 15, 2020. Find out more online at [https://events.anr.msu.edu/daisy\\_scholarship/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/daisy_scholarship/).

## 4-H Mini-Grants Now Available



Each year, the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees approves grant opportunities for 4-H programs across the state. These grants are designed to encourage program planning and participation by 4-H members and volunteers in partnership with MSU Extension 4-H program staff. The grants will be eligible for use in the 2020-2021 program year.

Several grant opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$400-1,000. Applications are due June 1. To learn more information about the grants visit <https://mi4hfdtn.org/grants/>.

## Update on Face-to-Face 4-H Programming

On April 2, 2020, MSU made the decision to modify or suspend youth events scheduled to take place this summer on MSU's campus. This, combined with Gov. Whitmer's announcement that in-person K-12 instruction is suspended for the remainder of the academic year, has informed changes to MSU Extension's youth programming. These changes include:

- All on-campus MSU youth events scheduled to occur before September 1, 2020 will be modified to an online space, postponed or cancelled.
- No face-to-face MSU Extension youth events or programs will take place anywhere in the state, including summer camps, until September 1, 2020. This applies to events and activities scheduled through September 1 that are led by Michigan 4-H volunteers as well.

Given the fluid nature of this situation, it may be a few weeks before decisions are reached about which programs will become virtual versus which will be postponed or canceled; information will be shared as soon as it is available. Regardless, all program participants will receive a full refund for any out-of-pocket event fees already paid for affected programs. Staff will be in contact regarding this matter in the coming weeks; we appreciate your patience with this process.

This decision has implications on 4-H classes and activities at county

fairs. MSU Extension is working with the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, as well as local fair boards, to pursue new delivery methods for these 4-H events. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Youth safety and security are a guiding principle of Michigan 4-H; this decision is a reflection of that and our ongoing commitment to helping Michigan youth be physically and emotionally safe. Although the right thing to do for the health and wellbeing of MSU Extension staff, volunteers, program participants and all Michiganders, this is still a heartbreaking decision for us.

Now more than ever, MSU Extension remains committed to delivering meaningful experiences to youth and volunteers through a variety of supplemental offerings that support the educational development of Michigan youth. We will continue to update our [Remote Learning and Resources](#) space ([extension.msu.edu/Online4MI](https://extension.msu.edu/Online4MI)) with online programs, so be sure to visit the site frequently.

## Calendars of Events

### Macomb County 4-H Events

#### April 28-May 31

[Letters & Cards to Seniors](#)

Independent activity

#### May 5

4-H Open Office Hours

6-7 p.m., Online

### Other Local Events

#### June 7

Swine Tagging

8-10:30 a.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

#### June 7

Goat, Sheep & Prospect Beef Tagging

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

#### July 19

Poultry & Rabbit Tagging

10 a.m.-12 p.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

### State & National 4-H Events

#### May 1

[Virtual Tack Cleaning Party](#)

3-4:30 p.m., Online

*(Join us for a short tack cleaning tutorial followed by an opportunity for everyone to socialize and clean their own tack together!)*

#### May 4

[Tik Tok Dances with H&H](#)

9:30-10 a.m., Online

Join the 4-H Healthy Living team with activities that are engaging and get you moving. This morning movement session will get you moving with dance!

#### May 5-June 11

[Virtual Rabbit Education Series](#)

Online

#### May 6-June 17

[Virtual School Garden Education Series](#)

10 a.m., Online

**May 7****[Adulting 101 Series- Spending Plan](#)**

2-3 p.m., Online

*(Learn quick tips for navigating life and college. In this session, learn how to develop a spending plan by budgeting and tracking your money.*

*Preregistration required.)*

**May 7****[Ocean Explorers with Madison](#)**

11:30 a.m., Online

*(Join your 4-H friends and marine educator Madison Dix as we explore sea life! Learn about amazing creatures, their habitats and stewardship issues surrounding ocean life.)*

**May 8****[International Conversation #4](#)** (Norway and Ukraine)

10 a.m.-12 p.m., Online

**May 12****[MSU Extension Family Yoga with Kylie](#)**

9:30-10 a.m., Online

*(Help keep your family moving! Join MSU Extension for yoga, breathing and mindfulness. All ages and abilities welcome!)*

**May 14****[Ocean Explorers with Madison](#)**

11:30 a.m., Online

*(Join your 4-H friends and marine educator Madison Dix as we explore sea life! Learn about amazing creatures, their habitats and stewardship issues surrounding ocean life.)*

**May 15**

Last day to apply for a [Daisy 4-H Shooting Sports Scholarship](#)

**May 28****[Adulting 101 Series- Cooking 101](#)**

2-3 p.m., Online

Learn quick tips for navigating life and college. In this session, learn tips and tricks for easy cooking. Preregistration required.

For the full event listing of virtual events for youth audiences, visit <https://bit.ly/3dqPfil>.