



# 4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

February-March 2025  
Volume 10 Issue 4



## Macomb County 4-H News & Events

### Macomb County 4-H members, volunteers & partners honored

The 2024 Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet was held at Sycamore Hills Golf Club in Macomb Township on January 1, 2025. Guests at the event included award nominees and recipients and their families, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Commissioner Joe Sabatini, and Macomb County Health Department Director Andrew Cox. It was an honor to celebrate the accomplishments of our 4-H youth and the involvement of our volunteers and partners! Award recipients include:

#### Youth Awards

Achievement:

- [Nethanya F.](#) (MSUE Teen Counselor Program and Thompson 4-H Garden Club)

Clear the Hurdle:

- [Brianna S.](#) (Bit of Luck 4-H Club)

Sportsmanship:

- [Thea N.](#) (Ray Community 4-H Club)

Club Community Service:

- [School Section 4-H Club](#)

Senior Poultry:

- [Drew H.](#) (Alarro 4-H Club)

Junior Gardening & Horticulture:

- [Avery S.](#) (Ray Community 4-H Club)

Junior Sewing & Textiles:

- [Morgan B.](#) (Ray Community 4-H Club)

Junior Food & Nutrition:

- [Gabiella B.](#) (Ray Community 4-H Club)



*Pictured from l. to r. are Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Armada Fair Board Member Mike Polzin, Macomb County Board of Commissioner Chair Joe Sabatini, and Macomb County Health Department Director Andrew Cox.*

#### Adult Awards

Volunteers of the Year:

- [Danielle Accuso](#)
- [Kim Young](#)

Friends of 4-H:

- [Macomb County Farm Bureau](#)
- [Armada Fair Board](#)
- Macomb County Health & Community Services

Leader of the Year:

- [Elizabeth Moreno](#)

Lifetime Achievement:

- [Mike Polzin](#)



*4-H'er Nethanya F. (right) and her mother (left) show off the bracelet and key fob they made at the 2025 Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet.*

### Macomb County 4-H Staff

**Kristi Evans**  
D11 Director

**Diane Wisniewski**  
4-H Supervising Educator

[Kathy Jamieson](#)  
4-H Educator

[Kea Norrell-Aitch](#)  
4-H Educator.

[Elizabeth Duran](#)  
4-H Program Coordinator

[Nikki Knight](#)  
4-H Program Coordinator

[Rebecca Konarski](#)  
4-H Program Coordinator

[Roberta Busquaert](#)  
Office Assistant - Senior

### Locations

MSU Extension has two office locations in Macomb County:

VerKuilen Building  
21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12  
Clinton Township, MI 48036

Max Thompson Family Resource Center  
11370 Hupp Avenue  
Warren, MI 48089

### Contact Us

Telephone: 586-469-6431

Email: [Macomb.4h@macombgov.org](mailto:Macomb.4h@macombgov.org)

**Subscribe**

### Your feedback is valuable!

Did you attend the 2024 Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet? We want to hear from you! [Take this survey](#) to let us know how we did and to make suggestions for next year.





## Macomb County 4-H News & Events (continued)

### State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show results

The 2025 State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show results are in! Congratulations to Macomb County 4-H'er Theadora N. of Ray Community 4-H Club. Thea placed 10th in Senior Breed Identification, 3rd in Senior Skillathon, 4th in Senior Educational Display, 3rd and 4th in Senior Photography, and 8th in Rabbit Showmanship (Ages 15 & 16). The event was January 25th at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

### Sparty 4-H Spring Day Camp

Join MSU Extension for [Sparty 4-H Spring Day Camp](https://events.anr.msu.edu/MacombDayCamp/) from March 24-27, 2025! Youth will meet at Thompson Center in Warren from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day for fun, educational activities. For more information and to register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MacombDayCamp/> or contact 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran at [duraneli@msu.edu](mailto:duraneli@msu.edu).

### Spring 4-H Club Leader Meet - March 18

Save the date! The Spring 4-H Leader Meet is March 18, 2025 at Camp Rotary, 20505 29 Mile Road, Ray Township. Soup and salad will be served. Please contact 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran at [duraneli@msu.edu](mailto:duraneli@msu.edu) or 586-469-6090 for more information or to R.S.V.P.

### Vote for the 2025 Macomb County 4-H Fair Theme!

The 2025 Macomb County 4-H Fair Theme voting poll is open! Macomb County 4-H members and volunteers are each invited to cast one vote for their favorite theme suggestion online at <https://forms.office.com/r/3tGG07A09E> through 4 p.m. on Feb. 21.

### Get It Together! Time and Organization Tips to Help You Thrive

Struggling with time management and organization? Join us online on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. for a fun 4-H Adulting 101 session where you'll learn practical tips to beat procrastination, tackle schedules, and organize everything from schoolwork to living spaces. It's free. Please R.S.V.P. online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/get-it-together>.

### Alarro 4-H Club community service aids 4-H families affected by Hurricane Helene

Alarro 4-H club made 21 tie blankets for Caldwell County 4-H in North Carolina. Before the November monthly meeting, members of Alarro 4-H Club divided up to tie blankets. All blankets were 4-H kid themed, some having cows, pigs, butterflies or sports on them.

The Extension Agent in North Carolina sent a nice note back stating that the blankets would be distributed at the Christmas event, which was the first event since Hurricane Helene.

*Article and photo submitted by 4-H Volunteer Sheila Ruczynski.*



### Macomb County 4-H Rabbit Clinic

March 15, 2025 2 p.m.

Wolcott Metropark Farm Center  
(Greenhouse)  
65775 Wolcott Road  
Ray Township, MI 48096

Macomb County 4-H members,  
come and learn about:

- Proper Handling & Posing
- Showmanship Steps
- Preparing Your Rabbit for Show
- Purchasing a Show Rabbit

Bring your rabbit  
(encouraged but not required).

Cost is \$10. Pay at the door.  
[Register](#) by March 12, 2025.

Questions? Contact Kathy Matthews  
at 586-419-9968



## Other Local News & Events

### Volunteer opportunities at Wolcott Farm Center

Are you looking for volunteer hours? Wolcott Farm Center could use some helping hands! [Sign up here](#). For more information, please contact Mary Barnes, Animal Care Specialist/Interpreter, at [Mary.Barnes@metroparks.com](mailto:Mary.Barnes@metroparks.com) or 586-752-5932 ext 6272.

### Armada Fair News

**Animal health:** Make sure your furry (or feathery!) friends are super healthy! The Fair Board and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) have some rules to keep everyone safe and happy. Want to know the inside scoop? Talk to your 4-H or FFA leader, your project's Superintendent, or check out the [MDA website](#). You can also give them a call at (517) 373-9763.

**Age requirement:** To show off your animals and maybe even sell them, youth must be 8-19 years old.

**Help out:** Don't forget to lend a hand! We all need to pitch in to set up the barns, clean up after the fun, and keep an eye on our animals.

**Animal tagging:** Make sure your market animals have their tags on the right dates. All male livestock need to be castrated before tagging – no exceptions! Tagging happens at the Armada Fairgrounds. Animals arriving at the fairgrounds without a tag will be rejected. If your animal loses its tag, call the Livestock Sale Subcommittee President or Vice President right away to get a new one. Remaining tagging dates are:

- Swine – 1st Sunday in June 8-10:30 a.m.
- Goat, Sheep & Prospect Beef - 1st Sunday in June 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- All Poultry & Rabbits – 3rd Sunday in July 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Questions? Reach out to Livestock Sale President Andy Roosa at (586) 665-0928.

**Bill Hahn Scholarship:** The Armada Agricultural Society sponsors the [Bill Hahn Memorial Scholarship](#) in memory of former president and longtime board member, Bill Hahn. The scholarship is awarded annually to two high school graduating seniors. The applicant must have been a volunteer, employee, open class exhibitor or Youth Organizations exhibitor at the Armada Fair to apply. This would include Miss Armada and her court.

[Applications](#) must be postmarked no later than April 15th and may be mailed to the Armada Agricultural Society, P.O. Box 507, Armada, MI 48005, dropped off at the Armada Fair Office during normal business hours or emailed to the fair office ([office@armadafair.org](mailto:office@armadafair.org)) by 11:59p.m. on April 15th. For more information, contact the Armada Fair office at 586-784-5488.

Source: January and February 2025 AAS Newsletters

## Statewide & National 4-H News & Events

### MSU Extension launches 2025 Global Voices Essay Contest with MSU Global Youth Advancement Network

The Global Voices Essay Contest offers a platform for young people around the world to advocate for their communities and share their opinions and stories about local and national challenges. Michigan students in grades 9-12, and young adults ages 18-24, are invited to share their own stories, reflections and visions by writing and submitting a 600-900-word essay focused on community (defined as the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences and ideas that shape our state). Sub-themes for the essay contest include shared natural resources, heritage and home, bridges of unity, innovation for the future and other.

A panel of MSU, MSU Extension, and Michigan 4-H judges will review and select the winning essays, which will be published on the MSU Global Youth Advancement Network website and receive cash prizes. The deadline for youth to submit their essay online is May 2. Find more information [here](#).





## Statewide & National 4-H News & Events (continued)

### Save the dates for these 4-H Shooting Sports events

[Spring 2025 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop](#) (May 3 and 4, 2025 at the Shiawassee Conservation Association, 4247 M-52, Owosso)

[2025 4-H Shooting Sports State Tournament](#) (August 2, 2025 at Saginaw Field and Stream, 1296 N. Gleaner Road, Saginaw)

### 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2026 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the 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 March 31. Learn more and apply [here](#).

### Registration is open for the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

Youth in grades 7-12 and their teachers/mentors may register to participate in the 2025 World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute between February 1 and March 15, 2025. The World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute is a Michigan State University pre-college program that empowers teens to explore and propose solutions to critical global challenges.

The event will be held May 8, 2024 with options to participate on the campus of MSU in East Lansing or via Zoom. There is no cost to participate in the WFP MIYI. For more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/)

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

4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one chaperone arriving in 2025; we are looking for families interested in opening their homes and hearts by hosting these individuals. Consider sharing the clover this summer and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime by hosting!

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids in mid-July and depart in mid-August, meeting host families for a 3.5-week stay. Online applications to host can be found [here](#).

For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn at [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).



### Citizenship Washington Focus

Are you interested in learning about our nation's history? Do you want to see how the government works at our Nation's Capital? Teens ages 14 to 19 are encouraged to join the Michigan 4-H delegation June 20-27 on this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Registration is coming soon. Cost is \$2500 per delegate. Please contact your county 4-H Program Coordinator to find out about local scholarships. Contact Liana Pepin at [deisenro@msu.edu](mailto:deisenro@msu.edu) for any program-specific questions.

### Michigan 4-H needs your input!

Michigan 4-H is conducting a survey to better understand the topics and educational approaches that best meet community needs. Your feedback will help us improve and enhance how Michigan 4-H serves families across the state.

Visit [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca) or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program. If you have questions regarding this survey, please reach out to Kathy Fischer at [fisch226@msu.edu](mailto:fisch226@msu.edu).





## Statewide & National 4-H News & Events (continued)

### Driven for the Future: Learn about automotive skilled trades & manufacturing careers

Rev up your career in 2025! Join MSU Extension for *Driven for the Future*, a five-part webinar series on **Automotive R&D Skilled Trades and Advanced Manufacturing Careers** and **Career-Building Skills** from January-May 2025. Sponsored by Toyota Research & Development, there's even an exclusive incentive for those who attend all five sessions! This program is FREE and open to all, though geared towards middle school students, high school students, and recent graduates.

Sessions include:

- April 10, 2025 at 6pm EST-Drive Success with Workplace Professionalism
- May 1, 2025 at 6pm EST- Engineer the Future with Careers in Integrated Vehicle Systems

Learn more about the series and register [here](#).



### Apply for 4-H State Awards by April 1st

The commitment you put into **“Making Your Best Better”** is significant. Through your 4-H experiences you are molding your future by growing your skills, becoming a leader, and serving your community. Your 4-H journey has required curiosity, determination, accountability, and dedication to learning and growth. Your efforts are commendable and deserve to be recognized with a Michigan 4-H State Award, the highest honor bestowed on a 4-H member.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is a hands-on learning experience that allows 4-H members to develop and practice “adulting” skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing. Applications and interviews are based on communicating your 4-H participation and learning experiences. Applicants are eligible to compete for cash prizes and be recognized for their 4-H involvement. 4-H members who meet the minimum application score are eligible for a \$50 scholarship toward their 4-H Exploration Days registration. The 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards will be presented during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18 at MSU.

Who: 4-H members 12-19 years old (on January 1)

[Submit an application here](#). The application deadline is April 1st. Find complete information on the Michigan [4-H State Awards website](#).

### Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan’s state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 16-18, 2025 in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on agriculture, civil rights, crime, law enforcement and corrections; education; energy, environment and natural resources; health and human services; and jobs and the economy.

The cost to register in 2025 is \$365, which includes most meals, materials, and lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. Learn more and register [here](#).





## Calendar of Events

### February 17

Macomb County offices are closed

### February 18

Michigan 4-H Horse Program Winter Webinar Series:  
Being a Better Boarder & Running a Boarding Facility  
6 p.m., online. Contact David Lindsay, [lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu), to register.

### February 21

[Last day to vote](#) for the 2025 Macomb County 4-H Fair Theme

### February 23 - CANCELLED

[4-H Meets Wolcott Farming 101: Dairy Cattle/Milk Exploration](#)  
1-3 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

### February 28

[Cash Composition Contest](#) essays due

### March 1

[Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin Center](#)  
MSU, East Lansing

### March 1-2

Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference  
MSU, East Lansing, details TBA

### March 3

[Adulting 101: Get it Together - Time & Organization Tips](#)  
5:30 p.m., online

### March 8

[4-H Spark & Share Summit](#)  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

### March 12

Michigan 4-H Horse Program Winter Webinar Series:  
From the Judges' Perspective: Showmanship  
6 p.m., online. Contact David Lindsay, [lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu), to register.

### March 15

2025 Macomb County 4-H Rabbit Clinic  
2 p.m., Wolcott Metropark Farm Center Greenhouse, Ray Township

### March 16-18

[4-H Capitol Experience](#)  
Lansing

### March 18

Macomb County Spring 4-H Leader Meet  
6:30-8 p.m., Camp Rotary, Ray Township

### March 20

[Driven for the Future: Rev up Your Future: Careers in Automotive Performance & Evaluation](#)  
6 p.m., online

### March 20

[4-H Exploration Days](#) registration begins  
7 p.m.

### March 24-27

[Spartan 4-H Spring Day Camp](#)  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, Thompson Family Resource Center, Warren

### March 26

Michigan 4-H Horse Program Winter Webinar Series:  
From the Judges' Perspective: Ranch Riding  
6 p.m., online. Contact David Lindsay, [lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu), to register.

### March 31

[Youth in Action Award](#) application deadline

### April 1

[State 4-H Awards application deadline](#)

### April 8

[Adulting 101: Wealth Building](#)  
5 p.m., online

### April 10

[Driven for the Future: Drive Success for Workplace Professionalism](#)  
6 p.m., online

### April 12

Spring 4-H Dog Workshop  
Commission on Aging, Mount Pleasant

### April 12-May 5

TSC Paper Clover Campaign  
Tractor Supply Company stores nationwide

### April 27

[Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers](#)  
1:30 p.m. game time, 4-H activities earlier, ticket link TBA  
Comerica Park, Detroit

### May 1

[Driven for the Future: Engineer the Future with Careers in Integrated Vehicle Systems](#)  
6 p.m., online

## 2025 4-H Exploration Days

Get ready! 4-H Exploration Days is June 18-20, 2025.  
Registration opens on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

At [4-H Exploration Days](#) at Michigan State University in East Lansing, youth ages 12-19 have the opportunity to live like a college student while exploring careers, build skills, meet youth from across the state and envision the future. This three-day pre-college program offers over 100 fun learning sessions.

The cost is \$250 per youth. A limited number of scholarships will be available. For more information, visit the [4-H Exploration Days](#) web page or contact Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator Nikki Knight at 586-469-5979 or [knightn9@msu.edu](mailto:knightn9@msu.edu).

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