

*Mecosta County*

4-H Family News

April 2020

Well where to begin for this month!! I never imagined things would be as they are right now. This is surely nothing I have ever experienced in my life. Its also I think nothing anyone has ever experienced.

Right now I am working hard on fair things and getting as much as I can in order for our 2020 Fair. I am so thankful for everyone and the help from so many of you. The support has been really appreciated by myself!!

I really wish the world was in a different place for everyone right now. I wish we could have our spring weigh in and I was doing programming in the schools. But I am accepting that I am not able to do any of this at this point. We will for sure make the best of everything and keep moving forward.

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather that is slowly coming our way. I cannot believe its already April!!!

Please everyone make sure you are keeping in touch with your leaders and spending this extra time we all have working with your animals and your record books.

Thanks everyone for all your support!!

Sincerely,
Mollie T. Hogg
Mecosta County MSU 4-H Program Coordinator

Announcements:

- * 4/3/2020 -4-H Senior Applications Due
- * 4/7/2020- 4-H Council Meeting Via Zoom @6:30pm
- * 4/8/2020- 4-H Trophy Sponsor Sheets Due
- * 4/9/2020- ALL SWINE, FEEDER, GOATS, SHEEP Photos and Forms DUE

Contact Us:

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[https://
www.mecostafreefair.co](https://www.mecostafreefair.co)



**Save the date for the
2020 4-H Spartan
Coding Camp!**



In collaboration with CodeNow, MSU Extension is excited to offer 4-H Spartan Coding Camp for the second time this summer. This five-day camp will bring high school-aged youth to the campus of MSU, June 28 - July 2.

Whether you have prior computer coding knowledge, or have never even thought about it, you will gain valuable coding skills at this fun STEM camp. Learn to develop and launch your own tech ideas; discover the essentials of web design and development; design and code an application from scratch; and attract users for your product! At the end of camp, you'll also be given a series of take-home activities that allow you to further your coding skills.

Registration will be open soon. For more information, visit [canr.msu.edu/4-h-spartan-](https://canr.msu.edu/4-h-spartan-coding-camp)

As novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to evolve, Michigan State University Extension remains focused on the health and wellbeing of its participants, volunteers and employees. Per university guidance, MSU Extension staff have been asked to find alternative delivery methods for all in-person activities scheduled through May 15. If a virtual method is not practical, the event must be canceled or postponed until after May 15 (at a minimum).

This applies to our Michigan 4-H volunteers and youth as well. You are encouraged to move upcoming events to an online format such as Zoom or Skype. If a virtual option is not practical, please postpone or cancel in-person 4-H meetings and activities scheduled between now and May 15.

Although face-to-face programs and events will not take place through May 15, MSU Extension will continue in its mission to serve communities. Visit the [Remote Learning and Resources online space](https://canr.msu.edu/rlr) at canr.msu.edu/rlr for a collection of online offerings that can be enjoyed from home, including resources for school closure activities.

Thank you for your support and understanding. Please contact your county 4-H program coordinator with any questions or concerns.

Upcoming 4-H Events and Workshops

April 1 –10: Lunch and Learn Lecture Series

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/672412960>

Youth can enjoy a short 45-minute online lecture from animal science experts each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Topics and speakers vary each day.

April 1—3: MSU Extension's Family Yoga with Kylie

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/761734640>

Join each weekday from 9:30—10 a.m. for 30 minutes of yoga, breathing and mindfulness.

April 1, 7, 8 & 14: Credit Craze—Basics of Credit for Youth

<https://bit.ly/2y75S5n>

These short one-hour interactive webinars will give youth a basic foundation on credit and resources to learn more. You'll also learn how you can use the knowledge learned to take part in the 4-H Show Your Money Smarts Contest!

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

*Save the date for
4-H Great Lakes and
Natural Resources
Camp!*

The 2020 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp will be held August 2-8 at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle County.

Youth ages 13 to 15 will explore dunes, hike forest trails, wade through wetlands, fish, snorkel and sail on Lake Huron while educators and scientists teach them about the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The cost for this camp is \$410 for current 4-H youth. Registration will be available soon. Learn more at canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.



4-H Renewable Energy Camp

From July 6–10, 2020, the 4-H Renewable Energy Camp will take place at Michigan State University (MSU). This five-day pre-college program is available to youth ages 13-15 who are interested in exploring ideas, research and opportunities related to renewable energy.

During this camp, the youth will visit labs that are conducting renewable energy research, renewable energy companies that think outside the box, and farms that are using renewable energy to remain profitable. The interactive camp will engage youth in experiments, questions and conversations focused on the application of solar radiation into electricity. The culmination of the week will be youth teams designing solutions for incorporating solar energy into real-life applications.

The cost for this camp is \$280 for 4-H youth. Registration is available until April 15. Learn more and apply at canr.msu.edu/4_h_renewable_energy_camp/.

Michigan 4-H #DareToServeChallenge to be issued in April as part of the national 4-H True Leaders in Service

Every day, 4-H'ers are rolling up their sleeves in service as they lead positive change that empowers their peers and their communities. This April, 4-H is again launching the annual True Leaders in Service initiative to unite 4-H members across the country in making a collective positive impact in their communities. Though the novel coronavirus situation may limit traditional in-person service activities, 4-H'ers are encouraged to think about ways they can lend a helping hand in their communities.



As in year's past, Michigan 4-H'ers goal for 2020 remains the same: to have at least one 4-H-led community service project in each of Michigan's 83 counties during the month of April!

Are you ready to make sure that 4-H in your county meets the goal? Here's how you can participate:

- During the month of April, work on your own or join with others (in your home or virtually), to plan a service project in your community that you think will make a positive difference. Here are a few ideas you can do from your own home to get you started:
 - Write cards or notes to members of a senior center or nursing home who can no longer receive visitors at this time.
 - Sew masks for healthcare workers.
 - Help raise money or resources for organizations in need.
- Register your project and add it to the map showing all the community service projects taking place in Michigan at: www.4-h.org/true-leaders-in-service.
- After you complete your service project, share it on social media and tag a Michigan 4-H friend to whom you want to issue the Michigan 4-H Dare to Serve Challenge! Use the hashtags #MI4H #DareToServeChallenge and #TrueLeaders to connect with others who are making a difference.
- If someone is issued the Dare to Serve challenge, but chooses not to complete a community service activity, they can choose to offer their support instead by making a donation to Michigan 4-H at <https://mi4hfdtn.org/donate> or <https://givingto.msu.edu>.



THIS IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SWINE PARTICIPANTS IN MECOSTA COUNTY THAT IS SHOWING SWINE and counts as a educational requirement!!!!

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21. The program is designed to provide a minimum 60 minutes of education each year. There are three ways to earn YQCA certification. Three ways to earn YQCA certification – web-based training, instructor-led training, or test-out. Learn more about how to get your YQCA certification here.

- Web-based Training Certification
- Instructor-led Training Certification
- Test-out Certification

YQCA is the result of a collaborative effort between states that have previously offered multi-species youth livestock quality assurance programs, the National Pork Board's Youth PQA Plus program and representatives from other national livestock groups.

YQCA is designed as an annual education and certification program focused on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness for youth ages 8 to 21 producing and/or showing pigs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, market rabbits, and poultry. The program has been designed by extension specialists and national livestock program managers to ensure it is accurate, current and relevant to the needs of the animal industry and shows and is appropriate for youth.

Any youth in the United States will have access to the online YQCA program and to certification through these [implementation options](#). YQCA in-person trainings may be available to youth where state 4-H or FFA associations, or state/national livestock organizations have partnered with qualified instructors to offer these trainings. If your organization would like to offer in-person trainings for youth livestock producers, email info@yqca.org.

YQCA launched in March of 2017, and is accepted at a number of shows across the United States. If your show is interested in learning more about YQCA to determine if it is suitable to meet your quality assurance requirements, please use the Contact Us page or please email info@yqca.org.



Mecosta County Jr Livestock

Mecosta County Junior Livestock members, who are intending to show and sell a market animal project at the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair.

Are ALL required to fulfill either a minimum of two educational requirements each year or you are allowed 5 hours of community service and also attend 1 Jr. Livestock Meeting

**Just please keep in mind these are the meetings that are left:
May 18, 2020- June 15, 2020**



Livestock Learning

Online Series

Starts April 9th at 7 p.m.

Join Us every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. for a different topic. Pre-Register to receive the meeting link!

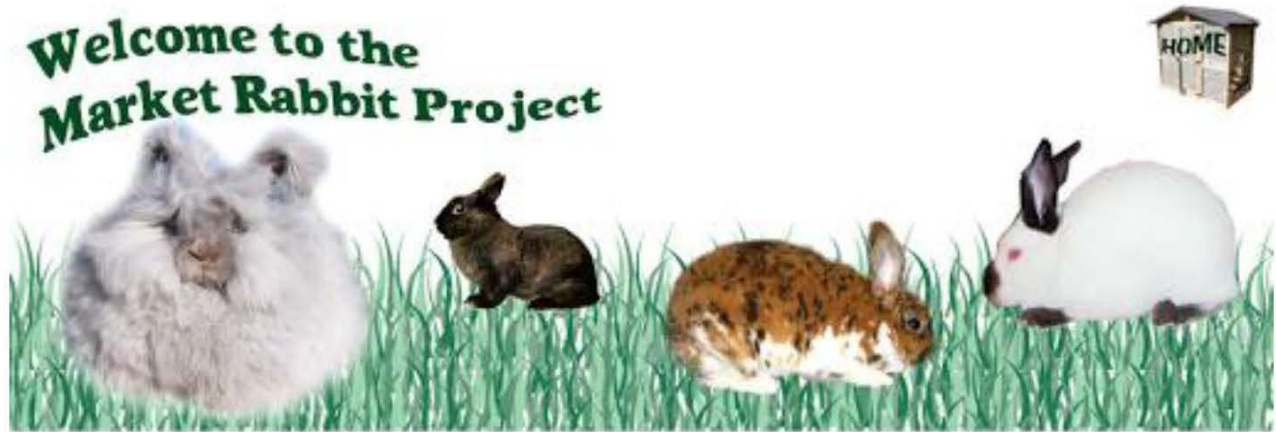
 **4-H GROWS HERE**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Attention all Market Rabbit Participant's

Important dates to remember!!!!



**Market Rabbits should be bred the first week of April
for our 2020 Fair**

**May 4th is when the rabbit's should be born
May 18th is when the 2 week pictures are due
June 15th 6 week pictures will be due**

MECOSTA COUNTY 4-H POULTRY DATES



* MARCH 10/11- TURKEY POULTS
ARRIVE

* APRIL 17TH MARKET CHICKEN
ORDERS DUE

* MAY 17TH HATCH DATE FOR
MARKET CHICKS ORDERS ARRIVE
THIS WEEK

* MAY 15TH-17TH FAMILY FARM &
HOME CHICK DAYS FOR MECOSTA
COUNTY 4-H