

*Mecosta County*

4-H Family News

March 2020

Good Morning everyone!! As the winter months are flying by its hard to believe we are close to 4 month's away to this years 2020 Mecosta County Fair. As I was at the fairgrounds a few days ago seeing all the snow piled up its hard to believe we are that close. I am looking forward to the warmer months and seeing all the kids and the laughter at them quiet grounds.

Hopefully everyone is getting their animals lined up for this years Spring Weigh in that is approaching quickly. The beef and dairy kids hopefully your working hard with the cattle and getting them all ready. I know its always a tough time to do when the weather is miserable. But make sure to keep up the good work!!

I'm very excited to be leaving here in a few days for 2 weeks for Belize. I am looking forward to seeing 4-H from a whole new level. Also looking forward to bringing back new ideas for our county. I cant wait to share all of the experiences with you all when I get back.

Hope you all have a great month. Please make sure to check out some upcoming deadlines. Thanks everyone!!

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

Announcements:

- * March 1st– MSU 4-H Basketball Game at the Breslin Center—East Lansing
- * March 2nd-20th– Mollie will be out of the office (feel free to email me)
- * March 5th– Exploration Days Registrations due to the office by 4:30pm
- * March 10th– 12th- Turkeys will be at Big Rapid Farm and Garden (you will be called when they arrive)
- * March 10th– Horse Leaders Meeting @7pm at the MCSB
- * March 16th– Jr Livestock Meeting @7pm at the MCSB
- * March 22nd– 28th National Ag Week
- * March 29th- March Community Service Event @ MCSB 1-3pm

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www.canr.msu.edu/
mecosta/4-h/forms-
records](https://www.canr.msu.edu/mecosta/4-h/forms-records)

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



4-H STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



Pay it Fourward with JOANN Fabrics

From March 1—April 30, you can support 4-H by visiting your local JOANN store and adding a donation to 4-H at the register.

The funds donated will support the 4-H program with 50% going back to local 4-H programming and 20% supporting Michigan 4-H.

To find out more information about this donation visit <https://bit.ly/38U22Kw>.

4-H Events and Workshops

March 7: 2020 Michigan 4-H Dog Project Leader and Youth Workshop

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

This event is for youth, ages 8 to 19, and 4-H dog project leaders to build their knowledge and skill in understanding dog care, management and training topics.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-dog-project-leader-and-youth-workshop>

March 14: Michigan 4-H Embryology Staff, Teacher and Volunteer Training

Alcona EMS Station, Harrisville

This training is designed for educators who would like to learn how to implement an embryology program through classroom activities or 4-H SPIN clubs.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-embryology-staff-teacher-and-volunteer-training-alcona-county>

March 21: Montcalm County Fun Goat Show

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville

This is a fun and educational goat show for ages five to adult. Also included is a market and fiber hands-on educational class and a goat cart demonstration.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/montcalm-county-fun-goat-show>

March 25: Credit Craze - Basics of Credit for Youth

Online webinar

This short one hour interactive webinar will give youth a basic foundation on credit and resources to learn more.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/credit-craze-basics-of-credit-for-youth-march-26>

March 28: Norma Agnew Memorial 4-H Hairy Horse Show

Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, Lansing

This interactive horse show will have judges using microphones and giving on-the-spot feedback to exhibitors. This event is free for all spectators.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/norma-agnew-memorial-4-h-hairy-horse-show>

April 4: 4-H Day at the Red Wings

Little Caesars Arena, Detroit

Michigan 4-H youth, families and friends are invited to cheer on the Red Wings. For every ticket purchased, \$5 will go back to your county 4-H program.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-red-wings>



Share your photo and support 4-H with Manna Pro!

From February 1 – April 30, Manna Pro is hosting a contest to build a 4-H picture mosaic online. Those pictures are integrated into tiny pieces to make a larger photo.

At the conclusion of the contest, Manna Pro will be providing the top three state 4-H programs with prizes of \$6,000, \$3,000, and \$1,000. Winners will be determined based on the number of photos uploaded in relation to the state's total population.

4-H members, supporters, and friends can upload pictures of their pet or animal to Manna Pro's contest site. In return, they will receive \$50 in coupons and help increase their state's chances at taking home a cash prize!

To learn more or participate, visit www.mannapro.com/4h.



4-H Exploration Days registration opening March 10

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan 4-H's largest pre-college program and could be the highlight of your summer—maybe even change your life! Registration for this popular event will open March 10 and is open to any Michigan 4-H'er above the age of 11 as of Jan. 1.

4-H Exploration Days is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Michigan 4-H youth who participate

have the opportunity to stay in MSU campus residence halls while attending classroom and field trip sessions throughout their stay.

With more than 200 session choices held on and off campus, there are topics for everyone including animal science, business and entrepreneurship, international language and culture, performing and visual arts, and science, engineering, and technology. During the 2019 4-H Exploration Days, nearly 2,000 youth attended and they gained important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication.

Registration will be available beginning March 10 at 9 a.m. All registration information should be turned in to your county's Extension office, typically by the end of April. Check with your local 4-H program coordinator for your specific county date or visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days for more information.

Celebrate Money Smart Week with 4-H Money Smarts contests

Money Smart Week is April 4-11 and to celebrate, you can win cash for you and your county 4-H program! Youth ages 13-19 have

the opportunity to participate in the second annual Show Your Money Smarts Contest. During this contest, youth will learn how to use credit wisely through an online challenge. High-scoring youth will be entered into a cash prize drawing for themselves and counties with 10 or more youth participants will be eligible to receive \$50 for their county 4-H program. Make sure to register by April 16!

Students in fifth through eighth grade also have the opportunity to participate in the Money Smart Kids Essay Contest. In partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Detroit Branch, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking youth to answer this year's Money Smart question for a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. To participate, youth will share what they know about predatory lenders, why people use them, what the negative consequences are, and how to avoid these types of financial risks. Essays should be 300 words or less and be submitted by March 29.

To learn more about both contests, including official rules, registration links and resources for completing the contests, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/>.



Mecosta County Junior Livestock Association Agenda

Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Mecosta County Service Building

7:01 PM Open Meeting

Executive Board Roll Call (Present, Absent, Excused)

President Lauren Marfio: Here
 Vice President Ruthie Doughty: Here
 Secretary Sadie Metcalf: Here
 Treasurer Cody Skinner: Here
 Adult Advisor Doug Richard: Absent
 Adult Advisor Tiffany Spedowski: Here

Pledges were recited

Reports

Secretary- Sadie

Mackenzie makes a motion to approve the secretary minutes, Addie seconds, motion approved.

Treasurer- Cody: Auction - \$13,304.69. Jr. Livestock - \$16,419.14.

Cannot move auction to Jr. Livestock because still one check hasn't been cashed. Addie makes a motion to approve treasurer report, Chloe seconds, motion passes.

MSU Extension-

White board names- please see Mollie after meeting if your name is on the whiteboard Mollie has things she needs to give to you.

Schedule- Mollie is back to going school and is in Lansing Tuesdays and Thursdays until 10 o'clock and is in the office at noon.

Club Signatures Needed- She will get these from you guys.

Expo Days, State Awards, Vet Science Camp- all on the same week this year. Talk to Mollie if you have issues or questions with it. Expo days registration is March 10th. Dates are on the back of the agenda to refer to. State awards has a meeting this Sunday at 3:30 after the community service here in MCSB if you would like to attend.

Fairboard-

Steve- Nothing new.

Superintendents-

Rabbits: Julie, Venus- Nothing new.

Poultry- Jennifer, Mary Jo- Start thinking about Turkey orders, will be ordering through Mecosta County Extension office if you would like. They will be picked up at Big Rapids Farm and Garden if you order through Mecosta County Extension. Turkeys should be 18 weeks. New class added called Decorated Egg, more information coming

Goats- Darcie, Pat- Excused as their grandchild was born today.

Sheep- Faith- Think about where you are getting your lambs from. Faith's husband is building a show ring in her yard in the Spring and if you have questions on how to show get ahold of her!

Cattle- Jenn, Stacy- Feeder weigh in is coming up and cannot be over 300 pounds! Start looking for calves!

Swine- Tracy- Start looking at getting pigs lined up, pigs should be born anytime now. April 9th is the registration at 4:30pm. PQA/YQCA is still under watch.

Horses- Jamie, Linda- Horses are not here.

Old Business

Canopy/Tent-

Last meeting we talked about buying one or renting, it is in our budget to keep renting it. Any discussion. Mackenzie makes a motion to keep renting the tent, Chloe seconds. Motion passes.

Show Scheduling- Fair Dates: July 12th- July 18th

Show schedule is finished, remember there are some changes.

Education/Community Service- Logs

Remember 2 educational OR 5 hours of community service. Community Service opportunity every month.

Mecosta County websites for newsletters:

www.mecostafreefair.com & Mecosta County Facebook Page &

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/mecosta/4-h/forms-records>

Fair Checks, Premium Checks

There is still one person who hasn't cashed their check.

Beef Ultra Sounding

Last meeting we tabled this. Seth is willing to sponsor and organize it all, last year we paid \$311.50 to ultrasound 25 steers.

Discussing if Jr. Livestock should still pay for it, or a member who wants to do it pays \$10 to do it if they want. Club discussion. Club vote – motion passes that individuals will pay \$10 a head for beef ultra sounding and it is optional.

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New Business

Youth Superintendents- Lauren- See Back of Page for Links to apply.

Lauren is starting to do youth superintendents that will shadow the adult superintendents and will help with record books, and such. Must be 4H age of 12 or older, can only be one species superintendents, apply by February 1st. Mollie and Superintendents will pick the winner.

Spring Weigh-In Date: April 11, 2020- 8am – 11am- Tags, Swine Pictures, Registration Forms

Tags will be at weigh in or before \$2 each. **Swine pictures and registration are during April 9th, 4:30pm.**

Photographer For Fair:

Courtney Cotter gave us a big that all leaders have. We are still waiting on Wise photography bid.

Community Service Events: Feb, March, April, May- Adopt a Highway Program. Sunday is the clothing drive, get Mollie clothes if you want to donate them, they will be donated to the Salvation Army. Mollie has asked clubs to come up with Community Service ideas. We have also adopted the last road in the county. In April we will be doing a trash pick up on the highway.

Committee Reports

Trophy- Sweatshirt Colors for 2020: Kelly Green and Grey- More info to come.

The only thing that is set in stone are colors. Sponsorships are given to people within the committee that must find these sponsorships.

Budget- Completed for 2019-2020- Please email Mollie if you would like a copy. hoggmoll@msu.edu

Budget is finalized all except the beef ultrasound are finalized.

Handbook/By Laws- Voting

2 changes were made in handbook. Commission and goat Breedstock wear. Mackenzie makes a motion to approve the handbook and by-laws, Chloe seconds, motion approves.

Record Books- picking up and any discussion

Record books were approved. Notebooks you must pick up in the office, but market pages will be online. If you have never completed a notebook start with #1, if you have completed notebooks continue where you have left off. There must be a notebook for every animal shown, and then a market book according to species must be completed as well. These will be turned in on July 1st, weights will be estimated. Books will be done and graded before fair week. Next JLA meeting record books should be available.

Auction Dinner- Discussion

2 bids were given to Mollie. Abbey Sellers, and Ferris both gave us bids. We have \$4000 allotted for the dinner in the budget. The auction dinner will be set up by youth members this year. Club discussion – Club Vote – Country Fresh will be catering our auction dinner.

Sweepstakes- Judges have been chosen.

Roll Call: everybody is present.

Announcements: See Back

Next meeting: March 16, 2020 @ 7pm MCSB-(This meeting will be led by our Executive Board Members. I plan to do my best on zooming this meeting. Just depends with the time difference and my internet capabilities in Belize)

Adjourn @ 8:00pm Mackenzie makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chloe seconds, motion passes.

4-H Exploration Days Information:

6

June 24-26, 2020

Michigan State University

This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life! About 2,500 youth (ages 11-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually.

4-H Exploration Days registration goes from mid-March through April with session assignments made on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration deadlines, usually the end of April, but can vary by county, so check with your county MSU Extension office. As you select your session choices, be sure to watch for age restrictions! Age requirements for sessions are based on your age as of January 1.

Registration Book

The 2020 registration book and forms will be available late February-early March, 2020

Activity Guide

The 2020 Activity Guide will be available mid-May 2020

- Increase responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase communication, team work, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.

Increase college exploration and access to the [Michigan State University](https://www.msu.edu/) campus and its resources.

- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

Give youth opportunities to try things that aren't available in their county.

Youth must be age 11 by January 1 in order to attend. All participants must submit their forms and payments to the county MSU Extension office (forms are at the back of the registration book).

If you need to obtain contact information of your county 4-H staff, visit: <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/> and click on your county name. The county 4-H staff there will process your registration and payment with the State MSU Extension/4-H office. County 4-H staff manage the recruitment, chaperone and orientation process.





**THIS IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SWINE PARTICIPANTS IN
MECOSTA COUNTY THAT IS SHOWING SWINE!!!!**

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 4-H
MARCH 2020
COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

PEANUT BUTTER
&
JELLY DRIVE

Sunday March 29, 2020 | 1-3 pm.
MSU Extension Office
Or you can donate all month long!!!!

DONATE
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
TO BE DELIVERED TO CHILDREN ALL
OVER
MECOSTA COUNTY

18 oz or under and NO GLASS PLEASE
Everything will be given to Angels of Action
here in Big Rapids MI.





Mecosta County Jr Livestock

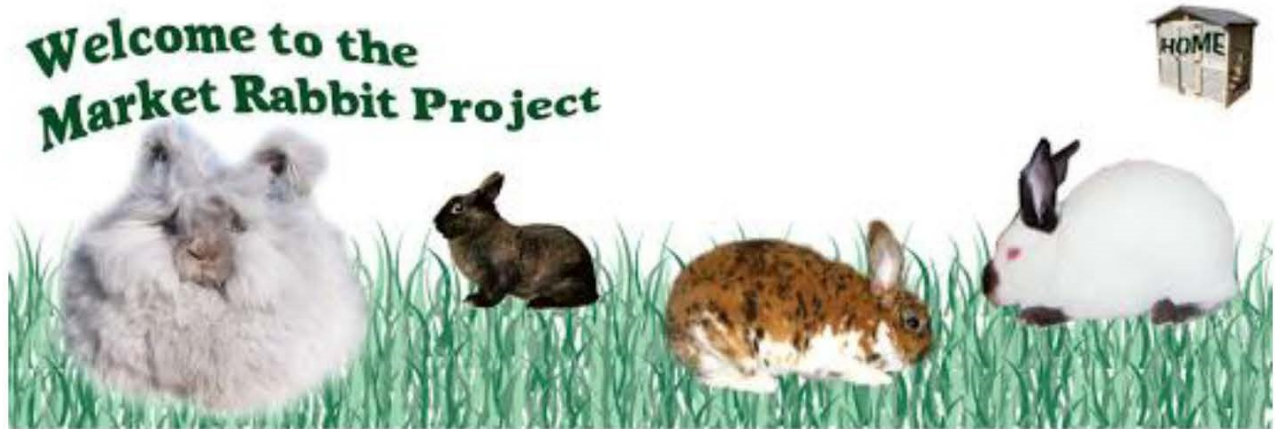
Mecosta County Junior Livestock members, who are intending to show and sell a market animal project at the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair.

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

**(that does not include the post fair and pre fair meetings)
Just please keep in mind these are the meetings that are left:
January 13, 2020 - March 16, 2020 - May 18, 2020**

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

2020 SPRING WEIGH-IN

Sheep, Goats & Dairy Feeders

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!! THIS
DOES FALL ON EASTER WEEKEND!! SO
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO PLAN AHEAD!!**

**Spring Weigh-in will be on
April 11, 2020**

At the Fairgrounds from 8am-11am

**Ear-Tags will be there for
purchase!!! \$2.00 a piece please
bring exact change!!**

