

*Mecosta County*

# 4-H Family News

April 2020

Happy May everyone!! Hard to believe we are already into our spring months. Somedays time seems to be slipping by so quickly. But for me the days seem to be long. Not sure how everyone else has been feeling.

Hopefully everyone is doing well staying healthy and enjoying lots of time outdoors. Right now is a GREAT time to be working with them animals.

I know the school work is hard at home right now and the kids not being able to see their friends isn't easy. But hopefully soon this will pass.

Really looking forward to seeing everyone. I love the pictures that get posted on the club's pages and for everyone who texts or sends me pictures. It makes me SO HAPPY!! Those pictures always make me smile!! So thanks everyone!! I miss you all so much!! Take care!!

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

## Announcements:

- \* 5/1 Horse Registrations due to Nikki Simcoe
- \* Market Rabbits should be born the week of May 4th
- \* 5/5 4-H Council via zoom 6:30pm
- \* 5/6 via zoom 7pm Mecosta County 4-H Leaders, Superintendents Meeting
- \* 5/11 Horse Leaders meeting via zoom 7pm
- \* 5/15 Poultry, Horse, Rabbit, Cloverbud Registrations Due to Mollie
- \* 5/18 2 week Market Rabbit Pictures due please email them to Mollie
- \* 5/18 Mecosta County Jr. Livestock Meeting via zoom 7pm.

## Contact Us:

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County

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[https://  
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:

-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/>.

### 4-H Events and Workshops

Dj

May 1: Virtual Tack Cleaning Party

Online Zoom

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

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/virtual-tack-cleaning-party>

May 4: Tik Tok Dances with H&H

Online Zoom

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!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/tik-tok-dances-with-h-h-may-4>

May 7: Adulting 101 Series- Spending Plan

Online Zoom

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.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mayseries-spendingplan>

May 7: Ocean Explorers with Madison

Online Zoom

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.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ocean-explorers-with-madison-may-7>

May 12: MSU Extension's Family Yoga with Kylie

Online Zoom

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

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extensions-family-yoga-with-kylie-may-12>

May 14: Ocean Explorers with Madison

Online Zoom

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.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ocean-explorers-with-madison-may-14>



### 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).



### 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 to-

gether, we can help to address this need and more.

The newly launched Michigan 4-H Mask Project website ([extension.msu.edu/MI4HMask](http://extension.msu.edu/MI4HMask)) 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 [kretsch11@msu.edu](mailto:kretsch11@msu.edu) or Gary Williams at [will1009@msu.edu](mailto:will1009@msu.edu).

### 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](http://extension.msu.edu/Online4MI)) with online programs, so be sure to visit the site frequently.





**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@yqca.org).

# **MECOSTA COUNTY JR.LIVESTOCK MEETING**

**PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR CLUB  
MEMBERS!!**

**WE WILL BE HAVING OUR MAY 18, 2020  
MEETING AT 7PM.**

**VIA ZOOM!!!**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO GET REGISTERED  
FOR YOUR REQUIREMENT!!!**

**REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS WEBINAR:**

**[HTTPS://MSU.ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/WN\\_FM3SVZ  
WZSOISPL34UFKSTG](https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/wn_fm3svz_wzsoispl34ufkstg)**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ATTEND THIS IF YOU STILL NEED A JR.  
LIVESTOCK MEETING TO BE ABLE TO SELL THIS YEAR AT THE  
2020 FAIR!!!!**





## *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 via Zoom - June 15, 2020 via Zoom**

# **MECOSTA COUNTY 4-H**

# **POULTRY DATES**

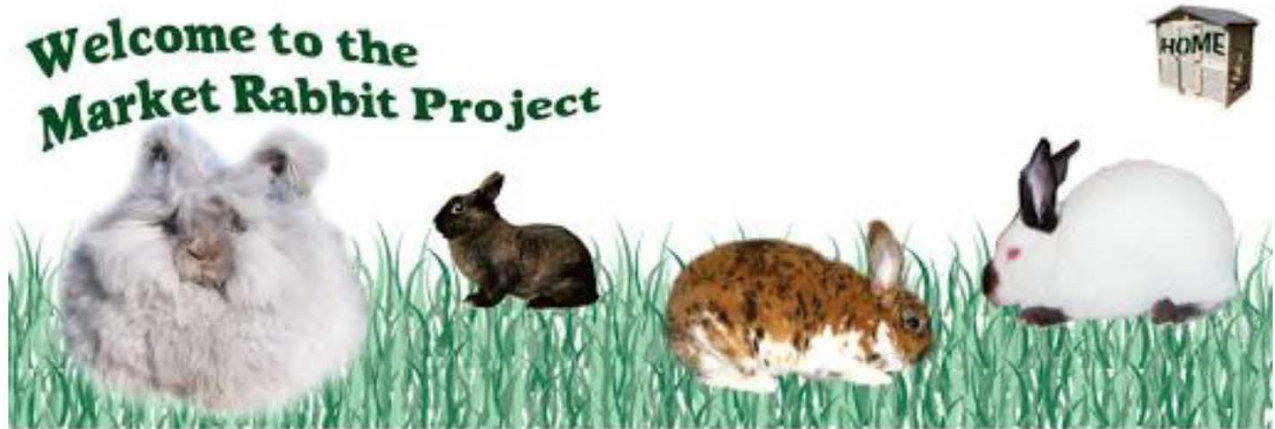


**\* MAY 17TH HATCH DATE FOR  
MARKET CHICKS ORDERS ARRIVE  
THIS WEEK**

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

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





## Michigan 4-H Programming Recommendations with Consideration of Fair Partners

*Prepared by Michigan State University Extension at the request of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. This guidance is current as of April 24, 2020.*

### Background

MSU Extension understands the importance of local fairs to countless Michiganders. Fair boards and fair management have been long-standing partners with our local 4-H programs, and we look forward to building on those relationships in new and exciting ways.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, MSU Extension and our 4-H staff members are dedicated to creating numerous virtual opportunities so youth can continue learning and developing their 4-H projects in a safe environment. This includes helping design online fair experiences that can be adapted to local situations and traditions. MSU Extension's first priority is the health and safety of 4-H youth and their families, staff members and their families, and the communities where we live and work. Therefore, using guidance from the university, and the most current science available, we have modified, postponed or canceled all in-person events until AT LEAST September 1, 2020.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Is there a possibility to revisit the timing?

- No. MSU Extension leadership did not come to this decision lightly. Many factors were taken into consideration, and though heartbreaking, we stand behind the decision to modify, cancel or postpone all Michigan 4-H in-person events until after September 1, 2020 to ensure the safety of our participants, volunteers and staff.

#### Will MSU Extension consider making county-by-county decisions?

- No. MSU Extension can best support all county fairs by focusing on creating the most comprehensive virtual experience possible.

#### If a fair continues to plan for an in-person fair, can they still use 4-H in their name?

- 4-H can be used in the name of a fair if it has been previously documented as part of the fair's identity. However, 4-H may not be used in youth shows and classes, and 4-H membership cannot be a requirement for participation.

#### May the fair still use the 4-H name and emblem on signs and other fixtures currently in place on the fairgrounds?

- Permanent signage on the grounds may stay without alteration (i.e., they do not need to be removed or covered). New signage that indicates 4-H participation or 4-H organized efforts should not be installed. Temporary signage carrying the 4-H emblem that is only installed for fair purposes cannot be used.

**To contact an expert in your area, visit [extension.msu.edu/experts](https://extension.msu.edu/experts) or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)**

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. April 24, 2020, 11:15 a.m.



**Do you have guidelines for revising fair books that contain the 4-H name and emblem?**

- Fair books that have already been produced do not need to be reprinted; however, clarification should be made to exhibitors. 4-H cannot be used in conjunction with in-person judging, classes or livestock auctions, and MSU Extension staff members cannot take part in in-person activities.

**What are the repercussions/potential legal actions against a fair that uses the 4-H emblem as it historically has?**

- The 4-H name and emblem may still be used on permanent signage and in the fair name as appropriate, (see previous statement).

**May fair partners use 4-H equipment (e.g., gates, scales, horse jumps, computer hardware and software) to support an in-person youth fair?**

- No. MSU Extension does not support the use of equipment that belongs to Michigan 4-H at in-person fair activities until after September 1, 2020.

**May 4-H clubs host booths or other activities during the fair?**

- No. 4-H in-person programs or activities may not occur until September 1, 2020.

**May fair leadership organize youth exhibits or other in-person fair activities by a 4-H club?**

- Fair management can organize exhibits at their discretion.

**May MSU Extension staff and volunteers partner and collaborate with the fair to prepare for a virtual experience?**

- Yes, MSU Extension is happy to help fair leadership create a virtual fair.

**Can MSU Extension staff members and volunteers partner and assist fair partners who are planning an in-person experience?**

- No.

**Can MSU Extension staff disseminate information about in-person events to 4-H audiences?**

- No. MSU Extension does not support in-person events until September 1, 2020

**Can 4-H funds be used to support youth classes that were once planned as 4-H classes?**

**Examples include ribbons and awards that may include the 4-H name and emblem.**

- Only ribbons and awards purchased prior to April 15, 2020, can be used at a 2020 fair. After that date, 4-H funds that were raised for the purpose of supporting 4-H events cannot be used to purchase items for a 2020 fair.

**Can funds raised in the name of 4-H be used by the fair to purchase new ribbons and awards for an in-person fair?**

- No. Federal regulation prohibit the use of funds raised in the name of 4-H for 4-H activities to be used by another entity or in the name of another entity.

**Will the MSU Extension 4-H American Income Life insurance policy cover 4-H youth who are participating in an event or activity that is not sponsored by MSU Extension?**

- No. Coverage will still exist when they participate in MSU Extension events. However, in-person activities that occur before September 1, 2020, will not be considered MSU Extension or 4-H events. This includes pre- and post-fair events such as group workouts, facility setup and cleanup, etc.

**Can 4-H staff and volunteers share personal contact information about 4-H volunteers, clubs and youth with fairs or other partners?**

- No. MSU Extension staff members are not permitted to release 4-H mailing lists or any other records containing the names of and personal information about 4-H program participants.

**Can 4-H members join other county programs in order to participate in a fair (if the fair is after September 1)?**

- MSU Extension does not encourage it, but it is a local decision based on county 4-H and county fair rules.

**Can a fair organize the judging and exhibition of still exhibits in 4-H classes at an in-person fair if materials are mailed, etc.?**

- No.

**If 4-H youth and clubs are participating in virtual fair activities, may the fair pay the youth/club premiums?**

- Yes.

**Will 4-H consider adding on a year for 4-H youth that would have aged out after 2020?**

- No. Our 4-H age policy will not change. MSU Extension is committed to creating virtual experiences that will ensure that young people aging out still have a great final-year experience.

### **Additional Questions**

For more information, contact your local 4-H program coordinator or:

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Michigan 4-H Youth Program Leader  
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