



Mecosta County

4-H Family News

February 2022

Hello 4-H Families!

Happy February Everyone! Do we think we will have winter for an additional 6 weeks or will it end early this year? It will be interesting to see if the groundhog sees his shadow or not.

In this newsletter, you will find great information on a new class that is being offered in the Poultry project as well as some fun workshops that may benefit your 4-H year. If you have a friend or two who may like 4-H just as much as you, they can still enroll online.

We would also love to have a few more volunteers to partake in the great year we are going to have in 2022. I would like to create a SPIN club or two this year. Some examples of SPIN club topics are cake decorating, forestry, and genealogy. If you or someone you know would like to lead a SPIN club on a special interest topic, please contact the office.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Myers

4-H Program Coordinator

P.S. Don't forget to "Like" Mecosta County 4-H's new Facebook page where fun activities and up-to-date information will be shared.

Contact Us



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Unique Holidays in February

- February 2nd—Ground Hog Day
- February 4th—Bubble Gum Day
- February 5th—Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- February 7th—Send a Card to a Friend Day
- February 9th—National Pizza Day
- February 11th—Make A Friend Day
- February 17th—Random Acts of Kindness Day
- February 20th—Love Your Pet Day

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February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>4-H Council Meeting</i> 6:30 PM @ MCSB	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Back Road Country Kids Meeting</i> @ 5 PM	7	8 <i>Horse Leaders Committees Meeting</i> 6:30 PM @ MCSB	9	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>Jr. Fair Board Meeting</i> 6:30 PM @ MCSB	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

TURKEY ORDERS! TURKEY ORDERS!



It is time to start planning your turkey order for the upcoming 2022 Mecosta County Fair. This year, everyone will be responsible for placing their own order and payment as no formal group order will be made like previous years. A March 7th, 2022 hatch date is a guideline (18 weeks from Fair) but the only requirement is that turkeys fall between 20 and 40 pound weight limits at the Fair. You may purchase from anywhere but Mary Jo has confirmed availability at two Big Rapids locations. See image above for locations and specifics on turkey orders. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

NEW! Market Duck Project

A new project is being offered in the poultry world of Mecosta County—MARKET DUCK. Participation in duck showmanship will be required to participate in this new class. The project will be a single market duck that must weigh between 7 and 12 pounds at weigh in (approximately 8 weeks old). Common market breeds are Pekin, Muscovy, Alyesbury, or Rouen. Reach out to the Poultry Superintendents with any questions you may have about this new class.



Animal & Vet Science Sampler
4-H Volunteer & Teen Leader Workshop

February 12, 2022 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 MSU Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center
 3775 S Reese Rd, Frankenmuth, MI
 Hosted by MSU Extension Districts 9 & 10
 Registration (\$25 includes lunch)
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/animalsciencefeb/>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H clubs are ready to stretch their legs and get back to what we do best—hands-on youth education. If your club’s volunteers and teen leaders are looking for new ideas and activities to incorporate into your club meetings, District 9 & 10 4-H staff will be hosting a series of workshops for volunteers and teen leaders on various topics throughout spring 2022. Science, communication, critical thinking, responsibility, marketing—just a few of the skills youth gain through 4-H animal science projects. Attend this workshop that will include sessions on animal nutrition, care, evaluation, marketing, and more!

Registration deadline 2/7/22 at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/animalsciencefeb/>. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch.

4-H Exploration Days **June 22-24, 2022**

Registration will be open Spring of 2022.

What's It All About?

About 2,000 youth (ages 12-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually. This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life!

4-H Exploration Days registration goes from mid-March through April with session assignments made on a first-come, first-served basis. 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.**

This MSU pre-college program is designed to:

- 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](#) 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.

What's it like?

- There'll be more than 100 session choices held on and off campus. You'll choose two or three for your three-day stay.
- You'll live in a Michigan State University dorm and eat in the cafeteria—just like MSU students do.
- Sessions are taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members and other experts.
- It's not all sessions! There's plenty of time for fun, including skating, souvenir shopping, exploring, bowling, basketball—even a great dance Thursday night. The 2022 cost is \$220. For more information please see the [Registration Information](#) page.
- The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. You may wish to check with your county MSU Extension office to see if scholarship funds are available.
- Registration opens Spring 2022. Registration books that show all of the sessions and details on everything happening during Exploration Days will be available online and from county Extension offices in March.
- Registration deadlines (usually the end of April) vary by county, so check with your county MSU Extension office. Don't wait until the deadline though, because popular sessions fill up fast!

Contact the 4-H staff in your [county MSU Extension office](#) for more information on 4-H Exploration Days, and any specific details pertaining to your county's delegation.

COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines: Michigan 4-H Exploration Days will be following specific COVID-19 guidelines and protocols for participant well-being. For more information, review the [Overnight Event Participant Agreement and Acknowledgement of Risk](#) which all participants will be required to agree to prior to attending the event.

2021 Skillathon

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What is the Skillathon?

A comprehensive test of your knowledge about all things agriculture, especially livestock! Participants will complete multiple choice questions in the areas of:

- Beef, Horses, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, Goats, Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, and General Knowledge (Animal Care & Well-Being, Tools, Crops, Biosecurity, etc.).

Who is eligible to compete?

Compete with youth from your region for prizes and the chance to advance to the State Championship on April 10th.

How old do you have to be to compete?

Competition Levels include:

- Novice (Ages 8-11)
- Junior (Ages 12-14)
- Senior (Ages 15-19)
- Adult (20+)

How do you qualify for the State Championship?

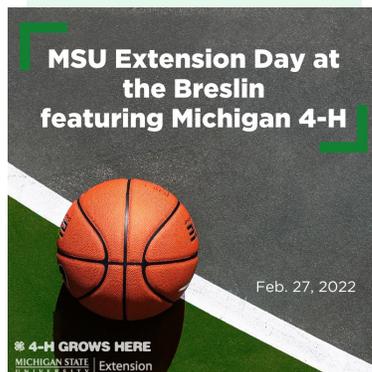
Contestants that finish in the top 20th percentile are eligible to compete for the State Championship title.

Is there an entry fee?

There is no entry fee and all contestants will receive a Skillathon t-shirt!

CONTACT YOUR 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR TO LEARN HOW TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR THIS EVENT!

Free tickets now available for MSU Extension Day at the Breslin !



Tickets are now available for the 2022 MSU Extension Day at the Breslin featuring Michigan 4-H! Gather with 4-H friends, families, volunteers and staff to cheer on the MSU women's basketball team as they take on the Ohio State University Buckeyes on Sunday, Feb. 27 at MSU's Jack Breslin Student Events Center.

Order your free tickets by Feb. 6 to receive your tickets by mail; ticket orders received after this date will be available for pick-up at the 4-H Will-Call table the day of the game.

To reserve your tickets, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/dayatthebreslin2022/>.

4-H Events and Workshops

February 2: Adulting 101—Wealth Building

Online

Build your wealth by exploring different types of saving and investment products, evaluating your risk tolerance, and setting goals.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting2-2-22>

February 8: Wild Spartans Series

Online

Are you a Wild Spartan? Join us for this free monthly fisheries and wildlife research webinar series for families interested in exploring science, careers, and conservation.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february-2022>

February 9: Adulting 101—Workplace Professionalism

Online

Gain tips on how to better manage your time, workspace, relationships and boundaries.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting2-9-22>

February 14: The Wizarding World of 4-H 4.0 SPIN Club

Online

The Wizarding World of 4-H SPIN club is back for round 4! Participants will read Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, the fourth book in the Harry Potter series, during this SPIN club that meets the second and fourth Mondays of February, March and April.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-wizarding-world-of-4-h-4-0-spin-club>

February 16: Adulting 101—Taxes and Your Paycheck

Online

Explore what taxes are and why we pay them. See how taxes affect your take home pay.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting2-16-22>

February 23: Adulting 101—Food Safety

Online

We all love to eat! Learn how to properly store, cook, and handle food with safety in mind.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting2-23-22>

February 26: 4-H in the Kitchen—Second Breakfast Edition

Online

A virtual cooking workshop preparing dishes from JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings and exploring writing fantasy literature. This two-day event takes part on Feb. 26 and March 12.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-second-breakfast-edition>

February 28: 2021 Shooting Sports Instructor Recertification Deadline

A deadline extension was granted to individuals holding a 2021 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification. Impacted individuals may continue working with clubs until Feb. 28, 2022.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2021-shooting-sports-instructor-recertification-deadline>

March 5: Shooting Sports Trainer Workshop

Demmer Shooting Sports and Education Center, Lansing

Become a trainer for the 4-H Shooting Sports program! Trainers facilitate instructor certification workshops for teen and adult volunteers in the 4-H shooting sports area.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ss_trainer_workshop

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.



4-H Love Your Money GooseChase Game

Love games? Love prizes? Love money? Michigan 4-H is offering a “Love Your Money 4-H GooseChase Game” in February. The game runs from February 14—21 and is a fun and unique way for youth to learn money management tips.

Funded, in part, through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, the game is open to youth 13 and up. For those under 13, participation can take place with a parent/guardian or older sibling as part of a team. The scavenger hunt missions through the GooseChase app will allow youth to learn about money, have fun, and potentially win prizes!

Registration and additional details can be found at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HMoneyGooseChase/>.

Improve your financial skills with 4-H Financial Fitness & Fun

Youth ages 12-19 can learn about setting financial goals, saving, budgeting, banking, credit and much more through lessons, activities, and games each Thursday beginning February 24. Topic will include money goals, paying for post-secondary education, keeping yourself out of debt, managing credit wisely, investing and risk, budgeting, your first paycheck and taxes, avoiding money mishaps, saving and banking basics.

All 4-H Financial Fitness and Fun live sessions will be on Zoom and later available on the MSU Extension [4-H Youth Money Management](https://www.msu.edu/extension/4-H-Youth-Money-Management) website. Youth may attend any or all of the sessions, but the first 100 youth to attend all 10 sessions will be eligible for a \$50 savings incentive!

This program is made possible by a grant from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. To register visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HFinFit22/>.



World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute applications due March 15

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. On May 12, youth will join together to become inspired and prepared as the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas related to global food security with experts and other Michigan youth while learning how university faculty and staff members, researchers and students are working to address world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a two- to five-page research paper about a developing country and how it is affected by one of 20 key factors that impact food security. At the event, youth will present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. They will also participate in an interactive session with global challenge experts to learn more about topics related to global food and food security.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be considered as possible delegates to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in October. For more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/. Registration will open on February 1; registration and papers are due by March 15.

4-H Youth in Action Awards Applications Now Open



Apply now for the 2023 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives in the pillar areas of agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.

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 age 15-19. The deadline to apply is March 28. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/>.