Spring is approaching...are you ready?

Welcome to March! This month's issue of *The Network* is packed with important information and dates as the calendar is beginning to fill up, even if many of our upcoming events are still being held virtually.

I would like to direct your attention to page 4 where you will find information about the 4-H Program Coordinator vacancy announcement. Please share this posting with your friends, family, and community contacts so we can work together to recruit an enthusiastic candidate to fill this position. Feel free to share my contact information with interested individuals if they have any questions directly related to the position.

Please take advantage of the many opportunities that are shared within this publication as well as events that are shared on our social media pages. Although we continue to find ourselves in these unique times, this is a chance to meet others around the state and participate in activities that aren't offered locally.

As we continue to move forward, stay tuned to your inboxes as I will share any announcements or changes to our operations via email communication!

Sincerely, Sara Lewis



COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!



Attention High School Seniors OR students enrolled in post-HS classes!! Applications are now available on the Monroe County MSU Extension website https://www.canr.msu.edu/monroe/ monroe county 4 h/monroe county 4 h 1 1.

Applications are DUE via electronic portal here by 5pm on Friday, April 16, 2021. Interviews will be Monday, April 26, 2021 via Zoom. Schedule your interview timeslot by visiting: http://

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Contact Us

Bailey Biniecki Support Staff 734-240-3182 binieck4@msu.edu

Sara Lewis 4-H Program Coordinator seitzsa1@msu.edu

VACANT

4-H Program Coordinator

Address

963 South Raisinville Rd Monroe, MI 48161 Main 734-240-3170 Fax 734-240-3183 msue.monroe@county.ms u.edu

Web Site

https://www.canr.msu.edu/ monroe/monroe county 4 h/ index

Office Hours

(currently working remotely) Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Social Media

Facebook: @MonroeCountyMI4H

NEW Pinterest:
@monroecounty4hprogram



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
	1 7pm 4-H Council @ Zoom	2	3 6pm Terra Quest @ Zoom 7pm Poultry Workshop @ Zoom	4	5	6			
7	8 7pm Horse & Pony Board @ Zoom	9 4pm State Awards Open Office Hours @ Zoom	10	11	12	13 Capitol Experience-Day 1			
14	15 6pm Cat Program @ Zoom	16	17 Capitol Experience-Day 2 7pm JLA Meeting @ Zoom	18 7pm Fair Advisory Board @ Zoom	19	20 Capitol Experience-Day 3			
21	7pm Small Animal Associ- ation @ Zoom	23 6pm CSI @ Zoom 7pm 4-H Dog Program @ Zoom	24 7pm State Awards Open Office Hours @ Zoom	25 7pm Poultry Workshop @ Zoom	26	27			
	SAVE T	EXPO							
28	29	30	31 7pm Teen Am- bassadors @ Zoom						

April 2021

9	un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
					1	2	3			
					State Awards & Mark of Excel- lence DUE					
					**Last day to register for 2020 -21 4-H!!!					
4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
		7pm 4-H Council @ Zoom	7pm Swine Workshop @ Zoom							
1	1	12	13	14	15	16	17			
		7pm Horse & Pony @ Zoom		7pm Rabbit, Cavy & Pocket Pet Workshop @ Zoom		4-H Scholarships & Interview Sign-up DUE				
				7pm Sheep Work- shop @ Zoom						
	SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL 4-H MINI EXPO									
1	8	19	20	21	22	23	24			
					7pm Broiler Workshop					
		SA	РО							
2	5	26	27	28	29	30				
		5pm Scholarship Interviews @ Zoom 4-H Dog Program Mandatory Meeting (if in person)	6pm 4-H CSI 7pm 4-H Dog Program	7pm Teen Ambas- sadors @ Zoom	7pm Rabbit, Cavy & Pocket Pet Workshop @ Zoom					

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT-APPLICATIONS OPEN UNTIL MARCH 9!!!

Please visit http://careers.msu.edu (posting #693409) to apply or learn more information. Share with your friends, family, and contacts to help recruit an interested candidate for this position!!!



MSU EXTENSION
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
INSTITUTE

Position Information

Position Title

Extension 4-H Program Coordinator

Salary

\$40,000

Benefits

Comprehensive benefits package: https://www.hr.msu.edu/benefits/index.html

Location

Monroe County, MI

To Apply

Current MSU Employees:

Access the EBS portal. Under the My Career and Training section, select the Careers @ MSU tile to view Internal Job Postings.

External Applicants:

Visit http://careers.msu.edu

Posting Number: 693409

Application Deadline: 3/9/2021

Contact for Questions

msue.hr@msu.edu

Extension 4-H Program Coordinator

Position Overview

As part of the MSU Extension Children & Youth Institute (CYI), with support from the 4-H Staff Development & Supervising Educator, District Director and Institute Director, the 4-H Program Coordinator provides leadership and oversight for growth and management of local 4-H programs, volunteers and youth participants.

You will recruit, select and train 4-H program volunteers and oversee program/project promotion, expansion and evaluation activities that foster inclusion by recognizing and valuing diverse perspectives, skills and experiences, while working to create equal access to programming. In this position, you will conduct direct programming with youth and adult audiences and gather and analyze data for impact evaluation efforts. You will support CYI's efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion, with a special emphasis on reaching diverse populations, and will work in conjunction with your supervisor, program participants and community partners to attain both short-term and long-term goals and objectives. Through supervising educator, you will work in concert with CYI to ensure alignment of programs with overall goals of the work team, Institute and organization. Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are essential elements vital to the culture MSU Extension endeavors to cultivate.

Minimum Qualifications (see full description for complete list of requirements)

- Bachelor's degree and two years of experience in program development and management in 4-H or other youth development program.
- Volunteer management and experience supervising volunteers or of others.

Application Process

To view the full position description and required qualifications, please visit the applicable Michigan State University careers page (internal candidate or external candidate) as noted under the To Apply section. Search for posting number 693409 using the Job Search field.

Applicants are asked to provide a current resume, cover letter and four (4) professional references including email addresses.

Application deadline is March 9, 2021.

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Last Day to register for 2020-2021 4-H year

(to be able to show at the Monroe County Fair-regardless of format)

April 1

- Register at: v2.4honline.com
- Reminder-the \$20 participation fee per youth has been WAIVED for the 2020-21 program year!

LAST CALL FOR 4-H ENROLLMENT TO SHOW AT THE 2021 MONROE COUNTY FAIR!!!!

All clubs must ensure members and volunteers/leaders have enrolled in 4HOnline **NO LATER THAN APRIL 1ST** in order to participate in the 2021 Monroe County Fair, regardless of the format in which the fair will be held! No exceptions!! All enrollments must be completed online at v2.4honline.com.

Reminder: the 4-H Participation Fee for the 2020-2021 program year has been waived!!

Leaders and Volunteers must have completed the Volunteer Selection Process, **INCLUDING** all file updates and annual compliance components, and be in good standing with the 4-H program. Questions regarding the Volunteer Selection Process may be directed to the Extension Office.

Members and volunteers who have questions concerning their current enrollment status should contact their community leader first. Additional questions can be directed to the Extension Office at 734-240-3182.



2021 JLA Dates

Sheep Workshop

April 14 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/96717983792 Passcode: 846257

May 19 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/91795160527 Passcode: 409733

Swine Workshop

April 6 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/91944395070 Passcode: 239256

May 11 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/97841160911 Passcode: 712056

May 1 9am-12pm Sheep & Swine Tagging @ Fairgrounds

June 7 6pm All Species Fitting & Showing Clinic

July 6 6pm Barn Set-Up @ Fairgrounds

July 31st Animal Check-in

August 1st-7th—Monroe County Fair!

Attention Sheep and Swine Exhibitors!!!

The Monroe County 4-H Junior Livestock Association has been hard at work to make necessary decisions regarding the shortage of availability in processing options for sheep and swine. Please read further to see how this may affect you!

Swine

- Each member may exhibit 2 individual pigs. However, youth may only sell 1 through the fair auction per pound, while the other will go to market/resale at Napoleon Livestock for current market price.
- If a youth has 2 pigs in the top 4 both pigs will be sold in the fair auction.
- ° The higher placing pig in each pen will be sold in the auction. The other will go to Napoleon.
- ° Swine will remain a terminal sale. All pigs exhibited must be sold & transported through approved JLA transportation.

Sheep

- Each member may exhibit 2 individual lambs. However, youth may only sell 1 through the fair auction per pound, while the other will go to market/resale at United Producers, Inc. for current market price.
- ° If a youth has 2 lambs in the top 4 both lambs will be sold in the fair auction.
- The higher placing lamb in each pen will be sold in the auction. The other will go to United Producers, Inc.
- Youth will be able to declare "no sale", following all rules/timeline established in Premium Catalog.

Beef

No exhibition or sale changes.

All exhibitors will have the opportunity to receive add-on support from buyers via the online auction platform

Sheep & Swine

Saturday, May 1, 2021 9am-12pm

Monroe County Fairgrounds-Show Arena

Tagging

Updates to Official Identification for Exhibition Swine 2021

For the 2021 exhibition year and beyond, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will no longer provide bulk orders of the plastic NUES tags for county fairs to use as official ID as they have in the past.

So, what does this mean for you:

- The individual exhibitor or owner of the animal will need to acquire the official identification (ID) for the animal(s) in the form
 of a USDA 840 tag.
 - ° This can be done by the exhibitor purchasing a pig that has already been tagged with a USDA 840 tag by the breeder or by the exhibitor purchasing USDA 840 tag(s).
 - Exhibitors are strongly encouraged by MDARD to request that tags are placed in the pig before purchasing it.
 - Currently, there is no requirement for in state breeders to provide official ID or USDA 840 tags; instead, this is a service that the breeder can provide for their customers.
- It is illegal to remove official ID tags from an animal. You may not apply an official ID tag if one is present in the animal already.
 For example: If a pig currently has a USDA 840 tag identifying it, a NUES tag should not be applied to the animal.
- The Monroe County Fair will still require a non-official fair specific identification tag for the exhibition event.

More information regarding the changes for official identification of exhibition swine can be found here.

2021 SAA Dates

Poultry Workshop

March 3 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/95953152129 Passcode: 922574

March 25 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/98079180159 Passcode: 476862

Rabbit, Cavy & Pocket Pet Workshop

April 14 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/96227746356 Passcode: 383605

April 29 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/95787975928 Passcode: 102716

Broiler Workshop

April 22 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/97709439509 Passcode: 402695

May 4 7pm https://msu.zoom.us/j/99613372606 Passcode: 677181

April 27 6:30pm or May 19 6pm Mandatory Dog Program Meeting

June 7 6pm All Species Fitting & Showing Clinic, Mandatory Dog Program Meeting

July 6 6pm Barn Set-Up @ Fairgrounds

July 31st Animal Check-in

August 1st-7th—Monroe County Fair!

All workshops are currently scheduled to be held via Zoom. All dates/locations are subject to change

Broilers and Ducks:

ORDER NOW!!

Pricing

Broilers: \$1.75 each

*must order no later than May 4th

pickup will be June 17th

Ducks: \$3.00 each

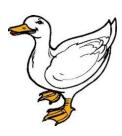
*must order no later than April 1st

pick up will be May 6

To order or for more information, please contact

Barbara Siebarth 419-350-9482 or Susan Arting 734-649-4117.





REMEMBER: Broilers MUST be purchased through the





4-H Mark of Excellence

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program

Submission Details:

- All essays must be computer generated, typed or handwritten in blue or black ink on 8 1/2 X 11" paper, single sided. (use 12 pt. font if typed)
- No more than 2 pages in length
- Essays must be 500 words or less
- Name and county in the top right-hand corner of each sheet of paper
- Do not include photos or other graphics

Submission Deadlines:

Essays to local county
 4-H office by April 1, 2021
 for judging.

Questions:

Kelly Stelter
grandtke@msu.edu
269-927-5674 ext. 4015
Or
contact your local 4-H
Program Coordinator



What is the Mark of Excellence Award:

- An award program for Michigan 4-H members ages 11 and 12.
- Introductory opportunity to Michigan 4-H State Awards program.

How can I participate:

 Write an essay or short story (500 words or less) that reflects on opportunities and experiences as 4-H member around the topic:



Eligibility:

- Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 11 and 12.
 Enrollment in previous years not required.
- Individuals may only be selected for this award once.
- Each county can select up to two (2) winning essays to receive the Mark of Excellence Award each year.

Award:

· Selected winning essays will receive a certificate and medal.

Learn more at:

https://

www.canr.msu.edu/4 h scholarships and recognition program/4-hawards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition

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MARK OF EXCELLENCE

Essays DUE: April 1, 2021

The 4-H Mark of Excellence Award is a division of the 4-H State Awards Program specifically for 11 and 12-year-old 4 -H members.

To enter, a 4-H member writes an essay on the theme, "Because of 4-H I can ..." Essays are submitted to the local county MSU Extension office no later than April 1. County 4-H programs then select up to two youths' essays as their representatives and submit those names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. For more additional information and instructions, view the 2021 Overview and Instructions for Michigan 4-H State Awards Program and Mark of Excellence Award.

Eligibility to be eligible for this contest, the applicant must:

- 1. Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 11 and 12. Enrollment in previous years is not required.
- 2. Write an essay that focuses on the theme, "Because of 4-H I can..."
- 3. Follow these guidelines, when submitting an essay.
 - a. All essays must be computer generated, typed or handwritten in blue or black ink on 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" paper, single sided, in 500 words or less (no more than 2 pages in length). If typed, use a 12 pt. font.
 - b. Put your name and county in the top right-hand corner of each sheet of paper (including the first page). Do not include photos or other graphics in your essay!
 - c. Do not use a cover page.
- 4. All essays must be turned into your county office by April 1.

Selection:

Individuals may only be selected for this award once. Each county will have the opportunity to select up to two winning essays. The winning essays will be forwarded to the State Coordinator for Mark of Excellence and will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office. The authors of the winning essays will receive a certificate and medal and may receive other recognition locally.

NEW for 2021:

- In order to align with the State 4-H Award Group, Senior and Junior Award submissions deadline, the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award will be moving its deadlines as well:
 - o April 1st Essays are due to the local county office
 - o April 15 Selected essays submitted to the State 4-H Awards Committee

More information can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4 h scholarships and recognition program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/



Have you ever thought about applying for a 4-H State Award but you just do not know where to start or maybe you have submitted an application in the past but you need suggestions on your cover letter or resume? Consider joining a virtual training. Each training will start at the stated time, there will be a short video played around that topic and then staff will stay on to answer specific questions. Open office hours is a time that staff will be available to answer any questions that you have regarding your 4-H State Award application. Open office hours are designed to pop in, ask a question and get an answer, you do not need to stay the whole time. Registration is required, registration will stay open through each event. You must register for each session you plan to attend, click the date below to register. Questions? Please reach out to your county 4-H Program Coordinator or Janice Zerbe, rajzerj@msu.edu, 4-H State

Terra Quest 4-H Presents

SATURDAY APRIL 3RD

Other dates available upon request.

Surprise the kids with a yard full of eggs on Easter morning! Or have the Bunny himself deliver a yard full of eggs for \$20 extra. Each home will include a letter!

50 EGGS \$25 100 EGGS \$50



To order your eggs call: Becky 734-775-7992 Christina 734-731-0661

April is National Financial Literacy Month...

Join Michigan 4-H as we hold fun contests and workshops during National Financial Literacy Month this April. Expand your knowledge and compete with other youth across Michigan to earn prizes in money management challenges. Two different contests will be offered this year for both 4-H and non 4-H youth residing in Michigan. For more details go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/index



Show your Money Smarts Contest



April 2021 for 14-19 year olds

Do you want to learn how to avoid financial pitfalls and have an opportunity to win \$250 cash? In this third annual Show Your Money Smarts Contest, Michigan youth age 14-19 will compete in this on-line quiz challenge taking place the entire month of April. Contest registration must be complete by April 23, 2021 at https://events.anr.msu.edu/MoneySmart21/. High scoring youth will be entered into a cash prize drawing and can become a Money Smart Youth Ambassador leading to opportunities to share their financial knowledge and enhance their leadership skills. Contest details can be found: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/show-your-money-smarts-contest

Cash Composition Contest (9-13 years old)

Money, money, money! In honor of Financial Awareness Month held each April, Michigan State University Extension 4-H is sponsoring the Cash Composition Contest. Youth residing in Michigan, age 9-13 have a chance to win up to \$400 by writing a 300 word (or less) essay on saving and investing. Contest registration and essay submission must be complete by April 5, 2021 to https://events.anr.msu.edu/CashContest21/. Five finalists will be interviewed for final placing. The winners will be named this year's Michigan Money Smart Ambassadors where they will have opportunities to share their financial knowledge and develop additional leadership skills. Contest details can be found: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest



2021 SKILLATHON

Michigan 4-H State Championship

Test your knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices.



IVERSITY



Registration is Open for the Southeastern Regional - Sat. Mar. 20

events.anr.msu.edu/skillathon/

See pages 16-17 for flyer and more details!



REGISTER:

https://events.anr.msu.edu/ skillathon/

MORE INFO:

canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2021michigan-4-h-skillathon

CONTACT:

Geep Charlebois, 4-H Program Coordinator: Antrim & Otsego Counties charleb7@msu.edu

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2021 Michigan 4-H Skillathon

Region 1: March 6, 2021
Upper Peninsula & Northern Michigan

Region 2: March 13, 2021 Southwestern Michigan

Region 3: March 20, 2021 Southeastern Michigan

Competitions will take place via Zoom

Test your knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management in 10 different categories.

Contestants who place in the top 20th percentile of each age division will qualify for the Michigan 4-H Skillathon State Championship held on April 10, 2021!

AGE DIVISIONS:

- Novice (8-11 years)
- Junior (12-14 years)
- Senior (15-19 years)
- Adult (open to current adult volunteers)

GET A 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON SHIRT!

Skillathon: continued



Skillathon Start Times:

Seniors & Adults

Check-in: 9:30 AM EST / 8:30 CST

Contest starts: 10 AM EST / 9 AM CST

Juniors & Novices

Check-in: 12:00 PM EST / 11:00 AM CST

Contest starts: 12:30 PM EST / 11:30 AM CST



Skillathon Start Times:

Seniors & Adults

Check-in: 8:30 AM

Contest starts: 9 AM

Juniors & Novices

Check-in: 11:00 AM

Contest starts: 11:30 AM



Skillathon Start Times:

Seniors & Adults

Check-in: 8:30

Contest starts: 9 AM

Juniors & Novices

Check-in: 11:00 AM

Contest starts: 11:30 AM

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4-H Dance Party SPIN Club will begin on Monday, April 12th and end Friday, April 16th, registration closes on April 8th. This club will meet virtually every day from 4-5:15pm EST. Explore computer coding by programming your own Dance Party! This is an introduction to computer coding. Participants will need access to the internet to go to the coding site. This 4-H SPIN Club is FREE and OPEN to 4-H and non-4-H members ages 8 to 14. For more information and to register, please visit: https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HDancePartySPINClub/.

This 4-H SPIN Club will meet virtually via <u>Zoom</u> (both computer and smartphone accessible). Zoom link information will only be sent to event registrants that complete their 4-H Online enrollment by April 8th (Club is listed under Livingston County – SPIN Club Dance Party Club).



Local Teen matched with Norwegian youth through States' 4-H Pen Pal Winter Program

Jewell Mason, 17, of Faithful Friends 4-H Club has been matched through the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal Program with Marie from Norway.

Through this program,
Jewell and Marie have
communicated a few
times through email and
have become friends on a
couple social media
platforms. "It's been a
really fun experience and
I am excited to get to
know her more as time
goes by", Jewell said.



World Food Prize



Michigan Youth Institute

Thursday, May 6, 2021 Join via Zoom



How to Prepare!

- 1.Download the paper instructions from the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute Website
- 2. Conduct research and write paper
- Submit research paper and complete registration process
- 4. Attend the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute!

MICHIGAN STATE | Extension





The World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute is a life-changing experience coordinated by Michigan 4-H and MSU where youth engage with leaders and experts on critical global challenges and explore exciting ways to make a difference in Michigan and around the world. Students research issues they care about, and propose their ideas to solve grand global challenges. Learn more and register! https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/index



Join Movement Exchange at Western Michigan University for an interactive, upbeat class that focuses on broadening the horizons of each individual student. This zoom class will combine cardio, stretching, various dance techniques, and improvisational explorations. It's main focus being that every student feels capable of having fun in a welcoming environment. Throughout the class, each student will have opportunities to find self-expression and individualism while learning to master their favorite dance steps! Current 4-H members ask your local coordinator to add this SPIN Club, new 4-H members sign up at https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in

21

Michigan 4-H presents American Ninja Warrior Daniel Gil



Join Michigan 4-H on March 24 for a special presentation by 2020 American Ninja Warrior winner Daniel Gil!

During the free virtual event, Gil will discuss overcoming obstacles. This unique opportunity is open to all Michigan youth and their families.

The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. EST.
Preregistration is required. To register, visit
www.canr.msu.edu/events/
daniel-qil-presentation.

4-H Events and Workshops

March 4— April 8: 4-H Trail Cameras 101 SPIN Club

Zoom Webinar

Explore ecosystems, Michigan wildlife, and citizen science by examining trail camera footage. The club will meet each Thursday from 5-6 p.m. EST through April 8. www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-trail-cameras-101-spin-club

March 9: Wild Spartans Series - Searching for Vernal Pools

Zoom Webinar

Join each month to meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In March, dive into the springtime ephemeral pools in the woods to discover the treasures within! www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-march

March 10: Officer Training - Virtual Edition!

Zoom Webinar

This training is open to all 4-Hers in Berrien, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Montcalm, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. The youth-focused training will offer instruction on running club meetings virtually and tips for voting in a virtual meeting, as well as provide an opportunity to try out various features. www.canr.msu.edu/events/officer-training-virtual-edition-march-10

March 18: MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Virtual Winter Series 2021

Zoom Webinar

This youth-led series, occurring monthly, is a safe place for past, present, and future MSU Tollgate Farm stewards and stewards-in-training to connect or reunite as a community and to explore resiliency and growth as youth leaders.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-march-18

March 16: 4-H Give Green Day

Everywhere

Michigan 4-H is once again joining MSU's #GiveGreenDay. Help reach the goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period to support Michigan 4-H youth. www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 23: The Roots and Branches of Your Family Tree

Zoom Webinar

Ever wondered about the traditions in your family, where they came from or how they settled where they are now? Join this webinar to learn how to start researching your family tree. https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-roots-and-branches-of-your-family-tree

April 1: 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest Deadline

4-H youth have the opportunity to develop writing and research skills, earn cash and become published through 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-beekeeping-essay-contest-deadline

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

STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

Apply for a 2021 4-H State Award!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.



2019 State Award winners with their plaques

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years old), junior state award (13-15 years old), senior state award (16-19 years old) and group awards (13-19 years old). The application process and selection is determined by the age of the 4-H member.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found online at http://bit.ly/stateaward. Applications are due April 1, 2021. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.



Join the Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance leadership team!

Youth ages 15-19 are invited to apply for the new Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance leadership team to help create a friendly, positive environment for Michigan youth and communities. The Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance is the brainchild of two Michigan 4-H teens who attended the 2020 National 4-H True Leaders in Equity Institute and were inspired to create positive change in their 4-H community.

Applications are being accepted for the teen leadership team that will serve as advisors for the state-level Alliance. These leaders will develop leadership skills and help to create opportunities for LGBTQIA+ youth and allies to come together in fun, positive, and supportive ways. While this group is being established through Michigan 4-H, youth do NOT need to be 4-H'ers to apply; this opportunity is open to all teens interested in supporting the inclusion and participation of LGBTQIA+ youth and allies in Michigan 4-H.

Teen leaders will meet two to three times per month and should plan on committing about three hours of their time each month. The first meeting will be in April. This teen leadership team is just the beginning; additional opportunities will be available for youth who wish to serve on regional or local Alliance leadership teams, as well as join and participate as members.

Applications from prospective youth leadership members will be accepted from February 15 – March 15 at https://events.anr.msu.edu/4hlgbtqia/. Youth interested in learning more about the Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance are encouraged to attend an optional Zoom open house on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Preregistration is required to participate in the open house, and can be completed at https://bit.ly/3q6v1D8. For more information, please contact MSU Extension Educator Brian Wibby at wibby@msu.edu.

4-H Youth in Action Awards Applications Now Open



Apply now for the 2022 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 oncein-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 29. Learn more and apply at https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/.