



December 2023

4-H Family News

Montcalm County



Hello 4-H Families and Volunteers,

I want to thank those of you who completed their re-enrollments within 4-H online for the 2023-2024 4-H year. Some of our 4-H meetings will not meet in December, due to the holidays. See page 5 for more information on each committee meeting, and the dates for other important events.

The deadline for re-enrollments in 4HOnline is December 1st. Please make sure your enrollments are submitted by November 30th at 11:59pm.

Follow us on FB for more updates throughout the month (<https://www.facebook.com/MontcalmCounty4H>)

Sincerely,
Sunni Haglund
4-H Program Coordinator

Montcalm County Committee Meeting times & locations

Fairboard Association | 1st Monday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | Ash Building – Fairgrounds

4-H Dog Committee | 1st Thursday of the month | 6:30 p.m. | Ash Building – Fairgrounds & via zoom
(<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92086229811> passcode: 4Hdog)

4-H Horse Leaders | 2nd Wednesday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | Ash Building – Fairgrounds & via zoom
(<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96502762151> passcode: Horse)

4-H Council | 3rd Monday of the month | 6:30 p.m. | MSUE office & via zoom
(<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95340301576> passcode: Council)

4-H Community Connection Committee (CCC) | 3rd Monday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | via zoom (<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95542684298> passcode: 4HCCC)

4-H Small Animal Committee | 4th Monday of the month | 6:00 p.m. | Ash Building - Fairgrounds

4-H Youth Livestock Committee | 4th Monday of the month | 6:30 p.m. | Ash Building - Fairgrounds

CONTACT US

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WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/>

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Committee News

Fair Association (<https://www.facebook.com/MontcalmCountyFairgrounds>)

Our next meeting will be December 4th at 7pm at the Ash Building. All are welcome to attend.

Marketing / Events Committee

(<https://www.facebook.com/MontcalmCountyFairgrounds>)

On January 20th, there is going to be a HUGE Mega Raffle taking place at the Ash Building from 7pm to 10:30pm. The proceeds from this event will go towards improvements at the fairgrounds. The committee is asking if there are any clubs interested in contributing to a gift basket to raffle off. For more information, see page 15, or go to our website to see what other events are coming up!

<https://montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com/events>

Dog Committee (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1847422928809492>)

The next Dog Committee meeting is December 7th at 6:30pm at the Ash Building. County-wide dog practice updates will be posted on the Facebook page. Stay tuned for more information.

Advisory Council

Our next meeting is the 18th of December at on Zoom. The zoom link is on the 1st page of this newsletter. We're looking for suggestions to make the Annual Awards Banquet better and get more participation. Feel free to send comments/suggestions to Sunni or Kim.

Community Connections (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1847422928809492>)

Our meetings follow the Advisory Council meetings, on the 3rd Monday of the month via Zoom. The December challenge is "Serving Those in Need". You and your club have unlimited options with this challenge, as long as you're doing something for any person or organization that could use your help. Submit photos and a brief story on what the project was to haglun10@msu.edu.



Committee News

Horse Leaders (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/623810004403480>)

We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 10th at 7pm at the Ash Building.

Small Animal Committee (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021686638080972>)

We are not meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 22nd at 6pm, at the Ash Building. Our committee, Youth Livestock and the MCFAAC will be working together to put on marketing clinics in March and April. These clinics will include information about how the auction runs, how to market yourself and your project, writing a good buyers letter, and in-person YQCA training (to name a few). Come to the meetings to help us plan and make these clinics the best they can be for our kids.

Youth Livestock Committee

Thank you to those of you who came to help us fill the thank you/happy holidays cards for the buyers. We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 22nd at 6:30pm, at the Ash Building. If you're a youth market exhibitor, we'd love to have you brainstorm ideas with us.

Montcalm County Fair Association Agricultural Club (Fair Livestock Committee) (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1634532730117422>)

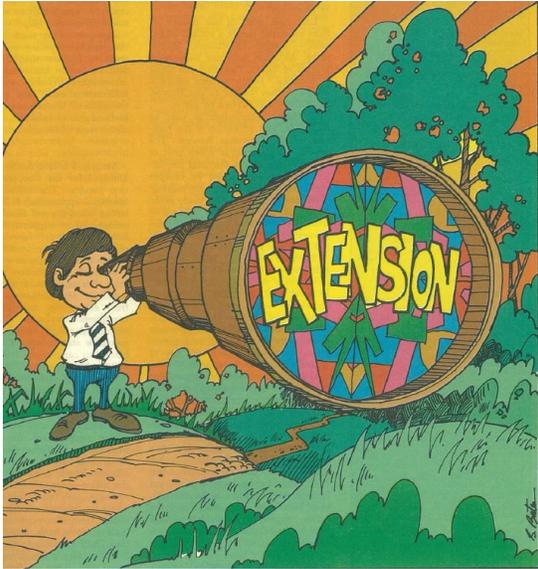
We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 22nd at 7pm, at the Ash Building. Hope to see you all there!

Shooting Sports Update

See page 14 for an informative letter from the new 4-H Shooting Sports Club (4-H Precision Seekers). If you or your youth is interested, please reach out to Scott at 616-826-6310. If you or your youth is interested in Archery (Shootin and Showin), please reach out to Amanda Moran at 989-287-0979.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS



Montcalm County Extension Office 4-H / District 8

(<https://www.facebook.com/MontcalmCounty4H/>) /
(<https://www.facebook.com/District8MSUE>)

I am hosting a “Mindfulness A to Z for Families” at the Tamarack District Library in Lakeview, on the 12th of December at 6pm. This program will give families some tools to decipher and work through emotions, so that frustrations can be handled before they turn into

bigger problems. We will also be covering ways to de-stress and calm down. We will have a few different mindfulness centered crafts for the kiddos to do. There are free resources available to those that pre-register as well! The link to register is

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/MontcalmMindfulness/> . If you are unable to make it but are interested in possibly hosting this program in and around your area at a later date/time, please email me at haglun10@msu.edu to set something up.





COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **4-H CCC December Challenge** Date: 12/1 – 12/31
- **4-H Online Re-enrollments due** Date: 12/1/2023
- **Final Market Beef Weigh-in/Tagging** Date: 12/2/2023
- Fairboard meets Date: 12/04/2023
- Dog Committee meets Date: 12/07/2023
- County Wide Dog Practice Date: **TBD / See FB page**
- Horse Leaders meet Date: No December meeting
- 4-H Advisory Council meets (ZOOM) Date: 12/18/2023
- Community Connections meets Date: 12/18/2023
- Small Animal Committee meets Date: No December meeting
- Youth Livestock Committee meets Date: No December meeting
- MCFAAC meets Date: No December meeting
- **Feeder Beef, Goat, Sheep, Prospect Weigh-in/Tagging** Date: 4/14/2024
- **Final Feeder Beef, Goat, Sheep, Prospect Weigh-in/Tagging** Date: 4/26/2024

Times and locations for each 4-H committee meeting can be found on the front page of this newsletter!

Don't forget to visit the Montcalm County Fairgrounds webpage

<https://montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com/>.

Other Services Offered:

MSUE Master Gardener Hotline:

1-888-678-3464

The hotline is open weekdays between 9-noon and 1 – 4 p.m.

Select option “1” to speak directly with a gardening expert.

Ask an Expert:

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more!

Ask here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>





Livestock Market Weigh In Information:



SUN, NOV 19 AT 2 PM

Market Beef Weigh-in/Tagging Event

Created by Jackie Nadeau

Going



SAT, DEC 2 AT 9 AM

Final Market Beef Weigh-in/Tagging Event

Created by Jackie Nadeau

Going

Invite



SUN, APR 14, 2024 AT 6 PM

Feeder Beef, Goat, Sheep, and Prospect Feeder W...

Created by Jackie Nadeau

Going

Invite



FRI, APR 26, 2024 AT 6 PM

Final Feeder Beef, Goats, Sheep, and Prospect Fee...

Created by Jackie Nadeau

Going

Invite





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension announces statewide public listening sessions

Adapted from: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/msu-extension-announces-statewide-public-listening-sessions-in-november-and-december>.

Whether it's supporting the dedicated professionals who drive the state's agriculture economy or empowering children to develop leadership skills, helping others is central to the mission of Michigan State University Extension, the community outreach arm of the university.

"Service is at the core of who we are," said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "As we think strategically about our organization, we value input from those we serve most of all."

With that in mind, MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions at various locations across the state as part of an ongoing strategic direction process. These sessions will begin in late November and continue through mid-December.

Through these sessions, the organization hopes to gather input from a diverse group of people to determine where MSU Extension is, what is working well and opportunities for improvement. This feedback will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come.

Each listening session will begin with a welcome from MSU Extension leadership and staff. Then, participants will be divided into two groups – external participants and partners will gather in one room, and MSU Extension faculty and staff will gather in another. In each of these rooms, participants will be invited to share their perspectives and insights through a series of facilitated activities. Questions will center on topics such as: emerging social, economic, and other trends that participants expect will impact them in the future; what participants know MSU Extension for; what participants believe MSU Extension does well, and what they think can be improved; and what participants envision a thriving MSU Extension would look like in the future. Common themes heard from participants will be identified and reflected to the entire group for each activity.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend – youth, parents, community and statewide partners, all MSU Extension-affiliated faculty and staff, and curious community members. Translation and interpretation services, as well as other accommodations, may be available upon request.

Listening Session Locations and Dates:

- **Nov. 28** - Detroit - 1-3:30 p.m. - MSU Detroit Center
- **Nov. 28** - Troy - 6-8:30 p.m. - Troy Continuing Education Building
- **Nov. 29** - East Lansing - For public attendees only, 9-11:30 a.m. - Hannah Community Center
- **Nov. 29** - East Lansing - For MSU Affiliated Staff only, 1-3:30 p.m. - MSU Campus, Conservatory
- **Dec. 11** - Marquette - 4-6:30 p.m. - Northern Center, Northern Michigan University
- **Dec. 12 - Grayling** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Kirtland College Event Center
- **Dec. 13 - Frankenmuth** - 4:30-7 p.m. - Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center
- **Dec. 14 - Muskegon** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Muskegon Community College
- **Dec. 18 - Kalamazoo** - 4-6:30 p.m. – Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center

Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Walk-in registrations may be limited due to facility capacity. Register now at events.anr.msu.edu/listeningseries. Questions? Contact Kathy Walicki at walicki@msu.edu or Marie Garcia at garci434@msu.edu.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shop the Michigan 4-H store this holiday season



Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store!

Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council through Shop 4-H, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts. Visit the store online and find the perfect item for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! The shop is open to the public and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H.

To order Michigan 4-H specific items, visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>. The store will remain open beyond the holiday season to continue offering Michigan 4-H branded gear to the Michigan 4-H community.

December 2: Oakland County Tack & Craft Sale

Springfield Oaks Activity Center, Davisburg

Come shop for one of a kind unique holiday gifts! Admission to the sale is \$1. All are welcomed to attend.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting10111-8-23

December 12: Wild Spartans – Casting for a Career in Coldwater Conservation

Online

Dive into the Great Lakes and rivers to explore their coldwater residents! Meet the Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator for Trout Unlimited, Jamie Vaughan. Learn about her field work and the education and career path she followed to get there.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024dec

MSU Extension Listening Session Series

Various locations

MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions. Through these sessions, MSU Extension hopes to gather input on where the organization is, what they do well, and where there are opportunities for improvement. This feedback will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

- **Dec. 11 - Marquette** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Northern Center, Northern Michigan University
- **Dec. 12 - Grayling** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Kirtland College Event Center
- **Dec. 13 - Frankenmuth** - 4:30-7 p.m. - Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center
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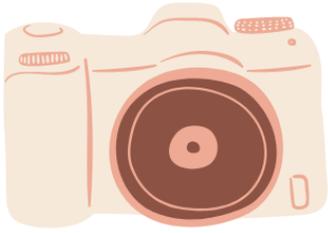
Kettunen Center Inventory Closeout

Kettunen Center was the first 4-H volunteer and youth training center in the nation, owned and operated by the Michigan 4-H Foundation from 1961 to 2021. The center's remaining merchandise, such as sweatshirts, t-shirts, jackets, mugs and more, is now available for sale! We know the Kettunen Center meant so much to the 4-H community and this is an opportunity to purchase something by which to remember the center. Purchase yours today at <https://mi4hfdtn.org/shopkett/>.

KETTUNEN CENTER MERCHANDISE SALE

SHOP NOW





All of this and more!

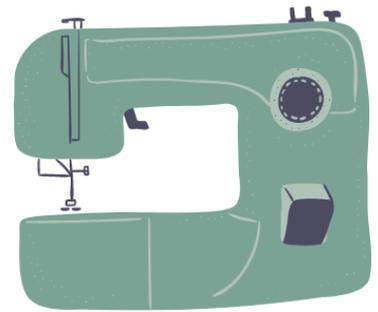
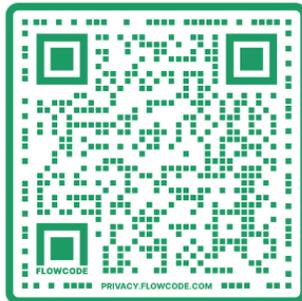


4-H HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER!



To find your local 4-H Program Coordinator, or to learn more about what 4-H can offer you and your family, go to:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/join_4_h





4-H CCC November Challenge Recognition:





Montcalm County 4-H
Community Connections
Committee December Challenge:

“SERVING THOSE IN NEED”

SOME IDEAS ON WHERE CAN YOU HELP OUT:

Spend time at a local nursing home

Some residents do not have family visit as often as they'd like. Spending some time playing games, doing puzzles or just talking, means a lot to them.

Help a neighbor clean up their yard

Some aren't physically able to do certain things around their house/property. Try offering to assist them in areas that they may not be able to accomplish.

Volunteer at a local food pantry or soup kitchen

Or check in with a local homeless or woman's shelter to see if they could use any assistance with something.

Or even something as simple as helping someone cross the road.

The possibilities are endless. Lets show Montcalm County residents, what positive impact the 4-H program can offer to our community. Submit your projects to Sunni at haglun10@msu.edu or tag @MontcalmCounty4-H in your clubs post!

**CHALLENGE DATES:
1-31 DECEMBER, 2023**





States' 4-H International Exchange Programs

2024 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

Costa Rica · Japan · Korea · Norway · Taiwan · Argentina



Costa Rica



Japan



Norway



South Korea



Argentina



Taiwan

Are you curious about daily life, culture, and youth programs in other countries?
Travel abroad with States' 4-H and enter a world that most visitors rarely get to see.

Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a month-long cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families* and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruit host families and plan enrichment activities.

*Exception: Argentina uses group accommodations on program

2024 Travel Dates*

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Japan 8-week: | June 12—August 9, 2024 |
| Costa Rica: | June 20—July 19, 2024 |
| Argentina: | June 20—July 15, 2024 |
| Norway: | June 20—July 20, 2022 |
| Japan 4-week: | July 10—August 9, 2024 |
| South Korea: | July 16—August 15, 2024 |
| Taiwan: | July 16—August 15, 2024 |

*Program dates subject to slight change or modification

Eligibility:

4-H ages **12–18** for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan, **12–17** for Korea, and **15–18** for Costa Rica, Norway, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

Program Information:

- Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support.
- States' 4-H provides Program Handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information.
- States' 4-H conducts group conference calls and a National Departure Orientation prior to international travel.
- No prior language study is required, but it certainly is helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

Application Deadline & Program Fees:

Contact your 4-H State Coordinator for deadlines and to apply. Please note that program details are subject to change.

For more information:

www.states4hexchange.org

OB@states4h.org

(206) 462-2200



<https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange/>

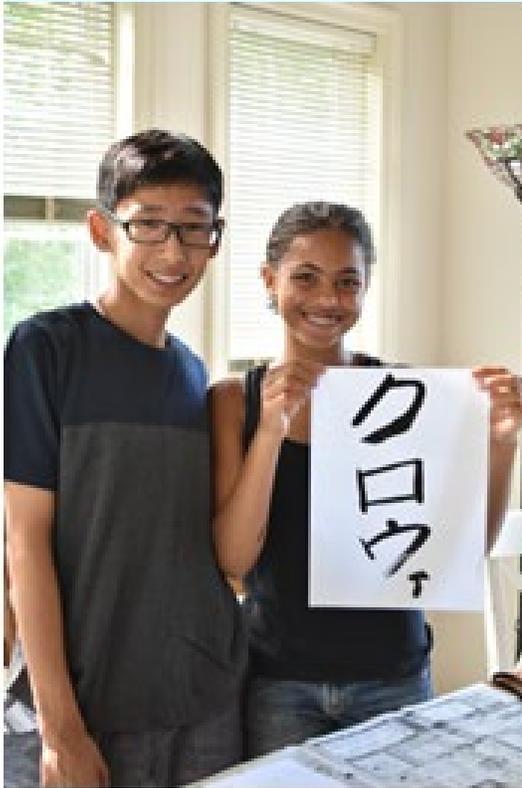


[@states4hinternational](https://www.instagram.com/states4hinternational)



2024 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

States' 4-H International's mission is to enhance world understanding and global citizenship; one way to move towards that goal is through living with a local host family and immersing oneself in another culture.



Program Fees Include:

Welcome packet; overnight national departure orientation; arrival orientation in host country; portion of chaperone fee; Accident & Sickness Medical Insurance; in-country transportation, lodging, and meals while on-program; country-specific activities as determined by international partner organizations; overnight national departure debriefing upon return.

Program Policies:

- Program Cancellations:
 - ◊ No refund of paid deposits, unless full program cancelled by States' 4-H
- Airfare is non-refundable once issued
- In-State Fees may apply
- Unaccompanied Minor fees may apply (up to \$150 each way)
- Program details subject to change

FAQs:

Q: Will a chaperone accompany the group?

A: Yes! Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support during the exchange.

Q: Do I need to speak another language?

A: No prior language study is required, but it is certainly helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

Q: How will States' 4-H prepare me for my homestay?

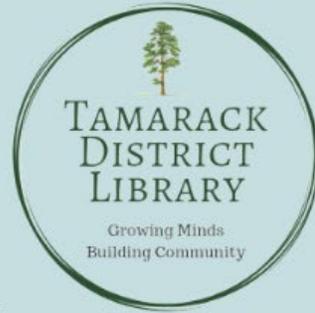
A: States' 4-H provides travel handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information. In addition, each state may conduct a spring orientation covering these topics. Delegates also receive details during the States' 4-H group conference call in late spring and a National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight.

For Michigan 4-H processing of applications, we need youth to apply
by **December 8, 2023!**



MINDFULNESS A TO Z

A WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES TO
HELP CREATE A MORE GRATEFUL,
CALM AND CONNECTED FAMILY



TAMARACK DISTRICT LIBRARY
DECEMBER 12TH
6PM



REGISTER HERE:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/MontcalmMindfulness/>

From awareness to Zen, we've got you covered.

4-H Shooting Sports

Club Name: 4-H Precision Seekers

Club Leader: Scott Wallace
616-826-6310
scott.wallace.mich@gmail.com

Club Discipline: .22 Rifle (2 divisions Field and Target)

Age Requirement: 12-19 4-H Age (as of Jan 1 of the program year)

Location: Flat River Conservation Club (Rifle Side)
300 S Greenville Rd
Greenville, MI

Meetings: Weekly April 2024 – August 2024 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Required Items: Eye Protection, Hearing Protection, shooting matt, .22 Ammo (no reloads allowed).

Clothing: Appropriate attire without any questionable graphics or statements and shoes that completely cover the feet. No military/tactical clothing or accessories are allowed at 4-H events.

Parent or Guardian: All youth under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during 4-H activities.

Guns: The Gun Club has .22LR Target Rifles we can use. Youth can bring their own rifle to use if it is a properly functioning .22 Field or Target rifle. All guns must be unloaded and in a gun case. No tactical type firearms are permitted in 4-H. Only one bullet will be allowed to be loaded into the gun, magazine, tube, etc. at a time.

Competitions: We will hold 2 competitions for those youth club members who would like to participate (not mandatory). A county competition sometime prior to the fair, and then the state competition which is usually held in August. More info to come during regular club meetings in 2024.

4-H Club Signup: Registration will open in September 2023. You can do this online or contact our County Program Coordinator. You must be registered in the 4-H Precision Seekers club to be able to participate.

Sunni Haglund
4-H Program Coordinator
Montcalm County
989-831-7514

What to expect: Our focus will be on gun safety, proper gun handling, responsibilities of gun ownership, gun maintenance, proper shooting techniques, improving your accuracy, and having fun.

Volunteers/Instructors: If any parents would be interested in becoming a Volunteer or Instructor for the club, please contact me or Sunni. Additional instructors would allow us to offer more shooting disciplines at club meetings. 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines include Archery, Rifle (BB, Pellet, .22) Shotgun (Trap, Skeet), Muzzle Loader, and Pistol (Pellet).



72.5%



**Montcalm County Fair
Board Invites you to...**

MEGA RAFFLE

Don't miss out on the fun!

Silent Auction, 50/50

**Raffle, Door Prizes, Music, Cash
Bar and Light Refreshments**

Held on Saturday January 20th, 2024
from 7:00p.m.-10:30p.m.

at The Ash Building

8784 Peck Rd

Greenville, MI 48838

\$30 a ticket

No need to be present to win the
Mega Raffle

For more information visit
<https://montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com>