

*Osceola County*

4-H Family News

December 2020

Dear 4-H members, leaders, parents and supporters,

Thank you to everyone for working together to make it thru 2020. We will continue to have no face to face meetings until further notice. Remember we have had several virtual meetings with all county wide programs like OLC and Small Animals. Many of you have attended one of these meetings and if you have a topic idea please let us know.

This month is a quiet month and we have an OLC/Small animal meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020. The zoom link will be sent out after the lunch period on December 14, 2020. We also have the Judy Mohr Life Skills taking place now, please see more information on page 4.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday experience with one another and will see you in 2021. Happy Holidays! !

Jacob Stieg, Osceola County 4-H Coordinator

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Like us on Facebook -
"Osceola County Michigan
4-H"

Upcoming Fair Dates for 2021:

Marion Fair - June 13 - 19

Osceola County Fair - July 25 - 31

**Connect with
youth from across
the globe!**



Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid-April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY.

4-H Events and Workshops

December 1: 4-H Giving Tuesday

Everywhere

Help grow a county 4-H endowment in your area and join the #GivingTuesday movement. Consider making a donation to grow funds that support 4-H youth today and in the future.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-giving-tuesday>

December 2: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-on-volunteer-led-programs-december-2nd>

December 7: Flour Tortilla Making 101

Zoom

Join in making tortillas — a staple in Mexican cooking. In this class, tortillas will be used as an appetizer, entrée, dessert or stand alone ingredient.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/flour-tortilla-making-101-dec-7>

December 8: Wild Spartans Series

Zoom

Join 4-H staff as we meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. December's event will explore invasive species with MSU researcher Taylor Haas.

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

December 8: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs

Zoom

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-in-virtual-volunteer-led-programs>

December 19: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Holiday Scones

Zoom

Join 4-H in the Kitchen Live for a special holiday episode! Learn how to make a batch of eggnog scones—perfect for any holiday feast — with special guest Ruth Myers.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-eggnog-scones>

Save the Date!

February 19-21, 2021: Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration

Online

The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration will be going virtual this year! Adult and teen 4-H leaders are encouraged to join this exciting online event to learn new ideas for working virtually with youth in the areas of visual and performing arts, crafts, sewing, clothing and textile projects. Stay tuned for registration information!

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

STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

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Virtual showcase and auction success

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform

that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual learning showcases and auctions provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU.

Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- \$1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions



"We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H'ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them," said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension's state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. "We're also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation."

Participating youth also had positive feedback:

- "The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!"
- "Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can't thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can't thank you enough."



Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!



Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.

Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (<https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0>) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (<http://www.joann.com/4-h/>) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.

Livestock

The **Osceola Livestock Committee (OLC)** meets on the second Monday of each month. 4-H members are required to attend 3 OLC Meetings per year in order to show and sell a market beef, sheep, or swine at the Osceola County Fair. Meetings are currently being held via Zoom. Please watch your email for the links to these Zooms, being sent out the day of.

Small Animal

The Osceola County **4-H Small Animal Association** plans and carries out the small animal events in the county, as well as helps establish rules and policies for the fairs. Come and be a part of the process and find out what is available for your members and clubs. Meetings are currently being done via Zoom on the second Monday of the month. Please watch your emails for the links to these Zooms.

General News

The **Osceola County 4-H council** would like to invite anyone that would be interested in attending a meeting. The 4-H Council helps formulate 4-H club policies and programs in Osceola County, works on scholarships such as Exploration Days, fundraisers (plat book), Ag Olympics just to name a few. If you are interested please email Jake so you can be invited to the upcoming zoom meeting in January 2021.

Judy Mohr Life Skills Contest - This is open to any youth that is interested. Youth will fill out an application for Turkey, Poultry, Rabbit, Goat, Beef, Sheep and Swine, then submit it the 4-H Office by the deadlines. The Selection Committee will go through the applications and pick individuals that will go to the next step by participating in a non-formal interview. After the interview one recipient will be awarded for each species and that species must be shown and sold at any of the three fairs. Please watch your emails for more information such as applications and deadlines.

High School Seniors!! The Osceola County Community Foundation webpage has scholarship opportunities. You can access the webpage at: <https://facommunityfoundation.org/scholarships/>

Small Animal and OLC Educational Meetings are being held on the second Monday of every month until we can meet face to face again. Please watch your emails for the links to the Zooms. There are different age groups, but family members can participate in one Zoom session, even if they are different age groups. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

December 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Mandatory Goat Meeting Zoom | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Small Animal & OLC Zooms | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 4-H Office closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 4-H Office closed for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day | | |

Upcoming in
January 2021...

**6th - 4-H
Council Meeting
at 7pm**

**11th - Small
Animal and OLC
Education
Zooms**

**21st - Horse
Leaders
Meeting at
7:30pm**