



MARCH 2026

# 4-H Family News

## Shiawassee County Clover Connection



### March Newsletter Update

In this March edition of the Clover Connection, you'll find information on several upcoming state and local events—be sure to check them all out. Small Animal exhibitors will want to take a look at the Biosecurity Workshop hosted by the Small Animal Association later this month.

As we look ahead to summer, we've included the dates for 2026 4-H Camp along with details about camp counselor applications. There is also a regional camp counselor training opportunity for those interested in additional preparation and skill-building.

Additionally, 4-H Exploration Days registration opens in March, and we've included everything you need to know to get ready. We've also added a recap of our recent Cocoa Craze Workshop, which was a great success.

Sincerely,

Alexis Wheeler

4-H Program Coordinator

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Biosecurity Workshop | March 21 | 1:00-3:00 PM | First Church of Christ Owosso (585 E North St, Owosso, MI)**

**Regional Camp Counselor Training | April 11 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM | Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center (3775 S Reese Rd, Frankenmuth, MI)**

**Shiawassee 4-H Camp | June 13-15 | Camp Neyati**

**4-H Exploration Days | June 24-26 | Michigan State University**

**Shiawassee County Fair | August 9-15 | Shiawassee County Fairgrounds**

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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



## Beyond Ready

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

### March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop)

### March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day)

### March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march)

### March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h)

### March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp)

### April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).

## Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



## Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers).

## 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. 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 ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

**SHIawassee SMALL ANIMAL ASSOCIATION**

## BIOSECURITY WORKSHOP

FREE - Open to all ages

**DATE:** March 21, 2026  
**TIME:** 1:00pm-3:00pm  
**LOCATION:** First Church of Christ Owosso (585 E North St, Owosso, MI 48867)  
**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr. Jackie Maeroff, MDARD

Bring your family and learn how to keep your animals healthy while protecting your farm from disease!

## Small Animal Biosecurity Workshop

The Shiawassee Small Animal Association is hosting a **Biosecurity Workshop** for small animal exhibitors. This hands-on workshop is a great opportunity to learn how to keep your animals healthy and protect your farm from disease.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Jackie Maeroff, is a veterinarian with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). While the workshop will focus primarily on poultry, all species exhibitors are welcome to attend.

The workshop will take place on **March 21, 2026**, from **1:00-3:00p.m.** at the **First Church of Christ in Owosso** (585 E North St, Owosso, MI 48867). This event is free and open to all ages, and parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend as well. Please register so we can get a general idea of expected attendance: <https://forms.gle/QqdDxU9LnaKG5wWd9>

## Apply Now: 2026 Shiawassee 4-H Camp Counselors

Applications for **Shiawassee 4-H Camp Counselors** are now available! We are looking for teens **ages 13-19** as of January 1, 2026. Camp Counselors play an important role at camp—helping lead activities, supporting younger campers, and creating a fun, welcoming atmosphere.

Camp Counselor Applications can be found online on the Shiawassee County 4-H website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/shiawassee/shiawassee\\_county\\_4\\_h/shiawassee-4-h-camp](https://www.canr.msu.edu/shiawassee/shiawassee_county_4_h/shiawassee-4-h-camp). Completed applications can be submitted to the Shiawassee County MSU Extension office.

Additionally, the training schedule for camp counselors is available on the website and on the back page of the application. Attendance at all trainings and the overnight is highly recommended!

## Save the Date for the 2026 Shiawassee County 4-H Camp!



4-H Camp will take place this year on **June 13-15** at **Camp Neyati** (near Clare, MI). Join us for three days filled with exciting activities, fun challenges, and plenty of opportunities to make lifelong friends. From archery to crafts and games, there's truly something for everyone!

**Please note:** This year's camp is not on Father's Day weekend like in previous years due to how the calendar falls.

Stay tuned for more details on registration and camp activities.

Don't miss out on an amazing opportunity to create memories and learn new skills. We can't wait to see you there!



# County 4-H News

## 4-H Exploration Days Registration Opens March 12



Registration for **4-H Exploration Days** is set to open on **March 12 at 7:00p.m.** The list of sessions and their descriptions has been posted to the 4-H Exploration Days website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/).

4-H Exploration Days will take place **June 24-26, 2026**, at **Michigan State University**. This pre-college program is open to youth **ages 12-19** (as of Jan 1) and is designed to help participants build life skills while exploring new interests and potential career paths.

Youth will have the opportunity to choose two to three sessions centered around topics they are passionate or interested in, making this a truly personalized learning experience. The cost to attend is **\$250**. Scholarships are available, and families are encouraged to contact the **Shiawassee County MSU Extension Office** for more information.

## Highlights from Our Cocoa Craze Workshop

In February, we held a Cocoa Craze Workshop at the Shiawassee County MSU Extension office. Youth and their parents had the opportunity to learn about the history of chocolate and taste a variety of chocolates ranging from milk chocolate to high-percentage dark chocolate. There were even a few surprise samples with extra flavors mixed in.

Participants learned many interesting facts—including that chocolate is actually a fruit! Everyone walked away with new knowledge, new favorites, and a deeper appreciation for how chocolate is grown and made.

The workshop was a huge hit with both the youth and the adults. Special thank you to Dixie Sandborn, 4-H Horticulture Educator, for coming out and teaching us more about chocolate.



*Change Camp Moments into Camp Legends....*



Powered by Bay, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee,  
St. Clair, and Tuscola County 4-H Programs

# REGIONAL CAMP COUNSELOR TRAINING

*Dare to Level Up!*



For 4-H Camp Counselors  
**12-19 Years Old**  
and Adult Volunteers!



**April 11, 2026**

9am - 3pm



**Free!**

Bring a Sack Lunch.

## Training Topics

### • Staying Cool When Things Get Serious

- CPR & First Aid\*
- Basic Camp Safety
- Emergency Procedures
- Incident Reporting

### • Bringing the Hype

- Games, Songs, & Activities
- Camp & Cabin Themes
- Craft Ideas

### • Calming the Chaos and Setting the Tone

- De-escalation & Conflict Resolution
- Redirection & Leading by Example
- Building Trust & A Sense of Belonging



**Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center**  
3375 S. Reese Rd. Frankenmuth, MI 48734

\*There is a \$20 fee to receive a CPR/First Aid Certification Card.

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Register by March 27 in  
4-Honline