

*St. Joseph County*

# 4-H Family News

February/March 2021

4-H Members, Leaders, and Families,

It is a beautiful snowy day in St. Joseph County! I hope this finds you all well and warm! As we continue to process the past year of COVID-19 it is my hope that we can look back one day and remember the good and positive things that we have experienced. 4-H has looked different for sure. With the no Face-To-Face restrictions, we have all missed being able to have that “normal” 4-H experience and to interact with our 4-H family and friends. I want to Thank You for being understanding and patient as we muddle through this journey together. There is no “in the past” or manual on how to maneuver this experience. We are doing this as we go with the good and the bad and hopefully learning from this as well.

I hope you have been able to take advantage of the virtual statewide events that have been posted on the [St. Joseph County Michigan 4-H](#) Face Book page. We continue to keep opportunities posted there for you...go like the page and check those out.

In this newsletter are additional pieces of information that you may need or might want to pass on to your friends and club members.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [beekere@msu.edu](mailto:beekere@msu.edu) or call me at 269-268-1252.

Helping to “Make the Best Better”

Eva Beeker

4-H Program Coordinator, St. Joseph County

## Contact Us

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Remind (how to register)  
Text @4hgennews2 to  
81010 or go to  
[rmd.at/4hgennews2](https://rmd.at/4hgennews2)

## Announcements....

- \* Just a reminder that the state of Michigan 4-H is still under a “no face-to-face” restriction until further notice. This includes all 4-H programs, 4-H meetings, and all in person activities.
- \* The MSU Extension office remains closed, however the phones are being answered remotely. If you need assistance, please call the office phone number at 269-467-5521.

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Save the date for the 4-H Capitol Experience Youth Summit, March 13, 17 and 20!

This fully virtual event will have opportunities for youth engagement, networking, sharing ideas, meeting with decision makers, learning about careers in and around policy, and learning the basics about government.

Youth will select issue groups, which will become small group learning cohorts throughout the event.

Sessions will be held:

- March 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- March 17, 4 - 6 p.m.
- March 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This event is open to youth in eighth grade through age 19; registration will begin in February. The \$20 cost to attend will include a mailed conference kit to enhance the virtual experience.

I want to Thank Jackie Brazo for her time and effort as the Rabbit Superintendent. Jackie has decided that it is time to step away as the superintendent to concentrate her efforts on other projects that are near and dear to her. We will miss her leadership, her dedication, and her love of the 4-H members with-in the rabbit department. Thanks Jackie for everything!



### Information for 2021:

- \* There will be **NO** 4-H or Leader required meetings for 2021.
- \* YQCA will **not** be required for exhibition for 2021 at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- \* 4-H Camp normally held in July will be postponed until 2022.
- \* Exploration Days held in June will be virtual for 2021. Cost will be significantly reduced! More information will be posted soon!
- \* The Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) Trip will be virtual for 2021. More information will be posted soon!
- \* Statewide virtual experiences are posted on the [St. Joseph County Michigan 4-H](#) Face Book page...There are A LOT of fun opportunities...some are free, some have a minimal fee...check them out!



### 2021 Livestock Information:

- **Turkey** Hatch date for 2021: **May 15, 2021**. If ordering from Co-Alliance (Michiana Agra) please place your order by **March 15, 2021**.
- **Chicken** Hatch Date for 2021: **July 17, 2021**. If ordering from Co-Alliance (Michiana Agra) please place your order by **May 15, 2021**.
- **Rabbits**: We will be posting the rabbit superintendent position soon.
- **Swine**: New for 2021: St. Joseph County will now be a NON-TERMINAL swine show. Swine will not be required to go to a terminal facility following fair. More information will be coming soon.
- As a reminder: You may **NOT** feed/use any product containing Ractopamine (ie: Paylene products)
- **Please see the insert regarding Swine Tags for 2021.**
- **Market Steers, Feeder Steers, Goats, and Sheep**: There will NOT be a pre-fair weight-in or tagging process for 2021.
- **All Livestock Exhibitors**: Each member will be required to provide pictures of the side (head and feet included), rear, "head-on", **AND** a close up picture of the animal ear showing the tag number pictures (just as in 2020) of their livestock project with their name, age, club name, and tag numbers on the back of each picture. All pictures should be delivered or mailed to the MSU Extension office, 612 East Main St. Centreville, MI 49032 by **August 1, 2021**.

# ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CALENDAR (through April)

## March

	1 Youth Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	2 Horse Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15 Turkey order due	16	17 	18	19	20 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## April

				1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4	5 Youth Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	6 Horse Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10
11	12 Livestock Assoc Mtg 6:00 p.m.	13	14	15 	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## 2020-2021 4-H Enrollment:

Thank you to those of you who have re-enrolled for the 2020-21 program year. If you have not already done so, please log into your 4-H online account ([v2.4honline.com](http://v2.4honline.com)) and re-enroll for this program year as soon as possible. You will notice that it looks different than last year but your login and password are the same. If you do not remember your password you can reset it yourself or call the office at 269-467-5521 and Tonya can help you with it.

3



### AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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 6, youth will join virtually 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 April 1 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 online 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 Des Moines, Iowa, or virtually, in October. For more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/). Registration will open on March 1; registration and papers are due by April 1.

**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-gil-presentation](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/daniel-gil-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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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>.

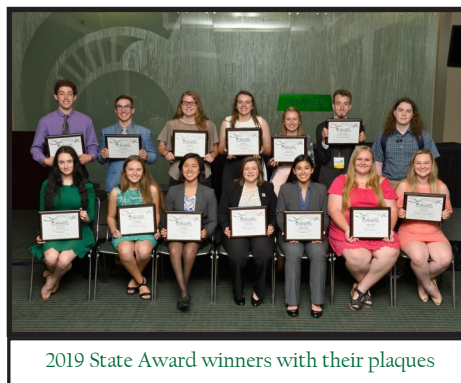


## STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

5

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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 29. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/>.