

*St. Joseph County*

4-H Family News

May 2022

Welcome to St. Joseph County 4-H!

We have several new families joining the St. Joseph County 4-H program this year, and we are so excited to welcome them to the program! We know you'll help them to see what 4-H is all about as we begin to ramp up for our busiest time of year.

For those members and volunteers who have been in the program for a while, it has been an unusual couple of years. However, 4-Hers are resilient! As Walt Disney once said, "Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." When you move forward and try new things, you can Find Your Spark and your path in life. **That** is what 4-H is all about!

We have a few very busy months coming up, so if you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,
Autumn Converse
4-H Program Coordinator

Contact Us

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Announcements...

The 2022 Fair Book is now available!

It can be found on our website under the "Fair Information" tab. Hard copies will be available for purchase at the Extension Office soon.

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Assistant Goat Superintendent Opening

We are looking to fill an assistant goat superintendent position. Interested individuals should email Autumn Converse, 4-H Program Coordinator, at conver20@msu.edu by Friday, June 3rd.

Pre-Fair Meeting Dates

The following are the dates for this year's pre-fair species meetings for leaders. All meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office, subject to change.

Poultry: July 20th

Sheep: July 21st

Beef: July 28th

Rabbit: August 3rd

Swine: August 11th

Dairy: August 17th

Goat: August 18th

Livestock Tagging Dates

Below are the dates for this year's countywide tagging and registration events. Your animals must be registered at the appropriate event to be eligible for fair.

Sheep, Goats, Feeder Calves:

June 7 and 9, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Swine: June 15 and 16, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

****Turkeys:** July 17 and 18, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Rabbits: August 10 5:00 to 8:00 or August 14 1:00 to 4:00

****All other poultry:** August 21 and 22, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**subject to HPAI status

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp returns!



Save the date: 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is returning in person this summer! Hosted at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, this fun summer event will take place July 31—August 6.

Teens ages 13—15 will have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences that educate them about natural resources, environmental stewardship and more. Youth will also enjoy charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hiking through forests, wading through wetlands, exploring dunes and more!

Registration will open in early May and space is limited. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2022-23 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2022-2023 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs, as well as recognize members of the 4-H community. All applications are due June 1.

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$500.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award (includes \$1,000 grant).** This award recognizes outstanding 4-H agricultural volunteers that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.

Tips for purchasing and bringing home livestock

Adapted from: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/tips-for-purchasing-and-bringing-home-livestock

Acquiring new stock is exciting whether you are building your herd or flock, or purchasing your annual 4-H project. These tips will help you manage their health and safety by making sure you know the questions to ask before purchasing and the preparations required to bring livestock home.

Assessing Animal Health and Treatment Documentation

When purchasing animals, you should know their history. Ask the following questions:

- When was the animal born?
- What specific vaccinations has the animal been given and when were they given?
- If necessary, was the animal properly castrated and what method was used?
- Have any other treatments been administered to the animal? If so, what is the slaughter withdrawal for the drugs given?
- Have any of the animals on the farm been ill or shown symptoms of illness?
- If acquiring a market animal, what is the approximate weight?

Considerations as You Bring Animals Home

Transporting. Secure a trailer. If you do not own a trailer, make arrangements with someone who can transport animals for you. Be prepared to pay someone to provide transportation, as a courtesy.

Unloading. Make sure that your facility is ready to house your new animals before they arrive. Have a pen identified for new animals to go into with fresh water and appropriate feed. (Feed should be similar to their previous diet; changing to a new diet should be done over a period of time.) Have a clear and direct path to the animals' new pen from the trailer. Make sure that all gates are open or closed, as appropriate, and secured.

Settling in. Quarantine, or separate, new animals for a minimum of 21 days. At minimum, try to avoid nose-to-nose contact, and comingling feeding and watering. Minimize stress on new animals during the quarantine period. If after 21 days, the newly acquired animals have not shown any symptoms of illness, it should be safe to comingling them into your existing herd or flock.

Comingling. Since each species has a social hierarchy, observe animals during comingling and separate if there is risk of injury. Over the course of a day, the herd or flock should settle into a routine that includes the new animals.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Youth Council 6:30 pm	3 Horse Council 6:30 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Leader Update (Zoom) 10am 4-H Scholarship Interviews
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Leader Update 6:30 pm	27	28
29	30 Office Closed	31				

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 4-H Exploration Days Orientation 6:30 pm	3 Assistant Goat Superintendent Deadline	4
5	6 Youth Council 6:30 pm	7 Tagging—Sheep, Goats, Feeders 5-7 Horse Council 6:30	8	9 Tagging—Sheep, Goats, Feeders 5-7 pm	10	11
12	13	14 Livestock Association 5:30	15 Swine Tagging 5-7:30	16 Swine Tagging 5-7:30	17	18
19	20	21	22 4-H Exploration Days	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		