



Eaton County

4-H Family News

March 2018

Deadline reminder: Enroll by March 15!

Youth who wish to show at the Eaton County Fair as a 4-H member must be fully enrolled in 4-H by March 15. How do you know if you are fully enrolled? Log into your 4-H Online account at <https://mi.4honline.com>. In the blue member/volunteer list that appears on the family page, you will see a column that says "enrollment status". Here are what the different statuses mean:

- **Active:** Fully enrolled volunteers and youth. No further action needed.
- **Incomplete:** You are not enrolled and need to take action! In most cases, if you have already submitted your profile and it was sent back to you, this means that you did not fill out the signatures correctly and must recomplete them. Make sure to use youth first and last name in the member signature boxes and parent/guardian first and last name in the parent/guardian signature boxes!
- **Pending:** You are not enrolled and need to take action! For youth members, this usually means that the Extension office has not received payment of your \$20 4-H participation fee. For adults, this usually means you have not yet fully completed the Volunteer Selection Process.
- **Inactive:** You are not enrolled and need to take action! You need to submit your 4-H Online reenrollment.

Please contact the Extension office if you have any questions on your status and what you need to do to complete your enrollment in 4-H!

Upcoming County Meetings and Events:

PMR = Public Meeting Room (basement of Extension office); Kardel = Kardel Hall on the Eaton County Fairgrounds

- Small Animal Association, 3/1, 7 pm, PMR
- 4-H Council, 3/5, 7 pm, PMR
- Dog Committee, 3/7, 6:30 pm, PMR
- Horse Development Committee, 3/14, 6:30 pm, PMR
- Fairboard, 3/19, 7 pm, Kardel
- Volunteer Interviews and Orientation, 3/20, Extension office
- Spring Leader Update, 3/26, 6:30 pm, PMR
- Style Revue committee, 3/26, 6:30 pm, Extension office
- Jr Livestock Association, 4/9, 7 pm, Kardel
- Open Office Hours, 4/11, until 7 pm unless prior arrangements are made
- Volunteer Interviews and Orientation, 4/19, Extension office
- Fairboard, 4/16, 7 pm, Kardel
- Style Revue, 4/28, St. Marys Church Social Hall, Charlotte

Follow our Google calendar for a calendar layout of events!

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/4_h_events_calendar

Contact Us

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Stay Connected

Facebook:



[facebook.com/
EatonCounty4H](https://facebook.com/EatonCounty4H)

Eaton County 4-H
Community Group

[facebook.com/
groups/806933519357705/](https://facebook.com/groups/806933519357705/)

Twitter



twitter.com/EatonCo4H

Pinterest

pinterest.com/eatoncounty4h/

Instagram

[instagram.com/
eatoncounty4h](https://instagram.com/eatoncounty4h)

STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Revised 4-H
Teen Leadership
Guide now
online**



Learn the roles and responsibilities of a teen leader from this newly revised 4-H Teen Leadership Guide. Designed to make the process of taking on a 4-H teen leadership project easier, the publication provides a five step project guide along with fillable forms that make any teen into a great teen leader.

The 4-H Teen Leadership Guide is available to download for free at msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_teen_leadership.

4-H Events and Workshops

March 6: 4-H and Fundraising 101 for Volunteers

Online

Learn about Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension fundraising policies.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_and_fundraising_101_for_volunteers

March 15: 4-H Junior Master Gardener Workshop

Kalamazoo Fairgrounds, Kalamazoo

Become a 4-H Junior Master Gardener at this workshop. Registration is due by March 7.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_junior_master_gardener_workshop_kalamazoo

March 17: Time for Success 4-H Workshop

MSU Tollgate Farm and Conference Center, Novi

Polish your skills and get prepared for your next interview.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/time_for_success_4_h_workshop

March 19: Michigan 4-H Embryology Staff, Teacher and Volunteer Training

Online

This free training is designed for educators who would like to learn how to implement an embryology program through classroom activities or 4-H SPIN clubs. Register by March 15.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_embryology_staff_teacher_and_volunteer_training_online

March 21: Animal Care and Well-Being

Mid Michigan Community College, Harrison

During this free event, learn about large and small animal welfare from MSU Extension educator Melissa Elischer.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/animal_care_and_well_being_1

March 31: Southeast Michigan 4-H Target Archery Shoot

Springfield Oaks County Park Activity Center, Davisburg

This first annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition. Register by March 17.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/2018_southeast_michigan_4_h_target_archery_shoot

April 4-5: 4-H Tractor Safety

NorthWest Michigan Research Center, Traverse City

Complete the tractor operation safety course to become certified to perform farm jobs. Registration is due by March 23.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/2018_4_h_tractor_safety

April 7: Michigan 4-H Hippology Skills and Communications Contest

Michigan State University, East Lansing

Combine youth interest in horses with the importance of science literacy and life skill building in this fun contest. Submit entries to your county MSU Extension office by March 9.

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/mi-4-h-hippology-skills-communications-contest>

April 14: State 4-H Goat Expo

Michigan State University, East Lansing

The State 4-H Goat Expo is designed for young people who are interested in live animal evaluation and in testing their knowledge of the goat (caprine) industry.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/state_4_h_goat_expo

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

4-H Exploration Days registration books now available!



4-H Exploration Days participants partake in a variety of fun, educational sessions while at MSU.

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan 4-H's largest pre-college program and could be the highlight of your summer—maybe even change your life! Registration for this popular event will open March 13 and is open to any Michigan 4-H'er above the age of 11 as of Jan. 1.

4-H Exploration Days is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Michigan 4-H youth who participate have the opportunity to stay in MSU campus residence halls while attending classroom and field trip sessions throughout their stay.

With more than 200 session choices held on and off campus, there are topics for everyone including animal science, business and entrepreneurship, international language and culture, performing and visual arts, and science, engineering, and technology. During the 2017 4-H Exploration Days, nearly 2,000 youth attended and they gained important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication.

Registration will be available beginning March 13 at 9 a.m. We strongly recommend turning in your deposit and registration forms on or prior to March 13 to have the best chance at receiving your top session choices. All registration information should be turned in to your county's Extension office by April 27. Visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days for more information, including the registration forms (hard copies are also available at the Extension office).

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

From August 5 to 11, 4-H youth with an interest in the outdoors have the opportunity to engage in an amazing outdoor, hands-on learning experiences at the 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp (GLNRC). Held annually at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, camp participants get to go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing and hiking, while learning about Great Lakes ecology, natural resources and environmental education.

Declared one of the top eight 4-H science programs nationally in 2012, the goal of GLNRC is to help prepare, reinforce and enrich what youth have already learned in school and what they will learn in the future. This is achieved by allowing participants to spend one week learning from experts about coastal ecology, fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, invasive species and forestry. After attending the camp, participating youth will gain knowledge and skills in environmental science and related careers.

To attend, youth must be between the ages of 13 and 15 and apply online. Registrations are due by May 1, but space is limited to 70 campers, so early application is encouraged. For more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp.



4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp participants explore nature at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle.

New Diddly Squat lessons available

4H1750

TEACHING SCIENCE

...when you don't know diddly-squat

Why are animals' feet different?

Purpose:
The purpose is **not** to teach specific content, but to teach the process of science - asking questions and discovering answers. This activity encourages young people to try to figure things out for themselves rather than just read an answer on the internet or in a book. As a leader, try not to express your opinion, but let the youth engage in arguments based on evidence.

Time required:
20 minutes or multiple days depending on the interest and questions the youth have

Materials:

- Balloons
- Masking or frisk-it tape
- Hairpins
- Scrap cardboard
- Ropes or twine (optional)
- Toe spacers or separators (as used in dentistry)

Materials for an obstacle course (the creative examples include a hector-four to use as a balance beam, twine or stepping stones, tape or hula-hoops to step in and out of, logs to step over, mud)

- A safe place to walk barefoot

Note: Before beginning, talk to the participants about safety. They should have fun while learning, but trying to rush with unsure footing could lead to a fall or a twisted ankle.

SCIENCE PRACTICE:
Asking questions and defining problems

1. Ask: Are animal feet different from human feet? How are they different? Do you think animals' feet give them any advantages or disadvantages as compared to human feet? How and why are chicken feet different from duck feet? How and why are horse feet different from cow feet?

SCIENCE PRACTICE:
Developing and using models

2. Could you modify your own feet to make them more like animal feet? Place a balloon under each heel to you are walking more on your toes. (Horses essentially walk on a single toe, similar to the balloon taped under the heel.) What will happen if you tape four together? (Cattle, pigs, sheep and goats also walk more on their toes, but they have two toes. Tape the participants' toes together in two groups. Then put a balloon under each heel.) Some animal toes are spaced apart more than ours are. Place toe spacers taped upside down between each toe on both of your feet. How does that affect your walking? (Chickens and other birds have splayed toes, like with the toe spacers.) How might flip-flops or flipper be more like animal feet? (Ducks have webbed feet like the flippers.) What will happen if you tape a piece of cardboard larger than the flip-flops to the bottom of the flip-flops? (Some animals have the flip-flops to walking in snow or mud like rabbits.) What are the limitations of these models? Is there anything you can do to make them more accurate to be more like an animal foot?

SCIENCE PRACTICE:
Planning and carrying out investigations

3. Set up an obstacle course with various objects as described under "Materials." Participants go through the course with different types of feet and observe how it affects their balance, speed and coordination.

Three new lesson plans are now available in the "Teaching Science When You Don't Know Diddly-Squat" series. With a focus on sight, animal feet and math, the new lesson plans are not meant to teach specific content, but to teach the process of science.

Asking questions and discovering answers encourages 4-H'ers to figure things out for themselves.

Discover the entire series and download the new lesson plans at msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/teaching_science_when_you_dont_know_diddly_squat_series.

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2018 Fair Theme and Dates

“Shooting for the Stars”

July 9-14

Non-livestock judging on
July 7

Fair information

Fair book information for this year will be available online at <http://eatoncountyfair.com/pageserver/fair-book>.

You can also purchase a hard copy of the fair book from the Extension office for \$5.

An email will be sent when the fair book is available from fair board (expected by the end of March).

Remember: Fair entry forms are due by May 1 to the fair office!

Spring Break Craft Workshop

Love arts and crafts and need something to do during spring break? Sign up for the Spring Break Craft Workshop, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the PMR (basement of the Extension office)! This fun workshop will feature a variety of crafts, such as weaving, t-shirt bags, and mosaics! Registration will be limited to 15 youth, first come first serve, so don't wait to register. The cost for the workshop is \$20 and covers supplies, lunch, and snacks! Registration will be done online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/eatonspringbreakcraft18/>. Please register by March 31.

We are also in need of 1-2 adult volunteers to help out at this workshop. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kristy!

4-H Night at the MSU Observatory

April 14, 2018, MSU Observatory, 4299 Pavilion Drive, East Lansing

Let's go star gazing! Come enjoy some hands-on space related activities at the MSU Observatory. Explore space through MSU's 24" reflecting telescope as well as other telescopes (please note that the 24" reflecting telescope is only accessible via stairs; other telescopes will be accessible for use). This FREE event is open to youth and adults of all ages! The event is weather permitting; registered participants will receive an e-mail if the event is canceled due to weather conditions. Please RSVP by April 9 at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4hattheobservatory>.

4-H Style Revue

Are you involved in the clothing/textile project areas? Participate in the 4-H Style Revue, our fashion show for members to show off their items made, poise, and confidence! Featured categories include: sewing, knitting, crochet, recycled garment, accessories, and tie-dye! The event is on Saturday, April 28, in the evening at St. Marys Church Social Hall in Charlotte. Registrations are due by April 13 and this event is FREE for Eaton County 4-H youth to enter! For more information, the flyer, and the registration packet, visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/style_revue_committee.

Credit cards now accepted at the Extension office!

You can now pay via credit card at the Extension office for items such as 4-H Participation Fees, 4-H Exploration Days, soil tests, bulletins, and more! Cash and check are still also accepted.

Please note that, per the 4-H Financial Manuals, 4-H groups still cannot accept payments via credit card or online, nor own credit or debit cards. This also means that payments for events that are run through our associations (like 4-H Council, Dog Committee, etc) are still cash or check only.

Payments for most state 4-H events are done through Events Management, our online event registration system—please make sure to follow the payment methods and places listed in the specific event registration. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension office!

Small Animal Association Corner

- Next meeting: 3/1 at 7 p.m. in the PMR.

4-H Council Corner

- Next meeting: 3/5 at 7 p.m. in the PMR.
- Show your 4-H pride: Purchase a “4-H Grows Here” window decal at the Extension office for \$6!

Dog Committee Corner

- Next meeting: 3/7 at 6:30 p.m. in the PMR.
- Save the Date for the Pre-Fair Dog Show! The show will be on May 19 (please note date change). The event flyer and registration packet are now available at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/dog_committee. Pre-register to receive the discounted class rate by May 1!
- Please make sure you use the updated May 1 dog form this year for your dog project. The updated form can be found at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/dog_committee.

Horse Development Committee Corner

- Next meeting: 3/14 at 6:30 p.m. in the PMR. Please note that the meeting nights have changed! Meetings are now on the second Wednesday of every other month.
- Reminder to those considering the State 4-H Horse Show: Plan ahead! State show delegate selection process and requirements are online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/horse_development_committee.

Jr Livestock Association Corner

- Next meeting: 4/9 at 7 p.m. at Kardel Hall. This is the Buyer’s Workshop! All youth who are selling in the sale are strongly encouraged to attend to learn about the sale forms and buyer etiquette. Youth who attend the meeting will be able to pick up 2 passes for new buyers at the end of the meeting. Youth who do not attend will not be able to get passes until after May 9.
- JLA bylaws have been updated with the changes voted in at the February meeting. Please visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/junior_livestock_association to view the changes, which include a lot of sale rule changes/additions!

Open Office Hours

As a reminder, 4-H staff hold open office hours on the second Wednesday of every month (unless otherwise posted). The office will be open until 7pm (after 7pm by appointment only) those nights for those needing to come into the office or meet with 4-H staff.

4-H Scholarships

There is now a page for one-stop shopping for the variety of 4-H scholarships available, including:

- 4-H Participation Fee
- 4-H educational opportunities
- College scholarships

Visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_club_resources/scholarships1 for more information!

Spring Leader Update Meeting

Please save Monday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the PMR (basement of Extension office) on your calendars for the Spring Leader Update meeting. All clubs must send at least one registered volunteer to this meeting. The meeting will go over 4-H updates, fair information, and sign-ups for Food Shack, grey building, and fairground clean-up shifts. If nobody from your club can make the meeting, please contact the office by Friday, March 23 to set up an alternative time to meet with Kristy.

Prospective Volunteers

Have you considered becoming a volunteer? There is a revised process for our Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) to reflect our new centralized process. These changes can be found at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment#volunteers. All prospective volunteers must go through this process prior to being accepted as a volunteer. Any adult who is involved in a club activity on an ongoing basis (more than 4 meetings) must go through this process.

One of the steps to become a new 4-H leader is to complete an interview with 4-H staff. If you know someone who wants to volunteer, the next scheduled interview dates are 3/20 for time slots available between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. or 4/19 for time slots between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Interviews take approximately 30 minutes. Call the Extension office to RSVP for a time slot.

Upcoming volunteer orientation dates are 3/20 at 6:30 p.m. or 4/19 for 3:30 p.m. The orientation will take about 1 & 1/2 to 2 hours and you must RSVP to the Extension office. All volunteers must attend an orientation within their first year of becoming a registered leader.