

Barry County



4-H



Welcome Packet

for new families

Revised September 2017

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Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to 4-H, the youth development program of MSU Extension! 4-H provides youth with positive learning experiences that help build character, while developing knowledge and skills that prepare them for the future.

I hope that your experience with Barry County 4-H provides your family with a positive experience that you will look back on and remember for years to come. Participation in 4-H should be educational as well as fun for the whole family. I know that 4-H is a large program and can be difficult to navigate, especially for new families, I hope that this guide will give you the information you need to find your way around.

As you become more and more involved with 4-H, you will continue to have new opportunities, even beyond Barry County, because 4-H events occur at the county, state, national, and even international levels! All the fun starts at the club level. I encourage you to become very active with your 4-H club. Throughout the year, I ask that you keep in mind that the majority of 4-H experiences are made possible by volunteers. Volunteers and 4-H staff will do their best to make the experience positive for your family. Throughout the year, you and your family may also be asked to lend a hand, please remember that many hands make light work, so if everyone pitches in a little the job will be done quickly. I understand that families are very busy, but any amount of help your family provides is appreciated to make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the experience.

If you have any questions throughout your 4-H journey, you can always reach out to the Extension office by calling 269-945-1388 or reach via email at pennin25@msu.edu.

Sincerely,



Kathy Pennington
4-H Program Coordinator

BARRY COUNTY

**Michigan State University
Extension**

206 W Court St.
Hastings, MI. 49058-1824

Phone: 269-945-1388
Fax: 269-948-3323

Email: msue.barry@county.msu.edu
Web: www.msue.msu.edu/barry

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Barry County MSU Extension

4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Extension system. The Smith-Lever Act formalized Extension in 1914 to expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) partnership with land-grant universities to apply research and provide education to communities. 4-H programming is delivered locally and operated at the state and national levels through a partnership between county governments, the Extension at the state's land grant university (in Michigan, through Michigan State University), and the USDA.

Location and Contact Information

121 S Court St
Hastings, MI. 49058-1824
Phone: 269-945-1388
Fax: 269-948-3323

4-H Website: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/barry/barry_county_4_h
4-H staff email: pennin25@anr.msu.edu

Our new office is located in the old Hastings public library (now the Tyden Building) across the street from the court house and Hastings City Bank. It's always best to call ahead before making the trip in to insure that the office is not closed due to illness or training.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Staff

Don Lehman, District 8 Coordinator
Wendy Hunt, Office Manager
Kathy Pennington, 4-H Program Coordinator
Laura Anderson, Extension Educator Health and Nutrition Institute
Lisa Thatcher, SNAP Ed Program Instructor

Barry County 4-H Policies

Non-Discrimination: MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

4-H Age: A 4-H member's age is determined by whatever age he/she will be during the 4-H program year. The 4-H program year begins on September 1, but 4-H age is determined by the age that the child will be on January 1 of that following year. For example, a youth born on January 20, 2000 would have a 4-H age of 15 for the program year that runs September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016. Youth that have a 4-H age of 5 – 19 years of age may join the 4-H program. Youth that are 4-H age 5 – 8 years old are considered Young Clovers, which only participate in non-competitive settings. In the 4-H Online system please select 'Introductory 4-H Projects' as well as any other projects the youth may be participating in this year. 4-H members are ages 9 – 19 and participate in both non-competitive and competitive settings. Age 19 cannot compete at the Barry County Fair.

Participation Fee: All 4-H members are required to pay a \$20 per member (including Young Clovers) participation fee (families with three or more 4-H members are only responsible for paying \$60 per family). This fee covers insurance for every member. The participation fee helps to enable the development of new programming and curriculum. \$5 of every fee remains with Barry County to develop programs locally; the remainder is used to support statewide programming. Some clubs or projects may have an additional fee.

Stay in the loop!

Make sure you are connected to Barry County 4-H through the following means:

- Make sure your 4-H Online email address is current! Most communication is done via email through 4-H Online.
- Watch the Reminder for upcoming meetings, events and other important information.
- Visit our website regularly at:
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/barry/barry_county_4_h
- Follow Barry County 4-H on **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/BarryCounty4H> and **Twitter**
<https://twitter.com/BarryCo4H>
- Please make sure your projects are updated in 4-H Online. We do send project-specific emails only to those participants enrolled in certain project areas as relevant.
- Fair information, including the fair book, can be found on the fair website at:
<http://www.barryexpoenter.com/>

The \$20 fee is only paid once (checks made payable to MSU). If you are enrolled in 4-H through another county, you will pay the participation fee through your primary county. If you are involved in more than one club, you will pay the participation fee through your primary club. Be sure to communicate with your club leader where you have paid the fee.

Enrollment/Re-enrollment: 4-H members and volunteers must enroll /re-enroll each year. Returning members and volunteers must re-enroll by November 15. New members are taken all year but to show at fair youth must meet preregistration dates. Enrollment begins in September. All enrollments and re-enrollments occur via 4-H Online (our online database) through your primary club. More information about 4-H Online and the link to register can be found at on our website. Please note that you are not considered a 4-H member until you have enrolled or re-enrolled in the 4-H Online System (including correct authorizations, club, and project participation) AND your participation fees have been verified by the Extension office. Only members and volunteers need to enroll in 4-H Online (adults who are not volunteers do not need to enroll).

Volunteers: Any adult that wishes to enroll as a volunteer with 4-H must complete the Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to enrolling in 4-H Online. There will also be a background check, reference check, interview, 4-H Volunteer e-Learning Course, and an in-person orientation. All volunteers have one year from the date their first paperwork is turned in to the office to complete the process. Volunteers who do not complete the process within one year will be required to restart the process. Volunteers who are inactive (have not completed re-enrollment by the county deadline) will be required to repeat the VSP prior to being considered an active volunteer.

4-H Clubs: Clubs must complete required paperwork and be registered with the Extension office to be considered a 4-H club and allowed to use the 4-H name and emblem. Clubs must consist of at least five members from two or more families, have at least one registered adult volunteer, and meet a minimum of six times per year. Some 4-H clubs charge dues to cover expenses. For more information about starting a club call the Extension office at 269-945-1388.

Financial Guidelines: Each club, volunteer, member and parent is required to follow the financial guidelines for Michigan 4-H clubs. The financial manual for volunteers can be found on our website page for leaders http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/barry/barry_county_4_h/leader_information. Please contact the Extension office with any questions.

Fundraisers – All 4-H fundraisers must have a completed fundraising authorization form submitted to the Extension office at least two weeks prior to the start of the fundraiser. A

Did you know?

*The 4-H Motto is
"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"*

*This expresses a continual goal of
excellence—to always strive to
build on our goals and skills.*

follow-up report form must be completed and submitted no more than 10 days following the event. Only authorized 4-H groups may use the 4-H name and emblem in fundraising for that authorized 4-H group and all funds raised using the 4-H name and emblem are considered 4-H funds. This means that fundraisers for personal use may not use the 4-H name, emblem or club name.

4-H Pledge

I pledge....

My head to clearer thinking
My heart to greater loyalty
My hands to larger service
My health to better living
For my club, my community, my country and my world.

The 4-H pledge, which should be said at the beginning of every club and association meeting, addresses all four areas of youth development (cognitive, emotional, social, and physical). You should work with the youth to help them memorize the 4-H pledge.

4-H Emblem



The 4-H emblem is a four leaf clover with an “H” on each leaf, which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The 4-H emblem (commonly called the 4-H clover) is protected by law from commercial and unauthorized use. Due to this protection, only chartered 4-H clubs and organizations are authorized to use the 4-H clover in publications and advertising. The clover must also always be seen with the 18 USC 707 trademark (with few exceptions). There are very strict policies regarding how you may use the clover in documents, apparel, etc. (for example, text or images cannot be placed over the clover). For further explanation of these policies, visit <http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem>.

<http://www.4-h.org/>

National 4-H

4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering six million youth in the U.S. and is part of the Cooperative Extension system of land-grant universities.

National 4-H provides a wealth of resources, including curriculum and activities as well as fund development for local 4-H programs. They coordinate National 4-H Week which occurs in October each year, along with the 4-H National Youth Science Day that occurs that week also. They partner with Tractor Supply Company (TSC) to host the Paper Clover Campaign (customers can donate \$1 to their local 4-H program at each TSC store) each fall and spring.

National 4-H also operates the 4-H Mall, which is your go-to source for 4-H gear, including curriculum, apparel, club supplies, and more. Visit <http://www.4-hmall.org/home.aspx> to find all that they offer!

Michigan 4-H Youth Development

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

Michigan 4-H Youth Development operates under Michigan State University Extension. The program creates non-formal, educational opportunities to help youth thrive in a complex and changing world. There are seven guiding principles that provide the foundation for educational methods, activities and events that positively affect the lives of Michigan's youth. These are:

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
4. Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
5. Youth develop skills that help them succeed.
6. Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism.
7. Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.

Michigan 4-H provides a wealth of resources and activities around a variety of project and topic areas, including animal science, arts, careers and entrepreneurship, citizenship, leadership, community service, environmental and outdoor education, global and cultural education, healthy youth, life skills, science and technology, volunteering, and mentoring.

Youth can apply for various awards and scholarships at the state level. Scholarships include the Michigan Rabbit/Cavy 4-H Scholarship for those involved with the rabbit/cavy project area, Michigan State University 4-H Scholarship for high school seniors who have applied to MSU,

Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarships, and Michigan State University Pre-College Program Scholarship for students in 8th, 9th, or 10th grade who attend an MSU pre-college program (such as 4-H Exploration Days, 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp, 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp, or 4-H Capitol Experience).

Michigan 4-H Foundation

<http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/about.html>

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is a non-profit fundraising organization that solicits, manages, grants and stewards support from private individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations to support Michigan 4-H Youth Development programs. Gifts made to the Foundation support:

- 4-H volunteer training at a reduced cost
- County 4-H volunteer recognition
- State 4-H youth awards and recognition
- College scholarships for 4-H youth
- County and state 4-H grant opportunities
- Creation of new curriculum and learning materials
- Development of new and current 4-H programs
- Development and maintenance of Kettunen Center, Michigan's 4-H volunteer training center
- Development and maintenance of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens at MSU

State 4-H Workshops and Events

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>

There are many statewide 4-H workshops and events that 4-H members can attend throughout the year. Listed below is a sampling. Visit the website link above to find more information about each event.

4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp – Occurs at the end of June at MSU and is for youth interested in exploring animal and veterinary science projects and activities. Open to youth ages 13-16 and involves a competitive application process to attend (applications are due in April).

4-H Capitol Experience – Occurs in March at the State Capitol and surrounding area and is a four day conference to prepare youth for active citizenship, focusing on civic engagement and public policy.

4-H Exploration Days – The most popular 4-H event! Occurs in June at MSU and is for youth ages 11-19. Spend three days on MSU’s campus, experiencing life like a college student and attending fun workshops and events with over 2,500 youth from across the state. Registration begins in March. You will want to register ASAP when registration books are available as sessions fill up very quickly (some within the first 15 minutes of registration).

4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp – Occurs in August at Camp Chickagami on Presque Isle for youth ages 13-15 (8th – 10th grade). Experience all that our great lakes have to offer as you go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, explore dunes, and more. There is an application process that is due in May.

4-H Renewable Energy Camp – Occurs in July on MSU’s campus and is a five day camp for youth 13-19. Youth explore ideas, research and opportunities around renewable energy (biofuels, solar and wind energy).

4-H Family Fun Weekend – Occurs in August at Kettunen Center for parents and youth ages 5-8.

4-H Visual Arts, Crafts, Sewing and Textiles Workshop – Occurs in October at the Kettunen Center. Open to youth ages 12 and older and volunteers, this event features a variety of workshops focused on the visual arts, crafts, sewing and textile projects.

4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular – Occurring in January at the Kettunen Center, this event focuses on youth leadership, civic engagement, global citizenship and international cultures.

4-H Winterfest – This event for 8-12 year olds occurs in February. Youth get to participate in a variety of workshops and explore the Kettunen Center winter activities.

4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop – Occurs in February at the Kettunen Center. Youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about veterinary science.

4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop – Occurs in February at Kettunen Center. Youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about a variety of topics related to beef, sheep and swine project areas.

Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference – Occurs in March. Youth ages 11-18 can attend this event to learn about dairy management.

Did you know?

There are many scholarships available to attend statewide workshops and events. The Barry County 4-H Council offers a partial scholarship for one educational workshop or event per year for youth and leaders. Some events offer their own scholarships also.

The 4-H Program year runs from September 1 – August 31. Our county calendar of events can be found on our website, Facebook and in The Reminder. Below is a sample of what a typical program year in Barry County 4-H can include. Please remember that dates can change as well as requirements, and events. Watch website, Facebook and our 4-H News Column in The Reminder.

Note:

- The MSU Extension 4-H Program expects 4-H members/families to attend a minimum of half of their 4-H Clubs meetings.
- 4-H Project Developmental Committees meet throughout the year. Meeting are advertised in the paper, website and on Facebook.

September:

- Re-enrollment information is given out to the 4-H Club Administrative Leader at a Leader Update meeting. All paperwork and information is due in the Extension Office in November.
- Clubs usually hold their re-enrollment meetings in September or October. Nominations and elections for club (not all 4-H Clubs have officers) and committee officers are also usually held in the fall.



October:

- National 4-H Week is usually the first full week in October. Events during this week usually include the 4-H National Youth Science Day and the Tractor Supply Company fall paper clover campaign.
- Teen Leader Fall Recruiting Event.

November:

- 4-H member, young clover and leader re-enrollments are due in the Extension Office by November 15th. New members can join 4-H on an ongoing basis.

December:

- State 4-H award forms for members age 14-19 are available (usually due in February or March).
- 4-H Scholarship information available.

Note: 4-H project possession and pre-registration deadlines fall between January and June, check the web site for specific dates and requirements.



January and February:

- 4-H Leader update training

March:

- 4-H Exploration Days books are available (sign up early!).
- Fair Camping registration forms are available March 1st.

April:

- 4-H Exploration Days registration deadline.



May:

- Leader Update meeting is held to provide information about fair to club leaders.
- County Shooting Sports Tournament (may be in May or June)

June:

- Fair entry forms due to the Fair office (not the Extension office).
- 4-H Exploration Days occurs at MSU.
- Camping forms are due to the campground superintendent.



July:

- Barry County Fair (usually third week)
 - Non-livestock judging takes place the Saturday before fair begins. Members can begin getting wristbands for the week that day.

August:

- Culinary Arts Program
- Local Flavor Fest Dinner

Barry County 4-H Committees

Barry County 4-H has a variety of committees to guide certain project areas and events. Participation is highly encouraged and many offer great leadership opportunities for youth! Our Developmental Committees are comprised of 4-H adult and teen volunteers. Under the guidance of 4-H staff, our volunteers create project guidelines, rules and manage our 4-H events. The Developmental Committees provide educational opportunities for youth involved

in the various project areas. All clubs are encouraged to send a representative to the meetings to have a voice in shaping our program.

The Developmental Committees Include:

- **Livestock Committee**
 - Large Animal Sale held annually Friday of fair
- **Small Animal Sale Committee**
 - Small Animal Sale held annually Thursday of fair
- **Poultry Developmental Committee**
- **Goat Developmental Committee**
- **Rabbit Developmental Committee**
- **Horse Developmental Committee**
- **Dairy Developmental Committee**
- **Non livestock Developmental Committee**
 - The non-livestock committee organizes and runs the Non-Livestock Judging Day at the fair. From getting judges and clerks to making sure everyone is where they need to be that day. They also provide educational opportunities throughout the year for youth in SPIN clubs.
- **4-H Council**
 - 4-H Council is the committee that provide scholarships to events, manage 4-H awards, manage the 4-H continuing education scholarship for seniors or alumni for the county 4-H program and more. 4-H Council is an elected board of VSP certified volunteers and 4-H youth over the age of 15. The meetings are published and all clubs are encouraged to send representatives to the meetings.
 - 4-H Council oversees the following activities:
 - **Scholarships** – 4-H Council will reimburse (amount determined annually) youth and adult volunteers for registration fees to educational workshops and for youth and leaders who attend state camps.
 - **College Scholarships** - There are also scholarships available for graduating seniors to apply for. For more information visit <http://barrycounty4h.com/scholarship-opportunities/>.

Did you know?

Becoming a leader in 4-H can open up your opportunities to be more involved and make a difference in your community.

- County Awards - Learning, completing a project and recognition are important parts of the 4-H program. Recognition enhances the member's self-esteem, increases his or her motivation to learn, encourage them to become more involved in 4-H, helps them to accept new responsibilities and set new goals. Youth can be nominated by their 4-H leaders for county awards. Visit our website for more information.
<http://barrycounty4h.com/scholarship-opportunities/>
- Hot Dog Sale– 4-H Council organizes a hot dog sale at fair each year as their main fundraiser. Proceeds fund college scholarship program.

Barry County 4-H Clubs

There are several different types of clubs within the 4-H structure. Barry County consists mainly of community clubs, which involves members of a variety of ages and interests. These clubs have general club meetings which may be held on a monthly basis that all club members attend and include club business and educational activities. These clubs may also hold project-specific meetings throughout the year under the guidance of their project leader. Barry County also has project clubs, which focus on one specific project. These clubs meet on a weekly or monthly basis and focus mostly on project work. 4-H members may be involved with more than one club as fits their needs.

- Note: The MSU Extension 4-H Program expects 4-H members/families to attend a minimum of half of their 4-H Clubs meetings. If you are in multiple clubs, you must attend meetings for each club.

The current list of Barry County 4-H community clubs, along with a contact person, contact information, location, and project areas is located in on our website http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/barry/barry_county_4_h you can also get assistance by calling 269-945-1388.

Barry County 4-H County Programs

There are a variety of countywide programs offered each year to 4-H and non-4-H members. These can vary from one day workshops to a short program or camp. These programs have a small fee to help cover the costs of the program and you will need to register for the programs. Examples of county programs held in the past:

- Young Clover Bash

- Robotics Camp
- Science Saturdays
- Start a Business Series (4-H entrepreneur project Generation E)
- Teen Leader Program - The Teen Leader Program is made up of teens looking to become more involved in their 4-H experience. They help in programs throughout the county. They plan and run Young Clover Bash. They learn life skills and participate in community service projects. They become integrated together no matter what club they are in and have a wonderful time getting to know each other and helping out other youth in Barry County.

Barry County 4-H Projects and Life Skills

Based on the experiential learning model (doing an activity, then reflecting on the activity and applying knowledge learned), youth in 4-H participate in specific program areas through the learn-by-doing approach. These specific program areas are known as projects. Youth will select the projects they want to work on with the support of an adult volunteer leader. Note that not all projects are available in all clubs depending on the volunteers in the club. Guidelines for the non-livestock projects to help direct you in a project can be found at <http://barrycounty4h.com/non-livestock/project-guidelines/>.

In addition to gaining the valuable content knowledge of the project the youth works with, the 4-H model also teaches members critical life skills, including practical skills such as goal-setting, critical thinking, and record-keeping, as well as personal and interpersonal skills such as leadership, teamwork, character, communication, self-esteem and responsibility. Iowa State University Extension has a Life Skills Model that connects the various life skills to the four H's within 4-H. This model can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/explore/lifeskills>. All 4-H projects can be connected to many of these life skills.

Barry County Fair

<http://barryexpocenter.com/>

The Barry County Fair is the largest event of the year where 4-H members have the opportunity to showcase the projects they have been working on. The Barry County Fair is run by the Barry County Agricultural Society, which is spearheaded by the Barry County Fair Board, a group of 9 volunteers, 4 Executive members and 5 directors who manage the fair and the fair grounds. The Fair Board meets the first and third Thursday of every month at the Expo Center and their annual membership meeting is in October.

Here are a few things to note about fair:

1. The answers to most questions can be found by looking in the fair book. This will include the schedule for fair activities and events, general rules, camping rules, livestock regulations, and class entry information. Current fair books are released in May or June.
2. Superintendents are those that are in charge of a particular project area(s) at the fair. Please remember that they are volunteers! They also hold a wealth of information about their project area and are most likely to know answers to questions regarding their project area. Each animal species has its own rules and policies (located in the fair book). Please contact your superintendent for further information. Contact information for each superintendent can be found in the fair book.
3. All projects that you would like to exhibit at fair must be submitted via an entry form to the fair office at the Expo Center (Not the Extension Office) in the beginning of June.
4. Camping Reservation forms are accepted by the camping superintendent beginning March 1st. Camping is on a first come first serve basis.
5. Youth who are exhibiting projects at fair may receive a free wristband for entry into the fairgrounds during fair week. These wristbands are given out starting the Saturday of Non-Livestock Judging Day at the fair office, on Sunday of fair week during select hours at the entry office, and on Monday of fair week at the fair office. Passes are available for purchase by parents for a discounted price.