



JULY 2025

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Many Hands Make Light Work at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show

The Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show could not run without the many contributions of 4-H volunteers and 4-H youth. Below are some of our sign ups for volunteers needed at the YS. Many of these roles are required for clubs to participate. Please check each sign up for requirements and volunteer expectations:

- [Buyer Buffett Volunteer Sign Up \(Adults & Youth\)](#)
- [4-H Kitchen Sign Up \(Adults & Youth\)](#)
- [Night Barn Checks \(Adults only\)](#)
- [Make & Take Craft Activity Volunteers \(Youth\)](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

Horse Packet Stuffing

July 7th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Superintendent Meeting

July 9th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Livestock & Dairy Committee Meeting

July 15th at 7 pm at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

4-H Youth Show Barn Set Up

July 17th at 6:30 pm at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds Closed for Disinfecting

July 18th

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show

July 20th – 25th at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Clean Up

Saturday July 26th

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

We are Still Accepting 2025 Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Sponsorships



Help support educational opportunities for youth at the 2025 4-H Youth Show. Sponsors are needed for the many awards that will be distributed at the Youth Show. Sponsors can choose from a variety of project areas including livestock, horse, still projects, and more! Sponsor names will be given to the 4-H'er receiving the award, as well as publicized during the event and on printed materials for the program year. We also encourage 4-H'ers and 4-H families to tell local businesses and individuals about the opportunities to sponsor.

The deadline for sponsorships to be announced is July 1st, but we will always take sponsorships after this deadline. Sponsorships are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Ready to sponsor? Check out the sponsorship letter [here](#) and check out the sponsorship form [here](#).

If you would like to check if an award is not yet sponsored, please call our office at 734-997-1678.

4-H Kitchen Volunteers Needed

We are excited to announce that we will have a 4-H Kitchen this year Monday-Thursday of the 4-H Youth Show. But we need your help staffing the kitchen for our 4-H Kitchen Coordinators. This year, we need clubs and 4-H volunteers to help with the 4-H Kitchen. The 4-H Kitchen not only provides affordable food for the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show but also provides financial support for annual youth scholarships and county wide 4-H programs.



We have roles for youth (ages 12+) and adults. If you have a youth in your club who is younger than 12 but mature enough to help, please contact us! Parents are also welcome to bring younger kids to assist them.

Youth and families can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A5AF2AA3F8C16-43028702-4hkitchen>

Reminder: Adults who sign up do need to complete the SILVER level volunteer screening. This DOES NOT require an interview, references, or trainings. They will only need to complete an application and consent to a background check. You can complete the application here:

https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home

If you have questions about the process, please email Jenny at speyerje@msu.edu.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

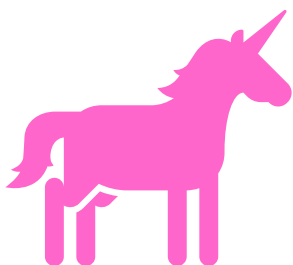
Now Accepting 2025 Washtenaw County 4-H Scholarship Applications

We are now accepting applications for the Washtenaw County 4-H Scholarship listed below. There is also a Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Scholarship for youth ages 15-19 years old. Below are the deadlines for the applications and links to the application forms. These are great opportunities for youth to apply and practice their application skills! Questions? Please contact Jenny Speyer, 4-H Program Instructor at speyerje@msu.edu



- [Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Scholarship](#): Due July 1st
- [Washtenaw County 4-H Poultry Scholarship](#): Due July 1st
- [Washtenaw County 4-H Scholarship](#): For 2026 Seniors, Due September 5th
- [Outstanding Involvement in Agriculture Award for 4-H Member](#): Due August 11th

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Horse & Pony Exhibitor Dashboard



One of our amazing 4-H Horse Leaders has created a dashboard with all the links needed for 4-H Horse and Pony exhibitors. This dashboard contains links to our sign-up genius, club leader and exhibitor informational packet, patterns, dressage test times, volunteer duties, barn layout/assignments, etc. and that it will get updated throughout the month. We encourage everyone to bookmark this link!

We also want to remind families that the t-shirt order form is open now through Sunday, July 6th 11:59PM! [Horse Dashboard Link](#)

New Office Phone System for MSU Extension Office & 4-H Staff

Washtenaw County has updated our phone system to better serve you and we are excited to share the new options for calling MSU Extension Staff.

When you call the main office line at 734-997-1678:

- Press 1 to reach the 4-H queue—both Amy and Jenny can answer this line.
- Press 0 to speak with our front desk support, Melissa Gillespie.

To reach staff directly: Amy Harris: 734-222-3936 & Jenny Speyer: 734-436-1362

Thanks for your patience as we transition to this new system!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Buyers Buffet: Calling all Market Livestock & Small Animal Families!



We need your assistance with making this year's Buyer's Buffet a success! The Buyer's Buffet will take place on Thursday, July 24th from 5:00-7:30 pm. New this year, the first hour of the buffet (5-6 pm) will be for buyers only. Starting at 6 pm the buffet will be open to everyone.

Once again this year, we will be having the meat and main side dishes catered. We are asking for 4-H family assistance with providing other side dishes and dessert food donations for dinner, along with assistance with setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Please see below for more details:

Volunteers to help set up and work in the Buyer's Buffet tent

Here's is a link to the the sign-up sheet - [Buyer's Buffet Help](#)

Note - Buyers like to see the 4-Hers they are supporting helping serve the meal. With that in mind, we are looking for 4-Hers to help in addition to their family members.

Food Donations needed for dinner

Here's is the list of items we're looking for - [Buyer's Buffet Food Sign Up Info](#)

Note - each market livestock family must contribute to the items contained within the attached list. If you are exhibiting in more than one market species, please donate the respective item for each species.

As our youth start to contact their buyers to invite them to the auction, a letter has been prepared which gives additional details for the auction. The letter is [linked here](#).

If anyone has questions or needs further guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone on the Buyer's Buffet Committee - Valisa Bristle, Nicole Feldkamp, Denise Prelipp, or Natalie Rentschler.

Volunteers Needed for Make and Take Crafts on July 24th from 9 am – 12 pm

We are looking for volunteers to help with make and take crafts at the 4-H Youth Show on Thursday, July 24th from 9 am – 12 pm. Supplies and activities will be supplied, we just need enthusiastic volunteers who want to help youth and families participate. This is a great volunteer role for adults but also for youth ages 10+ years old. If you know a 4-H'er who loves crafts, this would be a great opportunity!

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/RmBxBph3GjRyKLFv5>





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congratulations to Our State Awards and Mark of Excellence Winners!

Congratulations to Washtenaw County 4-H State Award Winners & Runner Up along with our Mark of Excellence Winners!

A 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member. 4-H State Award winners become part of an elite group of 4-H youth who have demonstrated the highest level of excellence in learning, leadership, and service.

This year, the winners from Washtenaw County were:

- Harper Jane Adkins (Saline 4-H Farmers)– Senior Dairy
- William Rogers (Saline 4-H Farmers) – Senior Achievement
- Vivienne Turri (Science, Animals, and Arts 4-H Club)– Junior Food, Nutrition, Health, and Fitness

We also want to congratulate Sophia Turri (Science, Animals, and Arts 4-H Club), who was a runner up for Junior Birds & Poultry Science.

Sophia and Vivienne Turri are featured in the top right photo (from left to right)

Harper Jane Adkins and William Rogers are featured in the middle right photo (from left to right)

In addition to 4-H State Awards, our younger 4-H'ers have the chance to participate in the 4-H Mark of Excellence contest. Every year, 10- and 11-year-old Michigan 4-H'ers reflect on their 4-H experiences as part of the Michigan 4-H State Awards [4-H Mark of Excellence](#) contest. Youth may submit a video or journal entry with their reflections; each Michigan county 4-H program may select two entries to be recognized as winners.

The essay theme for the contest was "Beyond Ready."

This year's Mark of Excellence Winners for Washtenaw County are Richie McNutt and Victoria Perez of Saline 4-H Farmers. Victoria is pictured in the bottom right corner.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congrats to our Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Teams!



Washtenaw County had 9 youth participate in the Michigan 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl competition held at MSU on June 28th. The competition tests the dairy knowledge of youth teams, in one of three age divisions: novice (ages 8-11), junior (ages 11-14) or senior (ages 15-19). Youth and coaches practice for several months preparing for the contest focusing their studies on dairy cattle health, nutrition and reproduction. The teams answered questions and battled through several buzzer style, double elimination rounds until the top team was chosen.

Thank you to 4-H volunteers and coaches Katelyn Packard and Jeff Horning!

The senior team from Washtenaw County was named the champions in their division!

The senior team included:

- Harper Jane Adkins
- Raelyn Bristle
- Lizzie Pantolin

The junior team placed third and included:

- Harlee Bristle
- Amelia Harris
- Alora Wahl
- Evan Weidmayer
- Grace Weidmayer.



Kendall Brooks had a great showing for her first year in the novice division.

4-H Youth Show Newsletter Coming Soon!



We are working on a 2025 Pre-Fair Newsletter that will include all the information you need to know to prepare for the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show! This will include the schedule, maps, information about parking, still projects judging information, volunteer opportunities, and so much more! Check your email inbox next week for this newsletter packed with important information.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association is Looking for Youth Delegates and Adult Volunteers for the State Horse Show August 14-17

Washtenaw County 4-H youth who participate in horse projects are invited to register as a delegate for the State Horse Show on August 14-17th. The registration is first come, first served. Youth have until July 1st to complete the form and Washtenaw County can send up to 13 delegates. Currently we have enough delegate volunteers, but may need 1 more as a back up. If you would like to volunteer, let Amy Harris know.

If you have a youth interested in attending, please contact Amy Harris, harr1976@msu.edu.



Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Parking



Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds Staff & 4-H Staff wants to make sure we have a safe and organized parking lot this year and will once again be creating a map to show visitors and exhibiting families where to park. We will release the map soon!

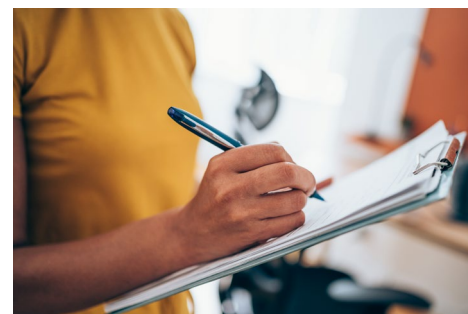
We also want to remind families that the track and bleachers area is off limits during this event. If you have questions about parking, please reach out to our Parking Superintendent, Aylssa Couch, 734-767-4470.

Still Project Judges, Clerks, and Runners Needed for 4-H Youth Show

Every club with member(s) participating in Still Projects of any type (Dept 60 and higher) is **required** to provide at least one full shift clerk or runner or at least two half shift clerks or runners to assist with judging. Remember, the 4-H Youth Show can't happen without YOU!

Clerks and runners are needed Sunday, July 20th, 12:30 PM-4:30 PM in Building B (Open Pavilion). Clerk Orientation **MUST** be completed prior to this time either in person at the Youth Show or with our Still Project Superintendents before hand. Clerks and runners can be **anyone** who

meets the age requirements— 4-H members, parents, leaders, alumni, grandparents, friends, etc. Check out the [Sign Up Form](#) for more information on the roles and age requirements. We are also looking for Still Project Judges who are flexible and have expertise in various Still Project Areas. If you know someone interested, please contact Jean Martin, jmmartin@umich.edu.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Brings 42 youth to 4-H Exploration Days!



This year the Washtenaw County 4-H Exploration Days Delegation included 42 youth, 6 chaperones, and 1 staff member. 4-H Exploration Days is a MSU precollege program that welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime.

This year the schedule included track sessions that allowed youth to explore career fields before their three sessions. As always, youth had a great time learning in their sessions and participating in free time activities like ice skating, a dance, and many other fun activities.

Save the date for next year's 4-H Exploration Days from June 24-26th. Registration will open in March 2026.

If you have questions about 4-H Exploration Days contact Jenny Speyer, speyerje@msu.edu.

Washtenaw County 4-H'er Shepherd Thompson Speaks at Great Lansing United Nations Association Meeting

This June, Shepherd Thompson was invited to speak at the Greater Lansing United Nations Association (GLUNA) meeting on "Feeding 10 Billion by 2050", along with his fellow 4-H'ers who are also World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute alumni. Dr. Karim Maredia, Assistant Dean and Professor in International Programs for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources from Michigan State University served as the Keynote Speaker. The youth panel shared our experiences at the Global Youth Institute in Iowa this fall and how it has changed us, along

with what they wrote in their World Food Prize research papers. Afterward, they had the chance to interact with the other GLUNA members and talk about world issues and possible solutions. It was a very enlightening experience and a huge thank you to Mr. Robert Lurie for arranging this opportunity.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament



4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament

August 2, 2025

Registration is open for the 2025 Michigan State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament! To be held August 2 at the Saginaw Field & Stream Club in Saginaw, this event provides 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills, earn recognition and build camaraderie with other 4-H members from all over the state.

Events at the tournament include: .22 rifle, 3-D archery, air rifle, BB gun, hunting and wildlife, muzzle loading, pistol, target archery, trap and skeet.

The deadline to register is **July 13, 2025**.

To learn more, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-4-h-state-shooting-sports-tournament

July 8-10: Garden Writers Workshop

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Young writers will learn about the wonderful world of writing in the garden. Using the garden as their inspiration, campers will connect writing to nature by creating poems, stories, plays and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-writers

July 9: Adulting 101 – Mastering Meal Planning

Online

Learn how to eat healthy on a budget and stretch your food dollars, including how to cook once and eat twice, making a meal plan that will save you money at the store, and other great tips!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mastering-meal-planning

July 16-17: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

Haithco Park, Saginaw

All campers will receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-12.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp-2025

July 16 - August 13: Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

This free course is for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful. This series will meet online each Monday for five weeks from 7:30 – 9 p.m.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-july-2025

July 17: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day

July 24: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. We will collect, observe and even make bugs! Our friends from the MSU Bug House will be back this year with their collections of insects from all over the world!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day

July 29-31: Camp Monet

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Young artists will spend three days in the gardens creating marvelous projects. Campers will use inspiration from the garden to make projects that involve sketching, painting, sculpting, dying, weaving and much more! Lunch will not be provided, so please bring a lunch each day.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/camp-monet





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2025 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$10,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

[Registration for this event is now open!](#) The diverse array of [classes](#) celebrate all the projects and programs in which youth have developed skill and mastery. This includes livestock and animal showmanship classes, as well as still exhibits, educational projects and more.



There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 8 at 5 p.m..** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event which occurs August 28 – September 1.

In addition to the opportunity to showcase their skills, recognize their accomplishments and receive constructive feedback for growth and development, participants in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase will also have the opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000 in scholarships. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

2025 Mark of Excellence Award Winners

Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 10 and 11, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The essay theme is "Beyond Ready" and the youth referred to the various ways that 4-H is helping to prepare them to be ready for their future, be it work, college or life in general.

As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners. In 2025, the following 28 4-H members from 22 counties were selected as the 2025 Mark of Excellence county winners.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Simran Adnani, Wayne County | • Nolan King, Branch County | • Breelyn Pullins, Berrien County |
| • Abigail Baker, Cass County | • Jude Martin, Ionia County | • Hadley Schafer, Monroe County |
| • Claire Blaszyk, Oakland County | • Madison McGuire, Midland County | • Kristina Schwarz, Oakland County |
| • Snyder Dunlap, Jackson County | • Richie McNutt, Washtenaw County | • Asher Smith, Livingston County |
| • Lilly Edick, Gladwin County | • Trula Michel, Monroe County | • Jolene Smith, Ionia County |
| • Alicia Etter, Sanilac County | • Penelope Moore, Sanilac County | • Bette Stemaly, St. Joseph County |
| • Chloe F., Ingham County | • VanAnder Noordyk, Marquette County | • Autumn Wellington, Lapeer County |
| • Adreann Guikema, Newaygo County | • Victoria Perez, Washtenaw County | • Tierney Westrate, Allegan County |
| • Colton Guy, Barry County | • Madeline Piwowarski, Wexford County | • Josephine Wiltshire, Osceola County |
| • Autumn Johnloz, St. Joseph County | | |

Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning essays will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winners!

To learn more about the Michigan 4-H State Awards, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index.

July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4  Extension office closed	5
6	7 6:30 pm - Horse Packet Stuffing at MSU Extension Office 	8 	9 6:30 pm - Superintend net Meeting at MSU Extension Office	10	11	12
13	14	15 7 pm- Livestock & Dairy Committee Meeting at WFCG	16	17  6:30 pm- 4-H Youth Show Set Up	18  All Day WFCG Closed for Disinfecting	19  9 am -2 pm Decorate All Barns & Set Up in Building A
20  1-4 pm - Still projects judging	21	22	23	24  6:30 pm- 4-H Livestock Auction	25	26 8am-12pm YS Clean Up 4-6 pm Pick up of processed Market Poultry/Rabbit
4-H Youth Show (see schedule for details)						
27 	28 Don't forget to send thank you cards to your sponsors and buyers!!	29	30			

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Jenny and we will try our best to add it here!