



SEPTEMBER 2025

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Beyond Ready

Last Chance to Nominate a 4-H'er, Volunteer, or Community Supporter!



It is time again for the annual nominations for County Medals, 4-H Club Spirit Awards, I Dare You Award, Key Club Award, Alumni of the Year, Leader of the Year, and Friend of 4-H Award.

We would like nominations in all areas from EVERY CLUB! You can find a description of the awards and eligibility [here](#).

Award nominations are due by **September 1st**. To nominate someone for a county award, please use the Qualtrics survey: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0HuE4ZFTh0rtf38. We also have paper copies of the forms in our office if you would prefer.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

4-H Online Shuts Down

August 31st – September 7th

Superintendent Meeting

September 3rd at 6 pm at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

4-H Online Opens for 2025-26 Program Year

September 8th

Advisory Council Meeting

September 11th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

4-H Leader Meeting

September 17th at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Board & Association Meeting

September 23rd at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee Meeting

September 25th at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Annual 4-H Leader Meeting on September 17th at 6 pm



It's that time of year again! We will be hosting our annual 4-H Leader Meeting to go over our annual paperwork required for 4-H Clubs on September 17th at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office. We will have dinner and also have opportunities for networking and information about fundraising policies and ideas for fundraising. We strongly encourage 4-H club leaders to attend, but if you cannot attend, please send another volunteer or representative from your club.

As we are buying food, please RSVP if you plan to attend:

<https://forms.gle/AUYr2pq6kKnU7k8Y7>

Join the High School Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Team Meeting

Looking for an opportunity for your high school age 4-H'er to improve their public speaking and discussion skills? Join the High School Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Team!

What is a Discussion Meet? Discussion Meet is a unique competition that it is not a debate but strictly a discussion. It is modeled more after a committee meeting and the ability for the competitors to cooperatively discuss a specific topic to come up with solutions. No previous experience is needed to attend the team meetings!

The team will meet approximately 3 times to prepare and discuss before the Region 2 meet in early November. Interested? Please contact Mandy Rogers at rogers3mandy@yahoo.com.

Pictured to the right are 3 of our participants from last year, Stephen Garcia, Harper Jane Adkins, and William Rogers!



What Programming Do You Want? Complete Our 4-H Youth Interest Survey



We are looking for 4-H'ers feedback to help us plan for the upcoming 2025-26 program year! We want to know what types of projects you would like to see for workshops and clinics. Your answers will help shape what types of countywide programming we offer in Washtenaw County 4-H. Please only complete one survey per 4-H'er. This survey is meant for youth NOT adults.

Complete the Survey:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1zyXI59B2hIC3Ns



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Senior Scholarship & Harwood Scholarship

We are now accepting [applications for the Washtenaw County 4-H Scholarship funded by the Advisory Council](#). This scholarship is open to any high school senior graduating in 2026. The deadline to send in your application is September 5th. Additionally, [the Ada May and Webb Harwood Memorial Scholarship Application](#) is available now and due on November 10th. This scholarship is for incoming freshman or higher continuing their education at an accredited institution of high education. Questions? Please contact Jenny Speyer, 4-H Program Instructor at speyerje@msu.edu



Congratulations to our Washtenaw County 4-H State Horse Show Delegation!



Congratulations to our 4-H State Horse Show Delegation including Annikah Stalhandske of Revel Wranglers 4-H Club, Alexis Couch of Challengers 4-H Club, Amelia Lorch of Hooves & Paws 4-H Club, and Aamenah Jamil of Hooves & Paws 4-H Club.

On Thursday Ranch, Annikah placed 1st and was in the Top 5 for Ranch Riding 14-15 year old, and in the Top 5 for Reining 14-15 year old, and was the Grand Champion for Ranch Trail 14-15 year old. On Sunday Juniors, Amelia Lorch was the Grand Champion for Dressage Seat Equitation 14 year olds and the Reserve Grand Champion for Hunter Hack 14 year olds.

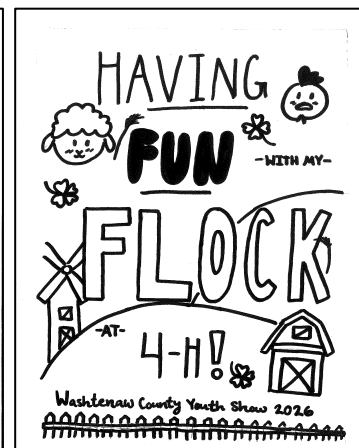
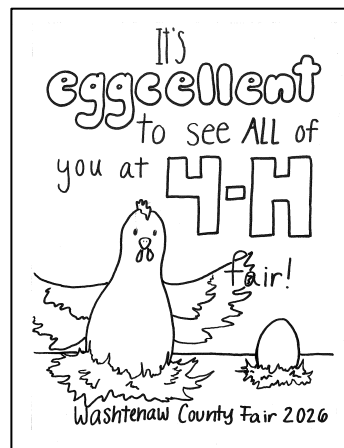
Aamenah also placed 1st on Sunday in Western Dressage Basic Level Test I 14 year olds and placed 3rd and in the Top 5 for Western Dressage Basic Level Test II 14 years olds.

For a full list of placings, check out the [results online](#).

4-H Youth Show Cover Contest Winners for 2026!

Congratulations to the two winners of the 4-H Youth Show Cover contest! This year's winners are Alice and Amelia Long of Science, Animals, and Arts 4-H Club. The "Eggcellent" illustration by Alice Long will be featured on the front cover and the "Flock" illustration by Amelia Long will be featured on the back cover. We also want to thank everyone who voted to determine which cover made it on the front and back.

When registration for the 4-H Youth Show begins in late May, we highly recommend entering!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

New 4-H Program Year For 2025-26 Starts September 8th



Our program year officially ends on August 31st and 4-H Online will shut down until September 8th. 4-H leaders, families, and volunteers will not be able to log into their account during this time. On September 8th, youth and volunteers can begin enrolling for the 2025-26 program year. We recommend enrolling as soon as possible so you don't miss any important communications.

Ideas for the 4-H Youth Show for the Bicentennial of Washtenaw County

Did you know 2026 will be the Bicentennial of Washtenaw County? The County is planning ways to celebrate this milestone, and we are working on plans to integrate this into the 4-H Youth Show.

We want your help in thinking of ways we could celebrate at the 4-H Youth Show. Are there ways we can integrate our county's history into the Youth Show contests? What about Club Booths? Decorations?

If you have ideas, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu



4-H'ers have fun at the Chelsea Community Fair!

We love to see all our 4-H'ers participating in our Washtenaw community fairs. This year, Genevieve Peale of All Around 4-H Club was the Chelsea Fair Queen and she got to accept the crown from the outgoing Chelsea Fair Queen, Sarah Murillo of Blue Ribbons Livestock 4-H Club. Also, Cody Seyfried also of All Around 4-H Club was the Jr. Prince and did a great job with his rabbit Turbo at the fair!





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wild Spartans Series returns



Join Us Online
WILD SPARTANS
MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN LEARNING
SCIENCE • RESEARCH • CAREERS • CONSERVATION
October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST

Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will begin in October and be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration is required: www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026.

September 11: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Planning with Purpose: Designing Your Best 4-H Year Yet Online

This webinar will guide volunteers through seasonal planning, setting goals and aligning club activities with youth development outcomes. This session will be offered twice.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-7pm

September 17: Adulting 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress & Deliver with Confidence Online

Participants will learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-professionalism%20\(COPY_1754674660740\)](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-professionalism%20(COPY_1754674660740))

September 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Friendly but Firm: Boundaries that Make Volunteering Better Online

Learn how to say “yes” with intention, “no” without guilt, and keep your 4-H experience fun, respectful, and drama-free. This session will be offered twice.

- **12 p.m.:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-noon
- **7 p.m.:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-7pm

September 20: 2025 Michigan 4-H Dog Show

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-Hers from counties across Michigan. Spectators welcome.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show

September 20-21: Fall 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification for Adults and Teens

Shiawassee Conservation Association, Owosso

Learn about 4-H shooting sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use, and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/fall-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-for-adults-and-teens

October 3: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

Henry Center for Executive Development, Lansing

4-H donors are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

2025 Michigan 4-H State Award winners announced

The Michigan 4-H State Awards program recognized outstanding 4-H members during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members and recognizes excellence in learning, leadership and service.

In total, 38 4-H members from 15 counties submitted applications for this year's program. Recipients of the 2025 awards are:



- **Achievement:** William Rogers of Washtenaw County
- **Beef Science:** Emma Verbeek of Delta County (junior division)
- **Birds and Poultry Science:** Avery Mastej of Van Buren County (junior division)
- **Civic Engagement and Service:** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Companion Animal Science:** Taylor Johnson of St. Joseph County (junior division) and Makenzie Rehberg of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Dairy Science:** Adrienne Balchik of Gogebic County (junior division) and Harper Jane Adkins of Washtenaw County (senior division)
- **Equine Science:** Lillian Wasson of Oceana County (junior division)
- **Food, Nutrition, Health and Fitness:** Vivienne Turri of Washtenaw County (junior division)
- **Gardening and Horticulture:** Trent Simons of Otsego County (junior division)
- **Goat Science:** Aleah Simpson of Houghton County (junior division) and Alison Borowski of Alpena County (senior division)
- **Leadership:** Zoe Rorick of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Lyla Lapaugh of Eaton County (junior division)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** John Jinks of Monroe County (junior division)
- **Sheep Science:** Morgen Schmidt of Monroe County (junior division) and Owen Plum of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Swine Science:** Taylor Trattles of St. Joseph County (junior division)
- **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Verina Duncan of Eaton County (senior division)

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to 4-H members who are 12-19 years old with two or more years of 4-H experience. To qualify, 4-H'ers must submit a written application that showcases the learning experiences, knowledge and skills they've acquired through 4-H, as well as their contributions to 4-H communities. Submissions are reviewed by a selection committee. In addition to a plaque, each 4-H State Award winner in the senior division received a \$300 cash award, junior winners received \$100 cash awards, and achievement award winner received \$500. These awards are made possible by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

National 4-H Week: October 5-11

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 5-11, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Learn more about ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>.

