

*Wexford County*

4-H Family News

March 2020

Welcome Kari Saxton!

Roles have shifted in 4-H land. Kari Saxton has joined the team in Wexford County. Kari has been a part time 4-H PC in Kalkaska County for over 3 years already, is a 4-H parent, was a 4-H leader, and is a 4-H alum. She is very passionate about the opportunities available to youth through 4-H programs, both in counties and across the state. Her hobbies are raising sheep, sewing, cooking, and raising three teenagers.

Laura Quist has been reassigned to support statewide 4-H shooting sports and environmental education projects, as well as one very exciting local project, called Veterans Serving Veterans (VsV). For more on VsV, see the story on page 2.

Sincerely,

Brandie and Kari

Wexford County 4-H Program Coordinators

4-H Programming and Social Distancing

We care about our communities and the measures being taken to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus. To do our part, we have postponed, canceled or transitioned in-person events to an online program and ask Michigan 4-H volunteers and youth to do the same. If you have face-to-face 4-H club meetings or activities scheduled between now and April 20, they should be postponed, canceled or moved online. We can assist with online formats; please contact your local 4-H program coordinator for help.

Although face-to-face programs will not take place, MSU Extension will continue to serve the 4-H community. We have many new and exciting ways to connect you virtually with 4-H – check them out at our online events calendar: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/family/Educational-Resources-for-School-Closures/virtual-learning-events>.

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<https://www.facebook.com/Wexford4H/>

Happy Birthday

Grayson W.

Hannah H.

Jean H.

Katie Q.

Lainna H.

Lawson W.

Madelyn C.

Roxanne A.

Scotlyn W.

Educational resources for youth during school closings

With novel coronavirus closing schools across Michigan for several weeks, Michigan State University Extension has assembled this collection of helpful educational resources for parents and caregivers. From science to financial literacy, whether for toddlers or teenagers, we encourage you to take advantage of these activity books, guides and other resources to help children remain engaged in educational experiences throughout their school break.

⇒ <https://www.canr.msu.edu/family/Educational-Resources-for-School-Closures/>

NEWS AND RESOURCES

Veterans Serving Veterans welcomes 4-H groups

Veterans Serving Veterans, a local non-profit group, is creating a 33-acre community park in Cadillac, featuring gardens, ponds, pavilions, and a large amphitheater. It will also offer lots of opportunity for our 4-H members.

They have extended a gracious welcome to our 4-H clubs, inviting us to utilize this park for free meeting space and programming! Wild Ones leader Charles St. Charles is already working with club members to grow milkweed for their project and envisions tagging monarchs as they migrate through the park this fall.

Clubs interested in exploring community service projects are encouraged to consider Veterans Serving Veterans as a recipient of their giving, including planting wildlife gardens, maintaining bird nesting boxes, creating a virtual trail map, and contributing to the organization's food pantry, which is open to veterans throughout our community.

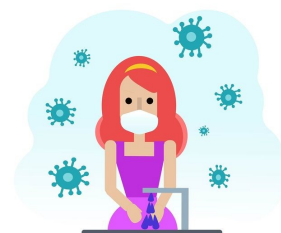
Anyone wanting to learn more about this project, schedule meeting time, or brainstorm community service is encouraged to contact Laura Quist, quistlal@msu.edu or call 231-779-9480.



Talk to Your Children about Coronavirus

Youth in your life may have heard about it on television, read about it online or in the newspaper, or even heard you mention it. They likely have questions, even if they aren't asking.

MSU Extension compiled the do's and don'ts of talking with children about COVID-19. Read it here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/talking-to-your-children-about-the-coronavirus>



4-H Exploration Days registration open



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 opened March 10 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 2019 4-H Exploration Days, nearly 2,000 youth attended and they gained important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication.

All registration information should be turned in to your county's Extension office, typically by the end of April. Check with your local 4-H program coordinator for your specific county date or visit www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-exploration-days for more information.

Celebrate Money Smart Week with 4-H Money Smarts contests

Money Smart Week is April 4-11 and to celebrate, you can win cash for you and your county 4-H program! Youth ages 13-19 have the opportunity to participate in the second annual Show Your Money Smarts Contest.

During this contest, youth will learn how to use credit wisely through an online challenge. High-scoring youth will be entered into a cash prize drawing for themselves and counties with 10 or more youth participants will be eligible to receive \$50 for their county 4-H program. Make sure to register by April 16!

Students in fifth through eighth grade also have the opportunity to participate in the Money Smart Kids Essay Contest. In partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Detroit Branch, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking youth to answer this year's Money Smart question for a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. To participate, youth will share what they know about predatory lenders, why people use them, what the negative consequences are, and how to avoid these types of financial risks. Essays should be 300 words or less and be submitted by March 29.

To learn more about both contests, including official rules, registration links and resources for completing the contests, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/>.

4-H MONEY SMARTS CONTESTS

Opportunity to win cash prizes!
Compete with youth across the state of Michigan
Sign up before it's too late!!
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/index>

Share your photo and support 4-H with Manna Pro!

INTRODUCING



A PROUD PARTNERSHIP WITH 4-H



From February 1 – April 30, Manna Pro is hosting a contest to build a 4-H picture mosaic online. Those pictures are integrated into tiny pieces to make a larger photo.

At the conclusion of the contest, Manna Pro will be providing the top three state 4-H programs with prizes of \$6,000, \$3,000, and \$1,000. Winners will be determined based on the number of photos uploaded in relation to the state's total population.

4-H members, supporters, and friends can upload pictures of their pet or animal to Manna Pro's contest site. In return, they will receive \$50 in coupons and help increase their state's chances at taking home a cash prize!

To learn more or participate, visit www.mannapro.com/4h.