



4-H Family News

February 2024

Lapeer County



Test Your Knowledge! Skill-a-thon Contests and Practices

A 4-H Animal Science Skill-a-thon is contest that tests a 4-H member's knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices.

Youth ages 8-19 can participate in the State-wide skill-a-thon that will take place in the beginning of March. We will also be hosting a skill-a-thon during Spring Achievement on March 2nd the Livestock Committee is planning to offer a skill-a-thon at fair again this summer. 4-H Youth do not need to be a member in a livestock club to participate in the contests.

There is still time to join the Lapeer County Skill-a-thon Practice/Study group to learn, study and play fun games to challenge your skills. Register by calling or emailing Sarah to receive study material.

Practices will be held:

Jan 29 @ 7:00 - virtual

Feb 5 @ 7:00 - virtual

Feb 19 @ 4:30 - in person or virtual



Horse Judging Workshop February 2nd – 3rd, 2024

Interested in Judging Horses? Are you on a horse judging team and want practice before the State contest? Here is a great opportunity for you!

Consider attending the 2024 Horse Judging workshop and Practice Horse judging contest! This year youth and adults alike will start on Friday night hearing from carded judge and clinician Dr. Karen Waite, teaching Ranch Riding and Ranch Rail. Things pick back up Saturday morning with the chance to judge a halter class, as well as a Ranch riding and rail class. Concluding the performance classes, attendees will have time to present oral reasons and receive scores and feedback.

Register now at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/horse-judging-workshop-and-mini-contest-2024>

For any other information reach out to Carla McLachlan; Event Coordinator at carlam@msu.edu or David Lindsay; Extension Educator at lindsa75@msu.edu

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County 4-H News

Project Palooza!



4-H members will be able to spend a “No School Day” on Friday, February 16th having fun, learning new skills, creating projects, and meeting new friends at Lapeer County 4-H’s Project Palooza. Youth will attend sessions on sand art, cookie decorating, creative writing, paper art, wildlife identification and more. Projects that they create can be shown at Spring Achievement in March and/or the fair this summer.

Project Palooza will be Friday, February 16th from 10am -3pm. Youth will need to bring a sack lunch. The cost of this event is \$5. Fee assistance is available.

Youth ages 8-19 can register by calling the office at (810)667-0341 or emailing Sarah at graversa@msu.edu

Volunteers that are interested in teaching or helping at a session, please contact Sarah.

Spring Achievement – March 2nd!

4-H Spring Achievement is a one-day event that provides an opportunity for all 4-H members to showcase their 4-H indoor projects that they have been working on throughout the year. Projects are judged through an interview, awarded ribbons and displayed for the day. Many youth use Spring Achievement as an opportunity to receive feedback from judges to make changes to their project before showing at fair.

This year’s **Spring Achievement will be held on March 2nd, 2024, at St. Paul Lutheran School** in Lapeer. There will be some additional project areas added this year such as an Adult Project area for 4-H volunteers and parents, an animal science skill-a-thon, and wildlife identification. An updated registration book is now available online and in the 4-H office. **Registrations are due February 22nd.**

Only Enrolled Lapeer County 4-H members can show projects at Spring Achievement. Make sure to check that you have re-enrolled for the 2023-2024 4-H year. If you would like to enter projects but can not participate on March 2nd, absentee forms are available, you must still complete a registration form.

If you know of someone that would be interested in Judging that day, please send their contact information to Sarah or Tina.



Tentative Schedule for Spring Achievement March 2, 2024

9am Judges Orientation
10am-12pm Judging for All Project Areas
All youth must be checked in by 11:30am
12pm-1pm Pizza and Sub Lunch, Ribbons Awarded
1pm Style Revue and Awards



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Fundraiser Auction



This year's Fundraiser Auctions are scheduled to take place Friday April 12th (Celebrity Autograph Items) and Saturday April 13th at the Lapeer Center Building. Profits from the auction help support the county 4-H program with camp, club activities, local and state educational workshops, conferences, leadership training, community service, college scholarships and more.

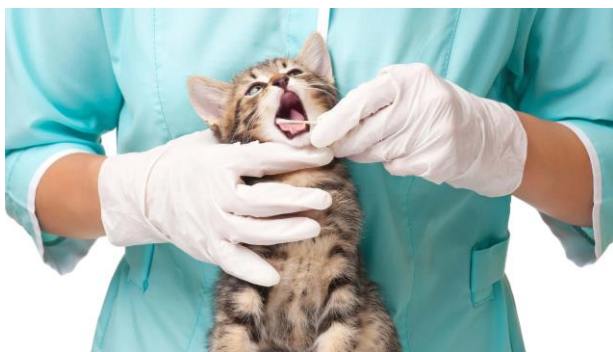
The success of the auction relies heavily on 4-H leaders, club members and volunteers assisting with collecting business donations. If you would like to help collect donations, please contact Sarah as soon as possible. Clubs that complete business visits to collect donations, earn a percentage of profits.

Clubs may also participate in auction efforts by donating a themed basket of items. Clubs will receive 50% of their basket's profit. Selected basket themes should be submitted to 4-H Staff to avoid duplication of baskets.

Now Hiring – Application Deadline Extended until 2/13/24

MSU Extension is hiring a second full-time 4-H Program Coordinator for Lapeer County! Come join our team and Help Youth Thrive! View full job description and apply through the MSU careers page. <https://careers.msu.edu/> Search for posting 916786 using the Job Search field.

Animal Science Career Quest



Are you interested in a career working with animals?

Join us for 4-H Animal Science Career Quest to learn more about career paths in animal science, as well as the MSU programs that can get you there! This program is a joint effort between Michigan 4-H, the MSU Department of Animal Science, and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, and its focus is introducing youth to the wide variety of career options available to them within these fields.

This event will be on February 17th on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is open to youth ages 12-19 and 4-H volunteers. Space is limited, so don't delay! Register now: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-career-quest-2024>



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Cash Composition Essay Contest

Money, money, money!



The 2024 4-H Cash Composition Contest is now open! Youth residing in Michigan, ages 9-19 (as of Jan 1, 2024), have a chance to win a \$100 gift card thanks to the generous sponsorship by Extra Credit Union.

To enter, write a 300 word (or less) essay on budgeting and submit your essay by February 29, 2024.

“What is a budget? Discuss the different types of income and expenses that make up your budget. How does a budget help you manage money?”

Three youth from each age bracket will win!

Full contest details and registration link can be found at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>

Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon

While other state 4-H programs have similar offerings, the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon is the most comprehensive test of livestock and traditional farm animals in the nation. This is an annual competition that tests both youth and adult competitors' knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices in various categories. Held annually in early March, the **Skillathon is open to Michigan youth (8-19 years old as of Jan. 1 of the calendar year) and adults.**

In the three previous Skillathons we have reached over 500 youth from 58 out of 83 counties across Michigan.

For more information and to register please visit the Skillathon page: <http://www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon>

Or email us at: 4HSkillathon@msu.edu



Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop



Registration is now open for the 2024 Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop! This one-day workshop will take place on Saturday, March 2 on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is designed for 4-H youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1, 2024) and Active Gold MSU Extension volunteers in beef, sheep, goats, and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of breakout sessions, including intro to your species project, animal evaluation, marketing your livestock project, reproduction, nutrition, and more! Registration will cost \$35, which includes lunch and a t-shirt. Full details and a link to register can be found here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024>



County Calendar of Events

January

Skillathon Practice (Virtual).....7:00pm: 1/29

February

Skillathon Practice (Virtual).....7:00pm: 2/5

Auction Committee Meeting.....5:30pm: 2/6

Project Palooza Registration Deadline.....2/7

Project Palooza.....10:00am: 2/16

Skillathon Practice (In-Person).....4:30pm: 2/19

Ambassador Meeting.....6:00pm: 2/19

Council Meeting.....7:00pm: 2/19

Spring Achievement Registration Deadline.....2/22

Horse Committee Meeting.....6:30pm: 2/26

Cash Composition Deadline.....2/29

March

Spring Achievement.....10:00am: 3/2

Auction Committee Meeting.....5:30pm: 3/5

Camp Counselor Meeting.....6:00pm: 3/5

State Skillathon Contest.....3/6 or 3/9



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 17-19, in Lansing. The three-day event, open to high school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts, and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on agriculture, civil rights and youth advocacy, crime and law enforcement, education and teacher retention, environment and natural resources, health, or jobs and the economy/infrastructure.

The cost to register in 2024 is \$365, which includes meals and lodging at the Quality Inn University in Lansing. Contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. Scholarships may also be available through your local Farm Bureau office. To register or learn more, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Make a difference for food security with World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 9 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.



To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare and submit a 2-to-5-page research paper about a developing country and one of 20 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October.

There is no cost to participate in the WFP MIYI. For more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/.



Apply for a Michigan 4-H State Award!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years), junior state award (13-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the age of the 4-H member. Additional details about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>.

Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get free tickets for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin!



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on February 24! Join with other members of the 4-H community for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin. This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU women's basketball team takes on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.

Attendees will also enjoy 4-H games and activities around the concourse. Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. In addition, Michigan 4-H will be showcased during the halftime show as a group of 4-H youth will lead the crowd in reciting the 4-H pledge.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

For more information and to get tickets, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin.

February 7: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Engaging 4-H Youth in Animal Science Education

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can utilize curriculum and resources to engage 4-H youth in animal science education. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education7pm

February 12: Fostering Happy and Healthy Relationships

Online

The 4-H Adulting 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own through free online sessions. Join this session to explore healthy relationship models that can enhance your future and current bonds.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/relationships-1

February 13: 4-H Wild Spartans – Seeing the Forest for the Wildlife

Online

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will wade with waterfowl and explore forests. Meet Jeremiah Heise, ecosystem program manager with the U.S. Forest Service, learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. This free series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024feb

March 2: Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

This one-day workshop is designed for 4-H teens and volunteers in beef, sheep, goats and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of sessions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024

March 6 and 9: Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon

Online

This competition tests both youth and adult competitors' knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices in various categories. Competitors can choose to compete during the week or on the weekend. Registration closes Feb. 29.

www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon



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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Learn more about how you can grow with Lapeer County 4-H!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer/lapeer_county_4_h/

Facebook: @LapeerCounty4H

