# Berrien County 4-H Spotlight

### **Upcoming MSU Extension Office Closures**

The Berrien County MSU Extension Office will be closed on the following days. Please arrange for any pickup or dop offs prior to these dates.

November 14, 2024 November 28 - 29, 2024 December 16, 2024 December 23 – 31, 2024 January 1 - 3, 2025 January 20, 2025



Volume 28 Issue 2
November – December 2024

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#### **CONTACT US**

Berrien County MSU
Extension Office
1737 Hillandale Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – Noon 1:00 p.m. – 5-:00 p.m.

Phone: 269-927-5674

**Fax:** 269-944-4128

Email: msue.berrien@county.msu.edu

Website: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/ berrien/berrien county 4 h



### Candy Bar Fundraiser - World's Finest Chocolate



The Annual Fall Fundraiser is in full swing. Thank you to all the clubs that have participated in selling World's Finest Chocolate Candy Bars. Reminder to clubs that sold World's Finest Chocolate Candy Bars, that the deadline for **ALL money to be turned in is December 1, 2024.** 

Checks can be either mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022; dropped off during office hours or through the after-hours mailbox. A Club's portion of the candy bars profits cannot be distributed until all money owed by the club is submitted.

Checks should be made payable to: Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association, Inc.

For questions, issues or concerns related to the candy bar sale, please contact Fundraising Chair, Chelsey Sobralski-Cole at sobralski.c@gmail.com or via phone at 269-487-8279.

#### **Club Bank Statements Deadline**

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit Club Bank Statements for December 31 statements are due on January 10, 2025. All Clubs must submit their bank statement or be subject to an audit. Statements can be:

- Mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
- Dropped off at the afterhours drop mailbox out front
- Faxed to 269-944-4128

Please note, clubs that already have their statements mailed directly to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office on monthly/bi-monthly basis may disregard.



### 4-H Early Enrollment Swag Drawing Results



MICHIGAN STATE | Extension # 4-H GROWS HERE

The first 4-H enrollment drawing for 4-H swag has been completed. Winners were selected at random and are listed below. Winners will be notified for prize distribution.

- 1. Nashton R. Blue Ribbon Bandits
- 2. Bennett W Four Flags
- 3. Leland C. Town and Country Paws & Pals
- 4. Maizie M. Best Friends
- 5. Reagan G. Galien Chanters
- 6. Lillian K. Galien Chanters
- 7. Emma M. On the Rail

- 8. Logan B Blue Ribbon Bandits
- 9. Ivan B Town and Country Paws & Pals
- 10. Keegan P Galien Chanters
- 11. Hannah R South Lakers
- 12. Paige T Rainbow Tracks
- 13. Esme S. On the Rail
- 14. Issac H. Redbud Country Goat
- 15. Savannah L Rainbow Tracks

If you have not registered for the 2024 – 2025 program year, do so by January 1, 2025, to be entered in our last and final door prize enrollment drawing for the year! Registration can be done through 4-H Online or via paper for both new and returning.





### 4-H Recognition Celebration Results

The Berrien County 4-H Youth Program proudly presented the 2024 Berrien County 4-H Member & Leader Recognition on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at the Rage in Niles, MI. We would like to make everyone aware of the top awards given out. The program and awards were sponsored by both the Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association, Inc. and the Berrien County 4-H Foundation, Inc.

#### Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation. Recipients received a \$700.00 scholarship towards their continuing education.

Kyle Smith – Galien Chanters 4-H Club & Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club Camille Czech – Tumbleweeds 4-H Club Evie Clare – Blue Ribbon Bandits 4-H Club & Great Expectations 4-H Club

#### Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship

The Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation. Recipient received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education. Scholarship is sponsored by the Cerny Family.

Elise Schmaltz – High Spirits 4-H Club

#### 4-H Equine Educational Activity Scholarship

The Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association, annually awards one or more scholarships, for a minimum of \$500.00 to an alumni of the Berrien County 4-H Horse & Pony project. Please review the requirements carefully.

Camille Czech – Tumbleweeds 4-H Club Evie Clare – Great Expectations 4-H Club

#### All-Achievement Award

The All-Achievement Award recognizes member's leadership and experience within a project area that they have completed for at least four years. Youth are only able to receive one All Achievement in a project in their 4-H career.

Brayden Lawson – Galien Chanters 4-H Club – Rabbits Brayden Lawson – Galien Chanters 4-H Club – Community Service

#### 4-H Club Award

4-H Club award recognizes a club's accomplishments as submitted and documented by the youth members. Recognition is given to three (3) clubs based on member counts as verified by the MSU Extension Office. Size breakdown: Small (0-14), Medium (15-29), and Large (30 or more).

Four Flags 4-H Club Galien Chanters 4-H Club Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club

#### Clover Years of Service Awards

5 Years—Silver
Jessica Tharp
Chris Lowry
Heather Morse

10 Years—Gold Amanda Pullins Randi Eckstein Aubrey Perrone Carly Case Todd Case

#### 15 Years—Pearl

Tracie Baker Kevin Kneibes Bruce Bodtke James Lenhardt

#### 20 Years—Diamond

Rhonda Barchett Katrina Schneider Kaitlynn Miller Charity Hackett

**30 Years – Ruby** Freida Keefer Wendy Monroe

40 Years – Gold Donna Janke Jane Krueger





### 4-H Recognition Celebration Results Continued.....

#### Michigan 4-H Dog Patch Program

The Dog Patch Program is designed to recognize the personal achievements of individuals participation in the 4-H Dog Program. The program has been in existence since 1987 and provides youth with goals to work towards in this project area.

Amelie Kraklau	Alyssa Metz	Mason Carpenter	Daphne Finn	Keziah Metz
Layla Matthews	Elise Belcher	Noah Metz	Darby Oliver	Noah Metz
Maizie Murphy	Ganson Carpenter	Alyssa Metz	Elise Belcher	Teegan Oliver
MIcah Forrest	Jordan Davis	Brenna Oliver	Finn Oliver	
Micah Forrest	Keziah Metz	Danielle Finn	Jordan Davis	

#### Leo Stanley Outstanding 4-H'er Award

The Leo Stanley Outstanding 4-H'er Award is the highest county honor a 4-H'er can receive and is sponsored by the Southwest Exchange Club of Michigan. Selection is made encompassing a member's whole 4-H career. A maximum of two youth can receive this honor each year.

Keziah Metz – Town and Country Paws & Pals 4-H Club

#### **County Project Pins**

The County Project Medals recognizes members within a project area that they have completed for at least three years. Youth are only able to receive one project medal in a project area in their 4-H career.

Lincoln Sobralski – Clothing & Textiles	Brayden Lawson – Engines, Tractors, etc.	Jordan Davis – Dogs
Lincoln Sobralski – Rabbits	Devin Lawson – PEP	Keziah Metz – Dogs
Brady Pullins – Poultry	Devin Lawson – Rabbits	Brayden Pullins – Shooting Sports
Brooklyn Wheeler – Swine	Esme Simpson – Horse and Pony	Noah Metz – Dogs
Brayden Lawson – Photography	Ginger Hendershott – Food & Nutrition	

#### **Senior Awards**

4-H Senior Awards were presented to Berrien County 4-H members who have been a member for five or more years and have plans to graduate from high school in the current 4-H year. Please note, cords will not be replaced if lost. 4-H Families are asked to request permission from their designated school in advance if there are any restrictions when it comes to wearing cords during graduation. If school restrictions do apply, we ask that all families respect school policy accordingly. 2024 4-H Senior Award Recipients are as follows:

Annabelle Shall – Bue Ribbon Bandits	Tessa Northup – Outsiders	Noah Metz – Town and Country Paws &
Isabelle Pirri – Blue Ribbon Bandits	DJ Freehling- River Valley Wranglers	Pals
Logan Boyle – Blue Ribbon Bandits	Lily Morse – River Valley Wranglers	Darby Oliver – Town and Country Paws &
Taylor Woollet – Countrysiders	Matthew Moore – River Valley Wranglers	Pals
Addison Zavoral – Double Bridle	Sarah Wood – South Lakers	Clara Shafer – We Can Ride
Matthew Powell – Four Flags	Benjamin Lowry – Straight Shooters	MaKayla Schadler – We Can Ride
Brooke Strefling – Galien Chanters	Charlotte Lowry – Straight Shooters	
Sarah Bennett – Great Expectations	Jason Wright – Straight Shooters	

#### **Mariah Award**

4-H'er – Micah Forrest

Leader - Kris Forrest





## 4-H Recognition Celebration Results Continued.....

#### **Teen Leader Pins**

4-H Teen Leader Awards are presented to youth who have successfully completed a Teen Leader project during the current 4-H year.

Ginger Hendershott - Cake Decorating Brayden Lawson - Childcare & Development Lincoln Sobralski - Clothing & Textiles Maizie Murphy - Community Service Lincoln Sorbalski – Food & Nutrition Delaney Cerecke – Horse and Pony Elise Schmaltz – Horse and Pony Everett Bradford – Horse and Pony Abigail Rydwelski – Horse and Pony Jessa Rydwelski – Horse and Pony Brayden Lawson – Horse and Pony Clare Shafer – Horse and Pony McKayla Schadler – Horse and Pony

Nathan Litaker – Horse and Pony Sarah Hackett – Horse and Pony Ginger Hendershott – Horse and Pony Maizie Murphy - Leadership Kayleigh Lawrick - Leadership Lauren Lovell – Leadership Maizie Murphy Mentoring Aiden Conley – Llamas Jennifer Pellett – Leadership Kyle Smith - Quilting Brayden Lawson – Rabbits Kyle Smith - Rabbits

#### **Club Officers**

4-H Club Officer Pins are presented each year to Club Officers who have completed their annual term.

# **President**

**Brady Pullins** Zachary Shall Avery Purvis Gemma Richards Aiden Conley **Brooke Strefling** Esme Simpson Matthew Wood Alexander McCully Darby Oliver Samantha Rydwelski

#### Vice President

Jeremy Wines Lincoln Sobralski Nora Schultz Harper Yoder Brayden Lawson Esme Simpson Dominic Monroe Paige Shafer Keziah Metz Lauren Lovell

#### Secretary

Lilly Basney Kaydence Lawrick Emma Young Brinna Desenberg Sarah Wood Corbin Good Jordan Davis Jessa Rydwelski Jordan Davis Lena Schulz Maizie Murphy

#### **Treasurer**

Emily Bailey Isabelle Pirri Alex McCully Madison Zelmer Brooklyn Wheeler Brayden Lawson Jazmine Adams Olivia Zebell Charlotte Lowry Brenna Oliver Abigail Rydwelski

#### Reporter/Historian

Breelyn Pullins Kayleigh Lawrick Chase Caldwell Devin Lawson Moria Lowry



### **Outstanding 4-H Leader Award**

The Outstanding 4-H Leader Award recognizes 4-H leaders for their volunteer service and leadership within their 4-H clubs as well as their leadership on county programs, committees, and activities that benefit the youth, and their families enrolled in Berrien County 4-H.

**Katrina Schneider** Galien Chanters 4-H Club

Lisa Rossman River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club

Awards not picked up at the Recognition **Celebration** have been mailed to Club **Coordinators** 







#### **New Year Enrollment**



The 2024 – 2025 4-H Year has begun! Don't waste time to enroll. Enrollment must be submitted following the deadlines below for eligibility for scholarships, event/activities, etc.

- January 1 Returning Member Re-enrollment deadline
- June 1 New Member deadline

Paper accommodations available upon request to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or can be found online at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\_county\_4\_h/enrollment

Individuals not enrolled will not be listed on the liability insurance nor considered a 4-H member for the year.

### **Leaders Council 2024 Elections**

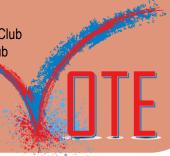
The Leaders Council Annual Elections are now under way! This year, adult leaders and teen members are encouraged to practice responsible citizenship by casting their ballot. Adults will vote for four adults and teen members will vote for one teen. Ballots are sent via mail to eligible voters. If you have not received your ballot, please contact the Berrien County MSUE Office. Ballots must be returned by 5:00 PM on November 15, 2024, either via fax, mail or drop off. This year's 2024 Leaders Council Candidates are:

#### **Adult Leaders**

Amanda Pullins – Backyard Renegades 4-H Club Charity Hackett – We Can Ride 4-H Club Katrina Schneider – Galien Chanters 4-H Club Tracie Baker – Blue Ribbon Bandits 4-H Club

#### Teen Leaders

Maizie Murphy – Galien Chanters 4-H Club Gemma Richards – Four Flags 4-H Club



### **County Curriculum Order**



- Taking new projects!
- Need a Member Record Book!
- Leveling Up in your project!
- Need a new project book!

Don't waste time, reach out to your local 4-H Project Leader on what resource books you need as we look towards kicking off the new 4-H year!

This year's countywide curriculum order is scheduled to be placed on January 1, 2025. Club Coordinator & Project Leaders can submit their requests for member & leader resources by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office.

When requesting, please include Club Name, Resource Name (s), & # needed.







4-H Mark of Excellence

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program

Grab your pen! Spark your imagination!

Dive into the world of 4-H! Twist and turn your way through your 4-H memories, as you capture your adventure and discoveries!



Submissions may be posted on the Michigan 4-H section of the MSU Extension website and promoted digitally in newsletters and social media.

#### Deadlines:

- Submit to your local 4-H
   Office by April 1, 2025 for
   judging.
- Selected winners will be notified by April 14, 2025 of their achievement from their local 4-H Office.

#### Questions:

 Contact your local County 4-H Office

#### Eligibility:

- Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 10 and 11 as of January 1, 2025. Enrollment in previous years not required.
- Individuals may only be selected for this award once.
- Each county can select up to two (2) winners to receive the Mark of Excellence Award each year.

#### **Submission Details:**

- Contestants are asked to create either a video or a journal reflection focusing around the theme of "4-H Beyond Ready"
- Entries should be legible, readable or easily viewable.
- Video submissions must be no more than 2 minutes in length. Videos should be in mp4 format or provide a YouTube Channel link.
- Journal reflections must be 500 words or less and can be hand-written or typed.
- Submission can be either video OR a journal reflection.
- Must include first name and county.

#### Award:

Selected winners will receive a certificate and medal.

#### Learn more at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\_h\_scholarships\_and\_recognition\_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition

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Provided by Berrien County Farm Bureau and the Berrien County 4-H Clubs

**WHAT:** The partnering organizations will provide Thanksgiving Dinner ingredients in a basket for needy families. Each basket will be packed with the following ingredients:

- 1 Turkey
- · 1 Package of dinner rolls

- · 1 Pumpkin Pie
- · locally grown apples

We ask each participating 4-H Club to supply the following for each box:

- · 1-3 lb bag of potatoes
- 1- 15 oz. can of sweet potatoes
- 1- 14 oz. can of cranberries sauce
- 1- 6 oz. box of stuffing

- 1 87 oz. packet of dried gravy mix or a jar of gravy
- 1 15 oz. can of green beans
- 1 15 oz. can of corn

**COLLECTION:** All food items are to be dropped off to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office (1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022) starting on Monday, November 18, 2024 through Friday, November 22, 2024 by Noon. No exceptions! 4-H clubs with more than 3 baskets of food, we encourage to please call ahead at 269-927-5674. No food items should be dropped off to the Berrien County Farm Bureau or Berrien County Youth Fair.

**ASSEMBLY:** The assembly day will be Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 10 a.m. Assembly is tentatively scheduled at the Berrien County Youth Fair - Youth Memorial Building located at 9122 US Hwy 31, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Distribution of baskets will be from 10:30 a.m. to Noon.

Each 4-H club will have the opportunity to select the family or families that will receive their box or boxes. There will be a maximum of **150 baskets available**. \*If your club needs help in identifying a needy family, please contact your local 4-H Program Coordinator. RSVP your intent to participate to Kelly Stelter, 4-H Program Coordinator by Sunday, October 13, 2024 by calling 269.927.5674 ext. 4015; email at grandtke@msu.edu or texting 217-820-5021.

Each 4-H club that participates will be entered in a drawing to receive one of three \$100 cash prizes to be used for your club activities.





Help Berrien County Farmers share the bounty with those in need!





# STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



# Starting the 4-H season off right: Suggestions for the year's first meeting

Adapted from an article by Michelle Neff at <a href="www.canr.msu.edu/news/">www.canr.msu.edu/news/</a> starting the 4 h season off right suggestions for the years first meeting.

A new 4-H year has started and that means it is time to start thinking about the goals and plans for educational, inspirational and recreational activities for Michigan 4-H clubs! No matter what project youth are participating in, it is important to start the year off right!



MSU Extension has resources for volunteers to help lead and manage their 4-H club on the 4-H Club Development website, <a href="https://www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/index">www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/index</a>. A good start to the 4-H year will allow youth members, club leaders and parents to be clear about expectations and plans for the group and be excited for what will take place. Some tips to get you started include:

- Get to know youth and adults and share about 4-H! Clubs transition from year to year. There may be members new to
  4-H, youth trying new project areas, and members who have left or transitioned to different activities. Make sure everyone knows each
  other with a fun icebreaker activity.
- Prepare a list of activities for the year. The 4-H year goes fast and there is a lot to do in a short period of time. Preparing a list of club activities for meetings is important to ensure youth are learning the life and technical skills of their 4-H project.
- Create a calendar. Once you have your activities picked out, it's time to plan when and where it will all happen!

### MSU Extension hosts successful second Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol

On October 9, MSU Extension hosted the second Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol to showcase the positive impact of the Michigan 4-H program and bring additional visibility to its effects. The event was held in the atrium of Heritage Hall – the Capitol Visitor's Center.

"We were so excited to bring this event back in 2024," said Deanna East, MSU Extension associate director who served as the event emcee. "Michigan 4-H is certainly worth celebrating every day of the year and we are grateful for the opportunity to highlight this impactful program to our state's leaders."



Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was attended by legislators, stakeholders and members of the public. At the event, attendees visited information booths

hosted by Michigan 4-H youth and staff. A brief program featured East as well as: legislative host Representative Reggie Miller; MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz; Emma Young, policy analyst for Governor Whitmer and a Michigan 4-H alumna; Everett Howell, Michigan 4-H youth from Leelanau County; and Brianna Sierra, Michigan 4-H youth from Genesee County.

"The Michigan 4-H program serves an incredible number of youth each year but we hope to reach even more young people in the years ahead" continued East. "Elevating awareness of the program is one of our primary goals for Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol and we believe this event will help connect more youth with our program and all that Michigan 4-H has to offer."

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Michigan4H.





# STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



# Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign



To embrace the holiday spirit, the Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Paper Clover campaign has moved from it's traditional October dates to November and December this year! Now from Nov. 29 – Dec. 15, TSC customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at <a href="https://www.TractorSupply.com">www.TractorSupply.com</a> during the campaign dates.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit <a href="https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h">www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h</a>.

New for 2024, you can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments, now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.



# November 6: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Ways Volunteers Can Spark Big Dreams and Future Careers

Online

November is National Career Development Month! Learn easy activities to help youth explore career pathways and develop skills to be ready for the workforce. Explore tools and resources that allow youth to reflect and prepare for the next steps in their career journey. This session will be offered twice for the convenience of volunteers.

- **12 1 p.m. session**: <u>www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-</u>volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers
- 7 8 p.m. session: <u>www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-</u>volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers7pm

# November 12: Wild Spartan Series – Behind the Scenes in the Life of a Park Ranger

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans will fly into the refuges that many migrating birds depend on for migration. Join us at 6:30 p.m. to meet Andrea Martinson, park ranger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Learn about her work, and the education and career path she followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024 25/

# **November 19: Adulting 101 - Cracking the Code to College**Online

The Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own. In this session, explore the admission and application process and get tips on writing your essay. <a href="https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/college">www.canr.msu.edu/events/college</a>

# November 21: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Positive Youth Development 101; Building Strong Relationships Through Every Stage

Online

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. In this webinar, we will explore the key stages of child and youth development and the common characteristics that young people share as they grow. Learn how to support and engage with youth effectively, recognizing that each young person develops at their own pace. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to foster meaningful connections with youth at every stage of their growth.

- 12 1 p.m. session: <u>www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage</u>
- 7 8 p.m. session: <a href="www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage7pm">www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage7pm</a>







# Centennial Forest Flower Bed Proposal Form

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Club / Member Name:	18 USC 707
Leader / Volunteer(s) Overseeing Project (name & contact information):	

#### Details:

- Dimensions: 4 feet by 4 feet
- Budget: \$150
- Proposal submission date: September 16th, 2024

#### Notes:

- This flowerbed is in full shade to part shade and doesn't have a watering system.
- There is about two feet between the soil and the bottom of the sign.
- Buchanan School Farm focuses on native plants and habitats.

Need additional images? Click here to view photos or use the QR Code.

Use the space below and/or additional pages, to describe/draw the proposal for what should be done with the flowerbed. Don't forget to give details about items that will need to be purchased, the benefits of your design, who's going to help bring the idea to life, etc.





Berrien County MSU Extension 1737 Hillandale Road Benton Harbor, MI 49022





Facebook – "Berrien County 4-H Youth Development"
Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

