



May / June 2026

4-H Family News

Calhoun County



Program Coordinator Update

This month's newsletter is full of information – it is definitely our busy season in 4-H!

Please pay close attention to dates – we know how busy everyone is, but we don't want you to miss out on something because you forgot to put it in your calendar!

(I know I can't be the only one that has ever done that!)

As we get closer to fair, please also remember that if your club has specific guidelines on showing, such as meeting attendance, you **MUST** meet those requirements to be eligible to show. If you are unsure what they are, please reach out to your club leader!

Leaders – a reminder that all club fundraisers must be approved by the Extension office. All approved fundraisers also require a post-event report!

Dates to Remember

1. Due July 6, 2026: Cloverbud Project Registration -
<https://bit.ly/2026CalhounCloverbuds>
2. ShoWorks Registration for 4-H Members Ends June 12
3. 2026 Awards Banquet – Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 pm

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing Youth to Be Beyond Ready Through 4-H Livestock Projects



Beyond Ready

4-H livestock projects provide powerful, real-world learning that helps youth become Beyond Ready for life, work and leadership. Caring for animals teaches responsibility, time management and problem solving, all of which are essential skills for future success. Through chores, recordkeeping and making informed decisions, youth practice accountability and perseverance.

Livestock projects also build confidence as members explain their work to judges, interact with buyers and demonstrate professionalism in the show ring. When volunteers encourage reflection, support goal setting, and help youth connect these experiences to life beyond the barn, young people begin to see how their efforts today prepare them for tomorrow. Are your project activities helping youth become Beyond Ready?

#BeyondReady

June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens. Find new caches, trade travel bugs, explore the gardens and much more.

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

June 9: Online Extension Extras for Parents: Internet Safety

Online

Screens are everywhere, and children are spending more and more time in front of them. This session will discuss topics including steps to take to keep kids safe online, apps youth use and their safety, Michigan laws, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-internet-safety-6-9-26

June 11: Adulting 101 – AI and You: Smart, Safe and Savvy

Online

As part of the Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar series, this session will explore the basics of how artificial intelligence works, ways it can support you, and how to make smart decisions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you

June 18: Pirate and Pixie Garden Party

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Argh me mateys. Join a morning of swashbuckling fun! Go on a treasure hunt, making pixie dust, decorate an eye patch and more!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pirate-and-pixie-garden-party

June 23: Digger Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, East Lansing

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in communities.

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

July 1: 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging State Contest

Farm Bureau Pavilion, East Lansing

Participants will demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve communication and decision-making skills. Register by June 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."



Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Register for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive

While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award. Registration is due by June 15. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026.



MSU Extension honors 11 Michigan 4-H volunteers for 50 years of service in 2026

For the sixth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

“We give thanks for every volunteer in our program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “Michigan 4-H would not exist as it does today without the dedication of volunteers who generously share their gifts, and these 11 remarkable individuals in particular have been sharing their gifts for a half-century. We offer them our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all they’ve done for our organization and Michigan 4-H’ers.”

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2026 are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kay Booth, Barry County | • Deb Pincumbe, Ingham County |
| • Joyce Goerge, Clinton County | • Linda Preston, Cass County |
| • Betty Groth, Cass County, | • Peter Preston, Cass County |
| • Beverly Koppelman, Monroe County | • Kathy Williams, St. Clair County |
| • Gary Koppelman, Monroe County | • Mary Yeomans, Midland County |
| • Michael Lee, Osceola County | |

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at:

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Spring into 4-H Event a Huge Success



Members of the Calhoun County 4-H Council planned and hosted a "Spring into 4-H" recruiting event in downtown Battle Creek on Thursday, April 2nd.

Since this was spring break for most area schools, they were not sure what to expect in attendance.

They were excited to have amazing attendance with many NEW families!

Attendees could participate in a variety of activities, including cupcake decorating, learning about 4-H (and maybe getting some bling!), and even learning about horses!

The event was such a success that they are already working on planning for another! If you have any suggestions for upcoming events, please email me at vargocre@msu.edu.

4-H Curriculum Available for Club Use

Did you know that we have a variety of curriculum at the Extension Office that clubs can check out? We have traditional livestock curriculum, STEM kits, and even handheld microscopes! There is no cost to use these items – you just need to sign them out and return them when your club is done with them!

We also have activity kits available for any outreach events your club might be doing (school events, community fairs, etc).

For more information, email me at vargocre@msu.edu and I will send you the list.

4-H Rabbit & Cavy Club at TSC



On Saturday, April 25, the 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Club held an information session at the Albion Tractor Supply location, and an information session & bake sale at the TSC store in Marshall. Members of 4-H Council did outreach at the Beckley Road TSC store!

Thank you all for sharing 4-H with the community!





Community Events

2026 ANNUAL POW WOW

Pine Creek Indian Reservation
Pow Wow Grounds

GRAND ENTRY

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 • 1PM & 7PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 21 • Noon

DRUMS

HOST DRUM
Meskwaki Nation
Tama, Iowa

CO-HOST DRUM
Little Soldier
Mayetta, Kansas

INVITED DRUMS
Sharp Feather
Gun Lake, Michigan

Ghost Town
Sarnia, Ontario

Fire Nation
Wabeno, Wisconsin

Drum Split for Show-Up Drums | MUST HAVE TRIBAL ID

MISS POTAWATOMI NATION 2025
Cypress "Jojo"
Kewayosh-Deleary

POTAWATOMI NATION Wshkabewes 2025
Gabe Loonsfoot

HEAD STAFF

Dale Anderson
Head Veteran

Mike Medawis
Announcer

Paul Syrette
Arena Director

SATURDAY

Kwake Hale
Head Male

Shay Hale
Head Female

Dazer Pitawanakwat
Jr. Head Male

Shakyla Wesaw
Jr. Head Female

SUNDAY

Skyler Alsup
Head Male

Dajia Shinos
Head Female

Bryson Medawis
Jr. Head Male

Marley Alsup
Jr. Head Female

*Day Pay for Registered Dancers
MUST HAVE TRIBAL ID*

SPECIALS

Girl's Jingle Special
Sponsored by The Hale Family

18+ Men's Grass Memorial Special
Sponsored by The Family of Terry Chivis-Bēn

Potato Dance
Sponsored by The Thompson/Zapata Families

Adult Women's Appliqué
Sponsored by Committee

Adult Men's Woodland
Sponsored by Committee

Hand Drum Contest
Sponsored by Committee

65+ Elders' Special
Sponsored by Committee

Hotel Reservations can be made by scanning the QR Code:

If you prefer to make your reservation by phone, please call at 877-352-8777 and mention group code POWWOW2026. Please note, reservations must be made by 10:00pm on June 10, 2026 to receive the discounted group rate.

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI
A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY 4-H NEWS

County Snapshots



Help us share 4-H with our community!

Send us photos of your activities and meetings to include in our newsletter!

Email me at vargocre@msu.edu

Calhoun County 4-H
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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension



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**Beyond
Ready**