



APRIL 2026

# 4-H Family News



Calhoun County

## Program Coordinator Updates

Spring is just around the corner (hopefully!) and with that comes a LOT of events, deadlines and activities.

I will be on vacation March 31 – April 3, returning to the office on Monday, April 6. I will **NOT** be checking email or voice mail during that time. The office will still be open, so if you need assistance, you can call our Secretary at (269) 781-0784.

If you are new to showing livestock or want to know how to improve your marketing skills, be sure to check out the events on page 2 of this newsletter. There is an online webinar coming up next month for making the most of your market projects!

Also included in this newsletter is information on the Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp & Exploration Days. If you are interested in attending – we do have scholarships available for both events!! Don't let cost be a barrier from attending! Contact me for more information!

## CONTACT US

Cressie Vargo

4-H Program Coordinator

315 W. Green Street

Marshall, MI 49068

## PHONE & EMAIL:

(269) 781-0784

vargocre@msu.edu

## WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/calhoun/>



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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Building awareness in 4-H experiences



## Beyond Ready

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

### April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

*Online (Goosechase App)*

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)

### April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

*Comerica Park, Detroit*

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers)

### April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

*Online*

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart)

### April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

*Tractor Supply Stores everywhere*

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign)

### April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

*Online*

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21)

### April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let's Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease

*Online*

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease)

### April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk

*Online*

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_great\\_lakes\\_natural\\_resources\\_camp/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/).



## Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/).

## Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit [www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html). For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4h\\_military\\_families](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families).



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Spring into 4-H



4-H Council is hosting a “Spring into 4-H” Event on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Create in Me LLC (located at 46 W. Michigan Avenue in Battle Creek).

Be sure to stop by – and invite your friends and family who may want to learn more about 4-H!

This event will be open house style with tables set up for everyone to check out. Paint a flowerpot, learn about cake decorating techniques and decorate your own cupcake. Does vet science interest you? Members and clubs will be set up featuring their projects they have exhibited.

Stop by the Calhoun County 4-H Council table to spin the wheel to win 4-H swag and have all your questions answered about 4-H.

## Calhoun County Fair Deadlines

• **ShoWorks Registration – June 12<sup>th</sup>**

\* **Camping Registration – May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Weigh-Ins: (please reach out to species superintendents to confirm times or any other information needed)

Sheep: **Saturday, May 2, 2026**, from 8:00am-11:00am

Dairy Starter: **Saturday, May 2, 2026**, from 8:00am-11:00am (vet on-site)

## Scholarship Opportunities



The LaVern Smith Scholarship application is open until April 1<sup>st</sup>!

You can find the application and requirements online at the Marshall Community Foundation website!

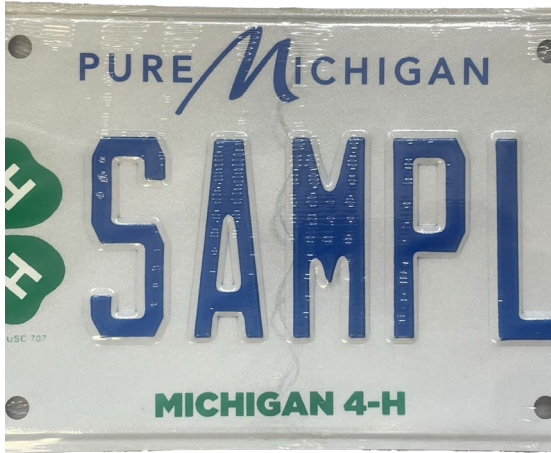
<https://marshallcf.org/receive/scholarships/graduating-seniors/>

This scholarship is open to all Calhoun County students. See the application for specific eligibility requirements.



# More 4-H News

## 4-H License Plate NOW AVAILABLE



Members of the Michigan 4-H community can show their 4-H pride while supporting 4-H youth development programming by purchasing a Michigan 4-H license plate. The plate prominently displays the signature 4-H clover and part of the proceeds from every sale and renewal will go to support Michigan 4-H youth.

For more information, visit:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/Support\\_Michigan\\_4\\_H/michigan-4-h-license-plate](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/Support_Michigan_4_H/michigan-4-h-license-plate)

## Curriculum for 4-H Clubs

Do you need fresh ideas for your club meetings? Are you looking for curriculum to help your members learn all about their projects? Let me help! We have a variety of different curriculums and items you can check out to help supplement your meetings! We have things about animals, robotics, and a variety of other topics!

**View our inventory list here:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aZKK2B\\_bZKsvwd8ju\\_oz9PE710pN1JQ\\_loQI8nZCv84/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aZKK2B_bZKsvwd8ju_oz9PE710pN1JQ_loQI8nZCv84/edit?usp=sharing)

If there is something that you are looking for that we don't currently have – let me know and I can help you locate or design it!

## MSU Science Festival

Did you know that MSU has a Science Festival that runs through the entire month of April?

This FREE family friendly event features a variety of things to do – on campus and around the state – throughout the month!

View the FULL schedule of events here:

<https://sciencefestival.msu.edu/event/schedule>



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