



MARCH 2026

4-H Family News

Calhoun County



Program Coordinator Updates

Can you believe it is March already? This year has been so busy already – and I don't think it is going to slow down anytime soon!

Make sure to check out the statewide calendar for a list of upcoming events and webinars. Our staff has been putting together webinars on a variety of topics to help support leaders and families.

Also coming up on March 12th – registration opens for 4-H Exploration Days! More details are included in the County News section of the newsletter – make sure to check it out for all the details!

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our new volunteers – thank you for stepping up to mentor local youth. Of course, thank you to all of our veteran volunteers, too! Your knowledge and support are what makes this program successful! Volunteers truly are the backbone of 4-H!

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Spring 2026 Clover Campaign
Purchase a clover to support
4-H event Scholarships in Calhoun County

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth
to be
Beyond Ready*



**Beyond
Ready**

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.

Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch 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. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Calhoun County 4-H Receives MiLEAP 32n Grant Funding



We are excited to share that Calhoun 4-H was granted funding from the MiLEAP for Out of School time programming at Harrington Elementary in Albion. This grant allows us to meet a community need by providing a safe space for kids to learn and explore after school, as well as opening up the world of 4-H to new youth and families.

In this photo, youth are learning about density by doing a “sink or float” experiment. Youth were given a sheet of aluminum foil and had to design a boat. They estimated how many pennies their boat would hold before sinking as well as how long it would stay afloat.

Our winning boat held 21 pennies and stayed afloat for a full 3 minutes!

This is a fun hands on activity that is fun for all ages! Why not give it a try at one of your meetings?

2026 4-H Exploration Days



Registration for 2026 4-H Exploration Days begins Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 pm!

The registration link will be posted here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information

What IS Exploration Days?

Exploration Days is a pre-college program open to youth aged 12-19.

- Students live in a Michigan State University dorm and eat in the cafeteria—just like MSU students do.
- Youth attend two or three of more than 100 session choices held on and off campus. Sessions are taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members and other experts.
- **The 2026 cost is \$250.** The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. **Scholarships available for Calhoun County Youth! Contact me at vargocre@msu.edu OR 517-221-9182 with questions. **
- **You can find session information here:** https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/uploads/files/2026-4HEXD-Sessions_final-AA.pdf



Calhoun County Information

WELCOME...

New Volunteers in Calhoun County

- Michalla Jones, Sheep Club
- Brittany Clark, Swine Club
- Michael Clark, Swine Club
- Neisha Hart, Happy Harvesters
- Danielle Willerick, Happy Harvesters
- Nisha Ritchie – General Volunteer



**Beyond
Ready**

4-H Council Updates

The 4-H Council held election of offices at the February Meeting.

2026 Officers:

President – Ryder Strunk

Vice-President – Kalin Vargo

Secretary – Ava Brodock

Treasurer – Michelle Bishop / Sandy Howard

Interested in helping guide programming and 4-H events in Calhoun County?

Calhoun County 4-H Council has openings for youth ages 10 & up.

Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Calhoun County Building in Marshall.

Not sure if it's for you? Join us for a meeting and see what it's about!



Calhoun County 4-H
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Beyond Ready