

# Calhoun County



4-H



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2019-2020

Welcome Packet

*for new families*

Dear 4-H Family,

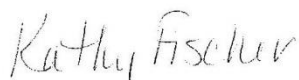
Welcome to 4-H, the youth development program of Michigan State University Extension! 4-H provides youth with positive learning experiences that help build character, while developing knowledge and skills that prepare them for the future.

I hope that your experience with Calhoun County 4-H provides your family with a positive experience that you will look back on and remember for years to come. Participation in 4-H should be educational as well as fun for the whole family. I know that 4-H is a large program and can be difficult to navigate, especially for new families; and I hope that this guide will give you the information you need to find your way around.

As you become more and more involved with 4-H, you will continue to have new opportunities – even beyond Calhoun County – because 4-H events occur at the county, state, national, and even international levels! All the fun starts at the club level. I encourage you to become very active with your 4-H club. Throughout the year, I ask that you keep in mind that the majority of 4-H experiences are made possible by volunteers. Volunteers and 4-H staff will do their best to make the experience positive for your family. Throughout the year, you and your family may also be asked to lend a hand; please remember that many hands make light work, so if everyone pitches in a little the job will be done quickly. I understand that families are very busy, but any amount of help your family provides is appreciated to make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the experience.

If you have any questions throughout your 4-H journey, you can always reach out to the Extension office by calling 269-781-0784 or reach me via email at [fisch226@anr.msu.edu](mailto:fisch226@anr.msu.edu).

Sincerely,



Kathy Fischer  
4-H Program Coordinator

**CALHOUN COUNTY**  
Michigan State University  
Extension

315 W. Green St.  
Marshall, MI 49068

269-781-0784  
FAX 269-781-0768

[msue.calhoun@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.calhoun@county.msu.edu)  
[www.msue.msu.edu/calhoun](http://www.msue.msu.edu/calhoun)

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*MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer.*

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# Calhoun County MSU Extension

4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Extension system. The Smith-Lever Act formalized Extension in 1914 to expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) partnership with land-grant universities to apply research and provide education to communities. 4-H programming is delivered locally and operated at the state and national levels through a partnership between county governments, the Extension at the state's land grant university (in Michigan, through Michigan State University Extension), and the USDA.

## **Location and Contact Information**

315 W. Green St.

Marshall, MI 49068

Phone: (269)781-0784

Fax: (269)781-0768

Website: <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/calhoun>

Email: [msue.calhoun@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.calhoun@county.msu.edu)

4-H staff email: [fisch226@anr.msu.edu](mailto:fisch226@anr.msu.edu)

Our office is located in the County Government building in Marshall.

## **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. We are occasionally closed for lunch; please call ahead if coming at that time.

Our office is closed during county holidays.

## **County Staff**

Julie Pioch, District 13 Coordinator

Pat Dadow, Office Staff

Amber Herman, Program Assistant

Kathy Fischer, 4-H Program Coordinator

# Calhoun County 4-H Policies

**Non-Discrimination:** 4-H clubs cannot discriminate by means of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

**4-H Age:** The 4-H year begins on September 1, but 4-H age is determined by the age that the child will be on January 1 of that following year. Youth that have a 4-H age of 5 – 19 years of age may join the 4-H program. Youth that are 4-H age 5 – 7 years old are considered Cloverbuds, which only participate in non-competitive settings (please select the “Introductory 4-H Projects” project area in 4-H Online). 4-H members are ages 8 – 19 and participate in both non-competitive and competitive settings.

**Participation Fee:** All 4-H members are required to pay a \$20 per member participation fee annually (families with three or more 4-H members are only responsible for paying \$60 per family). This fee helps to enable the development of new programming and curriculum. \$5 of every fee remains with Calhoun County to develop programs locally; the remainder is used to support statewide programming. Participation fee scholarships are available for 4-H families who will experience a financial burden in paying this fee. There is a form to apply for a scholarship; contact the Extension office to obtain the form. Some clubs or projects may have an additional fee.

The \$20 participation fee is only paid once a year. If you are enrolled through 4-H in another county, you will pay the participation fee through your primary county. If you are involved in more than one club, you will pay the participation fee through your primary club. Be sure to communicate where you

## Stay in the loop!

Make sure you are connected to Calhoun County 4-H through the following means:

- Make sure your 4-H Online email address is current! Most communication is done via email through 4-H Online, including sending out our bimonthly newsletter.
- Follow Calhoun County MSU Extension/4-H on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/CalhounCountyMSUExtension4-H>
- Please make sure your projects are updated in 4-H Online. We do send project-specific emails only to those participants enrolled in certain project areas as relevant.
- Fair information, including the fair book, can be found on the fair website at:  
<http://www.calhouncountyfair.org/>

have paid the fee with your administrative leader and the Extension office!

**Enrollment/Reenrollment:** 4-H members and volunteers must enroll and reenroll each year. Returning members and volunteers must reenroll by December 1st and new members must enroll by May 1st to be eligible to show at fair. Some livestock species have earlier dates for enrollment. Enrollment begins in September. All enrollments and reenrollments occur via 4-H Online, our online database; <https://mi.4honline.com> Please note that you are not considered a 4-H member until you have enrolled or reenrolled in 4-H Online (including correct authorizations, club, and project participation) AND your participation fee has been verified by the Extension office. Only members and volunteers need to enroll in 4-H Online.

**Volunteers:** Any adult that wishes to enroll as a volunteer with 4-H must complete the Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to enrolling in 4-H Online. This includes filling out an application, a background check, reference check, 4-H Volunteer e-Learning Course, and an in-person interview. All volunteers have one year from the date your first paperwork is turned into the office to complete the process; volunteers who do not complete the process within a year will be required to restart the process. Volunteers who are inactive (have not completed reenrollment by the county deadline) will be required to go through VSP again prior to being considered an active volunteer.

**4-H Clubs:** Clubs must complete paperwork and be registered with the Extension office to be considered a 4-H club and allowed to use the 4-H name and emblem. Clubs must consist of at least five members from two or more families, have at least one registered adult volunteer, and meet a minimum of four times per year. More information regarding starting a club can be found by calling the Extension office.

**Financial Guidelines:** Each club, volunteer, member and parent is required to follow the financial guidelines for Michigan 4-H clubs. Please refer to the current 4-H financial guidelines in the Michigan 4-H Financial Manual for Treasurers at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/financial\\_manual\\_for\\_4\\_h\\_treasurers](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/financial_manual_for_4_h_treasurers) please contact the Extension office with any questions.

Fundraisers – All 4-H fundraisers must have a completed fundraising authorization form submitted to the Extension office at least two weeks prior to the start of the fundraiser. A follow-up report form must be completed and submitted no more than 10 days following the event. Only authorized 4-H groups may use the 4-H name and emblem in fundraising for that authorized 4-H group and all funds raised using the 4-H name and emblem are considered 4-H funds. This means that fundraisers for personal use may not use the 4-H name or club name.

## 4-H Pledge

I pledge....

My head to clearer thinking

My heart to greater loyalty

My hands to larger service

My health to better living

For my club, my community, my country and my world.

The 4-H pledge, which should be said at the beginning of every club and association meeting, addresses all four areas of youth development (cognitive, emotional, social, and physical). You should work with the youth to help them memorize the 4-H pledge.

## 4-H Emblem



The 4-H emblem is a four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf, which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The 4-H emblem (commonly called the 4-H clover) is protected by law from commercial and unauthorized use. Due to this protection, only chartered 4-H clubs and organizations are authorized to use the 4-H clover in publications and advertising. The clover must also always be seen with the 18 USC 707 trademark (with few exceptions). There are also very strict policies regarding how you may use the clover in documents, apparel, etc. (for example, text or images cannot be placed over the clover). For further explanation of these policies, visit <http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem>.

## National 4-H

<http://www.4-h.org/>

4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, empowering six million youth in the U.S. and is part of the Cooperative Extension system of land-grant universities.

National 4-H provides a wealth of resources, including curriculum and activities as well as fund development, for local 4-H programs. They coordinate National 4-H Week, which occurs in

October each year, along with the 4-H National Youth Science Day that occurs that week. They partner with Tractor Supply Company to host the Paper Clover Campaign (customers can donate \$1 to their local 4-H program at each TSC store) each fall and spring.

National 4-H also runs the 4-H Mall, which is your go-to source for 4-H gear, including curriculum, apparel, club supplies, and more. Visit <http://www.4-hmall.org/home.aspx> to find all that they offer!

### *Did you know?*

*The 4-H Motto is  
"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"*

*This expresses a continual goal of excellence—to always strive to build on our goals and skills.*

## Michigan 4-H Youth Development

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

Michigan 4-H Youth Development operates under Michigan State University Extension. The program creates non-formal, educational opportunities to help youth thrive in a complex and changing world. There are seven guiding principles that provide the foundation for educational methods, activities and events that positively affect the lives of Michigan's youth. These are:

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
4. Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
5. Youth develop skills that help them succeed.
6. Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism.
7. Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.

Michigan 4-H provides a wealth of resources and activities around a variety of project and topic areas, including animal science, arts, careers and entrepreneurship, citizenship, leadership, community service, environmental and outdoor education, global and cultural education, healthy youth, life skills, science and technology, volunteering, and mentoring.

Youth can apply for different awards and scholarships at the state level. Scholarships include the Michigan Rabbit/Cavy 4-H Scholarship for those involved with the rabbit/cavy project area, Michigan State University 4-H Scholarship for high school seniors who have applied to MSU, Michigan State University Pre-College Program Scholarship for students in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade who attend an MSU pre-college program (such as 4-H Exploration Days, 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp, 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp, or 4-H Capitol Experience), and Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarships.



# Michigan 4-H Foundation

<http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/about.html>

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is a non-profit fundraising organization that solicits, manages, grants and stewards support from private individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations to support Michigan 4-H Youth Development programs. Gifts made to the Foundation support:

- 4-H volunteer training at a reduced cost
- County 4-H volunteer recognition
- State 4-H youth awards and recognition
- College scholarships for 4-H youth
- County and state 4-H grant opportunities
- Creation of new curriculum and learning materials
- Development of new and current 4-H programs
- Development and maintenance of Kettunen Center, Michigan's 4-H volunteer training center
- Development and maintenance of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens at MSU

## State 4-H Workshops and Events

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>

There are many statewide 4-H workshops and events that 4-H members can attend throughout the year. Visit the website linked above to find more information about each event.

4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp – Occurs at the end of June at MSU and is for youth interested in exploring animal and veterinary science projects and activities. Open to youth ages 13-16 and involves a competitive application process to attend (applications are due in April).

4-H Capitol Experience – Occurs in March at the State Capitol and surrounding area and is a four day conference to prepare youth for active citizenship, focusing on civic engagement and public policy.

4-H Exploration Days – The most popular 4-H event! Occurs in June at MSU and is for youth ages 11-19. Spend three days on MSU's campus, experiencing life like a college student and attending fun workshops and events with over 2,500 youth from across the state. Registration begins in March; you will want to register ASAP when registration books are available as sessions fill up very quickly (some within the first 15 minutes that registration opens for staff to enter them).

4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp – Occurs in August at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle for youth ages 13-15 (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade). Experience all that our great lakes have to offer as you go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, explore dunes, and more. There is an application process that is due in May.

4-H Renewable Energy Camp – Occurs in July on MSU’s campus and is a five day camp for youth 13-19. Youth explore ideas, research and opportunities around renewable energy (biofuels, solar, and wind energy).

4-H Mentoring Weekend – Occurs in July for adults and youth who are in a formal mentoring program (does not have to be a 4-H run program). This three day weekend full of fun workshops takes place at the Kettunen Center.

4-H Family Fun Weekend – Occurs in August at Kettunen Center for parents and youth ages 5-8.

4-H Creative Arts Celebration – Occurs in October at the Kettunen Center. Open to youth ages 12 and older and volunteers, this event features a variety of workshops focused on the visual arts, crafts, sewing and textile projects.

4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular – Occurring in January at the Kettunen Center, this event focuses on youth leadership, civic engagement, global citizenship and international cultures.

4-H Winterfest – This event for 8-12 year olds occurs in February. Youth get to participate in a variety of workshops and explore the Kettunen Center winter activities.

4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop – Occurs in February at the Kettunen Center, youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about veterinary science.

4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop – Occurs in February at the Kettunen Center, youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about a variety of topics related to beef, sheep and swine project areas.

Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference – Occurs in March, youth ages 11-18 can attend this event to learn about dairy management.

### *Did you know?*

*There are many scholarships available to attend statewide workshops and events. The Calhoun County 4-H Council offers a scholarship for registration fees. Some events even offer their own scholarships. Call the Extension office to find out more about scholarships for the event you want to attend!*

# Calhoun County 4-H Associations and Committees

Calhoun County 4-H has a variety of associations and committees to guide certain project areas and events. Participation is highly encouraged and many offer great leadership opportunities for youth!

## **4-H Council**

4-H Council is the association that helps to oversee activities for the county 4-H program. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Garden Level Conference Room at the MSU Extension Office. 4-H Council is run by an adult and youth board. All clubs are encouraged to send representatives to this meeting to have a voice in shaping our county program.

4-H Council oversees the following activities:

Calhoun County 4-H Endowment – Calhoun County has participated in a campaign to raise funds for an endowment through the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The goal was to raise \$20,000, which will be matched 1:1 by the Michigan 4-H Foundation for a total goal of \$40,000 in an endowment fund. These funds will provide annual support for current Calhoun County 4-H programming, future 4-H program enhancements and other areas of need to advance the delivery of 4-H in Calhoun County. More information can be found at <http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/countymatch/>.

Scholarships – 4-H Council will reimburse youth for partial registration fees for educational workshops for youth who attend state events. For specific requirements, contact the 4-H Office at 269-781-0784.

## **County Awards**

Learning, completing a project and recognition are important parts of the 4-H program. Recognition enhances the member's self-esteem, increases his or her motivation to learn, to become more involved in 4-H, to accept new responsibilities and set new goals. Youth can be nominated by their 4-H leaders for county awards. There are Junior Awards (4-H age 5-12) and Senior Awards (4-H age 13-19) awards in different project areas as well as special awards.

Volunteer Banquet – This is the county's annual recognition banquet. Volunteers are recognized for years of service and special achievements. We also recognize friends of 4-H, organizations or individuals who support 4-H throughout the year.

4-H Lemonade Stand – 4-H Council organizes the 4-H Lemonade Stand which is at the Calhoun County Fair. They also do events throughout the year. All 4-H members (age 12 & up) are encouraged to help by taking some shifts during fair. Funds from the lemonade stand support scholarships and programming for the next 4-H year.

Cloverbud Camp Planning Committee

This committee plans and oversees the annual Cloverbud Camp that occurs in June. Cloverbud Camp is a day camp at the end of June packed full of fun activities for our cloverbud members (youth ages 5-8 years old). Meetings are usually held in February, April, May, and June. If you are interested in serving with this committee, contact the office at 269-781-0784.

## Calhoun County 4-H Clubs

There are several different types of clubs within the 4-H structure. Calhoun County consists of both project clubs and community clubs, which involves members of a variety of ages and interests. These clubs have general club meetings which may be held on a monthly basis that all club members attend and include club business and educational activities. Projects clubs focus on one specific project. These clubs meet on a weekly or monthly basis and focus mostly on project work. 4-H members may be involved with more than one club as fits their needs.

The current list of Calhoun County 4-H clubs along with a contact person, contact information, location, and project areas:

**4-Leaf Clovers**, Marshall

Nancy Sutherland  
269-789-3005  
nms822@att.net  
*Arts & Crafts, Clothing, Hooked projects*

**BC Fields**, Battle Creek

Renee Smith  
269-245-9164  
midnight-50@hotmail.com  
*Arts & Crafts*

**ACE Horse Club**, Marshall

Stacie Coates  
269-781-8222  
oemsg@aol.com  
*Arts & Crafts, Horse & Pony*

**Beef Club**, Calhoun County

Michelle VanSickle  
269-781-6783  
vansicklem@mar-lee.org  
*Beef*

**Airheads**, Calhoun County

Chris Tilley  
517-494-9131  
tilleychris11@yahoo.com  
*Aviation*

**Beef Breeding**, Calhoun County

Chris Landis  
517-568-3591  
chrismlandis@hotmail.com  
*Beef Breeding*

**Boots & Buckles**, Burlington

Techia Lohmann  
616-550-1622  
lohmannt@icloud.com  
*Horse & Pony*

**Caprine Kids Forever**, Calhoun County

Tina Wilson  
269-209-6463  
kristina\_wilson78@yahoo.com  
*Goats*

**CC Riders**, Battle Creek

Laura McFadden  
269-986-6988  
mcfaddenlm@yahoo.com  
*Horse & Pony*

**Challengers**, Olivet

Shirley Locke  
269-967-6963  
lockedoris7@gmail.com  
*Rabbits & Cavies, Arts & Crafts, Poultry*

**Companion Dog Club**, Calhoun County

Kassie Hamaker  
269-781-5920  
companionclub4h@aol.com  
*Dogs*

**Crafty Critters**, Marshall

Lisa Cook  
269-317-5751  
nailart67@gmail.com  
*Arts & Crafts*

**Dairy Club**, Calhoun County

Beth Letts  
269-317-3999  
bethanie.letts@yahoo.com  
*Dairy*

**Dairy Starter Calf**, Calhoun County

Michelle Barnes  
269-209-0349  
barnesm01@yahoo.com  
*Dairy Starter Calf*

**Draft Horse & Pony**, Tekonsha

Annette Stuart  
517-206-6688  
mbstuart2014@gmail.com  
*Draft Horses & Ponies*

**Eckford Energetics**, Homer

Cindy Reynolds  
517-767-3267  
creynoldstax@yahoo.com  
*Arts & Crafts, Clothing*

**Happy Harvesters**, Burlington

Shelly Densmore  
269-979-8062  
sademore@yahoo.com  
*Arts & Crafts, Food*

**Happy Hustlers**, Marshall

Marilyn Letts  
269-601-2520  
marilcharlletts@aol.com  
*Arts & Crafts, Clothing, Food*

**Heart & Soul**, Homer

Lora Finch  
269-420-7824  
finchlora@gmail.com  
*Arts & Crafts*

**J Lee Riders**, Marshall

Leeann Fischhaber  
269-781-3453  
jlee41040@gmail.com  
*Horse & Pony*

**Lucky Stars**, Battle Creek

Sandy Howard  
269-924-6009  
showard916@netzero.net  
*Arts & Crafts*

**Mini Whinnies**, Ceresco

Lori Wilson  
269-303-1552  
loriw8000@tds.net  
*Mini Horse & Donkey*

**Poultry Club**, Calhoun County

Tabitha Rivera  
517-262-0027  
rrivera4314@gmail.com  
*Birds & Poultry*

**Rabbit & Cavy**, Calhoun County

Sally Rogers  
269-223-1075  
cc\_4hrabbit\_cavyclub@yahoo.com  
*Rabbits & Cavies*

**Rebel Riders**, Tekonsha

Kim Gordon  
517-812-3446  
kimberlygordon92@yahoo.com  
*Horse & Pony*

**Rising Stars**, Battle Creek

Tracy Myers-Malone  
269-788-7380  
tracylynn1383@gmail.com  
*Horse & Different Styles of Riding*

**Sheep Club**, Calhoun County

Alisa Doan  
269-245-2550  
ardon@gmail.com  
*Sheep*

**Shooting Sports**, Bellevue/Calhoun County

Scott Reid  
269-948-2772  
scottreid@eaton.com  
*Shooting Sports*

**Silver Spurs**, Tekonsha

Becki Hagaman  
517-765-2125  
becki\_rda@yahoo.com  
*Horse & Pony*

**Swine Club**, Calhoun County

Jessica Hamilton  
269-979-2845  
hamiltonrall@juno.com  
*Swine*

**Tigers**, Burlington

Kim Prater  
269-275-1167  
kimprater@aol.com  
*Arts & Crafts, Leadership, Career*

**Tumbleweed Riders**, Marshall

Mary Adams  
269-789-0497  
no email  
*Horse & Pony*

**Wattles Park Trailblazers**, Bellevue

Jeremy Blunt  
269-763-3175  
jeremyblunt@eaton.com  
*Horse & Pony*

## Calhoun County 4-H Projects and Life Skills

Based on the experiential learning model (doing an activity, then reflecting on the activity and applying knowledge learned), youth in 4-H participate in specific program areas through the learn-by-doing approach. These specific program areas are known as projects. Youth will select the projects they want to work on with the support of an adult volunteer leader.

In addition to gaining the valuable content knowledge of the project the youth works with, the 4-H model also teaches members critical life skills, including practical skills such as goal-setting, critical thinking, and record-keeping, as well as personal and interpersonal skills such as leadership, teamwork, character, communication, self-esteem and responsibility. Iowa State University Extension has a Life Skills Model that connects the various life skills to the four H's within 4-H. This model can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/explore/lifeskills>. All 4-H projects can be connected to many of these life skills.