



Cass County

4-H Family News

December 2020

Dear 4-H Family and Friends,

We are in the middle of Holiday season and I hope yours is going great! Like 4-H this year, your holidays may look a little different, too! I challenge each of you to contribute or give back to your community in some way in this season of giving. This may not be monetary... maybe it's mailing a card to your neighbor wishing them happy holidays, it may be making a toy out of old t-shirts for pets at our local animal shelter, it may be donating to C. Wimberly's food drive when you're leaving the grocery store, if they happen to be at one near you! Whatever it may be, I hope you accept the challenge!

I hope you are all staying healthy and I'll see you next year!

Sincerely,

Hailey Harman
4-H Program Coordinator, Cass County



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2020-2021 4-H Online Enrollment Available Now!

Don't forget to get your enrollment submitted ASAP. The link to re-enroll is: <https://v2.4honline.com/> Remember, no participation fees for this enrollment year! All Re-enrollments are due April 30th!

Please make sure you do enroll. New this year, you have the ability to register for workshops and other events through 4-H Online. We actually have two opportunities in this newsletter to register for events with this new system... it should be easy for you AND easy for us to keep track of registrations and being able to remind you of things you may need for your event. We are excited for this new addition to 4-H Online; we think you will like it too.

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**Connect with
youth from across
the globe!**



Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid-April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY.

December

- 9 Teen Leader Association Meeting, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 10-18 Hanukkah
- 17 Teen Leader Association Virtual Holiday Bash, Zoom., 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Christmas
- 26-1 Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

4-H Statewide Events and Workshops

December 2: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs, Zoom

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-on-volunteer-led-programs-december-2nd>

December 7: Flour Tortilla Making 101, Zoom

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/flour-tortilla-making-101-dec-7>

December 8: Wild Spartans Series, Zoom

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-december>

December 8: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs, Zoom

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-in-virtual-volunteer-led-programs>

December 19: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Holiday Scones, Zoom

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-eggnog-scones>

Cass County 4-H Leaders Association' Senior Scholarship

The annual Cass County 4-H Senior Scholarship application is available on our website and can be mailed or emailed by request. This scholarship is awarded to two 4-H members graduating in the Class of 2021 who are planning to continue onto a post-secondary education school. All applications are due by February 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Recipients will be notified via mail and recognized on Facebook and in the March/April Newsletter!

Virtual Citizenship Washington Focus Trip 2021

4-H CWF is a national 4-H program for participants to learn about our nation's government by participating in hands-on leadership experiences. The trip is being transferred to a virtual experience for 2021. It is still in the planning phases but the trip is estimated to be a multiple week program in June. Watch for more information in the upcoming Cass Clovers!



Virtual showcase and auction success

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform

that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual learning showcases and auctions provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU.

Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- \$1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions



“We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H'ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them,” said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension’s state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. “We’re also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation.”

Participating youth also had positive feedback:

- “The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!”
- “Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can’t thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can’t thank you enough.”



Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!



Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.

Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (<https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0>) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (<http://www.joann.com/4-h/>) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.

4-H Leaders' Association

Are you looking to help the county 4-H program? The 4-H Leaders' Association is the place for you! Come to our meetings held on the fourth Thursday of every month via Zoom at 7 pm. However, there is **NOT** a December meeting.



4-H Teen Leaders' Association

Our Cass County 4-H Teen Leaders' Association works to provide educational (and fun) opportunities for youth in Cass County 4-H. All youth 13+ are encouraged to attend! If you would like to be involved, please consider coming to the Teen Leader meetings on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92261798949>
+1 312 626 6799
ID:922 6179 8949
Password: Cass

4-H Leaders' Association Annual Meeting

Join us for the 4-H Leaders' Association Annual Meeting on January 28th at 7:00 pm. This important meeting will include the election of officers and the approval of the upcoming year's budget. We are looking for Leaders to fill the President, Treasure, and Secretary positions. As we look toward a brand new year, please consider being part of how Cass County 4-H can navigate through this upcoming year! Please let Hailey (harmanha@msu.edu) know if you are interested in running for a position on the board by January 21st!

Teen Leader Association Virtual Holiday Bash

Hey teens! Are you looking for something fun to do? Put on that ugly sweater (if you have one), cozy up on the couch, log on, and join us for some holiday fun and games on December 17th at 7 pm. Don't belong to the teen group? That's not a problem either! Join us and see what you are missing (you might even LIKE it!).

To register for this fun event... go into your 4-H Online account, click "events" and click "register". It's as easy as that!

Equine Education Wednesdays

Equine Education Wednesdays will be coming to you in the comfort of your own home beginning March 3rd for six (6) consecutive weeks (ending April 7) at 6:30 p.m. for 1 hour each week. Just think, you can sit in your comfiest loungewear (jammies) to listen to a different topic each week like veterinary care, hoof trimming, dental care, judging and much more. What a great opportunity to learn from professionals, be able to ask questions, and get to know the equine industry a little better. Thank you Cass County Horse Leaders' Association for sponsoring this series!! Registration is open now... just sign in on your 4-H Online profile, click events, then click register!

State 4-H Awards Program

The State 4-H Awards program, the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth, is for 4-H youth aged 13 and up who have at least three years of 4-H experience. Youth compete in 19 different award areas showcasing their knowledge, skills, and experiences. Applications will be due by **April 3**. Applications are carefully reviewed by selection committees. Delegates are invited to participate in either an advanced leadership development program (juniors) or competitive interviews (seniors). State 4-H Award winners are announced at the 4-H Recognition Program. Complete instructions (including an overview and webinar) and the application are available at the link below.

www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_awards_and_recognition_program