

*Clare County*

# 4-H Family News

FEBRUARY 2021

## 4-H Program Coordinator's Message

I hope everyone is having a good winter so far! It's time to go outside and enjoy the outdoors! This year we have exchanged our annual Winter Blast program for the Winter Outdoor Family Adventure which is much like Winter Blast, however, families will participate through the GooseChase app from wherever they are February 19 through 21. All participating families will have the chance to win a Jay's Sporting Goods gift card, too! Check out page 6 for more details and how to register.

I also hope to see many of our youth and adults register for the upcoming Skillathon! This contest is sure to test your knowledge on animal science and management. More details are on page 7.

Under the latest government order, the MSU Extension office remains closed and staff are continuing to work from home. There have been no changes to the no meeting face-to-face policy and it remains in place until further notice.

I am planning to take time off of work from February 22-25. If you need anything at all during this time, please call the office number at 989-539-7805.

Alex Schunk

## Contact Us



**Alex Schunk**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
schunkal@msu.edu

**Sherry Landon**  
Office Assistant  
landonsh@msu.edu

225 West Main Street  
Harrison, Michigan 48625

**Phone**  
989-539-7805

**Website**  
[msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/clare](https://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/clare)

**4HOnline**  
<https://mi.4honline.com/>

**Instagram**  
[@clarecounty4h](https://www.instagram.com/clarecounty4h)

**Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/clarecounty4H/>

## Share your knowledge with 4-H'ers!

Are you really good at dog showmanship, decorating cakes or maybe even fitting steers? 4-H members and volunteers that are very knowledgeable in a specific skill are encouraged to record a short video of them teaching their skill to share with 4-H members. Videos that are short and informative are helpful individually and for club meetings to educate youth about 4-H project areas.

If you, a member or volunteer has a skill they'd like to teach, please reach out to Alex to discuss. You do not need to be a video expert do this. All you need is a smart phone! This is also a very good opportunity for members and volunteers to add their 4-H resume for awards.

# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2

**Coming soon: virtual  
4-H Capitol Experience  
Youth Summit**



Save the date for the 4-H Capitol Experience Youth Summit, March 13, 17 and 20!

This fully virtual event will have opportunities for youth engagement, networking, sharing ideas, meeting with decision makers, learning about careers in and around policy, and learning the basics about government.

Youth will select issue groups, which will become small group learning cohorts throughout the event.

Sessions will be held:

- March 13, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- March 17, 4—6 p.m.
- March 20, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

This event is open to youth in eighth grade through age 19; registration will begin in February. The \$20 cost to attend will include a mailed conference kit to enhance the virtual experience. Scholarships are available.

## 4-H Events and Workshops

February 1-28: Cooking with Kristi

*Online*

This six-part on-demand video series will provide participants with access to instructional cooking videos and a private Facebook group. Youth will learn kitchen safety and sanitation, recipes for tasty and economical foods, and cooking techniques and terms.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking-with-kristi](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking-with-kristi)

February 2: Life of the Straits Winter Edition

*Zoom Webinar*

The program will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays through Feb. 9. Each session will share information on amazing features of the Straits of Mackinac and the wonderful winter activities you can enjoy there. This program is ideal for youth 8-12 years but is open to any family.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/life-of-the-straits-winter-edition-2021-feb-2](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/life-of-the-straits-winter-edition-2021-feb-2)

February 9: Wild Spartans Series—Working with Honeybees

*Zoom Webinar*

Join each month to meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In February, attendees will hear from an entomologist and learn what the buzz really is about bees!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february)

February 13: MSU Tollgate Farm Homegrown Gardening Series

*Zoom Webinar*

Interested in starting a vegetable garden for the first time or are you an experienced veggie gardener looking to explore new ideas? All levels of experience are welcome at this new series designed to encourage and support home vegetable gardeners! Sessions will be held monthly.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-feb-13](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-feb-13)

February 18: MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Virtual Winter Series

*Zoom Webinar*

This youth-led series, occurring monthly, is a safe place for past, present, and future MSU Tollgate Farm stewards and stewards-in-training to connect or reunite as a community and to explore resiliency and growth as youth leaders.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-feb-18](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-feb-18)

February 20: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Baked Corndogs

*Zoom Webinar*

Participants will learn how to prepare a healthier version of a corndog.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-baked-corndogs](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-baked-corndogs)

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

### Update on Michigan 4-H programming

*A message from MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer and Jake DeDecker, state leader of Michigan 4-H Youth Development*



To say that 2020 was difficult is an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic and the losses and life changes that came along with it took its toll on many of us. At MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H, we felt the pain that comes with cancelling events and pivoting exclusively to online programming.

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone—inside or outside Extension—who isn't eager to get back to face-to-face programming. We understand that our Michigan 4-H families are missing incredible experiences and connections that were built through in-person gatherings and programs.

We are making plans to resume face-to-face programming, and we look forward to engaging 4-H'ers, their families and volunteers. Our staff is working diligently to chart a path toward resuming in-person programming when the threat to public health caused by COVID-19 greatly diminishes. Though it is premature to cite a specific date, we are eager to see you all at the events, club meetings, competitions and fairs we all have grown to love.

In the meantime, we are committed to bringing high-quality virtual programming to residents and communities with varying needs throughout the state. We encourage 4-H'ers and clubs to continue meeting via zoom and engage in the many virtual educational programs offered by 4-H. For more information on virtual programs and resources or help setting up 4-H club meetings, contact your 4-H program coordinator or visit MSU Extension Remote Learning and Resources web page at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/rlr/>. Thank you for all that you do. We hope to see you soon.



### World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute applications due April 1

**AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
become inspired and prepared as the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. On May 6, youth will join virtually to become inspired and prepared as the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas related to global food security with experts and other Michigan youth while learning how university faculty and staff members, researchers and students are working to address world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the April 1 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a two- to five-page research paper about a developing country and how it is affected by one of 20 key factors that impact food security. At the online event, youth will present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. They will also participate in an interactive session with global challenge experts to learn more about topics related to global food and food security.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be considered as possible delegates to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, or virtually, in October. For more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/). Registration will open on March 1; registration and papers are due by April 1.

**TIME Magazine  
selects 4-H'er as  
"Kid of the Year"**

Congratulations to Colorado 4-H'er Gitanjali Rao, TIME Magazine's Kid of the Year! At age 15, Gitanjali is the first 4-H'er to ever be selected for the honor.

Gitanjali earned the distinction for her efforts to address a range of major problems. Utilizing STEM, she has worked on issues that include contaminated drinking water, opioid addiction and cyberbullying. It is her belief that young innovators such as her hold the key to solving world problems.

Read more about Gitanjali's 4-H story and experiences in her interview with TIME:

<https://time.com/5916772/kid-of-the-year-2020/>



# CLARE COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

## Youth:

Olivia Kleinhardt  
Rebecca Jehnzen  
Brevyn Willford  
Adalyn Gray  
Tanner Gariglio  
Bailey Mills  
Mitchell Randle  
Gavin Schunk  
Hosanna Evans  
Kynlee Carr  
Lorin Rose III  
Keaton Tocco  
Wesley Waite  
Nolan Riggs  
Brayden Humphrey  
Sydney Swartz  
Casen Haggart  
Colt Giester  
Sasha Little  
Hezekiah Bear  
Kolton Swartz  
Addison McPhall  
Colby Nash

## Volunteers:

Penny Brewer  
Donna Thompson  
Cindy Veldt-Dietsch  
Dana Taylor  
Bailey Gilroy  
Caleb Rowell

## FEBRUARY

10: Youth Leadership Council, 6:30pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97679102498>

Passcode: youth Theme: Bring your pet for show and tell!

17: Selecting Your Livestock Project, 7pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/99299957984>

Passcode: livestock

19-21: Winter Outdoor Family Adventure, GooseChase app, <https://events.anr.msu.edu/winteroutdoorfamilyadventure/>

24: 4-H Council, 6:30pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/98008030853> Passcode: council

## MARCH

10: Youth Leadership Council, 6:30pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97679102498>

Passcode: youth

24: 4-H Council, 6:30pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/98008030853> Passcode: council

# CLARE COUNTY NEWS

## Teddy Bear Community Service Sewing Project

If you missed the deadline (1/31) for the survey for the Teddy Bear Project and are interested in participating, don't worry, you still can! Contact Alex to be added to the communications list for this project if you did not get the chance to do the survey.

4-H members and volunteers will sew the "shell" of a teddy bear using a provided pattern. Teddy bears will be donated to R.I.S.E. Advocacy for youth housed in their shelter that have been impacted by domestic violence. The youth in the shelter will assemble the bears, somewhat like a build-a-bear. Our goal is donate 100 teddy bears by April 1!

## 4-H Volunteer Survey

All 4-H volunteers are encouraged to complete the Volunteer Survey that is open until February 5. Feedback will help us moving forward as a state and county. Survey: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d5dU2WLEGPBQML3](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5dU2WLEGPBQML3)

## Bad Weather Policy

Due to 4-H not being face-to-face at the time being, the 4-H Bad Weather Policy for meetings, programs and events is not effect this year. Even if schools are closed due to bad weather scheduled meetings, programs and events will continue unless otherwise determined by the planning group and 4-H Program Coordinator.

## Clare County Fair News

- Fair Dates: July 26-31, Theme: Beach
- NEW: Youth Exhibitors will now be required to do work at the fairgrounds in order to get their premium check. First tentative workday is May 22. More details to come soon.
- Fair books will not be printed and handed out this year. The Fair Book will be on the Fair website hopefully by late April. Anyone that needs help filling fair forms out or needs printed copies, contact Donna in the Fair Office.

Do you have questions about the Fair information above? Contact the Fair Office at 989-539-9011.

# SELECTING YOUR LIVESTOCK PROJECT

Wednesday, February 17th, 2021  
7:00pm via Zoom

Nick Babcock, Michigan 4-H Livestock and Vet Science Educator, will be presenting on how to select your beef, dairy feeder, sheep and swine projects. Timelines will be discussed for when animals should be born and purchased for the Clare County Fair, along with tips for care and feeding based on the ideal weight gain.



Whether you are new to livestock projects or are considering venturing into a new species, this meeting is for you! This meeting is specific to livestock projects being raised for the Clare County Fair.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99299957984>  
Meeting ID: 992 9995 7984  
Passcode: livestock

Call in by Phone  
1 646 876 9923 US  
Meeting ID: 992 9995 7984  
Passcode: 810134196





# WINTER

OUTDOOR FAMILY ADVENTURE EVENT

FEB 19-21

**Free winter fun open to families with youths ages 5-19.**  
Preregistration required. Families will have fun in the outdoors while learning about many winter recreation activities!

Winter-themed missions will be completed as household teams on the **GooseChase app** which will allow teams a chance to win prizes.

Mission themes: snowshoeing, cross country skiing, fat tire biking, outdoor cooking, trapping, ice fishing, winter crafts, winter mammals, and winter activities like building a snowman and making a snow angel!

Self-paced **GooseChase game** will be open for participation **February 19 to 21.**



## PRE-REGISTER TODAY TO PARTICIPATE

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/winteroutdoorfamilyadventure/>



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension





**REGISTER:**

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/skillathon/>

**MORE INFO:**

[www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2021-michigan-4-h-](http://www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2021-michigan-4-h-)

**CONTACT:**

**Geep Charlebois,**  
4-H Program Coordinator:  
Antrim & Otsego Counties  
[charleb7@msu.edu](mailto:charleb7@msu.edu)

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

## 2021 Michigan 4-H Skillathon

**Region 1: March 6, 2021**  
Upper Peninsula & Northern Michigan

**Region 2: March 13, 2021**  
Southwestern Michigan

**Region 3: March 20, 2021**  
Southeastern Michigan

Competitions will take place via Zoom

---

*Test your knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management in 10 different categories.*

---

Contestants who place in the top 20th percentile of each age division will qualify for the Michigan 4-H Skillathon State Championship held on April 10, 2021!

---

**AGE DIVISIONS:**

- ♦ Novice (8-11 years)
- ♦ Junior (12-14 years)
- ♦ Senior (15-19 years)
- ♦ Adult (open to current adult volunteers)

**GET A 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON SHIRT!**





# Youth 4-H State Award Trainings

★ January, February and March 2021

Visit the Youth Recognition website for list  
of dates:

<http://bit.ly/stateaward>



**4-H GROWS HERE**

Have you ever thought about applying for a 4-H State Award but you just do not know where to start or maybe you have submitted an application in the past but you need suggestions on your cover letter or resume? Consider joining a virtual training. Each training will start at the stated time, there will be a short video played around that topic and then staff will stay on to answer specific questions. Open office hours is a time that staff will be available to answer any questions that you have regarding your 4-H State Award application. Open office hours are designed to pop in, ask a question and get an answer, you do not need to stay the whole time. Registration is required, registration will stay open through each event. You must register for each session you plan to attend, click the date below to register. For more information about 4-H State Awards visit <http://bit.ly/stateaward>.





# MARK OF EXCELLENCE

BECAUSE OF 4-H  
I CAN...

APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Extension



4-H GROWS HERE

It's that time of year, for the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award, please note there are few changes for this year! The 4-H Mark of Excellence Award is a division of the 4-H State Awards Program specifically for 11 and 12-year-old 4-H members.

To enter, a 4-H member writes an essay on the theme, "Because of 4-H I can ..." Essays are submitted to the local county MSU Extension office no later than April 1. County 4-H programs then select up to two youths' essays as their representatives and submit those names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. For more additional information and instructions, view the [2021 Overview and Instructions for Michigan 4-H State Awards Program and Mark of Excellence Award](#).