

May 19, 2026

To: 4-H Families Involved in the Tuscola County Fair

Re: Important Tuscola County Fair Information

Tuscola County 4-H Council and the project area superintendents need everyone's help to make the 2026 Tuscola County Fair a success. In order for club members to receive full benefit from the 4-H program, its members need to be involved in volunteer activities. Although fair is a very busy time for all exhibitors, it is vital that they take the time to give back to the 4-H program. All fair participants are expected to bear their fair share of the work needed to make the fair a success.

SET-UP & CLEAN-UP

Parents and teens are responsible for helping with set-up and clean-up of all areas in which a youth exhibits in during the fair. If a parent is not available, the family is expected to find another adult to stand in for them. If a youth is exhibiting in many different areas, it is still the family's responsibility to find others (fellow club members, family friends, etc.) to help cover this responsibility. Attendance will be taken at both set up and clean-up in each area. The more volunteers we have, the quicker and easier the process will be. There was a good turnout in previous years and the work went quickly for all. Thank you to everyone who helped previously, and we are looking for even more participation this year.

- Set up for all project areas will be on **Wednesday, July 22nd** at 6:00 p.m. unless superintendents notify exhibitors otherwise. Pizza will be provided by the 4-H Council following set up.
- Clean up and tear down will be on **Sunday, August 2nd** at 6 a.m. in the barns. Many helpers will be needed to assist in cleaning and disinfecting livestock areas following the fair.
- Still project pick-up will begin Saturday, August 1st at 8 p.m. and again on Sunday morning once the Community building is unlocked before 8 a.m. and **ends at 10 a.m.** Any projects not picked up will be taken to the Extension office down the street and remain for **two weeks to be picked up.**



MSU EXTENSION

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counties cooperating.

Those helping with set up and clean up are asked to bring supplies such as brooms, dustpans, shop-vacs, buckets, mops, rags, paper towels, tape, staple guns, screw drivers, hammers, pliers, etc.—any supplies that you might imagine could be needed for the job. Remember that the Community Building will be where all the Non-Perishable, Perishable and Agricultural projects will be judged and displayed. Tasks that need to be completed in the Community Building include sweeping, setting up tables, covering tables with paper and skirting, and setting up booths.

4-H Diner

The 4-H Diner relies on 4-H youth, parents, and leaders to volunteer during the week of the fair. Each 4-H Club is responsible for working in the 4-H Dairy Diner **at least once** during fair week. This is a **mandatory community service expectation** for each club exhibiting at the fair. There are three (3) shifts each day of the fair, **3 silver screened adult volunteers** and 5 youths are needed to cover each shift. Please complete the 4-H Dairy Diner Sign-Up form to schedule a time. A random shift will be assigned to your club unless you have arranged for a specific time in advance. Time slots are filled on a first come first serve basis. All proceeds from the 4-H Diner directly benefit Tuscola County 4-H programs by funding educational programs, scholarships, camp, awards banquet, and much more.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Clubs are encouraged to do demonstrations or activities for the public and answer questions from passers by, but it is not mandatory. This is a great way to advertise 4-H and your club, even livestock clubs can

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help. Call MSU Extension to sign-up your club or yourself for a time to volunteer to watch the Community Building.

HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are also needed on the following dates. If you are interested, call the MSU Extension office at (989) 672-3870 with the date and time you are available along with your contact information. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early for instructions.

- Saturday, July 25th – Assist with project check-in at the Community Building from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, July 25th – Clerk for judges at the Community Building from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Friday, July 31st** – Assist with buyer check-in at the livestock auctions from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 2nd – Assist with exhibit check-out and tear down at the Community Building from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

REMINDER: Exhibits will start to be released on Saturday from 8 to 9 p.m. and then again before 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 2nd. Removal of exhibits before release time will result in forfeiture of earned prizes / awards.

4-H MEMBER AND LEADER PASSES: 4-H members who exhibit at the fair will be given one gate pass, **in the form of bracelet**, that is good all week. Registered 4-H leaders with exhibiting members are also eligible for this gate pass. **Lost or destroyed passes will not be replaced.** 4-H members may also purchase weekly grandstand passes for \$10 at the Fair Office.

4-H HELPER PASSES – 4-H parents, grandparents, and other immediate family relatives 30 inches tall and over as well as 4-H leader spouses must have a 4-H Helper gate pass, also in the form of a bracelet, or pay the regular fair gate fee to enter the fairgrounds. The cost remains **\$2.50 per person per day or 12.00 per person for the entire week.** These passes do not include midway rides or admission to the Grandstand. These passes are intended for 4-H family members and others who will be assisting 4-H exhibitors during fair week. Lost or destroyed passes will not be replaced.

Fair Premiums- Tuscola County 4-H Council and Fair Board Members have agreed to pay a Best of Show Premium for all Still Projects. \$25 will be awarded to each best of show winner in each still project's department!

Again, this year – In lieu of Premiums for all project areas the Fair Board is again offering the following incentive to all 4-H/FFA members:

- Register and Enter (1) exhibit in the Fair and you will not be charged the \$2.50 4-H/FFA pass fee, which gets you into the Fair for the week.
- Register and Enter (5) exhibits – from different divisions / categories – in the Fair and earn a free \$10 4-H Grandstand Pass as long as you follow the process listed below:

The Process will be:

At check-in, you will need to obtain signatures from various Superintendents, confirming that your (1) or (5) exhibits are on display. The **FREE** 4-H / Grandstand pass will be distributed **at Midway Hall on Monday and Tuesday ONLY** of Fair week, during the posted office times.

(This is \$60 value, if you attend the Grandstand show every night!) * **Not available to Open Class entries**

Save up those school projects or make something new to enter at the Fair! And let's fill the Community Building!

Exhibitor Meeting: We will have a mandatory exhibitor/parent meeting **on Sunday, July 26th at 6 p.m. in the Large Livestock Arena.** Please make sure that at least one member of your family is present. The purpose of this meeting is informational. We will go over the rules and expectations for the week and also make sure you have all the information about activities that will be taking place throughout the week of fair.

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All the Cloverbud show classes have been moved back on each respective species show dates. **You will be signing up for this in Sho Works.** Please either call or come into the office to complete this task by Friday, June 19th.

CAMPERS: Please see the New Camping Space Agreement Google link in the fair book (towards the back). Camping form deadline for the reduced fee and the reserved site is **June 19th**. All persons wishing to camp at the fair may park at the fairgrounds on Wednesday prior to the fair, **July 22nd**. Camper parking for the horse area is from 4 – 6:00 p.m. for returning campers and 6 - 8 p.m. for new campers. Contact Jackie Garner at (989) 302-0191 for questions regarding camping near the horse barns. Camper parking for the large livestock area is from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.. Contact Beth Rupprecht at (989) 233-9923 for questions regarding camping in the large livestock area. Please see the fair book page 67 & 68 for pricing information or locate the fair book online at https://www.canr.msu.edu/tuscola/4-h/tuscola_county_fair . Campers that are parked without permission will be towed.

Attention all FACEBOOK users: To all of our 4-H Members,;/ leaders and their families: **“LIKE”** our Facebook page: **Tuscola County 4-H.**

This, **along with the Remind App**, will become a valuable tool for communicating last-minute changes and updates related to 4-H Camp, Exploration Days, and especially the Fair!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "ReAnna Wilkerson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

ReAnna Wilkerson
Tuscola 4-H Program Coordinator