

Hi 4-H Family,

I want to start out this week's email digest by discussing the issue of systemic racism and our commitment to equity across MSU Extension by sharing this message from our leadership team:

We are saddened and outraged by the continued societal tolerance of racism, violence and traumatization of Black people and communities of color. We know our feelings do not match the intensity of the pain and trauma of our colleagues and communities of color.

It is impossible to make sense of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the unconscionable deaths that have taken place for centuries. Similar unnecessary deaths are too common. Through structural inequalities at the intersection of race and socioeconomic status, COVID-19 continues its toll. The racism, violence and traumatization of Black people and communities of color run squarely in opposition to MSU Extension's commitment to equity and inclusion. On behalf of MSU Extension, we stand in solidarity with our colleagues and communities of color.

To mitigate the impacts of racism and to be better supporters and allies to communities of color, in the coming weeks, we are committing to the following action steps and engagement opportunities:

1. **Teach-ins for staff and volunteers.** Dr. Amy Bonomi (in collaboration with Children and Youth Institute colleagues and informed by our colleagues of color) will hold teach-ins with a focus on racial inequity, equity, justice, White privilege and White fragility. The purpose of the teach-ins is to engage White colleagues and volunteers in discussions of supports, protections and advocacy for colleagues and communities of color. Teach-ins are educational forums on challenging social justice issues; they are practical, participatory, and oriented toward action (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teach-in>). The teach-ins will engage supplemental readings, such as Melanie Morrison's "Becoming Trustworthy White Allies" (<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/future-race/becoming-trustworthy-white-allies>). **We will be sending a registration link from MSU Extension Events.**
2. **Additional opportunities for staff and volunteers to engage in DEI learning.** This includes professional development offered through Dr. Quentin Tyler's Summer Seminar Series facilitated through the CANR Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The upcoming Summer Seminar Series is in

collaboration with MSU and the CIC forum

(<https://www.canr.msu.edu/diversity/>). Sessions include:

1. Virtual Settings: Ripe for Unconscious Bias. Amy Bonomi, Nelia Viveiros, June 10, 12:00-1:30: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/odei-summer-series-ripe-environment-for-unconscious-bias>.
 2. June 24, 12:00-1:30
 3. July 8, 12:00-1:30
 4. July 22, 12:00-1:30
 5. August 5, 12:00-1:30
 6. August 19, 12:00-1:30
 7. September 2, 12:00-1:30
3. **Mental health support for youth and adults.** We will bolster resources to expand mental health support for Black and Latinx youth by increasing access to mental health sessions. *Information is forthcoming.*
 4. **Social media.** Children and Youth Institute colleagues will organize and oversee a social media competition among youth across Michigan to raise further awareness of, and reimagine strategies for mitigating, the impacts of racism and structural inequalities. *Information is forthcoming.*

Additionally, the following additional resources may be of interest for those interested in additional learning opportunities:

- "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Race" by Robin DiAngelo. This writing is primarily for White audiences who want to learn more about White privilege and fragility. A shorter work is included in the International Journal of Critical Pedagogy and full text can be accessed at: <https://libjournal.uncg.edu/ijcp/article/view/249>.
- Brené Brown with Ibram X. Kendi on How to Be an Antiracist from the Unlocking Us with Brené Brown podcast: <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist/>

We look forward to connecting with you to listen, support and make needed changes to amplify equity practices. We will be likewise working to develop opportunities to engage our community partners in this work.

I encourage anyone who is interested in helping our county program to implement any of the steps outlined or helping to further the efforts of our county program in diversity, equity, and inclusion to please contact me.

With the recent easing of restrictions regarding public gatherings from the State of Michigan, it is an important time to remind the 4-H community that MSU Extension's guidance regarding face-to-face programming has not changed. No face-to-face MSU Extension youth events or programs may take place anywhere in the state until September 1, 2020. This applies to events and activities led by Michigan 4-H volunteers, including 4-H club meetings or in-person gatherings of any size. We welcome and encourage 4-H clubs and groups to continue meeting virtually at this time; please let us know if we can assist you in identifying options for your virtual meeting spaces.

If you have any questions, feedback, or assistance needed in the county 4-H program, you can fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/vYdEAoQzbhCLAAjr5>. As always, you are also welcome to reach out to me via email or the county Facebook page. If you have questions that are related to the Eaton County Fair, please contact fair board or the fair office. Information can be found on their website at <https://eatoncountyfair.com/>.

Eaton County 4-H meetings, events and updates:

**Please note: We are attempting to keep the Events Calendar as up to date as possible at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/4_h_events_calendar.

- Virtual Fireside Chat for Volunteers. This chance for volunteers to touch base, ask questions, share ideas, and connect will now occur on Tuesdays at 6pm every 2 weeks on the following dates: 6/9, and 6/23! Topic for 6/9 is online resources for programs and projects, topic for 6/23 is TBD. To connect via Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97921492415> Password: fireside
- **Registration is now open**, early for Eaton, Hillsdale, Kalkaska, and Wexford Counties! Virtual Junk Drawer Robotics series, July 20-23 from 3pm - 4pm! Learn engineering skills by using everyday, household items (cost includes a supply kit). This series has extremely limited registration - if you are interested, please register prior to 6/18 (registration goes out statewide on that date)! Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/virtual-junk-drawer-robotics> to register.
- Volunteers, are you planning virtual experiences for your 4-H members but would like a way to get them supplies? 4-H Council voted to use funds from the Eaton County 4-H Endowment to purchase prepaid small flat rate postage boxes so you can have supplies delivered to your 4-Hers and postage is free for you! Free postage for you to ship supplies for making slime, quilling paper, ingredients to learn cake decorating, or more to your 4-Hers to help deliver the virtual session (\$8.30 per box savings for you!). All you have to do is fill out this form <https://forms.gle/gGvrTzqCTrzejosD8> and boxes will be shipped to

your house, postage paid and ready for filling with supplies! First come first serve until the allocated funds are spent.

- Reminder to volunteers: Your profiles have now been added to our new volunteer management database, Volunteer Central! You will be receiving an email from the system over the next two weeks with instructions on how to access your profile and update information. **It will be required that you complete the steps in that email prior to August 31, 2020 to remain a volunteer** so please watch for that email! Volunteers who applied in Volunteer Central (since 1/1/2020) do not need to complete anything.

Other upcoming educational opportunities and new resources:

- Teen Tuesdays - Touch base with 4-H teens from across the state! Teen Tuesdays are at 4 p.m. and begin on June 2 and are geared for 4-H members ages 13 - 19. Each week is a different theme and provide opportunity for interaction and discussion with other 4-H teens across Michigan. You can view topics and register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/teentuesdays/>
- 4-H at 4 on Thursdays - Sessions begin on June 4 and are designed for 4-H members ages 8 - 12. These sessions will demonstrate a different hands-on project/experiment/craft each week that can be completed at home. View activity topics and register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4hthursdays/>
- Do you have a market animal (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, or goats)? Check out these resources for what to consider when marketing your animal: https://www.canr.msu.edu/meat_marketing_processing/resources Videos are also being developed for these topics, stay tuned for more information!
- Volunteers - are you leading and hosting virtual meetings? There is a new program guide for you! View the guide at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/virtual-4-h-programming-guidelines-for-volunteers>
- Youth Reflect and Connect Sessions - The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed our lives. Many young people may be experiencing a range of thoughts and emotions. During this time when our lives and routines may be changed, one way to help support each other is to come together to reflect and connect. These sessions from June 17 - 23 bring together Michigan 4-H youth members ages 13-19 with 4-H staff via Zoom to check in with others, build and share stories of individual and community challenges and resiliency, and work together to identify how we can navigate our individual and community health. You can register at (space is limited): <https://events.anr.msu.edu/youthreflectandconnect/>

- 100% Cocoa - Join us for everything chocolate! Explore interesting facts about chocolate from the Mayans to new trends in this delectable treat. Tuesdays, June 9 - July 7th at 7:00 pm. Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/cocoa/>.
- The Art and Science of Communication - If you're interested in the business of advertising, public relations, communication, media or journalism, this 3 part webinar series is for you. In this program you will learn why we buy the stuff we buy!! Plus you will gain practical experience in how to sell things and influence people. **Don't delay, register today** at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Communication/>. Registration is limited to the first 30 high school students that are committed to attending all three days. Deadline to register is June 19.

Email and our county Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EatonCounty4H/>) will continue to be the main sources of information sent out from our county office. I highly recommend making sure you have liked the Facebook page and marked "See First" and "Notifications On" under the follow settings so that you see our posts (Facebook's algorithm sometimes does not show page posts in newsfeeds, so this is the best way to ensure you will see all posts)! You can also find these update emails on our newsletter website for reference. Please follow the most recent letter posted for guidance on changes from the state and from our organization. You can find them at https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/4_h_newsletter.

You may see many meetings or educational opportunities moved to video conference. The platform that MSU Extension uses is Zoom. You can join Zoom meetings from your computer or phone (via the app) using the specific links provided for the different opportunities. To download Zoom, visit <https://zoom.us/download>.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me.

Thanks,

Kristy

Kristy Oosterhouse
4-H Program Coordinator
Eaton County MSU Extension
551 Courthouse Dr, Suite One
Charlotte, MI 48813
[\(517\)543-2310](tel:(517)543-2310)
oosterh6@msu.edu

http://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/

Pronouns: She, her, hers

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.