



MAY 2026

4-H Family News

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY



WELCOME SPRING

Dear 4-H Friends,

The fresh greens and vibrant yellows we see popping up everywhere are a welcomed sight after the sparkling calmness of winter. Spring calls us to come outdoors, get warm and feel energized by the wind whipping around us.

There is a notable shift in our 4-H focus with the change of season. We are offering SPIN clubs outside in the Botanic Garden at the Historic Barns and the TADL Children's Garden. 4-H Clubs are finishing up project enrollments through the Northwest Michigan Livestock Council and meeting outdoors to learn and practice showmanship. The Horse and Pony Boot Camp, Work Bees and various specie specific clinics are scheduled at the Fair Grounds, and Ready, Aim, 4-H Shooting Sports Club is dusting off the old bows and gearing up for action. There are just so many reasons to come together outside in 4-H.

This newsletter is full of ways to engage with 4-H. Invite your friends to join in 4-H with you. Youth who are not planning to bring an animal project to fair this year can create a still project as part of your club and enjoy the fair experience.

Thank you for being welcoming and for all you do to promote 4-H in Grand Traverse County.

Warmest regards,

Sarah Bye

CONTACT US

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Coordinator



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IMPORTANT DATES

SPECIES REGISTRATION: Horse, Alpaca/Llama, Cavy/Rabbit | 5/4 | 11:59PM

LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 5/4 | 6:30PM | Redeemer Lutheran Church

FREE BUYERS DINNER | 5/17 | 4:00PM | Creekside Community Church

LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING | 5/19 | 6:00PM | MSU Extension Office

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY MAY 3RD 2026 : 11AM-2PM
HOWE ARENA IN GRAND TRAVERSE CIVIC CENTER



PRE-SALE TICKETS - \$29

PURCHASE ONLINE OR FROM ANY ORYANA STORE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK

AT-DOOR TICKETS - \$35

TICKETS SALES AT THE DOOR START AT 10:00AM

CHILDREN 15 AND UNDER: FREE ENTRY WITH TICKETED ADULT

TICKETS INCLUDE ONE ARTISAN BOWL OF YOUR CHOICE, A SOUP LUNCH WITH 17 DIFFERENT SOUP VARIETIES, ACCESS TO THE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS HARVEST MARKET, AND A DOZEN FAMILY FRIENDLY EXHIBITS!

Do you have your tickets for Empty Bowls? 🍲 We're less than a week away from this fantastic event, but you still have time to purchase pre-sale tickets. This year's event is going to be bigger than ever - and you won't want to miss it! Join us at Empty Bowls to raise funds to purchase fresh local foods for area food pantries and meal sites. We hope to you there!

P.S. VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!



SPECIES REGISTRATION DEADLINE

A friendly reminder that species registrations are due May 4 at 11:59PM for Horse, Llama/Alpaca, and Rabbit/Cavy. Please make sure you are enrolled in 4-H Online, and register your animal on the Livestock Council website: <http://www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org/>

P.S. Dog registrations are due 6/1 at 11:59PM.



SHOOTING SPORTS DATES



First Meeting out of normal sequence will be on **April 28th** from 5:30PM to 8:00PM. All meetings to follow below:

- May 5th and 19th
- June 2nd and 16th
- July 7th and 21st
- August 4th and 18th
- September 1st, 15th and **29th**. (Final Club Meeting for the Season, Fun Shoot and Pot-Luck Supper to follow the range time.)



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Creating Beyond-Ready Youth Through 4-H Project Learning



Beyond Ready

4-H prepares youth for the world of work by engaging them in high quality, hands-on learning grounded in meaningful project content. When young people apply skills, solve real problems and reflect on their learning, they build confidence and readiness for future careers.

4-H programs intentionally create these opportunities, helping youth practice communication, teamwork, decision making and technical skills that transfer to real world settings. Some ways to deepen project work could include: adding real life tasks, inviting youth to demonstrate mastery or guiding reflection that connects the activity to future workplace expectations. Every project meeting is a chance to help youth become Beyond Ready, capable, and confident.

#BeyondReady

May 4: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

Online

Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's Youth Business Guide to Success. Discover how you can mentor youth in goal setting, budgeting, marketing and record-keeping for real-world skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects

May 5: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the five Ps of marketing and explore strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales and build valuable industry connections.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5

May 12: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn to keep track of what you spend and earn to make smart choices for market livestock projects. Equip youth with tools to track expenses, set goals and ensure projects are profitable and rewarding.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12

May 14: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered each Thursday from May 14 – June 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026

May 18: Adulting 101 Webinar – Cooking with Confidence

Online

Increase your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence

May 19: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Pitch to Payment

Online

Communication and outreach are important methods to recruit buyers for market livestock projects. Discover how to use social media to promote your project, reach a wider audience and share progress.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19

June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."



Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.

**Buyers, Potential Buyers
& MSU Alumni**

FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER!

Sunday May 17, 2026

Creekside Community Church



Evening starts at **4:00pm**

Dinner served at **5:00pm**

All Donations Welcome



**4H'ers this is your opportunity
to meet potential buyers**



Brought to you by:

**Grand Traverse County
4-H Youth Leaders Association**

All profits will go to the Leaders Association general fund;
used towards scholarships and other needs of 4H'ers.

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Join us for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community & creativity.

This camp is designed to encourage sustainability & growth from the inside out through a fun & engaging hands-on approach. Registration begins **TODAY!** **Space is Limited.**

REGISTER HERE:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/GrandTraverse4HGardenCamp2026/>

COST: \$44
Per Session



18 USC 707

FUN

FRIENDSHIP

MUSIC

RESILIENCE

SNACKS

Garden Adventures

Summer Camp 2026

REGISTER HERE

AGES 7-12



Session I

Monday, July 27th - Thursday, July 30th

Session II

Monday, August 17th - Thursday, August 20th

8:50 a.m. Drop-off - 12:50 p.m. - Pick-up

**The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park
1490 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI**

For Questions and Scholarship Opportunities:

**Please Contact Crystal, 4-H Youth Healthy Lifestyle Program
Facilitator at 231-715-1077 turne680@msu.edu**



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