



MAY 2025

# 4-H Family News

Grand Traverse County



## MAY THE DAYS GET GREENER

It's 4-H Green!

Look and you can see 4-H green everywhere around us. There is no color that brings me more joy and I am glad to say 4-H has also been all around the county this month. There has been strong turn out at club meetings, shooting at the Kingsley Sportsman's Club, building things at Maker Space and I have enjoyed teaching a Junior Master Gardener course at Long Lake Elementary School.

We had a craft event at the Botanic Garden in collaboration with the Friendly Garden Club and at the MakerFest event at the Civic Center in collaboration with the library. Grand Traverse County 4-H has so much to offer, and we couldn't do it without our amazing volunteers!

Now most of our activities will be in preparation for the fair. If you look forward to helping youth care for animals, assisting with the financial end of things, or love cooking for your club at fair, I appreciate your service as a Gold level 4-H volunteer. The youth need your support during this busy season, so if you are not yet a Gold level volunteer, please sign up. Everyone is welcome to apply and go for the Gold!

Follow this link and please know I am here to support you along the way:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/>

Making the Best Better,

Sarah Bye

## CONTACT US

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Coordinator



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## WEBSITE:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand\\_traverse/grand\\_traverse\\_county\\_4\\_h/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/grand_traverse_county_4_h/index)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CANCELED: WORK BEE | 5/3**

NWMI LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 5/5 | 6:30PM | REDEEMER  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF INTERLOCHEN, 1896 ROGERS RD, GRAWN

GT LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING | 5/14 | 6:30PM | GT MSU EXTENSION  
OFFICE, 520 W FRONT ST, TRAVERSE CITY

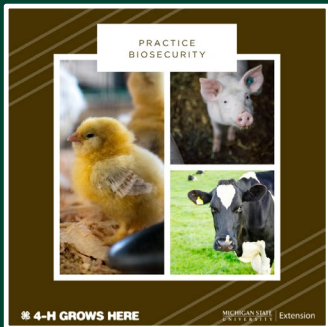
EXPLORATION DAYS INFORMATIONAL MEETING | 5/20 | 6:30PM | CENTRAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 222 CASS ST, TRAVERSE CITY

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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Livestock and poultry owners encouraged remain vigilant about biosecurity



In recent years, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in cattle, cats and poultry across the country and Michigan. Livestock and poultry owners are strongly encouraged to take proactive measures to defend against additional outbreaks in Michigan. Check out the following resources helpful information on biosecurity:

- [www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity](http://www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity)
- [www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms)
- [www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza](http://www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza)
- [www.canr.msu.edu/avian-influenza/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/avian-influenza/)

### May 7: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Talk the Talk

Online

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. This session covers tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value, and empower youth with practical tips for impactful auctions and markets.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-may-7](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-may-7)

### May 7: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn how to keep track of what you spend and earn so you can make smart choices for your project. Discover the power of record keeping and learn how to calculate your break-even point to make smarter decisions in livestock marketing.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-14](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-14)

### May 15: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Fueling or Squashing the Rumor Mill

Online

This webinar will focus on supporting youth who face rumors about their projects and how to prevent the spread of misinformation.

12 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-noon)

7 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-7pm)

### May 15: Adulting 101 Webinar – Stay Safe Out There

Online

Practical strategies to help you stay aware, prepared and confident, no matter where you go.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/staysafe](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/staysafe)

### May 19: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Engaging Parents in 4-H Experiences

Online

Discover strategies to engage parents and implement shared leadership in your 4-H club.

12 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-noon)

7 p.m. session: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-7pm)

### May 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the 5 Ps of marketing and explore innovative strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales, and build valuable connections in the industry.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-21](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-21)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Michigan 4-H license plate now available!

Michigan drivers have a new way to show their 4-H pride while supporting 4-H youth development programming: through the purchase of the newly released Michigan 4-H license plate. Available at the Michigan Secretary of State, the plate prominently displays the signature 4-H clover and part of the proceeds from every sale and renewal will go to support Michigan 4-H youth.

“We are elated that the Michigan 4-H license plate is officially here,” said Quentin Tyler, director of Michigan State University Extension, which is home to the Michigan 4-H program. “We hope the many members of our Michigan 4-H community – youth, parents, alumni and supporters – will consider supporting 4-H by purchasing a plate as they renew their licenses this year.”

Similar to other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate will cost \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee will also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting [Michigan.gov/sos](http://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.

To learn more, visit [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](http://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).



## Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2024-25 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2025-2026 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs. **All applications are due June 1.**

“County 4-H programs and clubs have so many unique programs,” said Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. “Thanks to the support of our generous 4-H donor community, we are pleased to offer mini-grants to support these many wonderful programs.”

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 \$500.** 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.

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







# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## MakerFest Photos



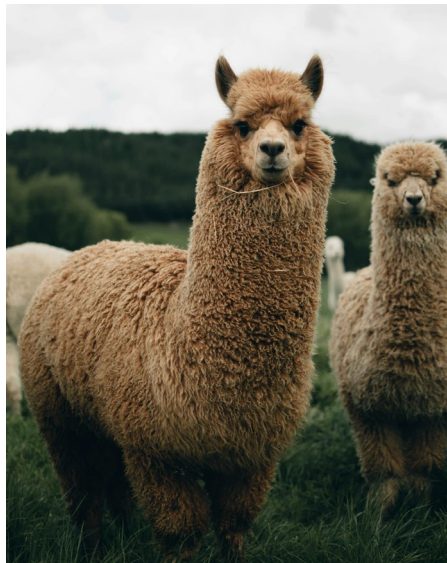




# MORE COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Animal Registration Deadlines

May 5: Horse, Llama/Alpaca, Rabbit/Cavy | June 2: Dog



## 2025 Fair 4-H Commemorative Coin

You're invited to participate in a fun design opportunity! Use your creative skills to design the back of the **2025 Fair Commemorative Coin**. If your design is chosen, it will be used on the actual commemorative coin, a keepsake to cherish (and show off to your friends!). Plus, you'll receive a **\$50 GIFT CARD** as an added bonus (winner only)! We look forward to your submissions!

**Who:** All 4-H'ers in the 5 participating counties

**What:** Design back of 2025 Fair Commemorative Coin

**When:** Submit by 5/15/2025 @ 12:00AM

**Where:** Email designs to [byesarah@msu.edu](mailto:byesarah@msu.edu)

**Why:** A chance to win a **\$50 gift card** & your original design on a coin!

Image should be **digitally designed** (on a computer, tablet or smart phone)

**No hand-drawn designs** will be considered

Incorporate **your initials** into your design

From the Grand Traverse County 4-H Youth Leaders Association

# 2025 FAIR COMMEMORATIVE COIN DESIGN

From the Grand Traverse County 4-H Youth Leaders Association

**2025 FRONT**

**2023 DESIGN**

**2025 BACK**

# MORE COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Farm Bureau Record Book Winners (from the NWMI Livestock Council)

### Horse

1. Norah Galton
2. Hadley Haefele
3. Anna Mae Schaub

### Steer

1. Maddie Chilson
2. Aizlyn McKinley
3. Ariyah McKinley

### Jr. Beef

1. Ella Noonan
2. Eli Noonan
3. Natalie Coger

### Llama

1. Miranda Ashley
2. Kingsley Crowther

### Rabbit

1. Arianna Cole
2. Truth Honeycutt
3. Daniel Duvall

### Dairy

1. Cameron Bedrick
2. Adeline Guffey
3. Gianna Needham

### Lamb

1. Margaret Ritola
2. Gracie Yanska
3. Brookelynn Rosa

### Goat

1. Grace Abbring
2. Laney Michels
3. Jackson Anderson

### Swine

1. Kylie Bender
2. Kelsey Bott
3. Beaux Stein

**Grand Champion:** Grace Abbring *Gift Card Winner*

**Reserve Grand Champion:** Kylie Bender *Gift Card Winner*

## Fun Collaborations

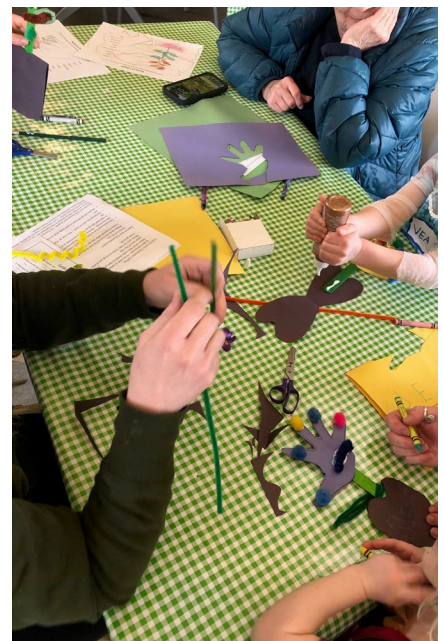
Recently, we teamed up with the Friendly Gardening Club at the Botanic Garden for a citronella propagation activity.

Look for us again on 5/17 from 10AM-NOON at the Botanic Garden for Free Family Fun Day!

[https://www.facebook.com/events/1135876941673828/?rdid=y5t2wCJSLJH2S12k&share\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F1F8GzSxSgP%2F#](https://www.facebook.com/events/1135876941673828/?rdid=y5t2wCJSLJH2S12k&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F1F8GzSxSgP%2F#)

We will also be at the Traverse Area District Library for the event "Going to the Fair," from 11AM-NOON on 5/10 AND 5/17.

<https://www.tadl.org/event/4-h-program-going-fair-22935> and <https://www.tadl.org/event/4-h-program-going-fair-22936>







**REGISTER HERE**



REGISTRATION TAKES PLACE ON 4-H  
ONLINE: [HTTPS://V2.4HONLINE.COM](https://v2.4honline.com)

**REGISTER FOR THE SPIN CLUB: 4-H  
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SPIN CLUB**

# 4-H JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SPIN CLUB

**SUMMER CLUB DATES: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**

**June:** 24th and 26th

**July:** 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th,  
22nd and 24th

**TWO AGE GROUPS:**  
2ND-4TH GRADE &  
5TH-7TH GRADE  
10AM-12PM

**LOCATION: BOTANIC GARDEN AT HISTORIC BARNS PARK**

1490 RED DRIVE, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

Please call Grand Traverse County 4-H Program Coordinator, Sarah Bye,  
at (231) 922-4825, or email at [byesarah@msu.edu](mailto:byesarah@msu.edu), for more information.



THE  
BOTANIC GARDEN  
AT HISTORIC BARNS PARK

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Extension

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.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact, Sarah Bye, 4-H Program Coordinator, two weeks prior to the start of the event, at (231) 922-4825 or [byesarah@msu.edu](mailto:byesarah@msu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

## How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 8: Make 4-H a family activity

Betty Jo Krosnicki<nashbett@msu.edu>, [Michigan State University Extension](#) - October 11, 2017

Your child has joined a 4-H club, now what? Try these tips to help make your 4-H experience a family activity.

Let's start by clarifying there is no such thing as "easy" when it comes to being a parent. Parents play an important role in 4-H programs by supporting and encouraging their child throughout the 4-H experience, in much the same way they would advocate for the child through school, sports or other activities. Being an informed and supporting parent can enhance your child's 4-H experience to ensure they receive maximum benefit from the program. This article is part of a series that will provide a number of tips for 4-H families to bolster their 4-H experience.

### Step 8: Make 4-H a family activity

Through your family's 4-H experiences so far, you may have recognized a few common themes that are core to the 4-H program: 4-H programs provide learning, 4-H members do volunteer service and 4-H programs are fun. You may have also noticed 4-H can take up a portion of your family's time.

Have you considered making 4-H an activity you do as a family? Making 4-H a family activity will not only help your child's development, but may also help strengthen your family.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) has published a number of articles highlighting the six characteristics of a strong family, as identified in the University of Nebraska's "[Family Strengths Research Project](#):"

- [What makes a family strong?](#)
- [Qualities of a strong family](#)
- [Is your family strong?](#)



These articles, in addition to [“Spending quality family time together is very important,”](#) acknowledge the importance of families spending time together. These articles give a few examples of quality family activities.

The 4-H program was [founded](#) on the basis of young people learning and experimenting with new agricultural techniques, which were later adopted by their parents. As we progress into the rapid changing technologies we face today, young people are still at the forefront of early adoption with older generations lagging behind. Making 4-H part of your family’s quality time can provide an opportunity for you to enjoy hands-on learning experiences *with* your child. Your willingness to learn together sends a strong message to your child that learning is a life-long process.

Another 4-H activity you could pursue as a family to set a positive example is volunteering. When you volunteer your time and talents as a family, it helps your child understand the importance of being a contributor toward a healthy community and instills a deep-rooted culture of volunteerism.

The [MSU \(Michigan State University\) Extension](#) article, [“Three critical life skills children can gain through family volunteering experiences,”](#) describes skills you can help your child gain through the experience. The [Points of Light](#) organization provides additional information on the benefits of volunteering and resources to help you plan your family’s volunteer effort, including participating in [Family Volunteer Day](#), which occurs this year on Nov. 18, 2017.

Your family’s 4-H journey can provide your child with an unlimited number of learning encounters. Whether your journey is just getting underway or if your family has been involved in 4-H for years, you are likely to find something new to learn and experience at every step along the way. You will find there are people along the path to help guide you, but ultimately the path of your family’s 4-H expedition will be individually determined.

## For more in this series

- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 1: Get to know the 4-H program](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 2: Developing successful youth](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 3: A safe place to learn](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 4: Backseat driving](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 5: Fostering growth through competition](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 6: Being a positive role model](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 7: Taking responsibility](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 8: Make 4-H a family activity](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 9: 4-H and the county fair](#)
- [How to be an involved 4-H parent in 10 easy steps – Step 10: What do you get out of it?](#)

## Strengthen your 4-H club

Michelle Neff<[hydemich@msu.edu](mailto:hydemich@msu.edu)>, [Michigan State University Extension](#) - May 16, 2024

*Updated from an original article written by Sandra Risedorph.*

Strengthen your 4-H club by using the experiential learning model and engagement with 4-H members.

One of the goals of the 4-H program is to help youth develop life skills that can be used to navigate in a complex and changing world. Youth involved in 4-H can experience a sense of belonging, build positive relationships with others, and develop their spark. Strong and healthy 4-H clubs provide a great environment for this and for helping youth to foster life skills.

One way to strengthen 4-H clubs is to focus on utilizing the experiential learning process. The experiential learning process consists of three specific parts: doing the experience, reflecting on the experience and applying the experience. Youth engage better in experiences that focus on “learning-by-doing” activities. As 4-H clubs use this model and learn together, individuals will acquire life skills and assets that will help them develop into successful adults. These can include skills such as self-discipline, problem solving, goal setting and teamwork; all of which are valuable skills.

Looking for more ways to strengthen your club? Here are ten suggestions from [Michigan State University Extension](#):

1. Spend time with the 4-H members and do fun and educational activities together as a 4-H club.
2. Plan ahead with members so everyone knows what to expect.
3. Establish a balance between project activities, club meetings, community service and fun.
4. Listen carefully to understand each member’s viewpoint.
5. Show consideration and appreciation. Celebrate your club.
6. Develop pride in your club. This could be through club shirts, signs, notes, folders or some other youth-generated idea.
7. Help each other and be willing to let others help you.
8. Connect with other 4-H clubs and plan programs together.





Experiential Learning Model.

9. Take part in county, regional and state 4-H activities.
10. Give back to your 4-H program and the community.

MSU Extension has also created other resources with [tips and tools](#) to help clubs evaluate how they are doing as a 4-H club. It doesn't hurt to do a self-reflection every few years to make sure your 4-H club is strong and thriving.