



July 2026

4-H Family News

HILLSDALE COUNTY



Fair Registration is now open!

<https://hillsdalecountymi.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/24241>

July 8 – August 1

No late entries will be accepted.
Please use your 4HOnline log in information to register.

REGISTER NOW!

Feeder Calf Weigh-In/Vaccinations:

August 15th 8-11

Goat Weigh- In:

July 18th 8-11

Upcoming Possession Dates:

July 31st : Market Chickens

August 1st:Breed Rabbits & Stewer
Market Rabbits

September 1st: Roaster and Fryer Market
Rabbits

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready through the fair experience



Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days

July 16: Water Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day

July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

Haithco Park, Saginaw

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp

July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day

July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026

July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.



2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship.





4-H Alumni Spotlight

Bonnie Denning Marsh



- What years were you involved in 4-H, and what age were you?
I started my 4-H journey in the 1960's, at age 9/10 and my first project was making an apron. I continued making different sewing projects, and we showed them at a fashion show held at Davis Middle School.
- How did you first get involved?
My Mom thought it was a good idea to learn how to sew.
- What were your main projects or activities?
Sewing and dairy cows
- What was your favorite project or activity, and why?
Showing cows. Besides learning how to be responsible, how to care for your animals, the camaraderie in the barn, and the lifelong friendships that were made.

- What was the most meaningful award you received from 4-H?
I won the Dairy Judging Contest one year. I also have a Citizenship Award Pin.
- What is the best piece of advice you ever received in 4-H?
Try to do your best and be proud of what you have accomplished, even if you didn't place first.
- How has 4-H prepared you to be a good citizen? To be honest and fair to people. Be part of a team.
- How has your 4-H experience influenced your personal life? I continued to be involved in 4-H when my sons were old enough to join, helping them with many non-livestock projects and with their dairy cows for 20 years. I have also volunteered as a Non-Livestock superintendent for at least the last 10 years.
- What advice would you give to a young 4-Her just starting out?
Do the best you can do. Let others help you along the way, try new activities, and enjoy yourself.
- What opportunities in 4-H today weren't available when you were a member?
There are so many! New conferences, workshops, projects!
- What types of community service did you participate in, and why is community service important to you? I taught CPR in the community for several years. As a Non-Livestock Superintendent, I have enjoyed watching the kids grow and develop their skills and use their talents and imagination.