



4-H Family News

February 2026

Jackson County Connections



Beef Pre-Fair Check-In

New for 2026: Beef Pre-Fair Check-In/DNA drop off will be from Monday, February 2nd, through Friday, February 6th, at the

Jackson County MSU Extension Office

1715 Lansing Ave, Ste 257

Jackson, MI 49202

All materials are due by Friday, February 6th at 5:00pm

Office Hours (M-F): 8:00am-5:00pm

Lunch Closure (M-F): 12:30pm-1:30pm

Extended Hours: Monday & Wednesday evenings office will be open until 7:30pm

Thursday & Friday office will be open during lunch

Here is the link for the **Beef Pre-Fair Check In Form-**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGZ56zeKxpT1QLCfKyzh6sNI2iWRQWC3QvVAMpPx62R4_5tA/viewform

Pictures can be emailed to beefdna24@gmail.com

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(517) 788-4292

msue.Jackson@county.msu.edu

WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/>

Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Association Meetings Are A Great Opportunity To Meet With Superintendents To Discuss Fair Related Questions, Species Specific Info, & Expectations Packets. Hope To See You There!!

February Meetings

Monday 2nd 6:30pm
Foundation

Monday 2nd –Friday 6th
BEEF DNA Pre-Fair Check-In

Thursday 12th 6:00pm
Pocket Pets
See Flyer For Details

Monday, 16th
Office Closed

Tuesday 17th 6:00pm
Cloverbud Series
See Flyer For Details

Monday 23rd 6:00pm
Board Orientation/Parli Pro
See Flyer For Details



March Meetings

Monday 9th 6:30pm
Horse Council
MSU Extension Office

Tuesday 10th 6:30pm
Small Animal Association
MSU Extension Office

Thursday 12th 6:00pm
Pocket Pets - See Flyer For Details

Tuesday 17th 6:00pm
Cloverbuds - See Flyer for Details

Wednesday 18th 6:30pm
Large Animal Association
MSU Extension Office

Monday 23rd 6:00pm
4-H Youth Council
MSU Extension

Tuesday 24th 6:00pm
YQCA



Jackson County 4-H'er's who are taking **MARKET BEEF, SHEEP & OR SWINE** to fair will need to be YQCA certified. You can either take the class in-person class or do it online at your convenience.

In-Person - March 24th

Sign in will be from 5:30- 6pm. Pizza will be provided by 4-H at 5:30pm
Training will start promptly at 6pm

Jackson Area Career Center - PD Room

6800 Browns Lake Rd.

\$3 per person

Register & pay by March 20th

<https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>

Or

Online

<https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>



**Kyle Mason Memorial
Scholarship**

Due March 15th

****anything in person by 13th at 5pm****

For application and details go to

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/newsletters-scholarships-and-awards>



Jackson County Extension Office **BOARD ORIENTATION PARLI PRO**

February 23, 2026
6-8PM

Learn about best practices of serving on councils, boards or committees; Running an effective meeting and the basics of Parliamentary Procedure.

RSVP to: winela11@msu.edu





THE GREAT 4-H PREMIUM BOOK COVER CHALLENGE

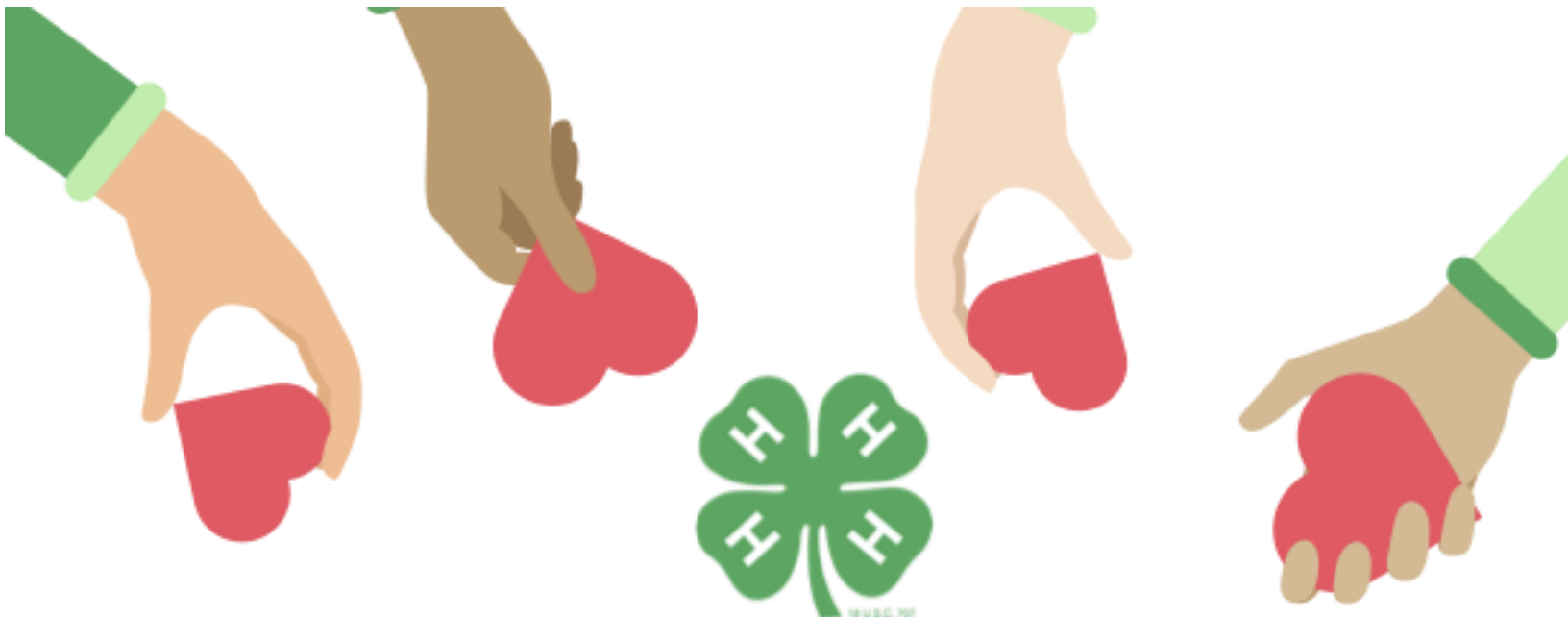
Show off your creativity & design skills for a chance to make history —the winning artwork will be featured on the official 2026 Jackson County 4-H Premium Fair Book cover.

Rules:

- Open to all Jackson Co. 4-H youth
- Artwork must be original
- Size: 8½" × 11", vertical, one-sided
- Any media allowed (paint, pencil, crayon, etc.) - NO digital artwork
- Winning artwork may not be entered in the fair
- Theme: 250th Anniversary of the U.S.A.

Drop off at the MSUE Office
by April 6

LET YOUR IMAGINATION SHINE!



MAKING THE BEST BETTER S.E. MI 4-H VOLUNTEER SERIES

January 29th 2026 6:30 PM

Join the Conversation: Tips for
Engagement from Seasoned
Volunteers

Live at Monroe Ext. Office or Virtual

February 12th 2026 6:30 PM

Cha-ching
Making Cents of 4-H Finances
Live at Livingston Ext. Office or
Virtual

February 26th 2026 6:30 PM

Join the Conversation: Engaging
Parents & 4-H Alums in 4-H Experiences
Live at Washtenaw Ext. Office or Virtual

March 12th 2026 6:30 PM

Youth Engagement &
Engaging Youth Voice
Live at Lenawee Ext. Office or Virtual

March 26th 2026 6:30 PM

From Clash to Collaboration Practicing
the Art of Conflict Resolution
Live at Jackson Ext. Office or Virtual

RSVP HERE!
**[HTTPS://BIT.LY/
D12VOLUNTEER](https://bit.ly/d12volunteer)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu



JACKSON CO. 4-H POCKET PETS & CATS



Got a bird, a reptile, a cat, an ant farm, a gerbil, or another pocket-size pal? Join the club made just for you! Dive into hands-on activities, meet amazing guest speakers, learn how to keep your critter thriving, explore animal-focused careers, and show off your pet at the Jackson Co. Fair!

MEETING DATES:

Jan 8th

Feb 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th

TIME:

6PM -7:30PM



**MSU EXTENSION
OFFICE
1715 LANSING
AVE, STE 257
JACKSON, MI
49202**



SIGN UP AT
WALDR045@MSU.EDU
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT 4-H CONTACT

Jessica Waldron
at 517-788-4292



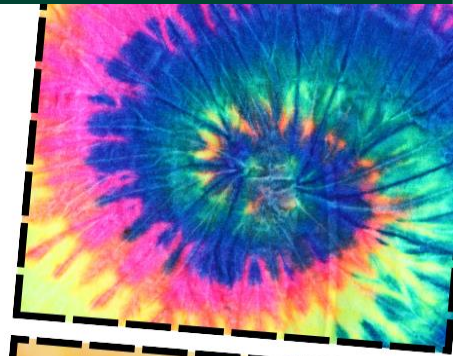
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JACKSON COUNTY 4-H CLOVERBUDS

JOIN THE FUN!!

- * January 20th - Tie Dye Time
- * February 17th - Chef Cloverbud
- * March 17th - Canvas Painting
- * April 21st- Rock Lab: Explore, Sort, & Create
- * May 19th - Buzz Builders: Inside The World of Bees
- * June 16th- 4-H Council Night (activities the youth council)



ALL ACTIVITIES ARE
FROM 6-7:30PM
COST \$5 PER ACTIVITY
MSU EXTENSION
OFFICE
1715 LANSING AVE
STE 257
JACKSON, MI 49202

OPEN TO ALL JACKSON
CO. 4-H MEMBERS
5-7 YRS OLD.
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE
CONTACT JESSICA
WALDRON AT
517-788-4292 OR
WALDRO45@MSU.EDU

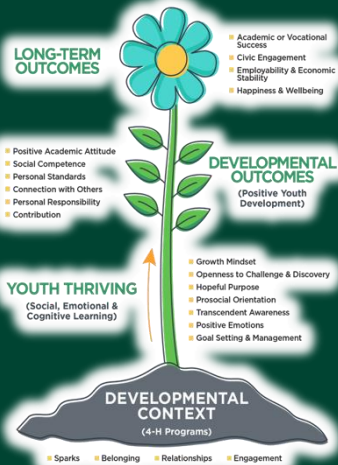


**REGISTER AT:
WALDRO45@MSU.EDU
BY THE FRIDAY
BEFORE EACH CLASS**



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a “roll call” or “ice breaker” at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of “What’s your favorite cheese?”, know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.
#BeyondReady

February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month’s session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with “Walking a Path of Conservation.” Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february

February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn’t just an activity—it’s a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences

February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11

February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats

February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026

February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens





COUNTY 4-H NEWS



Jackson County 4-H 2026 Expectation Packets

[Poultry Expectation Packet](#)

[Rabbit Expectation Packet](#)

[Goat Expectation Packet](#)

[Dog Expectation Packet](#)

[Beef Expectation Packet](#)

[Sheep Expectation Packet](#)

[Dairy Expectation Packet](#)

[Swine Expectation Packet](#)



Jackson County 4-H Exhibitors:
Please take time to review your project expectations packet, where you'll find important details for each species.

These can all be found on our MSU Extension website under 4-H [Jackson County Fair](#)



• Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

• Jackson Co. 4-H Small Animal Assoc. Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JacksonCountySmallAnimal>

• Jackson County 4-H Livestock Assoc. Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JacksonCountyLargeAnimal>

• Jackson County Horse Council Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232601997473213>



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Local Approach to Discussion-Based Disaster Exercises and Readiness Training

LADDER TRAINING

*Local Approach to
Discussion-Based Disaster
Exercises & Readiness*

**FEBRUARY 20
9:30-3**

MSUFCU
3899 COOLIDGE RD.
EAST LANSING, MI 48823



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Disasters don't just affect people — they impact animals too. Consider attending the LADDER training to strengthen your community's disaster preparedness by including animals in emergency planning. This discussion-based exercise brings together Extension educators, emergency managers, veterinarians, livestock producers, and more to build innovative, whole-community solutions. Registration is \$25 and includes all training materials and lunch.

Registration is now open: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/LADDERLansing/>

Let's climb the LADDER to better preparedness — for everyone.

Do you need to get certified as a pesticide applicator or renew an expired license?



This winter, join MSU Extension at one of the 28 in-person testing opportunities across the state. March 4 MSU Extension Jackson will host a review (1715 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI). There will be a review of core materials followed by the Core exam. Aerial and Fumigation category exams also available. Review session fee \$25. 4 RUP.

To register for the Jackson event or any of the other sessions, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026pesttest/> or call the Jackson Extension office 517-788-4292



COUNTY NEWS

Hay Production 101

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Hay Production 101

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
February 24 – March 12, 2026

Register today: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026HayProduction101/>

RUP & CCA Credits Available

MSU Extension Hay Production 101 online short course

Everything you need to know
to get started growing hay

Registration is open



Take the 2026 Forage Extension Needs Assessment!



The MSU Extension Forage Team is surveying Michigan forage producers / grazers and professionals to assess industry needs.

bit.ly/forageneeds

- This feedback helps improve existing programs and create new ones.
- All responses remain confidential.



Fair Prep

BECAUSE IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PREPARING

How To Market Your 4-H Livestock Project



Want to Rock Your 4-H Auction Experience?

Learn how to market your project like a pro, attract potential buyers to the auction, and write a thank you card that really stands out (because it should be more than just "thanks for supporting me")!

Check out these helpful links for tips, ideas, and inspiration to make the most of your 4-H journey!



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH_BUSINESS_GUIDE_TO_SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/BEEF](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/beef)

[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH_BUSINESS_GUIDE_TO_SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SHEEP-GOATS](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/sheep-goats)



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH_BUSINESS_GUIDE_TO_SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SMALL-ANIMAL](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/small-animal)

https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/general-marketing-resources

**SHOWMANSHIP/
SWEEPSTAKES
PACKETS**

**POULTRY
DAIRY GOATS
MEAT GOATS**

RABBITS

DOG OBEDIENCE

HORSE

SHEEP

MARKET BEEF

SWINE

DAIRY

JACKSON COUNTY FAIR 2026 DATES AUGUST 9TH – 15TH



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 7 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin! This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.



Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.