



OCTOBER 2026

4-H Family News

Jackson County Connections



Dear 4-H Volunteers and Families,

As we begin a new 4-H year, we want to make sure our 4-H families stay connected and don't miss important deadlines, reminders, or opportunities!

Here are the ways our office will keep you informed throughout the year:

Monthly Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter will be emailed during the first week of each month with upcoming dates, events, deadlines, and other helpful 4-H information. You can also choose to receive the newsletter by text by checking the cellphone box on your 4-H Online profile.

Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page

Be sure to follow our Jackson County 4-H Facebook page for announcements, reminders, events, and updates throughout the year.

Friendly Reminders & Updates

We'll also send occasional emails throughout the month with friendly reminders, important updates, and information that may be helpful to our 4-H families.

We know there's a lot to keep track of during the 4-H year, so we'll do our best to help keep you in the loop! Stay connected, stay informed, and let's have a great 4-H year together!

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



STAY CONNECTED



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>

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Meetings Are At MSU
Extension Office Unless Noted
1715 Lansing Ave, Ste 257
Jackson, MI 49202

October 2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Jackson County 4-H Foundation Meeting @ 6pm	6	7 MSUE Office Closed	8	9 MSUE Office Closed	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Welding Workshop See Flyer for Details	18
19 Livestock (Lg Animal) By Law/Rule Review Meeting @ 6pm MSUE Office Closed	20 MSUE Office Closed	21 MSUE Office Closed	22 MSUE Office Closed	23 MSUE Office Closed	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	

Fun Fact: In the early 1900s, farmers were sometimes slow to try new farming methods, but kids were eager to experiment! Youth farming clubs were created to give them a chance to test new ideas and share their results with their families. These early clubs grew into what we now know as 4-H—and proved that kids could teach the grown-ups a thing or two!



Jackson County 4-H
Clothing Club 1923-1928



A SPOOKTACULAR 4-H WELDING WORKSHOP

OCT [17] 10AM-12PM



GET READY TO SPARK SOME HALLOWEEN FUN!
JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR 4-H WELDING
WORKSHOP WHERE WE'LL LEARN SOME BASIC
WELDING SKILLS AND CREATE OUR VERY OWN
METAL FRANKENSTEIN.

THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR JACKSON COUNTY 4-H
YOUTH ONLY.

\$45

Register & Pay:

<https://theworkshop.coursestorm.com/course/jackson-county-4-h-welding-workshop5>

Not in 4-H? Email Jessica Waldron for
information on to enroll in 4-H.



Jackson County 4-H Holiday Sewing Workshop

4H or a Holiday Gnome



Holiday Stocking



Reusable Gift Bag



Calling all Jackson County 4-H youth!
Come join us for a fun, hands-on sewing class where you'll learn new skills, get creative, and make a fun project. Whether you're brand new to sewing or have some experience, everyone is welcome!

Wednesday, November 4th at 5:30pm
MSU Extension Office
1715 Lanisng Ave, Ste 257
Jackson, MI 49202

\$5

Register At: Waldro45@msu.edu
Deadline To Regsiter: October 30th

Not in 4-H yet and interested in joining? We'd love to have you! Email Jessica at Waldro45@msu.edu to learn more and get started.



Beyond Ready



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Meetings Are At MSU
Extension Office Unless Noted
1715 Lansing Ave, Ste 257
Jackson, MI 49202

November

2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1 4-H Key Club & Gale Todd Volunteer of The Year Award Due
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Horse Council Meeting @ 6:30pm	10 Small Animal Association Meeting @ 6:30pm	11 MSUE Office Closed 	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Livestock (Lg Animal) Association Meeting @ 6:30pm MSUE Office Closed	19	20	21	22
23 4-H Youth Council Meeting @ 6:00pm	24	25	26 MSUE Office Closed 	27 MSUE Office Closed	28	29
30						

Your participation matters! Please make every effort to attend our Large Group, Small Group, Horse, and Council meetings. Meetings are a great opportunity to stay informed, share ideas, learn, and help shape the future of our 4-H program.

Please come with positive attitudes, open minds, and constructive feedback. We want to create a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing ideas—and where our 4-H youth have a voice and a say in their experience.

Together, we can continue to grow, learn, lead, and make 4-H a great place for everyone!



**Beyond
Ready**



Time to Enroll

4-H ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

RETURNING TO 4-H? Please follow these steps:

- Families will need to log in to their 4-H Online account to re-enroll their child for the new year. This is for any returning 4-H Youth 8-19 yrs old & Cloverbuds 5-7 yrs old.
- **Re-enrollment deadline 12/1.**
- Enroll/Re-enroll here:
<https://v2.4honline.com/>

NEW TO 4-H? Please follow these steps:

- New Families will need to create an account in 4-H Online to enroll their child in 4-H.
- **New enrollment deadline is 1/15.**
- Please reach out to your club leader before enrolling. Don't know what club to join, email Jessica and she'll help you get started.
- Enroll/Re-enroll here:
<https://v2.4honline.com/>

VOLUNTEER:

- Gold & Silver level volunteers, don't forget you also need to complete your re-enrollment through 4-H Online.
- Enroll/Reenroll here:
<https://v2.4honline.com/>

Don't leave this for the last minute! In order to participate at the Jackson County Fair, workshops, camps, club activities, etc. you must be enrolled in 4-H by the deadlines.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H



Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

October 3: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

Online

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club

Online

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

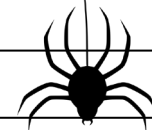
Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026





COUNTY 4-H NEWS



AUCTION CHECKS



Both livestock and small animal auction checks will be mailed to each auction exhibitor beginning in early October. As a reminder, this year exhibitors will receive one check for the combined total of their Small Animal and Large Animal auction proceeds. An exhibitor's check will not be mailed until all of their buyers have paid in full.

Dairy, Horse, and Dog Basket checks will be mailed by their respective associations on a later date.

If you have any questions, please email the auction coordinators at jcfauction@gmail.com.

SWINE CO- SUPERINTENDENT

Do you have a passion for 4-H, livestock, and helping our youth succeed? We're looking for a **Swine Co-Superintendent** to help support our swine exhibitors, assist with the swine program, and help make the fair experience a great one for our 4-H members. No need to do it alone—you'll be working alongside the current superintendent and a great team of volunteers!

[Jackson County 4-H Superintendent Application](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

A HUGE THANKS



Thank You to Our 2026 4-H Supporters!

A heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing 4-H auction buyers, the Jackson County Foundation and to all of our sponsors for your generous support of our 4-H youth!

Your contributions help make opportunities, experiences, and memories possible for our members. Most importantly, your support shows our youth that their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments matter.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued investment in the future of our youth and our community. Thank you for believing in 4-H!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

FOUNDATION AWARD OPPORTUNITIES



Gale Todd Volunteer of the Year Award – Open to current Jackson County 4-H members who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service to their club, Youth Council, Small or Large Animal Association, or Horse Council.

Key Club Award – Open to current or former Jackson County 4-H members who are high school seniors or graduates attending college or trade school and have demonstrated leadership in Jackson County.

Visit our website for applications and complete eligibility requirements. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/>

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1st, 2026

JACKSON COUNTY FAIR 2027 DATES



August 8th-14th Fair

4-H Still Exhibit Judging will be Thursday, August 5th

*The entire Fair schedule & the fair book will be out in May.





2026 INTEGRATED CROP AND PEST MGMT UPDATE FOR AGRIBUSINESS

FIELD CROPS PIT STOP

Join us for a field crops pit stop to fuel your minds and prepare for 2027 with the latest research-based recommendations on crop and pest management from MSU experts. **RUP/CCA credits requested.**

PROGRAM DETAILS

WHO: Agribusiness professionals and crop consultants

WHEN: Thursday, December 17, 2026, 8:30 am to 4 pm

WHERE: MSUFCU Headquarters 2, 3899 Coolidge Rd,
East Lansing, MI 48823

COST: \$75 in-person **pre-registered by 12/10** (\$85 if
after 12/10), \$45 to attend online (by 12/15)

HOW: Join us in-person or online

REGISTER: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/icpmu26/> or call
the Jackson County MSU Extension office: 517-788-4292

Pre-register by 12/10 for in-person and 12/15 for online

**5 RUP AND 5.5 CCA (0.5 SW, 2 PM, 2.5 CM, 0.5 PD)
CREDITS REQUESTED**

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269-858-8739



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @MSUEFieldCrops

Are You A Show Pig Breeder?



Elevate Your Herd: Industry Insights & Dinner with MPPA Regional Show Pig Breeder Meetings

Join Michigan Pork Producers Association for Dinner and Information

- **Industry & Marketing Spotlight:** Key strategies to market your pigs and stay ahead of trade trends.
- **Animal Health Updates:** Updates and information from the State Vet's office as well as herd health information.
- **MSU Swine Extension:** Extension educators will be at each meeting to share practical research, applicable biosecurity practices and official ID resources.

Tuesday November 3 2026 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Mecosta County Extension Office
14485 Northland Dr, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Keynote speaker- Lydia AcMoody with Showpig.com

Thursday November 5 2026 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Jackson County Extension Office
1715 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202
Keynote speaker- Lydia AcMoody with Showpig.com

Tuesday November 10 2026 6:30 PM-8:30PM

Lapeer Center Building
425 County Center St, Lapeer, MI 48446
Keynote speaker- Clay Zwilling with National Swine Registry

Wednesday November 11 2026 6:30 PM-8:30PM

Shiawassee County Conservation Club
4247 N. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867
Keynote speaker- Clay Zwilling with National Swine Registry

Thursday November 12 2026 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Kalamazoo Expo Center, Room B
2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
Keynote speaker- Lydia AcMoody with Showpig.com

To register and reserve your meal, scan the QR code or go to mipork.org/show-pigs/



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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Re-enroll for the 2026-2027 program year!

Welcome to September and the new 4-H program year! Beginning Thursday, September 3, you may login to your family's 4-H Online (mi.4honline.com/) account and enroll your 4-H members for the 2026-2027 program year. All returning families should utilize the same email address to access their account as they have in the past.

If you do not remember your login email, do not create a new account, simply contact your county staff member (www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/county/) for assistance. Thanks for being a part of the 4-H community!



How to Register with 4-H: Returning Family

1. Visit **mi.4honline.com**.
2. Log in to your account.*
3. Click "Enroll Now" for the returning member(s).
4. Update information.
5. Continue until you click the final SUBMIT button.
6. Add members if needed.

*If you need assistance accessing your account, contact your local 4-H staff; do not create a new account.

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National 4-H Week: October 4-10

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 4-10, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Join with 4-H'ers around the country in activating on two important initiatives:

Monday, October 5: Go Green!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H! Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag National 4-H, Michigan 4-H program, and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Thursday, October 8: Thankful Thursday

On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the mentors, educators and volunteers who are making positive impact on your people's lives in 4-H. Share who you're thankful for and celebrate how they are making a difference on Thursday, October 8! Share your 'Thankful' story on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Learn more about more ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week.

Wild Spartans returns!

Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration required:

www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE, RESEARCH, CAREERS, CONSERVATION

October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:
www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulging 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management,

communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at: www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.





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 2027 Dates August 8th-14th