



4-H Family News

April 2025

Kalamazoo County



HAPPY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH!

We are lucky to have so many
great volunteers!

Please join us in thanking our
volunteers who help educate our youth
throughout the year!



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Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>

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Congratulations are in order for our
2025 Kalamazoo 4-H Leaders Council
Scholarship award Winners!

Luke P.- Climax-Scotts High School

Holley C.- Galesburg-Augusta High School

Jaxson G. - Gobles High School

Natalie B.- Hackett Catholic Prep



Are you tired of egg prices?

Start your own flock today!

Profits will be used to support educational programs for The Richland 4-H Club

Rainbow Egg Fundraiser

Beautiful Rainbow Egg Chicks hatched by our club members and their families will be ready to provide your family with eggs when the shelves are empty.



Already have a flock? This is a great opportunity to have fun while adding some one of a kind chickens and variety to your egg baskets.

See both flocks listed below. We have provided an option for those of you who feel compelled to simply donate to the club.

Scan the QR code below to place your order by April 20, 2025



Feathers Farm



Rainbow x Possibilities

- Black Australorp (light brown may appear pinkish)
- Mystic Maran (dark brown)
- Golden laced Seabright (small tan)
- Easter Eggers (green/blue)
- White Brahma (Brown)

Gentry Farm



Rainbow x Possibilities

- Mystic Maran (dark brown)
- Buff Orpington (tan)
- Sapphire sky (green/blue)
- Americana (light blue)

Rainbow Egg Chicks \$8 each

Indian Runner Duck (green/blue) "Waitlist" Available \$15 each

Chicks are all mixed breed. We can not guarantee a specific color egg will be passed, but there is always a chance! That's what makes it exciting. Chicks are sold as a straight run. For this reason, both farms offer complimentary rooster freezer camps for those who aren't able to have them singing in their neighborhoods.

We welcome any families who may want to join 4-H to reach out. We offer many opportunities for kids in our community, beyond learning the wonderful things about livestock.



4-H Exploration Days registration for 2025 is currently open!

Check out this [list](#) of action packed sessions and career tracks!!

Review the list and pick your sessions before registration opens.

FEES SUMMARY — 4-H Exploration Days, June 18-20, 2025

\$250 Youth Participant Fee – The fee for youth to participate in 4-H Exploration Days covers meals from Wednesday lunch to Friday lunch, two nights of lodging, all event activities and a T-shirt.

\$150 Adult Participant Fee- Adults attend as support for this event as instructors and chaperones and will be assigned a variety of volunteer tasks to support the event. The fee for adults participating in 4-H Exploration Days covers meals, from Wednesday lunch to Friday lunch, two nights of lodging, all event activities and a T-shirt.

\$45 Tuesday Early Arrival Fee – This additional fee covers Tuesday lodging and Wednesday breakfast for long distance participants (primarily from Upper Peninsula).

If unable to pay the \$50 pre-payment by credit card within the registration system, please reach out to 4h.expodays@msu.edu to make arrangements prior to registering.

Fee Deadlines, Cancellations & Refunds

\$50 Pre-Payment – due upon registration which opens March 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm

- Cancellations through May 2, 2025 are fully refundable. (Pre-payment is non-refundable for cancellations after May 2.)
- Cancellations between May 3 and May 26, 2025 will receive payment minus the \$50 pre-payment.

All fees balance due by May 26th – This is the remaining balance, that includes additional fees or minus any applicable scholarship credits/coupon codes for local scholarships.

- Anyone not fully paid by May 26th will be canceled. Anyone who is canceled due to lack of full payment by May 26th is not eligible for a refund.
- Cancellations by participants after May 26th will lose \$120 of their payment(s).

Cancellations after June 15th are considered no show and refunds will not be given.

Payment Options:

- Credit/Debit Card and e-check through the registration system.
- Cash or Check through the MSU Extension county office.

Key and Access Card Replacement Fees: \$75 for keys and \$20 for access cards not returned at check-out.



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS THROUGH 4-H
MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS



4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

Michigan State University

June 18-20, 2025



Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future!

Live like a college student and choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts! From field trips to free time activities youth will emerge themselves in this pre-college experience.

Open to all young people ages 12 to 19.

ACTIVITIES

Animal Science,
Archery, Sports
Arts, Science,
Food & Nutrition,
Horticulture,
Music and MORE!

COST

\$250.00 per a youth, includes two night lodging, meals, sessions, t-shirt and free time activities. County scholarships are available, reach out to your local county extension office for details.

LEARN MORE

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program
Coordinator
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https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/



4-Hers Invited to Earth Day Spring Garden Festival, May 17, Growing Community Garden



4-Hers, family members, and friends are among the invited to the Growing Community Garden, 2800 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048, for the May 17 “**Earth Day Spring Garden Festival**” from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. The event is an opportunity for community service/volunteering throughout the day. There will also be booths/tables with special interest presentations, demonstrations, games/challenges, information sharing, and other activities related to environmental justice, earth care, gardening, nutrition, conservation and more, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. **4-H Clubs are welcome to reserve a booth/table to offer one of the activities above.**

A luncheon is set for 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm with a litany dedication of the community garden for the growing season, 2025.

A 4-H garden interest gathering is tentatively scheduled for 2:00 pm that Saturday afternoon. The gathering will be an opportunity for 4-H club leaders, 4-H youth (all ages), and any 4-H curious youth to identify ways that Growing Community Garden and its leadership may facilitate projects and interests in gardening and nutrition. One possible outcome would be a **Special Interest (SPIN) Garden Club** for the summer months with dedicated space in the community garden or provision of *fabric growing containers* for porch or patio gardening. Advance notice of interest may be communicated by email to GCG.Kzoo@gmail.com. To learn more about Growing Community Garden, visit the website GrowingCommunityGardenKzoo.com.



Community Service/Volunteering at the Growing Community Garden this summer

The following dates are set for individuals or groups to volunteer (and harvest) at the Growing Community Garden, 2800 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048.

March 22 (Sat. 10-2); April 5 (Sat. 10-2); May 3 (Sat. 10-2); May 17 (Earth Day Spring Garden Festival, Sat. 9 to 4); May 20 (Tues. 4-7:30); May 31 (Sat. 10-2); June 10 (Tues. 4-7:30); June 14 (Sat. 10-2); June 24 (Tues. 4-7:30); June 28 (Sat. 10-2); July 8 (Tues. 4-7:30); July 12 (Sat. 10-2); July 22 (Tues. 4-7:30); July 26 (Sat. 10-2); Aug 5 (Tues. 4-7:30); Aug 9 (Sat. 10-2); Aug 19 (Tues. 4-7:30); Aug 23 (Sat. 10-2); Sept 9 (Tues. 4-7:30); Sept 13 (Sat. 10-2); Sept 23 (Tues. 4-7:30); Sept 27 (Sat. 10-2).

Volunteer/community service arrangements for other times can be arranged by contact with David Newhouse at gcg.kzoo@gmail.com. Learn more about Growing Community Garden at www.growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com.



Share the Clover—

Give one lucky child the experience of a lifetime this summer

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2025 for interested families opening their homes and hearts by hosting!

They are scheduled to arrive in

Grand Rapids, MI, on July 23rd (Matching Ceremonies July 24th)

and depart on August 18th (Departure program August 16th)

to meet host families for a 3.5-week stay. We have 7 of the 10 Japanese already matched for 2025!!

A host family must:

- complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application,
- have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within 3 years of age),
- be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, and
- participate in an interview and home visit process.

2025 Online Applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

Applications to host can also be found at www.states4hexchange.org



SHARE THE CLOVER—
Give one lucky child the experience
of a lifetime this summer!



There is only 1 YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) sessions left in 2025. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and Family Festival in 2025. There are two options, one of the 6 face-to-face sessions or an online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. The online version is \$12.00 but the curriculum is age specific. This certification is good for one year. There need to be a minimum of 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class.

19 yr old 4-Hers are required to complete the Online Version

The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center in room B:

- May 29 - 6:30 PM

All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2025

Youth who would like to take the face-to-face session will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

Youth who would like to take the online session will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu by July 1, 2025.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:
https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

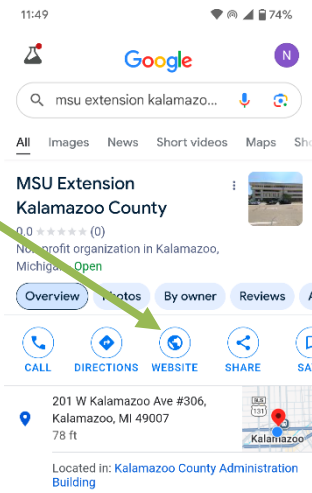
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

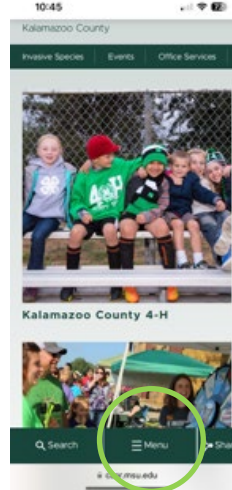
- 1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County
- 2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>
- 3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H
- 4 - Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen
- 5 - Click on project guidelines
- 6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



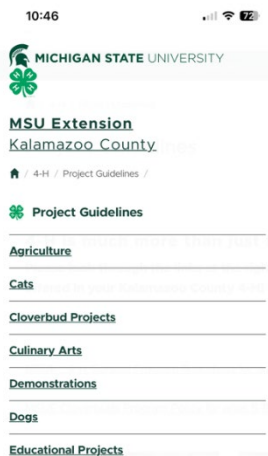
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



YOUR 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved. It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*. (https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/) Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in the following projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to work with the youth !

- Arts & Crafts
- Calligraphy
- Cloverbud (variety of activities to introduce Cloverbuds to projects and pique their interest)
- Communication & Expressive Arts
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Drawing
- Engines/transportation/tractors/field equipment
- Fishing/Hunting
- Food & Nutrition
 - Cake decorating
 - Candy Making
 - Food Preparation
- Hunting
- Horticulture
 - Flowers/house plants
 - Fruits/vegetables
- Jewelry making
- Knitting/cross-stitch/embroidery
- Music – vocal/instrumental
- Painting
- Performing arts
- Public speaking
- Sewing/Quilting
- Wood Crafts

**SPREAD THE
WORD**

Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase Volunteers

Those who will be helping **in any way during the showcase** need to be, at minimum , a screened and approved, **silver level volunteer**.

If you are **working directly with youth** you will need to be a screened, and approved, **gold level volunteer**.

All applications need to be submitted **no later than June 20, 2025** in order for screening to be completed prior to the events. **Those completing the application after June 20th may not be able to complete the process and will not be eligible to help during the 4-H showcase.**

The definitions of silver and gold level volunteers can be found at [FAQ](#).

The application to apply to become an MSU Extension Volunteer can be found at [Volunteer Home](#).

For those who are currently approved silver level volunteers please read over the definition.

If you would like to change your status to gold level please reach out to Veronica and she will work with you to make those additions to your profile.



Dairy Club Update

We are going to have a dairy meetings at Vlietstra Dairy Farm 6:30 pm on:

Monday, April 28

Monday, May 19



Please dress for the weather.

Dairy club members: join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Dairy 4-H club Facebook page for more education/ announcements pertaining to the project. Contact Sara if you have questions





Swine Project updates

Here are a few reminders for the swine project:

1. All 4-H pigs must be in your possession by **May 1st**, and registration forms and photos are also due by **May 1st**. Please send your forms and pictures via email or text to Pam or TJ by **May 1st**. Pictures should include each pig with ear tags visible and the 4-Her. Each pig needs to have 2 ear tags prior to **May 1st** (both county and state ID tag info must be included on the registration form). **If you haven't picked up your green Kalamazoo County tags yet please let us know asap.**
2. Our next swine meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 28th**, at 6:30 pm at the Expo Center. We will have swine flu vaccine doses available at this meeting.
3. We have set a date for our summer swine "fit and show" meeting - **Monday, June 16**, at 6:30 pm at the Sattler's house in East Leroy, MI. As a reminder you must attend at least 2 of the 4 county-wide meetings to show at fair, so if you haven't already met those requirements please plan to join us on **May 28** and **June 16**.





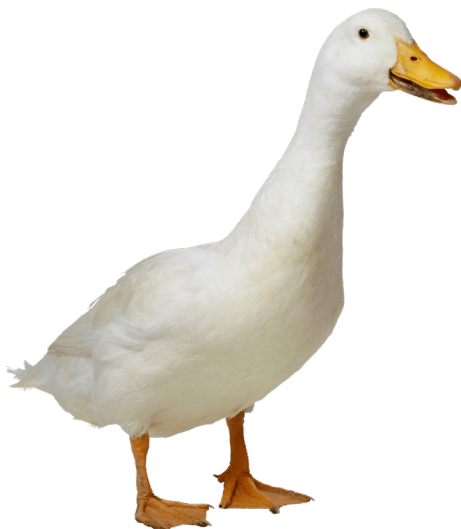
Poultry Project News

Next poultry order pick ups :
 Heavy Ducks May 13
 Roaster Chickens May 28

2025 Kalamazoo County 4-H Poultry Market Project

ALL BIRD ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CHERIE BY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Bird Type	Current cost per bird*	Pick-up Date	Project Length	Number of birds*
Turkey	\$8.92 white \$9.50 bronze	March 25	19 weeks	_____ Bronze _____ White
Heavy Duck	\$7.00 - \$7.77 per bird	May 13	12 weeks	_____
Roaster Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	May 28	10 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Market Duck (Pekin)	\$7.00 per bird	June 10	8 weeks	_____
Broiler Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	June 17	7 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Cornish Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	June 24	6 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female





Richland Club

Our birdhouse meeting went really well.

The Cloverbuds painted and decorated little premade birdhouses from Hobby Lobby.

The big kids and their parents had fun assembling the birdhouses.






Make the Most of Your Market Livestock Project


- A FREE webinar series this **April 30-May 28, 2025** on **Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30 pm** for youth ages 8-19

You will learn:

- ✦ Marketing strategies
- ✦ Communication skills
- ✦ Record-keeping tips
- ✦ Goal-setting techniques

...and so much more!

 Take your small or large livestock project to the next level and gain tools for success in and out of the ring! Sessions will **not** be recorded and will take place **Wednesdays at 6:30- 7:30 pm** on Zoom.

 See dates and topics and save your spot now:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-all>



The poster features a green top section with a white four-leaf clover logo containing the letters 'H', 'H', 'H', and 'H'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Make The Most Of Your Market Animal Project Webinar Series' in white, with 'April-May 2025' underneath. The bottom half of the poster shows a close-up of a white and brown cow's face with yellow ear tags. A light blue speech bubble on the left contains a green starburst icon and the text 'Youth 8-19 years old' and 'Covers marketing, communication, record-keeping, goal-setting, and more so you can maximize your market potential'. The Michigan State University Extension logo is at the bottom left.

Make The Most Of Your Market Animal Project Webinar Series
April-May 2025

Youth 8-19 years old
Covers marketing, communication, record-keeping, goal-setting, and more so you can maximize your market potential

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Kalamazoo 4-H Showcase Schedule

Entries for the Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase will take place through the FairEntry website <https://fairent.com/Fair/SignIn/21320> from May 14 – June 20, 2025.

There may be additional events/activities added to the schedule as more plans are made.

The following events will take place off-site prior to the Showcase:

Monday, July 28, 2025

6:00pm Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation Pease Packing – Scotts, MI
(Animals must arrive before 5:30pm)

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

10:00am Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements Pease Packing – Scotts, MI

Friday, August 1, 2025

7:00pm Dairy Show Vlietstra Dairy Farm – Kalamazoo, MI

These events will take place at the Kalamazoo Expo Center

Saturday, August 2, 2025

9:00am – 12:00pm Still project judging TBD
Campers may be dropped off, but no camping will be allowed until Sunday

Sunday, August 3, 2025

12:00pm – 3:00pm Horse drop off and vet check behind the horse arena’s
4:00pm – 7:00pm -livestock arrival, swine vet check in livestock barns

Monday, August 4, 2025

9:00am Horse Showmanship & English Performance Classes Horse Arenas
9:00am -12:00pm livestock drop off, swine vet check in
2:00pm Rabbit Show Rabbit Barn
Cavies and Critters Show (following Rabbit Show) TBD location
Rabbit Showmanship
6:00pm Sheep Show Livestock Show Arena

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

9:00am Horse Western Performance & Trail Classes Horse Arenas
9:00am Swine Show Livestock Show Arena
2:00pm Feeder Calf Show Livestock Show Arena
5:00pm Rabbit Agility cement pad near rabbit barn
6:00pm Beef Show Livestock Show Arena



Showcase schedule continued

These events will take place at the Kalamazoo Expo Center

Wednesday, August 7, 2025

9:00am	Horse Dressage & Jumping Classes	Horse Arenas
9:00am	Poultry Show	Livestock Show Arena
10:00pm	Miniature Horse show	Grass area near 4-H concession stand
2:00pm	Goat Show	Livestock Show Arena
6:00pm	Auction set up	Livestock Show Arena

Thursday, August 8, 2025

9:00am	Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes	Horse Arenas
10:00am	Livestock Sale (Small Animals)	Livestock Show Arena
1:00pm	Livestock Sale (Large Animals)	Livestock Show Arena
6:00pm	Fashion Review, Demonstration and Performances	TBD

Friday, August 9, 2025

10:00am	Horse Costume Class	Horse Arenas
12:00pm	Horse Drill Team Demonstration	Horse Arenas
1:00pm	Horse fun and games	Horse Arenas
1:00pm	Livestock Enduro	Livestock Show Arena
TBD	Horse Awards program	Horse Arenas
5:00pm	Milk drinking contest	Livestock Show Arena
7-10pm	4-H Dance	Livestock Show Arena

Saturday, August 10, 2025

9:00am	Dog Show	Main Expo
12:00pm	Thank you notes turned in deadline	project superintendents
1:00pm	Livestock Judging	Livestock Show Arena
3:00pm	Master Showmanship	Livestock Show Arena
4:00pm – 6:00pm	still project pick up	still project barn
Following master showmanship – breed livestock and some market animals moved out		
Campers moved out		

Sunday, August 11, 2025

TBD	Market chickens and rabbits moved out	
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Auction – Start To Finish

We presented this topic at the All-Species meeting in February but thought it might be helpful to summarize the key takeaways to get ready for the livestock auction at the fair.

1. **Prior to Fair Week (May, June, July):**

- a. Invite buyers
 - i. Who are you are going to invite?
 1. The list of potential buyers is endless – family (grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins), friends, parents’ business acquaintances or coworkers, doctor, dentist, local feed supply company, car salesman, etc.
 - ii. How do you plan to invite your buyers?
 1. This can be accomplished by writing and mailing a letter or even better taking your letter/brochure/flyer and visiting your potential buyers in person!
 - iii. What might you include within a letter/brochure/flyer?
 1. Youth information – name, years in 4-H/project, what animals you are exhibiting at the fair
 2. What have you learned in 4-H?
 3. Maybe a picture so they recognize you on the day of the auction.
 4. Auction information – date, time, location, sale order
 - iv. Other information to share with potential buyers:
 1. They can do an “add-on” if they are unable to be present at the auction. The QR code is included in the auction letter sent out closer to fair time by the MSUE 4-H Office.
 2. They could have someone come in their place with a defined budget amount to purchase an animal.
 3. What happens when you purchase an animal? There are options:
 - a. Have it processed
 - b. Resell it (sheep, beef, and swine can be resold)
 - c. Donate the animal
- b. Take and print 4x6 pictures for the auction green boards – pictures to be submitted to species superintendents. Picture should consist of clean finished animals & 4-Her in show clothes.

2. **Fair Week:**

- a. Hang up a thank you sign over your pen for the previous year’s auction buyers
- b. Reach out to your buyers to remind them of the auction and tell them how you did in the show

3. **Auction Day (August 7, 2025):**

- a. Wear show clothes – the same kind of outfit you wore on show day!
- b. Greet your buyers, thank them for coming, shake hands
- c. Get lunch with them, show them your animals
- d. After you sell in the auction:
 - i. Find out who bought your animal
 - ii. Go find them in the stands (ask others if you don’t know who they are)
 - iii. Shake their hand, say thank you, and give them a small gift of appreciation (not required but many do provide gifts)
 1. Examples of gifts:
 - a. Purchased gifts or gift baskets such as popcorn, candy, BBQ kit, candles, etc.
 - b. Homemade goods such as jam, cookies, honey
 - c. Other: customized cutting boards, tumblers, ornaments, etc.
- e. Other things to do ASAP after the auction:
 - i. Print out list of buyers with addresses after the auction at the check-out station or find the list posted in your species barn later that night Hang up new thank you signs for this year’s buyers
 - ii. Write thank you notes – due Saturday of fair week by 12noon.



Thank You Notes Guidelines:

- a. Hand-written, addressed, return-addressed, stamped, not sealed
- b. Submitted to superintendents by Saturday of fair week by 12noon
- c. Superintendents will review and mail the following week
- d. Must write thank you notes for any awards/trophies received in addition to buyer thank you's.
- e. Notes should be sincere, best handwriting, at least 3 sentences each

What does a good buyer thank you note consist of?

- a. A greeting with the buyer's name or company.
- b. An acknowledgment of the specific reason for thanks (i.e., the purchase of your project).
- c. The reason why you appreciate the buyer. For instance, they supported you and your 4-H project, have been generous to 4-H, or took time to benefit youth.
- d. How you plan to use the money from the sale (i.e., savings or to purchase next year's project, etc.)
- e. A comment or details about yourself or an update on your life. For example, you can explain how you enjoy 4-H or something you learned in your project.
- f. A repeat of your thank you.
- g. A closing and your signature (e.g., With thanks, name or Sincerely, name)





Applications are open for KRESA Career Connect's career pathway planning programs.

There are several paid opportunities for ages 14 to 24, including:



MyCITY (ages 14-24)

- Ages 14 - 15: 4-week paid career exploration, project-based learning and career pathway planning.
- Ages 16 - 24: 7-week paid internships and professional development.

CareerNOW (ages 18-24)

- Paid 8-week career exploration opportunities in the fields of Skilled Trades and Healthcare.
- Employability skills training, mentorships, career pathways development, and connections to training, employment and apprenticeships.

2GEN (Families)

- 7-week career exploration program for families (youth 14-18 + adult).
- Families explore their strengths, career interests and opportunities in the community.
- 2-hour weekly sessions with a paid stipend awarded upon completion.

Career Coaching

- Gain skills, craft a customized action plan, and overcome barriers with one-on-one personalized guidance.
- Tailored support, development of essential skills, and customized actions plans.

Learn more and apply at kresa.org/summerprograms.



Rev Up Your Future:

Careers in Automotive Performance & Evaluation

Passionate about speed, innovation, and problem-solving? Join us Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m. ET for an exciting webinar exploring careers in automotive performance and evaluation!

- Discover cutting-edge technologies
- Learn from industry experts & young professionals
- Explore career paths & essential skills

Don't miss this chance to accelerate your future in the automotive world! Part of the Driven for the Future: Career Webinar Series sponsored by Toyota R&D

Register now and get ready to land your dream job:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/careers-in-auto-eval>

Driven for the Future Webinar Series



Rev Up Your Future: Careers in Automotive Performance and Evaluation

Thursday, March 20,
2025 at 6pm EST

Watch the whole series for an incentive!

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA | Research & Development

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4-H Future Squad- Virtual 4-H Club



What is 4-H Future Squad?

The 4-H Future Squad is a 4-H virtual club created for Michigan 4-H youth, ages 12-19 as of January 1, 2025, to learn new skills for their future. The club will meet October 2024-May 2025. 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.

Club meetings will be virtual through Zoom twice monthly along with occasional, fun, optional virtual events.

4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club.

How to Join

4-H membership is free and joining 4-H Future Squad unlocks access to all 4-H benefits and programs!

Are you ready to sign up? Complete the interest form on the 4-H Future Squad website to receive more information on how to enroll in this club.

"I like the community I've met. We share some similar interests, and it's a great place to discuss topics that are important life skills, in a place with other people that care about learning also."

2023-2024 4-H Future Squad member

Contact Information:

Laurie Rivetto at
rivettoL@msu.edu,

734-727-7234

Visit the 4-H Future Squad website at:

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

"My favorite part of 4-H Future Squad was learning new things and meeting wonderful people."

2023-2024 4-H Future Squad member

Photo shows members of 4-H Future Squad members meeting, in person, at the 2023 4-H Exploration Days event.

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Since its founding in 2019, the National Society Descendants of American Farmers has awarded over 104,000.00 in agricultural farming scholarships to 47 students.

- Scholarship is specific to higher education students majoring in an agricultural field of study
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- A written essay is required
- A personal interview may be required
- Students may reapply each year that they are in school
 - Deadline to apply is August 1st for fall semester

If Awarded:

- Funds are paid to the accredited institution and not to the individual
- This scholarship may be accepted in addition to other awards
- Students can be part-time or full-time through each semester/quarter
- For more information, contact Joy Linn at linnranch@hotmail.com

More information and the application can be found at

<https://www.nsdoaf.com/scholarships>

Or on our website under:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-forms



Animal U

From Iowa State University Extension

Check it out at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/animalu/>



ANIMAL U promotes involvement in animal agriculture and allows all youth the opportunity to increase their knowledge. It also enables more young people to become involved through accessible, straight-forward, and research-based information.

The program goals are to:

- Connect more young people to animal agriculture and promote its application to everyday life.
- Create an understanding of the relationship between animal agriculture and the science and technology that supports it.
- Promote the variety of potential careers associated with food production through real-world experiences.

Animal U is a program developed through [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](#) and [Iowa State University Department of Animal Science](#). The program manager is [Dr. Amy Powell](#), Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist. This project is a collaboration of Extension subject matter experts, faculty members, commodity groups, and industry partners.



Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

Have fun!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Support 4-H with the TSC Spring Paper Clover Campaign



From April 21 – May 5, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at checkout, both online and in stores.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more regarding the campaign, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

April 10: Driving Success with Workplace Professionalism

Online

Through a partnership with Toyota, youth will experience a variety of career paths in the automotive industry as well as build workforce readiness skills. This webinar will provide insight on professionalism in the workplace.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/workplace-professionalism

April 16: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - 4-H Club Fundraising 101

Online

This webinar will provide an overview of Michigan 4-H fundraising policies, ensuring that your efforts align with guidelines and best practices for success.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-4-h-club-fundraising-101-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-4-h-club-fundraising-101-7pm

April 24: 4-H Fly Fishing Series

Adrian, Michigan

Learn to use fly fishing equipment, practice fly casting techniques and tie a variety of knots. Learn about environmental and water quality concerns, as well as a fish's ecosystem as you practice imitating insects and other water critters. Registration deadline is April 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-fly-fishing-series

April 30: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

Online

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. This session will provide practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-30

May 1: Engineering the Future with Careers in Integrated Vehicle Systems (IVS)

Online

Through a partnership with Toyota, youth will experience a variety of career paths in the automotive industry as well as build workforce readiness skills. This webinar focuses on careers in IVS, the backbone of advanced safety in automobiles.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/careers-in-ivs

May 3: Spring 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop for Adults and Teens

Owosso, Michigan

Learn about 4-H Shooting Sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-workshop-for-adults-and-teens





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 27 – August 2 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!

Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$525 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 18-20 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2025 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration opened March 20 and closes April 25. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.

Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers!

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday, April 27. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$22 - 46. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive, co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers jersey (while supplies last). Jerseys can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a jersey. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.

