



# 4-H Family News

July 2025

Kalamazoo County



## Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase is Next Month!

### Important Dates to Remember:

July 26- 9am-noon

4-H Mall and Barn Cleanup/Decorate Day

July 28- 6pm – Animals arrive before 5:30

Carcass program Live Animal Evaluation

July 31-

Pre-Fair Mandatory Meeting- *Please stay on schedule!*

**6 PM-** Horses and Poultry **6:15-** Beef/Dairy Steer

**6:30-** Rabbits **6:45-** Sheep **7 PM-** Dairy/Dairy Feeders

**7:15-** Swine **7:30-** Goats



Here is a link to the schedule online with a link to a Printable Schedule!

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/fair-information](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information)

**Handicap parking** will be posted near the horse arenas and livestock mall

### Gate Schedule-

**Lake Street Gate** is open days from 8am-8pm

**Lamont Street Gate** is open evenings from 8pm-8am

If you need livestock supplies delivered (hay, bedding...) during the week- please deliver before **8 am** and use caution.

There is no driving between the livestock barns or horse arenas after **noon Monday** or after **8am Tuesday-Saturday**

## CONTACT US

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4-H Program Instructor

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## MSU Extension Office Phone & Email-

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Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

269-383-8830

[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

### Facebook Page

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

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**SPREAD THE  
WORD**

**We Need Your Help!!**

**SPREAD THE  
WORD**

**Below are sign ups for Information Booth and Still Project Monitoring. Showcase, Games and Misc Help through out the week.**

**Still Project/Information Booth Volunteers, please sign up here:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-50273231-2024#/>

**Showcase, Games, Setup etc. Volunteers, please sign up here:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-4hinformation1#/>

**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 July 18, 2025** in order for screening to be completed prior to the events. **Those completing the application after June 20<sup>th</sup> may not be eligible to help during the 4-H showcase.**

The definitions of silver and gold level volunteers can be found at

[https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_faq](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_faq)

The application to apply to become an MSU Extension Volunteer can be found at

[https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_home](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/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.

### **YOUR 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved.

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

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



## Barn Clean Up !

**July 26th from 9am-noon**

Come on out to help get our barns and areas ready for the Showcase!  
Please remember that this is a great way to help make the barns and the 4-H mall beautiful for our youth, families and visitors. **You'll want to wear clothes that can get dirty or get paint on them.**



Supplies like paint and paint brushes will be provided but you may want to bring:

- Work Gloves
- Brush Trimmers
- Tools – hammer, rakes, shovels, wrenches ...etc.
- Power Washers.
- A Positive Attitude :)

### Barn Clean-up Incentive -

Each Kalamazoo County *enrolled 4-H youth member* that participates in barn clean-up day on Saturday, July 26 will receive a coupon good for 1 elephant ear or Kona ice on Thursday at the food vendors.  
In order to receive the coupon, you must be an **active 4-H youth member** and must volunteer for a **minimum of 2 hours** And must sign the attendance sheet provided by 4-H on clean-up day with **both arrival AND departure times**.

## Just in time for the 4-H Showcase!

Attached is an order form for Green Kalamazoo County 4-H Shirts.  
The crew sweatshirt does not come in youth sizes.

The shirts will have the legal 4-H clover emblem designation (18 USC 707)

If you want more information about the shirts you may go to the following links:

T-shirts: <https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD210/>

Long sleeve t-shirts: <https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD180/>

Crew sweatshirt: <https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD360/>

Hooded sweatshirt: <https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD342/>

Payment and order form can be sent/brought to:

- **285 W Battle Creek St. Galesburg, MI 49053.**
- **MSU Ext office: 201 W. Kalamazoo, Suite 306 Kalamazoo.**
- Give the order form and payment to your community club leader to bring to the **July 22, 7pm** Leaders Council meeting @ the conference room in the Kalamazoo Animal services building on Lamont street.

**Orders will be delivered on the Mandatory Meeting Night**

Kalamazoo County 4-H 4-H Leaders Council

\*\*\*ORDERS DUE JUNE 23RD 2025\*\*\*

Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT	YOUTH S		\$18.00	
	YOUTH M		\$18.00	
	YOUTH L		\$18.00	
	YOUTH XL		\$18.00	
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT	YOUTH S		\$24.00	
	YOUTH M		\$24.00	
	YOUTH L		\$24.00	
	YOUTH XL		\$24.00	
CREW SWEATSHIRT	ADULT S		\$25.00	
	ADULT M		\$25.00	
	ADULT L		\$25.00	
	ADULT XL		\$25.00	
HOODED SWEATSHIRT	YOUTH S		\$25.00	
	YOUTH M		\$25.00	
	YOUTH L		\$25.00	
	YOUTH XL		\$25.00	

Checks made payable to Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders Council. CHECK ☐ CASH ☐

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ORDER \_\_\_\_\_



## 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.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H SHOWCASE

## SCHEDULE

**Monday, August 4**

Rabbit Show - 2 PM

Sheep Show - 6 PM

**Tuesday, August 5**

Swine Show - 9 AM

Cattle Show - 2 PM

**Wednesday, August 6**

Poultry Show - 9 AM

Goat Show - 2 PM

**Thursday, August 7**

4-H Livestock Auction

9 AM Registration begins

10 AM Auction begins

**Friday, August 8**

Trucks & Tractors Encounter

**Saturday, August 9**

Dog Show - 9 AM

Master Showmanship - 3 PM

**Horse and Still Project  
Demonstrations and Displays  
All Week Long!**

Free Admission



bring



Get A



Bring a non-perishable food item  
for local foodbanks  
and get a **FREE** book!



Scan the QR  
code for a  
complete  
schedule



AUCTION  
REGISTRATION  
BEGINS AT 9:00 AM

**7**  
AUGUST

**LIVESTOCK  
AUCTION**

KALAMAZOO COUNTY EXPO CENTER  
AND FAIRGROUNDS  
2900 LAKE ST, KALAMAZOO, MI 49048



**Beyond  
Ready**

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.





## Goat Updates

Thank you to Motycka Farms for hosting our fit and show with judging!

As a reminder you must attend at least 2 of the 4 county-wide swine meetings offered to show at fair. If you attended the all-species meeting in February, this counts toward one of your goat meetings.

We will have two upcoming meetings on **July 8th and July 22<sup>nd</sup>**.  
City Gate Church – 308 W. Milham, Portage, MI  
6:30 p.m.



Make sure you are completing all project requirements!

- Attend 2 project meetings (all species meeting counts)
- Goat educational exhibit (project or notebook) – required for Cloverbuds and first- and second-year goat project 4-Hers, judged on Saturday before fair.
- **If you are showing a market animal (registered in a market class), regardless of year in project, you must complete a market notebook.**
- **Champion and Reserve MARKET animals *must* sell at the auction.**

## Swine Updates

Thank you to everyone that came to our last swine meeting on June 16th.  
Here are the things you should be working on over the next month:

-Personally invite buyers to the auction

-Practice, practice, practice showing

-Swine record book / educational notebook:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4\\_h\\_market\\_animal\\_record\\_book](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_market_animal_record_book)

-Need 4x6 pictures for auction (clean animal & 4-Her)

Looking forward to seeing everyone on **Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> for clean-up day**,  
and then again on **Thursday, July 31st for the mandatory meeting!**



## Poultry Project News



I bet that you already know this, but FAIR IS COMING!!! And it might be HOT.

Be very aware of how hot it is for your growing birds and do what you need to do to keep them cool.

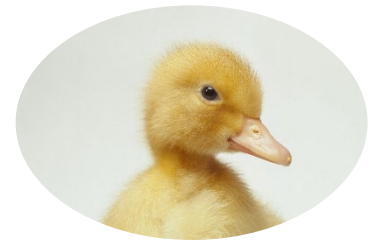
- Give them cool fresh water every morning or however often they may need it - maybe even with some ice(or freeze some bottles of water and add them to their water bowl to keep it cool).
- There are lots of interesting suggestions for dealing with the heat online - or
- Do some thinking out of the box and let the rest of us know if it works!

### Have you been to the required 3 meetings yet?

The last project meeting before the fair is

**Thursday, July 17th at 7pm**

in the poultry barn or livestock arena.



We will be addressing all the details that you need to be doing before and during the fair along with a schedule of poultry happenings and deadlines.

In the meantime, work on your market journals, notebooks and practice showmanship. We will go over bathing and fitting your birds for showing too, so make sure that you come to get the tips and tricks.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

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](mailto:gcg.kzoo@gmail.com). Learn more about Growing Community Garden at [www.growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com](http://www.growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com).



## Thank You Notes Guidelines:

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



### What does a good buyer thank you note consist of?

- A greeting with the buyer's name or company.
- An acknowledgment of the specific reason for thanks (i.e., the purchase of your project).
- 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.
- How you plan to use the money from the sale (i.e., savings or to purchase next year's project, etc.)
- 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.
- A repeat of your thank you.
- A closing and your signature (e.g., With thanks, name or Sincerely, name)

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## Calling all Cloverbuds!



We will have crafts at the Showcase on the  
4-H Mall during fair week from 2-3 pm

Bring any supply donations to the 4-H office or Leaders Council meeting.

**Monday: Kindness Rocks**

**Tuesday: Horse-shoe Wind Chimes**

**Wednesday: Bee Happy Pollinator Display**

**Thursday: Tye Dye, (Bring Your Own Shirt)**

**Friday: Bubble Wands**







## 2025 Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth Showcase Camping Fees & Information

Beginning on May 1, 2025 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.

Camping Fees:	Weekly Rate - \$175.00 per week (8/2-8/9) Reservations made after July 25 are \$210 per week
Advance Reservation Fee:	One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all advance reservations
Septic Service:	A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 6.

**Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!**  
**Deadline for Camping Registration**  
**July 25, 2025**

Campground check-in will begin at 9am on Saturday, August 2.

**NO EARLY ARRIVALS**

All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 9:00pm on Saturday, August 9

### CAMPING POLICIES:

Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.

Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.

Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.

Cancellations will be accepted until July 25, 2025. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 25, 2025 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 25, 2025.

Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.



## 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

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/index)

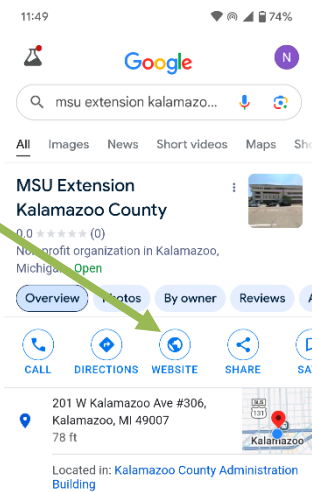
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

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



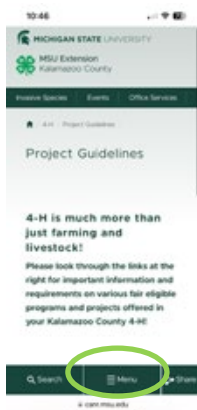
3 & 4



5



6

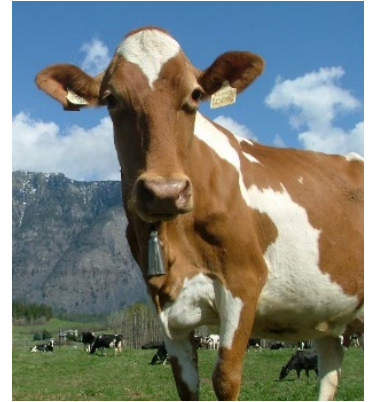


We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!

# Dairy Club Update

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



***We are looking for Carnival Games and Tents for the Showcase!***

Do you have some wood working skills? We are looking for someone to build some fun Carnival type games.

Maybe you have old harvest or lawn games hidden away that we can borrow?

Also: Does anyone have, or know of someone who has, a ***Large Canopy*** we might be able to use for a game tent?

Please contact [christinamariechase@gmail.com](mailto:christinamariechase@gmail.com) if you can help!







# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> (Matching Ceremonies July 24<sup>th</sup>)  
and depart on August 18<sup>th</sup> (Departure program August 16<sup>th</sup>)**

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](http://www.states4hexchange.org)







## 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

## 2025 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament



4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament

August 2, 2025

Registration is open for the 2025 Michigan State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament! To be held August 2 at the Saginaw Field & Stream Club in Saginaw, this event provides 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills, earn recognition and build camaraderie with other 4-H members from all over the state.

Events at the tournament include: .22 rifle, 3-D archery, air rifle, BB gun, hunting and wildlife, muzzle loading, pistol, target archery, trap and skeet.

The deadline to register is **July 13, 2025**.

To learn more, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-4-h-state-shooting-sports-tournament](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-4-h-state-shooting-sports-tournament)

### July 8-10: Garden Writers Workshop

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Young writers will learn about the wonderful world of writing in the garden. Using the garden as their inspiration, campers will connect writing to nature by creating poems, stories, plays and much more.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-writers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-writers)

### July 9: Adulting 101 – Mastering Meal Planning

*Online*

Learn how to eat healthy on a budget and stretch your food dollars, including how to cook once and eat twice, making a meal plan that will save you money at the store, and other great tips!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mastering-meal-planning](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mastering-meal-planning)

### July 16-17: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

*Haithco Park, Saginaw*

All campers will 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 8-12.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp-2025](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp-2025)

### July 16 - August 13: Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

*Online*

This free course is for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful. This series will meet online each Monday for five weeks from 7:30 – 9 p.m.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-july-2025](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-july-2025)

### July 17: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day)

### July 24: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. We will collect, observe and even make bugs! Our friends from the MSU Bug House will be back this year with their collections of insects from all over the world!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day)

### July 29-31: Camp Monet

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Young artists will spend three days in the gardens creating marvelous projects. Campers will use inspiration from the garden to make projects that involve sketching, painting, sculpting, dying, weaving and much more! Lunch will not be provided, so please bring a lunch each day.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/camp-monet](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/camp-monet)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2025 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 \$10,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

[Registration for this event is now open!](#) The diverse array of [classes](#) celebrate all the projects and programs in which youth have developed skill and mastery. This includes livestock and animal showmanship classes, as well as still exhibits, educational projects and more.



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 8 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 which occurs August 28 – September 1.

In addition to the opportunity to showcase their skills, recognize their accomplishments and receive constructive feedback for growth and development, participants in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase will also have the opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000 in scholarships. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## 2025 Mark of Excellence Award Winners

Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 10 and 11, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The essay theme is "Beyond Ready" and the youth referred to the various ways that 4-H is helping to prepare them to be ready for their future, be it work, college or life in general.

As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners. In 2025, the following 28 4-H members from 22 counties were selected as the 2025 Mark of Excellence county winners.

- Simran Adnani, Wayne County
- Abigail Baker, Cass County
- Claire Blaszyk, Oakland County
- Snyder Dunlap, Jackson County
- Lilly Edick, Gladwin County
- Alicia Etter, Sanilac County
- Chloe F., Ingham County
- Adreann Guikema, Newaygo County
- Colton Guy, Barry County
- Autumn Johnloz, St. Joseph County
- Nolan King, Branch County
- Jude Martin, Ionia County
- Madison McGuire, Midland County
- Richie McNutt, Washtenaw County
- Trula Michel, Monroe County
- Penelope Moore, Sanilac County
- VanAnder Noordyk, Marquette County
- Victoria Perez, Washtenaw County
- Madeline Piwowarski, Wexford County
- Breelyn Pullins, Berrien County
- Hadley Schafer, Monroe County
- Kristina Schwarz, Oakland County
- Asher Smith, Livingston County
- Jolene Smith, Ionia County
- Bette Stemaly, St. Joseph County
- Autumn Wellington, Lapeer County
- Tierney Westrate, Allegan County
- Josephine Wiltshire, Osceola County

Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning essays will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winners!

To learn more about the Michigan 4-H State Awards, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index).