



4-H Family News

Sept 2026

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond
Ready**

Welcome to the 2026-2027 4-H Programming year!

You may not know this but,
4- H Enrollment does not “roll over” year to year.

Starting September 3rd, 2026, families and volunteers wanting to continue in 4-H will need to renew their membership by logging into their account at 4-H online database at - <http://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

- Any youth 5-19 years old as of January 1, 2027 can enroll in the 4-H program.
- There is no fee to enroll in 4-H.
- New members may join anytime during the year, but must be enrolled before April 1, 2027, to meet fair participation requirements.
- Re-enrollment is due no later than November 1, 2026.

Adults who would like to be a volunteer will need to be approved through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to working with youth. VSP completion is required for both virtual and face to face program volunteers.

For information on this process please visit-

http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/msu_extension_volunteer_selection_process



Thank you Everyone for making
the fair wonderful this year!

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Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>

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Kalamazoo *ROCKED* the 4-H State Horse Show!



- Claire L** 16-17 yr old- 7th Ranch Pleasure, 8th Ranch Riding
- Aliyah S** 16-17 yr old- 4th Pole Bending, 2nd Cloverleaf Barrel Racing, 7th Down and Back
- Aidan R** 17 yr old- Showmanship Grand Champion , 3rd English Pleasure Hunt, 1st English Equitation Hunt, Grand Champion Western Horsemanship
- Kylie M** 17 yr old- Reserve Champion Dressage Seat, Grand Champion Hunter Hack, 6th English Pleasure Hunt, 3rd English Equitation Hunt,
- Natalie B** 18 yr old- 2nd Showmanship, 8th English Equitation Hunt, 7th Western Pleasure, 7th Western Horsemanship,
- Emmit N** 18 yr old - 4th Showmanship, 4th Trail Class
- Elsbeth R** 12 yr old - 2nd Hunter Hack, 4th English Pleasure Hunt, 2nd English Equitation Hunt, 3rd Trail
- Madylynn H** 13 yr old - Grand Champion Showmanship, 3rd English Equitation Hunt, 7th Western Horsemanship, Grand Champion Trail
- Miley C** 14 yr old – Grand Champion Western Dressage Level 1, 1st Western Dressage Level II, 3rd Trail
- Megan B** 15 yr old - Reserve Champion Showmanship, Grand Champion English Equitation Hunt, 1st Western Horsemanship, 1st Trail
- Katherine W** 15 yr old- 5th English Pleasure Hunt, 3rd English Equitation Hunt, 4th Western Horsemanship





A huge **thank you** to everyone who helped make another successful year for Kalamazoo County 4-H. We continue to grow, try new things, and create exciting opportunities for our youth because of the amazing support from our volunteers, families, and community.

Have an idea for a workshop, activity, or new 4-H opportunity? **We want to hear it!** We are always looking for new and fun ideas to offer our 4-H members. Send us your suggestions and help us make the 2026–2027 4-H year our best one yet!



Horse demo team



Even the cloverbuds take responsibility for their chores



Dairy show off site at a closed farm

Have a picture from the fair you want to share? Send it in for the next newsletter. Help us to tell the 4-H story!!!



Rooster crowing contest



A Big 4-H Thank You

to all that came out to
support the 4-H Auction

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make the Kalamazoo County 4-H Livestock Auction successful! From the families who supported the youth's hard work and worked together helping their children to the 4-H volunteers, superintendents, auctioneers and buyers—we couldn't do it without each of you!

Families and leaders help to encourage the kids to be responsible in caring for their animals—Just one of the great life skills that kids learn while participating in their projects.

Youth learn that there is a price to pay for caring for their animals—that price may be time—time away from tv, video games, sleep, other activities, etc. There is a sacrifice made through their passionate care of their projects, but they also learn that with hard work there is a payout.

Our buyers help to support the 4-H youth's future projects and financial goals. Many youth use the funds to purchase future project animals or stashing away for future purchases such as a car or college expenses. Financial management is another piece of the life skills puzzle that kids can learn after selling their animals at the auction!

Thank you for those who helped with transport and processing our livestock and, for all those that helped with check in, advertisement, printing and *all the behind-the-scenes stuff no one sees get done, but sure notices if it isn't!*

You are the reason we succeed!



Thank you to those who sponsored the Kalamazoo County
Livestock projects! We appreciate your support!!!

Thank You 2026 Livestock Award Sponsors

Diamond

Cornerstone Ag Management

Platinum

CT Electrical Services, Inc.

D & E Custom Trucking

Ian & Lynne Remijn

Lyster Exteriors

Myers Farms

Stafford Farms

The Groundskeeper

Gold

Andy & Pam Acker

Cagney Lamb

Hinga Farm

IBEW Local 131

Jerrid Hisler Agency

Kalamazoo Fraternal Order Police #98

Kevin Rose

Meeuwse Farms

Morrison Landscape Services

Perkins Tire Service

Sandy Ambs



Thank You 2026 Livestock Award Sponsors

Silver

Nulty Insurance

David & Eileen Rutten

Don & Sheryl Peck

Fulton Lucky Clovers - in honor of

Sara Hardin

Garden Lane Apartments

Joe & Robin Peck

Matt & Alisha Gibson

Rita McClish

Schug Farms

Shook Farm

The Sattler Family

Vicksburg Family Dentistry

Wade & Kim Lawrence

Windy Creek Grain Farms

Bronze

Blain's Farm & Fleet

Howard & Dorris Gray Memorial

Jaworski Farms

Jim & Kay Whitehead

Mick & Jan Swihart

Mike & Janet Gibson

Not Jes Goats

Paul & Sue Harrison





A BIG Thank You to our 2026 Horse Sponsors!

Alternate Fuel Technologies
Angel Calnin Jaqua Realtor
Animal Clinic Gull Road
Ashleigh Wendzel
Barkin Babies
Battle Creek Farm Bureau
Blue Heron Barn
Carleton Equipment
Changes Salon
Charity & Jay Slager
Chicken House
Coburn Fleet Services LLC
Coffee Klutch
Compass & Cleaver
CT Electrical Services Inc
Dale & Linda Scaers-Slayton
DeCarr Trucking LLC
DeYoung Landscape Service
Doug & Beth Smith
Dr. Catherine Pike
Emily Vinic - Realtor, Five Start Real Estate
Erbellis Pizza
Full Swath Harvesting (Straw & Hay)
Gernaat Greenhouse
Gilbert Family
God Bless the CC Riders Proverbs 21:31
Great Oaks Farm
Gull Meadow Farms
H.J. Deaton & Son, Inc.
Happy Landings Farm in Loving Memory of Joyce
M. & Robert E. Gilroy
Hazelhoff Builders
Hidden Leaf Greenhouse
Hi-Tech Deck Marine Flooring
Hoffman Bros., Inc

Howland Floor & Design
Jane & Doug Baker
J's Anything Auto
Kalamazoo Growlers
KPM Cleaning
Mall City Mechanical
Maxson Family
Merchant McIntyre & Associates
Motycka Mechanical
Murray Landscaping LLC
Neds on Gull Lake
Nena's Cooper Café LLC
Omni Source
PawPaw TSC Shavings Donations
Richland Meat Center
Ridderman Oil
Rise Therapy & Wellness
Rosemarie Ryan
Russell's Country Store
Ryan Whiting State Farm
Sikkema Real Estate Team
Sleeman Service
Steensma Lawn & Power Equipment Inc
Kalamazoo
Steensma Lawn & Power Equipment Inc
Plainwell
Susan Smith
Territorial Brewing Company
The Local Grind
The Peterson Company
The Shampoo Hut
Tucker Family
Urban Nest
Vigue Equine LLC
Vlietstra Family Wholesome Canine Cookie
Company
Wilcox Plumbing & Piping LLC
Willis Law
Woolf Excavating



The Dog Project would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all of their wonderful sponsors!

Thank you to our wonderful judges who donated their time and expertise. Without you we could not put on such a wonderful show!

Thank you to Carol Weber, our long-time notebook judge, who unstintingly donated many toys to be included in different awards and gift bags - As well as funds toward a new award to honor Darby!

The Darby Award will be given out for many years to come!



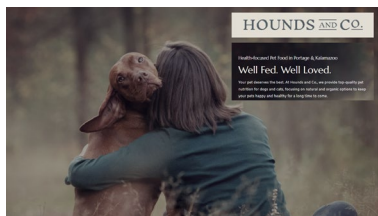
Generously donated 4 insulated engraved travel food containers for High Point and Educational Exhibit awards!



Kindly donated many treats and toys for 2026 members gift bags!



Warmly provided a discount on NCF tags for High Point and Educational Exhibit awards!



Liberally donated a prize basket for Best Overall and Reserve Best Overall plus treat samples for all members!



Charitably donated \$80 for 2026 awards or equipment!



Graciously donated 2 camp chairs for our Best Overall and Reserve Best Overall awards!



Thoughtfully donated items for the 2026 members gift bags!



4-H Members Complete County 4-H Archery Program

5 county youth recently concluded the 4-H archery project for 2026. Shown below are members (left to right) Erin, Katherine and Mikeal (sister Annabelle not pictured) along with Lucas . Each participated in a 6-week program of archery instruction held at Kruizenga Archery on M-43, West of Kalamazoo.

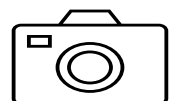
Each member made great improvement over the course of the program and leader Mike George is looking forward to next year and hope all return to participate in the project in order to continue their archery journey. For more information regarding the project, contact Coach Mike at (269) 665-9865.

The members had the opportunity to shoot World Archery (5-color), National Field Archery Association (NFAA) or 3D targets.



Please Remember!

Children without a signed media release agreement can NOT be photographed- even in pictures with their club.





YOUR Kalamazoo 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.

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 several projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to lead them!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Our Amazing Volunteers and Staff!



Micheal S
Remi H
Trica B
Robin P
Razit K
Robyn W
Charles H
Luchara W
Tasha F

Omar B
Steven H
Christy N
Ryan M
Casandra D
Jeff E
Thomas C
Nancy H



4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, skillful, and useful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community and in my responsibility for their development. In all these things

I believe in and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.



National 4-H Week



Dates: October 4 – October 10, 2026.

Theme: "Beyond Ready," focusing on equipping young people with skills for life and career changes.

Featured Days:

Sunday, October 4 (Sharing Sunday) –share about 4-H with someone new

Monday, October 5 (Go GREEN day), wear green, decorate your car, office, locker,etc.

Tuesday, October 6 (Tell your story), share your 4-H story with others

Wednesday, October 7 (Wear it Wednesday) – Wear your favorite 4-H shirt

Thursday, October 8 (Thankful Day)-Thank a mentor, volunteer, others who make a difference

Friday, October 9 (Fun Friday) – Share a fun memory you've had in 4-H

Saturday, October 10 (Service Saturday) – put your hands to work and do some community service

Each 4-H club has the chance to win some fun prizes from the 4-H office this week. Decorate a store window, bulletin board in a store, your yard, wherever your creativity takes you (and you have permission) by Sunday, October 3. Let 4-H staff know where you have decorated and we'll pick a favorite.

Make sure you take a picture and share on social media.

#KalamazooCounty4H
#4HBeyondReady
#National4HWeek





SAVE THE DATE
MICHIGAN
APPLE
CRUNCH

October 15, 2026

Mark your calendar! The 2026 Michigan Apple Crunch will be celebrated on Thursday, October 15!

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

Look for the Crunch registration to be released in August along with an *updated* Crunch Guide and *new* Michigan Apple Crunch resources. Please make sure to follow the Michigan Apple Crunch Facebook page for the latest updates and to post pictures of your Crunch when you celebrate on October 15th.

We're grateful to [Michigan Apples](#) for partnering with [Michigan State University Extension](#) and the [Michigan Farm to Institution Network](#) for support of the Crunch this year!



Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h_name.htm.

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an "H" on each leaf.
- The numeral "4" separated from a capital "H" with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover's stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement "18 USC 707" **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The "18 USC 707" should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H's reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H's can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H's can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H's can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H's can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1



Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Inappropriate Use

And Remember-

It is ALWAYS

4 - dash - capital H

Never 4H or 4h

Always 4-H



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting the new 4-H year with a focus on being Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

A new 4-H year is the perfect time for volunteers and youth to set the tone for growth, learning and readiness. Beginning the year with intentional activities helps young people build confidence, explore their interests, and understand how their 4-H experiences prepare them for life beyond the club.

Early goal setting, reflection and hands-on project work encourage youth to practice important skills such as communication, decision making and responsibility. Volunteers play a key role by helping youth make connections between what they do in 4-H and the skills they will need in future school, work and community settings.

By starting strong and reinforcing these ideas all year long, clubs can help ensure youth are truly Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

#BeyondReady

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner! Plan to stay after for the first meeting of the fall semester for MSU Collegiate 4-H!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception

September 20: Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival

Schomaker Farms, Saginaw

Join the Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival for a fun-filled afternoon at Schomaker Farms! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, learning, and community. The public is welcome!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-4-h-fall-festival

September 23: Adulting 101 – Are You Ready?

Online

Get ready for anything! This workshop will teach youth how to stay calm, make a plan and handle emergencies with confidence and safety.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026

October 2: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

University Club of MSU, Lansing

4-H donors and staff with 4-H responsibilities are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting

October 3: Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration

University Club of MSU, Lansing

Join us to celebrate and recognize Michigan's outstanding 4-H youth, alumni, volunteers, partners and staff. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-legacy-celebration

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

For more than 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. Celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week! Learn more and find ideas of how to celebrate in your community online.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>

October 5: Go Green for 4-H!

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!

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





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.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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.

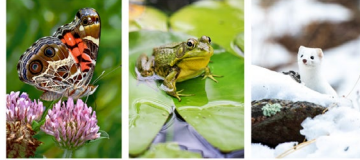
Learn more about more ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week.

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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