



FEBRUARY 2026

4-H Family News

Livingston County



Parliamentary Procedure & Office Training on February 24th at 6:30 pm

We have scheduled our annual Parliamentary Procedure and Officers Training for February 24th at 5:30pm. This event will take place at Livingston Educational Service Agency - 1425 W Grand River Ave, Howell MI 48843.

This is a chance for youth to practice and refine their parliamentary procedure skills at this interactive and hands-on training provided by MSU Extension Educator Roxanne Turner. Youth do not need to be serving in officer roles to attend. 4-H Gold Volunteers are also welcome to attend.

Pizza & pop provided for attendees.

RSVP* at bit.ly/26ParliPro or call Kat VanDouser at 517-552-6903

RSVP is encouraged for this event so that we have an accurate count for pizza!



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Animal Project Committee Meeting

February 3rd at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Making the Best Better: 4-H Volunteer Series

February 12th at 6:30 pm Livingston County MSU Extension Office

Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack & Craft Sale

February 14th from 10 am – 2 pm at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center, 9525 E Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Program

February 18th from 6:30-7:30 pm at LESA, 1425 W Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843

SELCRA: 4-H Learning by Doing Program

February 21st at SELCRA at 7540 Whitmore Lake Road, Brighton

Parliamentary Procedure and Officer Training

February 24th at 6:30 pm at LESA

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Join us for the Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack and Craft Sale on Feb 14th



The Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee will be hosting their annual Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack and Craft Sale on Saturday, February 14th from 10 am – 2 pm at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center Gymnasium at 9525 E Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843. Entry is free! There will also be a silent auction fundraiser with bidding ending at 1 pm.

The Tack and Craft Sale is the biggest fundraiser for the Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee and profits from vendor spaces and the silent auction fund programs and activities.

Vendors can sign up now and reserve a space. Single spaces are \$25 and double spaces are \$40. Tables are \$10 each. Check out the registration for details on tables sizes.

Registration closes on February 6th and there is a late fee for registrations made after January 31st. 4-H Members, volunteers, and clubs get a \$5 discount.

General and silent auction proceeds will be used for Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee programming, scholarships, and general funds. [Check out the Tack and Craft Sale Flyer here.](#)

Vendors register for a table here: <http://bit.ly/4HTackSale26>

4-H Spark and Share Summit Scholarships Available

Livingston County 4-H Council has voted to offer full scholarships for up to 20 4-H teens or volunteers to attend the 4-H Spark and Share Summit at Bavarian Inn and Conference Center in Frankenmuth on March 7th. 4-H Spark and Share Summit is a one-day workshop that brings together volunteers and teen leaders to explore new projects, gain fresh information, and gather ideas they can take back to share within their local 4-H programs.



If you are interested in a scholarship to attend, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu before you register.

The deadline to register is February 9th so reach out soon if you want to attend!

Check out the [registration page](#) for more information about 4-H Spark and Share Summit



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Making the Best Better: 4-H Volunteer Series Across Southeast Michigan

Livingston County 4-H is teaming up with our surrounding District 12 counties (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, and Washtenaw) to host a 4-H Volunteer Learning series in person or virtual January – March. Each of the 5 sessions will focus on a different theme.

- **Cha-ching Making Cents of 4-H Finances: February 12th at 6:30 pm in Our Livingston County MSU Extension Office**
- Join the Conversation: Engaging Parents & 4-H Alums in 4-H Experiences and Implementing Shared Leadership in 4-H Clubs: February 26th at 6:30 pm in Washtenaw
- Youth Engagement & Engaging Youth Voice: March 12th at 6:30 pm in Lenawee
- From Clash to Collaboration: Practicing the Art of Conflict Resolution: March 26th at 6:30 pm in Jackson



This series is for all volunteers, whether your brand new to 4-H or have been volunteering for decades. Learn alongside and with your fellow 4-H volunteers.

Register for one or more sessions here: <https://bit.ly/d12volunteer>

Silent Auction Items and Volunteers Needed for Hartland Tack and Craft Sale



The Horse Committee is requesting that all 4-H members consider donating an item for the Silent Auction fundraiser to be held in conjunction with the Hartland Tack and Craft Sale on February 14. Farm-based items are especially welcome, such as honey, maple syrup, goat-milk soaps, etc. A tag promoting your farm/farm products can be attached. Gift baskets and crafted items are also welcome. Please contact Kat, krollkat@msu.edu, for more information.

Horse Committee is also looking for volunteers for set up and during the event. If you are interested, please check out the [sign up genius](#). This is great opportunity for teens to get leadership skills and help the program cover scholarships and activities.

Learn about Open Class at your 4-H Club

Do you have families in your 4-H Club interested in participating in the Open Class Exhibits at the Fowlerville Family Fair? Open Class Coordinator Dawn Bhajan is happy to come to your 4-H Club meeting to answer questions about Open Class and help to clear up any lingering confusion about the difference between the Fowlerville Fair Youth Show and Open Class Youth. If you are interested, please contact Dawn at dawnbhajan@gmail.com or at (810) 923-4582.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Program on February 18th at 6:30 pm



This Winter we will be partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for this fun, interactive program on Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes. Cole Fisher, who will be leading the program, is a Livingston County 4-H Alum from Ranger's 4-H Club! At this hands-on workshop, youth will learn amazing rattlesnake secrets, practice safe and respectful handling techniques and learn how to use technology to "track" snakes.

This program is targeted for 8 – 14 year olds. but older teens can attend.

This program will be held at the Livingston Educational Service Agency, 1425 W Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843.

Preregistration is required to attend.

Register here: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2gdVbbQz5MbL9TE

Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program Needs Volunteers!

Also, Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program needs more volunteers for their Tuesday and Thursday evening programs June-July! This program assists children with special needs through therapeutic horseback riding. There are many volunteer opportunities available for adults and youth (teens).

Tasks include:

- Grooming horses
- Tacking horses
- Helping children get ready to ride
- Supporting riders during lessons



Do you have a passion for both horses and teaching? We are also looking to add an additional paid instructor to our program. Contact us at the email below for information on any of the opportunities above and more!

Email grandequestrians@gmail.com to sign up or for further information!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Leader Spotlight: Melissa Labadie of Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club

We are always impressed by the amazing 4-H volunteers in Livingston County and one of these leaders that was recognized this year is Melissa Labadie! Melissa was one of two winners of the 4-H Leader Service Award for 2025.

Melissa is the founder of Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club and has been a 4-H volunteer for 5 years. Melissa is an incredibly dedicated 4-H leader. She spends six months each year helping run the Livingston County 4-H Hippology Team and she also attends numerous 4-H committee meetings including Horse and 4-H Council.



Even when her own children's fair registrations didn't go through in 2025, she still showed up for her club as the Camelid Superintendent and for the participants she was committed to helping. If you are at a Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee event, you are almost guaranteed to see Melissa there ready to help! She also helps her members participate by providing trailer rides for their animals, offering a place to camp at the fair, or even lending her animals. Melissa is also down to earth and welcoming to all youth in the Livingston County 4-H program.

We are lucky to have a leader like Melissa in our county, congratulations Melissa!

Do you have a leader in your 4-H club or on a committee you would like to spotlight? Contact Jenny Speyer, speyerje@msu.edu.

Livingston County 4-H Programming at Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority



Livingston County 4-H is excited to partner with the Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority to host a Learning by Doing with 4-H program on February 21st from 2-4 pm at their location at 7540 Whitmore Lake Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

This program is for families interested in 4-H to learn more, engage in some hands-on activities, and to find out more about Livingston County 4-H. Youth 8-14 years old are welcome to attend. If you know any families interested, please pass along this information.

You can find the registration on their website at: <https://www.selcra.com/>



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Fowlerville Family Fair Needs Volunteers



The Fowlerville Youth Show & other Fair Committees are looking for volunteers! This is your chance to help shape the fair, share your ideas, and give back to the community. There are open spots on the Youth Show, Auction, and Exhibitor Committees. If you are interested, please contact them at: fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com.

Livingston County 4-H Club Happenings

Thank you to all of our wonderful youth club reporters for writing up these articles for the newsletter and also to the parents and club leaders who submitted these! We encourage all of our clubs to work with your club reporters to contribute to our newsletter and show Livingston County 4-H all the cool things you are doing.

Gusty Acres 2.0 4-H Club Report from Charlie Fleming, Club Reporter

This month Gusty Acres 2.0 took some time to explore a little science while building boats that could float. The goal was to make a boat that could hold the most pennies. This was our girl group led by Delaney Driver. Annie Crum built the boat that won! Holding over 200 pennies! Proud of our Fleming and Marhofer crew for stepping outside their comfort zone and working with new members! Confidence building and teamwork with a little science!



Roots and Wings 4-H Club Report from Lucy Coppola, Club Reporter



The Roots and Wings 4-H club met at the Howell Recreation Community Center on Monday, January 26th for a parliamentary meeting. After finishing the parliamentary procedures, they discussed that year's upcoming fair and how to improve their projects. The group's Cloverbuds and a few older members looked at what makes presentation boards and notebooks show well, and Cloverbuds practiced making animal science presentations, and the Applied Tech Project members began setting up their coding circuitry project for that year.



February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3  7pm - Animal Project committee meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9 	10	11	12 6:30pm - 4-H Volunteer Learning Series in Livingston County	13	14  10am-2pm- Horse Committee Tack sale at HESC
15	16 	17 	18  6pm - Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Program at LESA	19	20	21 2 pm - SELCRA 4-H Learning by Doing Workshop
22	23	24  5:30pm - Parliamentary Procedure & Officers Training @ LESA	25  7pm - 4-H Grand Equestrians Meeting	26	27	28 MSRBA Convention Rabbit Show - MSU Pavillion 




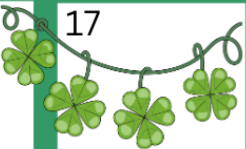






Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Kat and we will try our best to add it here!



March 2026



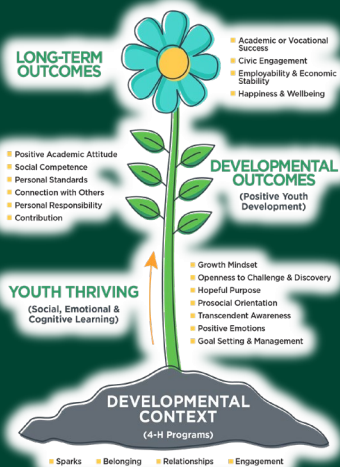
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 MSRBA Convention Rabbit Show - MSU Pavillion 	2	3	4	5	6	7  4-H Spark & Share in Frankenmuth
8 	9	10  7pm - Horse Committee Meeting	11	12 	13	14 
15	16	17  7pm - 4-H Council Meeting	18	19 	20 	21
22	23	24	25 	26  	27  	28
29	30	31 				

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Kat and we will try our best to add it here!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



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

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

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

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

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

February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

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

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

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

Online

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

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

February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

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

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

February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

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

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

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

Online

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

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

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

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

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

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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

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

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



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