



4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

DECEMBER 2025

Volume 10 Issue 4



New 4-H youth member enrollment deadlines

The Armada Fair Board set new 4-H/youth organization member enrollment deadlines at its October 27th meeting. These deadlines apply to youth who are part of 4-H or other youth organizations and are planning to show their 4-H (or other youth organization) projects at the 2026 Armada Fair.

- ♦ All youth members planning to show 4-H livestock projects at the 2026 Armada Fair must [be enrolled in 4-H](#) by January 1, 2026.
- ♦ All youth members planning to show other (non-livestock) 4-H projects at the 2026 Armada Fair must be [enrolled in 4-H](#) by April 1, 2026.

Macomb County 4-H youth members who do *not* plan to show 4-H projects at the 2026 Armada Fair may [enroll in 4-H](#) at any time during the current 4-H program year, before they participate in 4-H meetings, events and/or activities.

Armada Fair dates to remember

- ♦ The [Armada Fair](#) is August 17-23, 2026
- ♦ The Youth Livestock Sale & Silent Auction are August 21, 2026.
- ♦ Youth showing livestock must turn in a Livestock Sale Permission form(s) to the Armada Fair Office by the 4th Monday in January. Updated forms will be made available soon on the Armada Fair's [Livestock Sale web page](#).
- ♦ Livestock [tagging dates](#):
 - Steer - February 1, 2026, Noon-2 p.m.
 - Swine - June 7, 2026, 8-10:30 a.m.
 - Goats, Sheep, & Prospect Beef – June 7, 2026, 10:30 a.m.-Noon
 - All Poultry & Rabbits - July 19, 2026, 10 a.m.-Noon
- ♦ 4-H Armada Fair registrations will be accepted **May 1-31, 2026** [online](#) or in person at the Fair Office. Fair Books will be [online](#) in April.

CONTACT US

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- 11370 Hupp Avenue, Warren, MI 48089

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586-469-6431 (Clinton Township)
 586-469-7614 (Warren)
Macomb.4h@macombgov.org

WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/>

[Subscribe](#)

Volunteer & sponsor 4-H Wreaths for Veterans

Please join the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council in serving our community and honoring U.S. military veterans by helping decorate wreaths for Christmas. This service event will be hosted on **Sunday, December 7, 2025, from Noon-2 p.m.** at Grange Hall on the Armada Fairgrounds. Please use the Main Street Gate #10.



The Youth Council has purchased 50 mini wreaths, approximately 12-14 inches, and supplies for decorating. Families may choose to sponsor up to two (2) of the wreaths for the cost of \$5 each and are welcome to place them for a specific veteran. Payment will be collected at the service event.

To volunteer and/or sponsor a wreath, please [sign up here](#).

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Macomb County 4-H Awards & Recognition Banquet

The annual Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet was held at Fern Hill Golf Club in Clinton Township on November 10, 2025. Guests at the event included award nominees and recipients and their families, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Commissioner Ken Goike, Macomb County Health Department Director Andrew Cox, and Macomb County Animal Control Director Jeff Randazzo. It was an honor to celebrate the accomplishments of our 4-H youth and the involvement of our volunteers and partners! Award recipients include:

Junior Clothing & Textiles

- ◆ Gabriella B. (*Ray Community 4-H Club*)

Junior Horses

- ◆ Vivian B. (*Clinton Valley 4-H Club*)

Junior Visual Arts – Woodworking

- ◆ Levi A., (*Ray Community 4-H Club*)
- ◆ Sportsmanship

Senior Community Service

- ◆ Thea N. (*Ray Community 4-H Club*)

Senior Horses

- ◆ Thea N. (*Ray Community 4-H Club*)

Senior Veterinary Science

- ◆ Thea N. (*Ray Community 4-H Club*)

Adult Lifetime Achievement

- ◆ Cindy Bohm (*4-H Youth Council*)
- ◆ Marilyn Bohm (*Ray Community*)

Adult Volunteer of the Year

- ◆ Mary Barnes (*Untamed 4-H Club*)
- ◆ Melissa Drouillard

Friend of 4-H

- ◆ Armada Fair Board
- ◆ Macomb County Farm Bureau
- ◆ Macomb County Health & Community Services

Youth & Adult Volunteer Speakers:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| ◆ Levi A. | ◆ Rachel G. | ◆ Lillian S. |
| ◆ Renna Barnes | ◆ Thea N. | ◆ Parker S. |
| ◆ Vaino B. | ◆ Melissa Parsons | ◆ Vivian S. |
| ◆ Vivian B. | ◆ Katryna S. | |
| ◆ Ella C. | ◆ Madyson S. | |

Special thanks to this year's guest speakers...

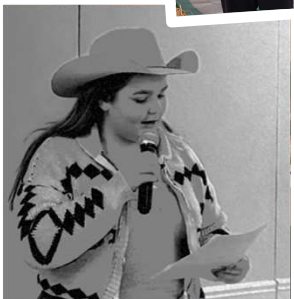
- ◆ Andrew Cox, Director
Macomb County Health & Community Services
- ◆ Ken Goike, Macomb County Commissioner
District 1
- ◆ Jeff Randazzo, Director
Macomb County Animal Control
- ◆ Madison Cumby, Macomb County 4-H Alumna

...and our event sponsors:



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

- ◆ Photo booth donated by [Flamazing Snaps 360](#).
- ◆ Collage photos compliments of Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development
- ◆ Year pins provided by Macomb County 4-H Youth Council.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

In the news...North Macomb 4-H Robotics Club is doing great things! Read about the club in this [Times Herald article](#).

Fecal Parasite Testing for Livestock

Learn about Fecal Parasite Testing for Livestock at the 4-H Meets Wolcott: Animal Health Clinic from 1-2:30pm on December 29th at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center in Ray Township. The program is free and is open to ages 8-adult. Register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/FecalParasiteTestingforLivestock/>.

New volunteers as of December 1st

Welcome to new volunteers Timothy Phillips (School Section) and Stephanie Spezia (K-9 & Kompany)! To become a Macomb County 4-H volunteer, contact any Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator (Nikki Knight, 586-469-5979 or Rebecca Konarski, 586-783-8163) and [apply online](#).

Animals & Agriculture

Learn about all aspects of the farm and how to properly care for animals by attending MSU Extension's 4-H Meets Wolcott: Farming 101 – Animals & Agriculture series. Sessions will be held every other Sunday at 1 p.m. at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, 65775 Wolcott Road, Ray Township.

It's FREE and open to all youth ages 5-19. Attend one or more sessions: December 14 (Sheep), January 11 (Poultry), January 25 (Rabbits). Find more information and register [here](#).

Youth recognized at Macomb County 4-H Horse Program Banquet



Exhibitors in the 2025 Macomb County 4-H Horse Program were recognized for outstanding achievements in performance and participation this year! We gathered at Zuccaro's Chesterfield to celebrate accomplishments on Sunday, November 9. Program Coordinator Rebecca Konarski attended to congratulate participants and to greet parents.

Macomb County 4-H Horse Program winners of traveling awards:

Bill Collins Horsemanship Award:

- ♦ Vaino B., Clinton Valley 4-H Club

Jane Sylvester Sportsmanship Award:

- ♦ Abigail S., Bit of Luck 4-H Club

Hall of Fame Versatility Award:

- ♦ Gracelynn H., Bit of Luck 4-H Club

Gymkhana Award:

- ♦ Ava J., Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club

Vincent B. Cesaro Memorial Award:

- ♦ Mike DeFour, Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club



Article and photos submitted by
4-H Volunteer Michelle Short



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos. View the updated manual at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual.

Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory [reporting guidelines](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) (www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.
2. Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file [DHS-3200](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) (available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) within 72 hours.
3. All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8 a.m.-Noon. and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at ocr.isr@msu.edu.
4. Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.

Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!

Michigan Shop 4-H Store: Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store! Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>.

My Pottery Place: Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/.

Mickman Brothers: Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at 4hwreaths.com will benefit 4-H.

Twisted X: Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection.

Georgia Boot: Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at georgiaboot.com.

Cash Composition Contest

Youth are being targeted by scams too! That's this year's theme for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! Michigan youth aged 9–19 are invited to participate through writing an essay on this year's question. Top entries receive a \$100 gift card, thanks to our sponsor, Extra Credit Union.



MSU Extension 4-H will host two webinars to help with fraud awareness and essay writing. Essays are due by March 1, 2026. Learn more and submit essays online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>



TSC Paper Clover & holiday ornament sales benefit 4-H

Paper Clovers: Through December 14, support 4-H youth by purchasing a paper clover for \$1 at checkout when shopping online at www.TractorSupply.com or at [Tractor Supply Company \(TSC\) stores](http://TractorSupplyCompany.com). Macomb County has TSC stores in New Haven, Richmond, Sterling Heights and Washinton Township. Funds raised will support 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h

Ornaments: Celebrate the spirit of the season while supporting 4-H youth! The 2025 4-H Ornament Collection is now available exclusively at [Tractor Supply stores](http://TractorSupply.com) nationwide and online. Visit your local Tractor Supply or shop online today to get yours before they're gone!



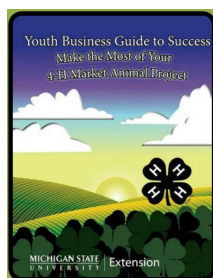
STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H Horse Program State Communications Contest information

The Michigan 4-H Horse Program State Communications contest is Saturday March 14, 2026 at MSU. Anyone with an interest in horses and equine science can participate! Join us on December 3rd at 6:30pm for an informational webinar about contest breakdown, procedures, and opportunities beyond the contest. Register for the informational session at <https://tinyurl.com/8pf2ahpr>.

Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

The Michigan 4-H license plate is a simple way to support youth programs while celebrating your connection to 4-H. A portion of every plate purchase benefits Michigan 4-H for young people to learn, lead, and grow through 4-H. Order yours today for \$35 through the Michigan Secretary of State and drive your support forward! [Learn more here](#).



Save on 4-H Youth Business Guide to Success

The Youth Business Guide to Success, your go-to 4-H curriculum for teaching real-world skills, is on sale! Help youth make smart decisions, set goals, budget, market, keep records for their 4-H animal projects and turn every project into a business learning experience! This guide is perfect for volunteers, leaders, and educators and has engaging activities and practical tools. It's only discounted for a limited time. Learn more shop and save big at https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/.

National 4-H Animal Science Career Night – December 18

National 4-H Animal Science Career Night is December 18, 2025 from 7–8 p.m. EST for youth in grades 7–13 (ages 12–19). Join us for an exciting evening with two incredible guest speakers from the animal science industry: Jack Ward, Executive Vice President of American Hereford Association, and Sam Cohen, Zoological Supervisor at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida.

Don't miss this chance to gain real-world career insights, ask questions, and explore amazing careers in animal science! Register by December 17 at 11:59 PM EST at https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Jt5H9mJnKy8En4. Questions? Contact: mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu.

4-H Winterfest – February 7-8



Registration is open for 4-H Winterfest 2026. Join us February 7-8 for an unforgettable weekend of hands-on learning, team building, and fun at Eagle Village in Hersey, Michigan. Don't miss this chance to learn new skills, make friends, and experience the magic of Winterfest! The event is for youth who are ages 8-12 as of Jan. 1, 2026. The cost is \$120 for 4-H youth members and \$75 for gold-level adult volunteers (age 21+). The fee includes food, lodging, Winterfest swag, project supplies & adventures! Register and pay online at <https://4hwinterfest2026.4honline.com> by January 23rd. Note: Youth must be enrolled and approved in 4-H Online before registering for 4-H Winterfest. No refunds will be issued after January 23. Scholarships may be available. In Macomb County, contact the Macomb County 4-H Office at macomb.4h@macombgov.org or 586-469-6431 for scholarship information.



CALENDARS OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Thriving Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.



**Beyond
Ready**

MACOMB COUNTY 4-H EVENTS

December 14

[4-H Meets Wolcott – Farming 101: Animals & Agriculture \(Sheep\)](#)

1 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

December 24, 25 & 31

Macomb County offices, including MSU Extension, closed.

December 29

[Fecal Parasite Testing for Livestock](#)

1-2:30 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

January 1

Macomb County offices, including MSU Extension, closed.

January 1

NEW! 4-H member enrollment deadline for 4-H'ers planning to show 4-H livestock projects at the 2026 Armada Fair

January 11

[4-H Meets Wolcott – Farming 101: Animals & Agriculture \(Poultry\)](#)

1 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

January 25

[4-H Meets Wolcott – Farming 101: Animals & Agriculture \(Rabbits\)](#)

1 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

April 1

NEW! 4-H member enrollment deadline for 4-H'ers planning to show non-livestock 4-H projects at the 2026 Armada Fair.

Happy Holidays from the Macomb County 4-H Staff!

Kristi Evans, D11 Director

Diane Wisnewski, 4-H Supervising Educator

Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Educator

Kea Norrell-Aitch, 4-H Educator

Lizz Duran, 4-H Program Coordinator

Nikki Knight, 4-H Program Coordinator

Rebecca Konarski, 4-H Program Coordinator

Roberta Busquaert, Office Assistant – Senior

STATEWIDE & NATIONAL 4-H EVENTS

November 28 – December 14

[Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign](#)

Local Tractor Supply Co.

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased. 2025 TSC 4-H ornaments are now available at [Tractor Supply stores](#) and [online](#). Get them before they're gone!

December 2

[Giving Tuesday](#)

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

December 9

[4-H Wild Spartans](#)

Online

Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.

December 13

[4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah](#)

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland
Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8!

December 18

[National 4-H Animal Science Career Night](#)

7-8 p.m., Online

December 20

[4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway](#)

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland
Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.

Subscribe to MSU Extension-Macomb's Program Guide to find out what MSU Extension is offering this month in Macomb County!