



4-H Family News

September 2026

Volume 11 Issue 1

MACOMB COUNTY



Apply for Macomb Co. 4-H Awards by Oct. 15

Apply or nominate a deserving 4-H member or volunteer for a Macomb County 4-H Award for their efforts during the 2025-2026 4-H program year (September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026)! Updated forms are available at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h/Awards-Recognition/>. The application deadline is October 15th.

Mark your calendars for the 2025-2026 Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet. The date is November 9, 2026. Details will be announced. For more information, contact 4-H Program Coordinator Rebecca Konarski at 586-783-8163 or konars13@msu.edu.

Emcees needed for 4-H Awards Banquet



Macomb County 4-H is looking for 4-H'ers to serve as emcees at the Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet on Nov. 9, 2026. If interested, fill out this form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/a4DUsp5UyB>

Questions? Contact Rebecca at 586-783-8163 / konars13@msu.edu.

2025-2026 Annual Financial Summary forms due by October 1

Each 4-H club and committee is required to submit an [Annual Financial Summary Report \(AFSR\)](#) at the end of each program year (Sept. 1-August 31).

There are different forms for clubs **with** funds, and one for clubs with **no** funds. Leaders of SPIN clubs with funds need to submit a 4-H SPIN Club Record of Finances instead of an Annual Financial Summary Report.

For assistance, contact any Macomb County 4-H program coordinator (Rebecca Konarski - 586-783-8163 or konars13@msu.edu, or Lizz Duran - 586-469-6090 or duraneli@msu.edu). Please submit forms online, by mail or in person between September 1 and October 1.

Thank you to our 4-H volunteers and partners!

We want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who volunteered, partnered with us, and supported Macomb County 4-H throughout 2025-2026. Your time, talents, and dedication help create meaningful opportunities for youth to learn, lead, grow, and thrive. Whether you shared your expertise, mentored members, supported events, or championed our programs, you have made a lasting difference in the lives of young people and the strength of our community.

Thank you for believing in our youth and investing in their future. Together, you are helping build confident leaders, engaged citizens, and a brighter future for Macomb County. **We are truly grateful for all you do!**

MACOMB COUNTY 4-H STAFF

Kristi Evans, District 11 Director

Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Educator

Elizabeth Duran, 4-H Program Coordinator

Rebecca Konarski, 4-H Program Coordinator

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WEBSITE

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

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

Take the 4-H Youth Council Survey!

In preparation for the 2026-2027 4-H program year, the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council would like the input of Macomb County 4-H families. Please take this survey by September 15th: <https://form.jotform.com/262046201503038>. Your responses will help the Council plan workshops and social events and are greatly appreciated.

2026-2027 4-H enrollment/re-enrollment

Club Re-enrollment: Club re-enrollment materials have been emailed to administrative club leaders. The information is also available on our web page. Please re-enroll your club before your members enroll/re-enroll in 4-H Online.

Volunteer Enrollment: New volunteers need to apply and complete the Volunteer Selection Process through [Volunteer Central](#) and be interviewed by a Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator, then enroll in [4-H Online](#). Returning screened volunteers should only need to re-enroll through [4-H Online](#). If other action is needed of a returning volunteer, a Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator will contact the volunteer. Volunteers and volunteer applicants may check their status in [Volunteer Central](#) at any time, or contact the Macomb County 4-H staff.

Member Enrollment/Re-enrollment: The 4-H Online enrollment system (<https://mi.4honline.com>) is open for 2026-2027 Member and Cloverbud enrollment or re-enrollment.



How to Register with 4-H: *NEW Family*

1. Visit **mi.4Honline.com**.
2. Create a family account.
3. Answer member questions; click the final SUBMIT button.
4. Use the Add Member button on the Member List page if needed.
5. Membership is approved at the county level. You will receive an email once approved.



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.

Member Enrollment Deadlines

- All youth members planning to show 4-H livestock projects at the 2027 Armada Fair must [be enrolled in 4-H](#) by January 1, 2027.
- All youth members planning to show other (non-livestock) 4-H projects at the 2027 Armada Fair must be [enrolled in 4-H](#) by April 1, 2027.
- Macomb County 4-H youth members who do *not* plan to show 4-H projects at the 2027 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.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

The Heart of the Fair: Celebrating our 2026 Armada Fair Youth

The 2026 Armada Fair was an incredible experience! It's always inspiring to witness the dedication and enthusiasm the youth bring to their projects. Even after a week packed with early mornings and late nights, their smiles and energy never fade!

Everyone at MSU Extension, especially the 4-H Program Coordinators, takes immense pride in what these young individuals have achieved. The fair simply wouldn't exist without their engagement!

We'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the [Armada Fair Board](#) for another fantastic year, as well as a special acknowledgment to the [Macomb County Farm Bureau](#) for sponsoring the photographer who captured all the animal shows. The photos featured in this article are a wonderful keepsake for our youth to cherish!

Article by Rebecca Konarski, 4-H Program Coordinator
Photo Credit: [Picture This Photography DLB](#)



Pictured (l. to r.) are Macomb County 4-H'ers Tucker M., Audrey M., and Clara F.



Having fun at the 2026 Armada Fair are (from l. to r.) 4-H Volunteer Lori Clough and 4-H Member Grace Bochatyn



Pictured left, from left to right: Mackenzie S., Emery S., Madelyn K. and Aubrie K. showing lambs at the 2026 Armada Fair:



COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

International Game Fish Association *Reel Into Fishing* Program

The [International Game Fish Association \(IGFA\)](#) *Reel into Fishing* program wrapped up last week and was a huge success! The program had twenty-six participants take part in the three-day program where they heard from presenters, learned about fishing gear and how to use it, toured facilities, and of course fished on Lake St. Clair. The community truly rallied around the program with Michigan State University Extension 4-H of Macomb County partnering with IGFA to ensure it ran smoothly. [Lake St. Clair Walleye Association](#) came in with a huge lift, providing support throughout the program to help teach kids and get them in on the water. Here is a recap of the three days:



Day 1-Classroom

Participants started off the day by hearing from different speakers in the community to learn about potential careers and local fishing knowledge! These were given by Tracy Page from the Michigan DNR, Senator Kevin Hertel, Capt. Don Murray, and father and son duo Shawn and Joey Elliot (Tackle Box Joey). Joey was a fan favorite because he is on his college's bass fishing team and only a few years older than the kids in the group. After lunch, they split off into two groups learning how to tie knots and cast in preparation for receiving their new rods. Once back together, they then put the rods and reels together and got them fully rigged up for fishing with the knots they had just learned!



Day 2- Shore Excursion

Once everyone had been dropped off, they boarded the bus to head to Bass Pro Shops in Chesterfield. During their visit they toured the whole store and back stock room, learning the interworking's of retail operations. Several of the areas we toured had a department head who talked about a variety of fishing related topics such as boaters/waters safety, types of fishing equipment, shooting sports and careers at the DNR. Of course, they also re-upped on some tackle at the end when they were given time to shop. After the tour concluded, they boarded the bus and headed back to Brandenburg Park to fish the pier. Howling winds made it difficult, but they kept at it and swung some bluegills and yellow perch over the rail.



Day 3-Boating on Lake St. Clair

Thanks in large part to the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association, the participants were able to get out on some boats! Broken into two shifts, all twenty-six participants got out and had a chance to fish off the boat, with some reporting it was their first time on a boat and their first time catching a fish! They were able to catch a variety of different species, with lots of yellow perch and even some big smallmouth bass. The day wrapped up with a detailed fish cleaning demonstration and a bag of fillet for all the participants to go home with! Each participant was gifted with a fishing rod and tackle box full of goodies at the conclusion of the program.

This was the first IGFA *Reel Into Fishing* program in Michigan and looks to have a strong foundation to continue! Special thanks to [Macomb County 4-H](#), [Michigan DNR](#), [Senator Kevin Hertel](#), and [Anchor Bay Fishing Club](#). Additionally, this program does not happen without [Lake St. Clair Walleye Association](#), especially Bob Barnes, Al McMurray, Rob Kennedy, Shawn Elliot, and Don Murray.

We look forward to continuing this program alongside the great community partners in Macomb County!



OTHER LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center is hiring

Love horses and enjoy working with people? The Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center is hiring a part-time Interpreter/Teamster to help care for horses, conduct hayrides, and share agricultural education with visitors. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Horse experience and public speaking experience are preferred. This is a great opportunity to work outdoors, connect with the public, and be part of a fun farm environment!

Apply here: <https://huronclintonmetroparks.applytojob.com/apply/0DZlPh3u00/>

MSU Extension Food Safety classes

MSU Extension is offering food safety-related classes this fall.

Serving Up Food Safety (Online, Free Sessions) - Mondays – 12 p.m.

Join MSU Extension food safety educators as they dive into food safety topics each week and answer your questions.

❖ Sept. 14, 2026 - As seen on tv- Is it Safe?

You can do more with squash than just zucchini bread! Explore simple, delicious ways to use and preserve zucchini and other types of squash.

❖ Sept. 21, 2026 - From Orchard to Oven: Pie Fillings in a Jar
Get ready to preserve pie fillings from the harvest season with research-based recipes and learn about the differences in clear gels.

❖ Sept. 28, 2026 - Preserving Homemade Jerky

Learn safe ways to make great-tasting jerky from your own harvested wild-game or meat you get from the store. To learn more and to register, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/events/serving-up-food-safety2026

Preserving MI Harvest (Online, Free Sessions)

Thursdays – 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. - Learn the latest methods and research for preserving foods at home. Let us help you fill your pantry and freezer by preserving food safely at home.

❖ Sept. 17, 2026- It's Sauerkraut Season! Let's Ferment!

Making batches of Sauerkraut is a tradition for many families. Learn proper techniques to prepare cabbage, ferment and process this product.

❖ Sept. 24, 2026 - Pickling and Preserving What's Left in the Garden
As gardens wind down, learn how to maximize what's left in the garden by pickling, canning and freezing fall produce.

To learn more and to register, visit:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/food_preservation/events

Michigan Cottage Food Law (Online, Free Sessions)

Learn how to safely prepare and sell allowable foods to the public made in home kitchens. The Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop reviews the food safety aspects and guidelines of preparing and selling cottage foods. The MSU Product Center joins us to cover the business aspects of the Cottage Food Law. A Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Inspector will be available for Q & A.

❖ Sept. 23, 6 pm EDT ❖ Nov. 2, 2 pm EST

❖ Oct. 15, 10 am EDT ❖ Dec. 7, 6 pm EST

To learn more and to register, visit:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-cottage-food>



Cafecito con Pan: Finding Strength and Well-Being in Our Culture

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a special **Cafecito con Pan** conversation featuring Lizette Orozco, LCSW, LMSW-C. Join us on **September 24 at 6 p.m. ET** as we explore how Hispanic culture, traditions, community strengths can support emotional well-being and resilience. The event will be conducted in Spanish, with key resources available in English and Spanish. Learn more and join via Zoom:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98253208128>

MSU Extension is hiring!

Food Processing Technician

Campus/Okemos

Position No. 1161656

Apply by September 15, 2026

Sanilac County 4-H Program Coordinator

Sandusky, Michigan

Position No. 1161394

Apply by September 29, 2026

4-H Public Engagement & Comm. Coord. — Communications Coordinator

East Lansing, Michigan

Position No. 1160906

Apply by September 29, 2026

Government & Community Vitality Extension Educator

Macomb County

Position No. 1164642

Apply by October 20, 2026.



Explore these and other
employment opportunities
with MSU Extension:

<https://careers.msu.edu>



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Ready to level up your future?

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club for youth ages 12-19 focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulting 101 topics, and more. Whether you're new to 4-H or already a member, there's a place for you on the squad! Find out more and fill out the interest form at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>

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 you 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. In Macomb County: #MacombMSUE4H.

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

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Adulting 101: Are You Ready?

Emergencies can happen anytime. Be prepared! Join us on September 23 at 5 p.m. where you'll learn how to stay calm, create a plan, and respond confidently during unexpected situations.

- Stay calm under pressure
- Make an emergency plan
- Build confidence and safety skills

Don't miss this important opportunity to get ready for anything! Register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-are-you-ready>

Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase results announced

This year's Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase featured 133 exhibitors, more than 330 entries, and representation from 43 counties across Michigan.

Thea N. of Ray Community 4-H Club represented Macomb County well, garnering second place in Senior Poultry Showmanship, and first place and Reserve Champion in Senior Rabbit Showmanship. Congratulations, Thea!

To view results, visit <https://fairentury.com/Fair/Results/23136>.

Michigan 4-H Business Pitch Contest Celebrates Young Entrepreneurs

The inaugural Michigan 4-H Business Pitch Contest, sponsored by MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU), showcased the creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit of youth from across the state. Held as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase, the contest challenged participants to develop and present original business ideas while strengthening skills in business planning, marketing, communication, and financial management.

Congratulations to the 2026 winners, who each received gift cards provided by MSUFCU:

Ages 16-19

- 1st Place: John T. (Genesee County)
- 2nd Place: Nia S. (Wayne County)
- 3rd Place: Leslie C. (Schoolcraft County)

Ages 12-15

- 1st Place: Tikristi O. (Midland County)

These outstanding youth demonstrated impressive problem-solving skills, creativity, and business acumen.

Get Starlink internet & support 4-H

For every Starlink Kit purchased and registered at Tractor Supply by Nov. 1, 2026, the first month's subscription will support 4-H.

<https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/brand/starlink>



Michigan 4-H Future Squad ...

@Your Future Starts Here!

Join 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? **4-H Future Squad** is a virtual 4-H club for youth ages 12-19 focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulting 101 topics, and more.

Whether you're new to 4-H or already a member, there's a place for you on the squad! Learn more & fill out the interest form:

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



Fair season may be over, but 4-H connections last all year.

Stay connected as the season shifts with Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends.

Find out more and join at:

<https://extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F>



CALENDARS 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

Macomb County 4-H Events

September 3

[4-H Online](#) reopens for 2026-2027 4-H member and volunteer enrollment/re-enrollment

September 7

County offices, including MSU Extension closed.

September 15

Last day to take the [4-H Youth Council Survey](#)

October 1

[Annual Financial Summary Reports](#) due

October 15

[2025-2026 Macomb County 4-H Award Application](#) deadline

November 9

Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet
Details TBA

Other Local Events

September 19

[Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration](#)
1-4 p.m., Warren City Hall Atrium, Warren

September 24

[Cafecito con Pan](#)
6 p.m., online

Statewide 4-H Events

September 9

Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

5:30 - 7:00 p.m., *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 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