



4-H Family News

October 2026

Volume 11 Issue 2

MACOMB COUNTY



Apply for County 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/>. Apply by Oct. 15.

Mark your calendars for the 2025-2026 Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet. It's November 9, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Italian American Cultural Society and Banquet Center in Clinton Township. An R.S.V.P. is required for this event. The link will be emailed soon. For more information, contact 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, complete this form:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/ft/r/a4DUsp5UyB>

Questions? Contact Rebecca at 586-783-8163.

New 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Team

A Macomb County 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Team will be forming soon! The group will learn more about rabbits and cavy and will compete in area contests such as Skillathon and Quiz Bowl. Macomb County 4-H'ers ages 9-19 are welcome. Sign up for details: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/ft/r/PCPx9f02J>.

Fall 4-H Club Leader Meet is Oct. 13th

Macomb County 4-H club leaders are invited to the Macomb County Fall 4-H Club Leader Meet on Tuesday, October 13th at 6 p.m. at the VerKuijen Building, 21885 Dunham Road, Assembly Rooms A & B, Clinton Township, MI 48036. We are looking forward to connecting, sharing success stories, and discussing important changes for the 2027 4-H program year. Club leaders, please extend the invitation to any project leaders within your club who you would like to attend.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Attend in-person or via Zoom. **Please R.S.V.P.** online at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/ft/r/4uapwEAHN9>. Contact 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran at duraneli@msu.edu or 586-469-6090 if you have any questions.

Short receives 4-H Excellence in Ag award

County 4-H volunteer Michelle Short has been named a recipient of this year's Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award. The award recognizes outstanding 4-H volunteers who help youth develop leadership skills through agricultural education and hands-on learning. Congratulations to Michelle on this well-deserved honor!



Michelle Short

Other award recipients include Erica Drake (Washtenaw County), Cathy Fry (Isabella County), Melissa Gordon (Monroe County), and Bryan Shirk (Branch County). Source: <https://www.facebook.com/Michigan4H/>

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

Diane Wisnewski, Supervising 4-H Educator

Kea Norrell-Aitch, 4-H Educator

Roberta Busquaert, Office Assistant – Senior

CONTACT US

VerKuijen Building
21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12
Clinton Township, MI 48036
Telephone: 586-469-6431
Email: macomb.4h@macombgov.org

Max Thompson Family Resource Center
11370 Hupp Avenue
Warren, MI 48089
Telephone: 586-469-7614

WEBSITE

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

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

4-H'ers volunteer at Warren's 1st Hispanic Heritage Festival

Article and photos submitted by Katie Nebel, 4-H Volunteer



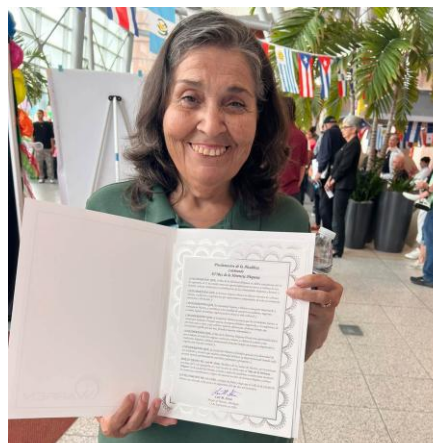
Clinton Valley 4-H signed up to promote 4-H at the City of Warren's first Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival on September 19th in the Warren City Hall Atrium. Macomb County 4-H involvement in the festival was coordinated by Lizz Duran, Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator.

Clinton Valley 4-H Club brought their Netherland Dwarf rabbit, a Leghorn Bantam chick and photos and ribbons that the kids won with their horses.

While listening to live music and watching authentic dancers, it was a wonderful event and was a great opportunity to showcase all the programs and projects that 4-H has to offer. 4-H members Vivian B. and Vaino B. answered many questions about their animals.

Bette Nebel and Katie Nebel were the leaders who helped supervise the tables while the youth volunteered.

Lizz Duran received special recognition from Lori Stone, Mayor of the City of Warren for all her efforts with 4-H and the community. →





OTHER LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Pumpkinfest at Tollgate Farm

Come to Pumpkinfest at Tollgate Farm, 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi! From October 3-4, 2026, enjoy classic traditions of wagon rides to pick your own pumpkin, live music, kids play area, educational implements, farm animals, and more!

New attractions include food trucks, professional pumpkin carvers, square dancing in Tollgate's historic barn (Saturday, 1-3 p.m. ONLY) and a Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt, where winners will receive a FREE donut!

Tickets

Advance: \$15 - ages 13+ / \$10 - ages 3-12
Walk-Ins: \$15 per person
Age 2 & under: FREE



Michigan Farm Bureau High School Discussion Meet registration is open

Macomb County 4-H teens are invited to participate in the 2026 Michigan Farm Bureau High School Discussion Meet, a leadership-focused competition that helps youth build communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while discussing important agricultural issues. Eligible participants include current 4-H members, FFA members, and dependents of Michigan Farm Bureau members.

For Macomb County youth, the Region II Discussion Meet will be held on November 12, 2026, at 6 p.m. at Milan High School. Registration is due by November 2, 2026. Each 4-H club may register up to three participants, and students must complete their own registration [here](#).

The top three competitors from each region (or four competitors in regions with more than 40 participants) will advance to the Michigan Farm Bureau State Discussion Meet on December 2, 2026, in Grand Rapids. Participants will discuss current agricultural topics, work collaboratively to develop solutions, and gain valuable leadership experience.

To prepare, youth are encouraged to review the [Discussion Meet guidebook](#), explore resources available through the [Michigan Farm Bureau Discussion Meet webpage](#), and watch [past competition recordings](#). Questions may be directed to Katie Cooper at kcooper@michfb.com.

Learn more and access preparation resources at [Michigan Farm Bureau Discussion Meets](#).

4-H Night with the Toledo Walleye

Celebrate all the hard work, leadership, and friendships built through 4-H with a fun night out at 4-H Night with the Toledo Walleye on March 14, 2027!

This family-friendly event is a great opportunity for 4-H members, volunteers, alumni, and supporters to come together, strengthen club connections, and create lasting memories. .

Reserve your club's tickets early to secure seats together and the best available locations. For ticket information, contact Owen Bailey at 419-725-9285 or owen.bailey@toledowalleye.com.

Help Monitor the North Branch of the Clinton River at Wolcott Mill – Oct. 3

Macomb County 4-H Volunteer Mary Barnes will be monitoring the North Branch of the Clinton River at Wolcott Mill for the [Clinton River Watershed Council \(CRWC\)](#) on Saturday October 3, 2026, at 10 a.m. This is a great environmental learning project and is a showable project area at the [Armada Fair](#). Any youth who is interested in learning is welcome join her. Please text Mary at 586-246-8603 and she will provide more details. This is the CRWC's official [Adopt a Stream](#) weekend.

Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar: Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H Club

October 27, 2026 | 12-1 p.m. | Online

Every 4-H meeting, activity, and conversation is an opportunity to help young people grow. Join this webinar to discover practical ways to intentionally infuse Positive Youth Development into your 4-H club. Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character, and caring. You'll leave with tools and ideas you can immediately incorporate into your club to help every member become beyond ready. <https://tinyurl.com/6whust3v>



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at:

www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulting 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management,

communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at:

www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan Animal Science Fall Fest

Animal science meets fall fun! Join Michigan 4-H for the all-new **4-H Animal Science Fall Fest** on October 31, 2026 in East Lansing. Designed by teens, for teens, this program is packed with hands-on sessions, career exploration opportunities, fall fun, and more! Registration is open through October 15th. For more information, visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026>

2027 4-H Exchange Programs announced

GO GLOBAL THIS SUMMER!! For Summer 2027 Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs is offering youth ages 12-18 the opportunity of a lifetime spending the summer with a host family.

States' 4-H International Outbound (OB) will be offering both Japan programs (4 & 8-Week), as well as Taiwan, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Norway. Discover new traditions, experience authentic culture, and make lifelong friends. Applications are now open for summer 2027! The Michigan 4-H deadline to apply is December 1, 2026

Learn more and apply [here](https://states4h.org/) and visit the States 4-H website: <https://states4h.org/>.

Questions? Contact Janis Brinn at brinn@msu.edu.

National 4-H Week is October 4-10

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, 2026. Here are some ways to celebrate:

Monday, October 5: Go GREEN Day! Show your 4-H spirit by wearing your favorite green clothes, hat, accessories, or anything green. Let's turn Macomb County GREEN on October 5!

Shout-Out a Volunteer: Who has made a difference in your 4-H journey? Celebrate the mentors, educators, volunteers, and supporters who inspire, encourage, and help youth thrive in 4-H. Share your story, thank someone who has impacted your life!

Shout-Out a 4-H'er: Recognize the hard work and dedication of 4-H'ers by shouting out one youth or an entire club on social media, in a local newspaper or other media.

Share Your 4-H Story: Take to social media to share a 4-H memory, express how 4-H shaped who you are today, describe what 4-H means to you, post an old 4-H photo, or shout-out your 4-H club.

Alumni stories: It's always a good time to tell 4-H alumni stories, but no time is better than National 4-H Week! Share your person alumni story with Michigan 4-H by submitting it at tinyurl.com/4xdbmnv7.

Displays/Information Booths: Ask local businesses to display 4-H posters, flyers, showcase the work of 4-H'ers, or host a table to share information about your local 4-H program.

Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week> for additional ideas!

Share a photo & tag your state and county 4-H programs!
#4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek #MacombMSUE4H

Adulting 101: Everyday Skills & Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health – October 7th



Mental health matters! Join the FREE Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar, *Mental Health Toolkit*, on October 7 from 6-7 p.m.

Learn practical strategies, healthy habits, and resources to support your well-being. Perfect for teens and young adults preparing for independence. Register: bit.ly/4AvNiOZ



STARLINK



4-H, Tractor Supply, & Starlink are working together to bring fast, affordable internet access to rural America.

Today, access to reliable technology and internet connectivity is more important than ever for learning, leadership development, career exploration, and staying connected to opportunities.

That's why we're excited about a new initiative with Tractor Supply and Starlink designed to expand broadband access in rural communities while supporting the next generation of Beyond Ready leaders.

From September 1–November 15, for every Starlink Kit purchased at Tractor Supply and registered within 10 days, Starlink will donate the value of your first month's subscription to 4-H. In addition, customers receive \$50 off each Starlink Kit purchased in-store or online at Tractor Supply from September 15–November 15.

As part of the initiative, Starlink is providing free kits and service to local 4-H communities in rural areas.

Together, we can help ensure more young people—regardless of where they live—have access to the opportunities, resources, and experiences that prepare them to be Beyond Ready for the future.



CALENDARS OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H



Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

Macomb County 4-H Events

October 1

[Annual Financial Summary Reports](#) due

October 12

Macomb County offices closed

October 13

[Macomb County Fall 4-H Leader Meet](#)

6-8 p.m., VerKuilen Building, Rooms A & B, Clinton Township

October 15

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

November 9

Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet 6 p.m., Italian American Cultural Society & Banquet Center, Clinton Township R.S.V.P. required. The link is coming soon!

Other Local Events

October 3

MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026

October 27

MI 4-H Volunteer Webinar: Infusing Positive Youth Development into your 4-H Club

12-1 p.m., online

November 12

MI Farm Bureau High School Discussion Meet

Milan High School, Milan

Statewide 4-H Events

October 4-10

National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

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

October 7

Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

Online

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27

4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club
Online

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31

4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026



MSU Extension – Macomb Program Guide

Read the current MSU Extension-Macomb Program Guide [here](#).
Subscribe to receive it each month.