



## Monroe County 4-H Network

# 4-H Family News

February 2021

## BRRR... Welcome to February!

We've made it to February and we are slowly inching toward warmer weather! I hope you all are finding ways to stay warm and safely enjoy time together with family and/or friends.

As we continue to move closer to the spring and summer months, I want to provide an opportunity for hope as we glance ahead toward what 4-H will look like in the coming months. We know that 2020 was a year like no other, posing one challenge after another. As the communication was made in early January from Dr. Jeff Dwyer and Dr. Jake De-Decker, there are currently plans being made to return face-to-face, most likely with those first face-to-face interactions being made outside. There are processes and protocols being implemented to hold events particularly for those events needed to prepare for a fair. However, for the most part, we will continue for now with virtual programming. We need your support in these efforts to help us make the best of these continuing hard times.

Please read ahead throughout this issue of *The Network* to see what is going on in Monroe and around the state!



## COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!



Attention High School Seniors OR students enrolled in post-HS classes!! Applications are now available on the Monroe County MSU Extension website [https://www.canr.msu.edu/monroe/monroe\\_county\\_4\\_h/monroe\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1\\_1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/monroe/monroe_county_4_h/monroe_county_4_h_1_1).

Applications are DUE via electronic portal [here](#) by 5pm on Friday, April 16, 2021. Interviews will be Monday, April 26, 2021 via Zoom.

Schedule your interview timeslot by visiting: <http://bit.ly/2021scholarships4h>

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## Contact Us

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Support Staff  
734-240-3182  
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Sara Lewis  
4-H Program Coordinator  
[seitzsa1@msu.edu](mailto:seitzsa1@msu.edu)

**VACANT**  
4-H Program Coordinator

### Address

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Monroe, MI 48161  
Main 734-240-3170  
Fax 734-240-3183  
[msue.monroe@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.monroe@county.msu.edu)

### Web Site

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/monroe/monroe\\_county\\_4\\_h/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/monroe/monroe_county_4_h/index)

### Office Hours

(currently working remotely)  
Monday-Friday  
8:30am-4:30pm

### Social Media

Find us on Facebook:  
[@MonroeCountyMI4H](#)



# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm 4-H Council @ Zoom  Monroe County 4-H Scholarship Applications are available!	2	3	4 7pm State Awards-Life Skills Workshop @ Zoom	5	6 9am-12pm Beef Tagging @ Fairgrounds
7	8	9 4pm State Awards Resume Workshop @ Zoom	10 7pm JLA Special Meeting @ Zoom	11	12	13
14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 6pm Cat Program @ Zoom	16 4pm State Awards Cover Letter Workshop @ Zoom	17	18	19	20
21	22 7pm State Awards Resume Workshop @ Zoom	23 6pm CSI @ Zoom	24 7pm State Awards Cover Letters Workshop @ Zoom  7pm Teen Ambassadors @	25	26	27
28						

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm 4-H Council @ Zoom	2	3 6pm Terra Quest @ Zoom	4	5	6
7	8 7pm Horse & Pony Board @ Zoom	9 4pm State Awards Open Office Hours @ Zoom	10	11	12	13 Capitol Experience-Day 1
14	15 6pm Cat Program @ Zoom	16	17 Capitol Experience-Day 2 	18 7pm Fair Advisory Board @ Zoom	19	20 Capitol Experience-Day 3
21	22 7pm Small Animal Association @ Zoom	23 6pm CSI @ Zoom 7pm 4-H Dog Program @ Zoom	24 7pm State Awards Open Office Hours @ Zoom	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 7pm Teen Ambassadors @ Zoom			

## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Email communication from MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer and State 4-H Leader Jake DeDecker on Wednesday, January 6, 2021:

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To say that 2020 was difficult is an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic and the losses and life changes that came along with it took its toll on many of us. At MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H, we felt the pain that comes with cancelling events and pivoting exclusively to online programming.

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone—inside or outside Extension—who isn't eager to get back to face-to-face programming. We understand that our Michigan 4-H families are missing incredible experiences and connections that were built through in-person gatherings and programs. Waving to your friends, colleagues, volunteers and 4-H'ers in a Zoom meeting isn't the same as seeing them in person. It is, however, an important step toward protecting our friends, families and colleagues during a public health crisis.

We are making plans to resume face-to-face programming, and we look forward to engaging 4-H'ers, their families and volunteers. Our staff is working diligently to chart a path toward resuming in-person programming when the threat to public health caused by COVID-19 greatly diminishes. Though it is premature to cite a specific date, we are eager to see you all at the events, club meetings, competitions and fairs we all have grown to love. Our first interactions will likely be outside, and, of course, will respect other public health protocols.

In the meantime, we are committed to bringing high-quality virtual programming to residents and communities with varying needs throughout the state. It's a great opportunity to keep 4-H'ers connected and get other young people interested in the organization we all know and love so much. We encourage 4-H'ers and clubs to continue meeting via zoom and engage in the many virtual educational programs offered by 4-H. For more information on virtual programs and resources or help setting up 4-H club meetings, contact your 4-H program coordinator or visit [MSU Extension Remote Learning and Resources web page](#).

Thank you for all that you do. We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dwyer

Director, MSU Extension

Jake DeDecker

State Leader, Michigan 4-H Youth Development

Associate Director, Children and Youth Institute

Michigan State University Extension

# Beef Tagging

Saturday, February 6, 2021

9am-12pm

Monroe County Fairgrounds-Beef Barn

For more information, please contact Beef Superintendents:

Mike Jaworski: 734-770-3881

# Sheep & Swine Tagging

Saturday, May 1, 2021

9am-12pm

Monroe County Fairgrounds-Show Arena

More details to come, specifically for Swine, as there are changes in the tagging requirements with MDARD.

## YQCA

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

Required for youth (8-19 y/o) showing the following animals:

Swine	Beef Cattle
Dairy Cattle	Goats
Sheep	Market Rabbits
Market Poultry	

Participation Options:





January 19 @ 7pm	Application
January 25 @ 4pm	Application
January 27 @ 4pm	Life Skills
February 4 @ 7pm	Life Skills
February 9 @ 4pm	Resume Writing
February 16 @ 4pm	Cover Letters
February 22 @ 7pm	Resume Writing
February 24 @ 7pm	Cover Letters
March 9 @ 4pm	Open Office Hours
March 24 @ 7pm	Open Office Hours

Have you ever thought about applying for a 4-H State Award but you just do not know where to start or maybe you have submitted an application in the past but you need suggestions on your cover letter or resume? Consider joining a virtual training. Each training will start at the stated time, there will be a short video played around that topic and then staff will stay on to answer specific questions. Open office hours is a time that staff will be available to answer any questions that you have regarding your 4-H State Award application. Open office hours are designed to pop in, ask a question and get an answer, you do not need to stay the whole time. Registration is required, registration will stay open through each event. You must register for each session you plan to attend, click the date below to register. Questions? Please reach out to your county 4-H Program Coordinator or Janice Zerbe, [rajzerj@msu.edu](mailto:rajzerj@msu.edu), 4-H State

## 2021 SAA Dates

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March 3 or March 25 7pm Poultry Workshop

April 14 or April 29 7pm Rabbit, Cavy & Pocket Pet Workshop

April 22 or May 4 7pm Broiler Workshop

April 27 6:30pm or May 19 6pm Mandatory Dog Program Meeting

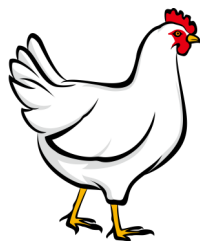
June 7 6pm All Species Fitting & Showing Clinic, Mandatory Dog Program Meeting

July 6 6pm Barn Set-Up @ Fairgrounds

July 31st Animal Check-in

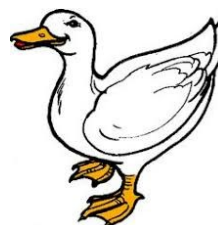
August 1st-7th—Monroe County Fair!

**\*\*All workshops are currently scheduled to be held via Zoom. Registration links will be available soon. All dates/locations are subject to change\*\***



### Broilers and Ducks:

### ORDER NOW!!



#### Pricing

**Broilers: \$1.75 each**

**\*must order no later than May 4th**

**\*\*pickup will be June 17th\*\***

**Ducks: \$3.00 each**

**\*must order no later than April 1st**

**\*\*pick up will be May 6\*\***

To order or for more information, please contact  
Barbara Siebarth 419-350-9482 or Susan Arting 734-649-4117.

REMEMBER: Broilers MUST be purchased through the  
Small Animal Association.



# MANY THANKS!!!

Thank You...Teen Ambassadors and the Monroe County community for your support of two community service efforts hosted by Monroe County 4-H in November and December. The Pennies for Turkeys event raised \$1000 to support the purchase of 62 hams that were distributed to families in need around the county. This is the largest donation made by the club for this effort. A special shout out to Raisinville Wranglers for their support of this service project with their canned food drive.

Members of the Teen Ambassadors 4-H Club was able to virtually carry out their fleece blanket project where members were able to individually complete their projects while “zooming” together. The blankets were then dropped off to the MSU Extension Office to accompany the Mitten Tree project.

Your service during these difficult times is greatly appreciated by the members of the community in which we serve. Congratulations and we can't wait to see what else you will be able to accomplish!





## 2021 JLA Dates

April 14 or May 19 7pm Sheep Workshop

April 6 or May 11 7pm Swine Workshop

April 22 or May 4 7pm Broiler Workshop

May 1 9am-12pm Sheep & Swine Tagging @ Fairgrounds

June 7 6pm All Species Fitting & Showing Clinic

July 6 6pm Barn Set-Up @ Fairgrounds

July 31st Animal Check-in

August 1st-7th—Monroe County Fair!

**\*\*All workshops are currently scheduled to be held via Zoom. Registration links will be available soon. All dates/locations are subject to change\*\***

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### Updates to Official Identification for Exhibition Swine 2021

For the 2021 exhibition year and beyond, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will no longer provide bulk orders of the plastic NUES tags for county fairs to use as official ID as they have in the past. These are the tags that superintendents have either put in during tagging or you received if purchasing through a local breeder.

So, what does this mean for you:

- The individual exhibitor or owner of the animal will need to acquire the official identification (ID) for the animal(s) in the form of a USDA 840 tag.
  - This can be done by the exhibitor purchasing a pig that has already been tagged with a USDA 840 tag by the breeder or by the exhibitor purchasing USDA 840 tag(s).
  - Exhibitors are strongly encouraged by MDARD to request that tags are placed in the pig before purchasing it.
  - Currently, there is no requirement for in state breeders to provide official ID or USDA 840 tags; instead, this is a service that the breeder can provide for their customers.
- It is illegal to remove official ID tags from an animal. You may not apply an official ID tag if one is present in the animal already. For example: If a pig currently has a USDA 840 tag identifying it, a NUES tag should not be applied to the animal.
- **The Monroe County Fair will still require a non-official fair specific identification tag for the exhibition event.**

More information regarding the changes for official identification of exhibition swine can be found [here](#).

# 4-H CAPITOL EXPERIENCE

Virtual  
Youth  
Summit



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Extension



**4-H GROWS HERE**

The 4-H Capitol Experience Youth Summit is now open for registrations. Youth in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through age 19 are invited to join with their peers to discuss topics important to them and learn how youth voices can make an impact on policy, both now and in the future. This 8-hour program spread across three days in March places an emphasis on meeting and discussing ideas with youth and elected officials from across Michigan. The \$20 registration fee includes a mailed conference kit. Registration is open now until February 21. More information is available online at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/)

# 2021 SKILLATHON

## Michigan 4-H State Championship

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Test your knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



**Registration is Open for the  
Southeastern Regional - Sat. Mar. 20**

[events.anr.msu.edu/skillathon/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/skillathon/)

See pages 12-13 for flyer and more details!





**REGISTER:**

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/skillathon/>

**MORE INFO:**

[canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2021-michigan-4-h-skillathon](http://canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2021-michigan-4-h-skillathon)

**CONTACT:**

**Geep Charlebois,**  
4-H Program Coordinator:  
Antrim & Otsego Counties  
[charleb7@msu.edu](mailto:charleb7@msu.edu)

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## 2021 Michigan 4-H Skillathon

**Region 1: March 6, 2021**  
Upper Peninsula & Northern Michigan

**Region 2: March 13, 2021**  
Southwestern Michigan

**Region 3: March 20, 2021**  
Southeastern Michigan

Competitions will take place via Zoom

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*Test your knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management in 10 different categories.*

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Contestants who place in the top 20th percentile of each age division will qualify for the Michigan 4-H Skillathon State Championship held on April 10, 2021!

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### AGE DIVISIONS:

- ◆ Novice (8-11 years)
- ◆ Junior (12-14 years)
- ◆ Senior (15-19 years)
- ◆ Adult (open to current adult volunteers)

**GET A 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON SHIRT!**



# Skillathon: continued

**Region 1:**  
Upper Peninsula and  
Northern Michigan  
Saturday, March 6, 2021  
10 AM Eastern/9 AM Central



## Skillathon Start Times:

### Seniors & Adults

Check-in: 9:30 AM EST / 8:30 CST

Contest starts: 10 AM EST / 9 AM CST

### Juniors & Novices

Check-in: 12:00 PM EST / 11:00 AM CST

Contest starts: 12:30 PM EST / 11:30 AM CST

**Region 2:**  
Southwestern Michigan  
Saturday, March 13, 2021  
9AM Eastern



## Skillathon Start Times:

### Seniors & Adults

Check-in: 8:30 AM

Contest starts: 9 AM

### Juniors & Novices

Check-in: 11:00 AM

Contest starts: 11:30 AM

**Region 3:**  
Southeastern Michigan  
Saturday, March 20, 2021  
10 AM Eastern



## Skillathon Start Times:

### Seniors & Adults

Check-in: 8:30

Contest starts: 9 AM

### Juniors & Novices

Check-in: 11:00 AM

Contest starts: 11:30 AM

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**Coming soon: virtual  
4-H Capitol Experience  
Youth Summit**



Save the date for the 4-H Capitol Experience Youth Summit, March 13, 17 and 20!

This fully virtual event will have opportunities for youth engagement, networking, sharing ideas, meeting with decision makers, learning about careers in and around policy, and learning the basics about government.

Youth will select issue groups, which will become small group learning cohorts throughout the event.

Sessions will be held:

- March 13, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- March 17, 4—6 p.m.
- March 20, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

This event is open to youth in eighth grade through age 19; registration will begin in February. The \$20 cost to attend will include a mailed conference kit to enhance the virtual experience. Scholarships are available.

## 4-H Events and Workshops

February 1-28: Cooking with Kristi

*Online*

This six-part on-demand video series will provide participants with access to instructional cooking videos and a private Facebook group. Youth will learn kitchen safety and sanitation, recipes for tasty and economical foods, and cooking techniques and terms.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking-with-kristi](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking-with-kristi)

February 2: Life of the Straits Winter Edition

*Zoom Webinar*

The program will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays through Feb. 9. Each session will share information on amazing features of the Straits of Mackinac and the wonderful winter activities you can enjoy there. This program is ideal for youth 8-12 years but is open to any family.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/life-of-the-straits-winter-edition-2021-feb-2](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/life-of-the-straits-winter-edition-2021-feb-2)

February 9: Wild Spartans Series—Working with Honeybees

*Zoom Webinar*

Join each month to meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In February, attendees will hear from an entomologist and learn what the buzz really is about bees!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february)

February 13: MSU Tollgate Farm Homegrown Gardening Series

*Zoom Webinar*

Interested in starting a vegetable garden for the first time or are you an experienced veggie gardener looking to explore new ideas? All levels of experience are welcome at this new series designed to encourage and support home vegetable gardeners! Sessions will be held monthly.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-feb-13](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-feb-13)

February 18: MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Virtual Winter Series

*Zoom Webinar*

This youth-led series, occurring monthly, is a safe place for past, present, and future MSU Tollgate Farm stewards and stewards-in-training to connect or reunite as a community and to explore resiliency and growth as youth leaders.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-feb-18](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-feb-18)

February 20: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Baked Corndogs

*Zoom Webinar*

Participants will learn how to prepare a healthier version of a corndog.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-baked-corndogs](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-baked-corndogs)

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

### Update on Michigan 4-H programming

*A message from MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer and Jake DeDecker, state leader of Michigan 4-H Youth Development*



To say that 2020 was difficult is an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic and the losses and life changes that came along with it took its toll on many of us. At MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H, we felt the pain that comes with cancelling events and pivoting exclusively to online programming.

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone—inside or outside Extension—who isn't eager to get back to face-to-face programming. We understand that our Michigan 4-H families are missing incredible experiences and connections that were built through in-person gatherings and programs.

We are making plans to resume face-to-face programming, and we look forward to engaging 4-H'ers, their families and volunteers. Our staff is working diligently to chart a path toward resuming in-person programming when the threat to public health caused by COVID-19 greatly diminishes. Though it is premature to cite a specific date, we are eager to see you all at the events, club meetings, competitions and fairs we all have grown to love.

In the meantime, we are committed to bringing high-quality virtual programming to residents and communities with varying needs throughout the state. We encourage 4-H'ers and clubs to continue meeting via zoom and engage in the many virtual educational programs offered by 4-H. For more information on virtual programs and resources or help setting up 4-H club meetings, contact your 4-H program coordinator or visit MSU Extension Remote Learning and Resources web page at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/rlr/>. Thank you for all that you do. We hope to see you soon.



### World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute applications due April 1

**AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** become inspired and prepared as the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

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. On May 6, youth will join virtually to become inspired and prepared as the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas related to global food security with experts and other Michigan youth while learning how university faculty and staff members, researchers and students are working to address world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the April 1 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a two- to five-page research paper about a developing country and how it is affected by one of 20 key factors that impact food security. At the online event, youth will present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. They will also participate in an interactive session with global challenge experts to learn more about topics related to global food and food security.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be considered as possible delegates to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, or virtually, in October. For more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/). Registration will open on March 1; registration and papers are due by April 1.

**TIME Magazine selects 4-H'er as "Kid of the Year"**

**TIME**

Congratulations to Colorado 4-H'er Gitanjali Rao, TIME Magazine's Kid of the Year! At age 15, Gitanjali is the first 4-H'er to ever be selected for the honor.

Gitanjali earned the distinction for her efforts to address a range of major problems. Utilizing STEM, she has worked on issues that include contaminated drinking water, opioid addiction and cyberbullying. It is her belief that young innovators such as her hold the key to solving world problems.

Read more about Gitanjali's 4-H story and experiences in her interview with TIME:

<https://time.com/5916772/kid-of-the-year-2020/>