

# Montcalm County



4-H



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## Welcome Packet

*for new families*

# **MICHIGAN STATE** UNIVERSITY | **Extension**

Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to 4-H, the youth development program of Extension! 4-H provides youth with positive learning experiences that help build character, while developing knowledge and skills that prepare them for the future.

I hope that your experience with Montcalm County 4-H provides your family with a positive experience that you will look back on and remember for years to come. Participation in 4-H should be educational as well as fun for the whole family. I know that 4-H is a large program and can be difficult to navigate, especially for new families; and I hope that this guide will give you the information you need to find your way around.

As you become more and more involved with 4-H, you will continue to have new opportunities – even beyond Montcalm County – because 4-H events occur at the county, state, national, and even international levels! All the fun starts at the club level. I encourage you to become very active with your 4-H club. Throughout the year, I ask that you keep in mind that most 4-H experiences are made possible by volunteers. Volunteers and 4-H staff will do their best to make the experience positive for your family. Throughout the year, you and your family may also be asked to lend a hand; please remember that many hands make light work, so if everyone pitches in a little the job will be done quickly. I understand that families are very busy, but any amount of help your family provides is appreciated to make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the experience.



**MONTCALM COUNTY**  
Michigan State University  
Extension

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<https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county>

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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer.

If you have any questions throughout your 4-H journey, you can always reach out to the Extension office by calling 989-831-7514 or reach me via email at [haglund10@msu.edu](mailto:haglund10@msu.edu).

Sincerely,

Sunni M. Haglund

4-H Program Coordinator

## **Table of Contents**

Montcalm County MSU Extension .....	4
Includes office location, contact information, and staff	
Montcalm County 4-H Policies .....	5
Includes our non-discrimination policy, 4-H age, and enrollment information	
4-H Pledge... ..	7
4-H Emblem.....	7
National 4-H .....	7
Michigan 4-H Youth Development .....	8
Michigan 4-H Foundation.....	9
State 4-H Workshops and Events... ..	9
Montcalm County 4-H Year... ..	10
Montcalm County 4-H Committees.....	11
Montcalm County 4-H Clubs... ..	13
Montcalm County 4-H Projects and Life Skills.....	13
Montcalm County Fair.....	14

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# Montcalm County MSU Extension

4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Extension system. The Smith-Lever Act formalized Extension in 1914 to expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) partnership with land-grant universities to apply research and provide education to communities. 4-H programming is delivered locally and operated at the state and national levels through a partnership between county governments, the Extension at the state's land grant university (in Michigan, through Michigan State University Extension), and the USDA.

## **Location and Contact Information**

211 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 368 Stanton, MI 48888

Phone: (989) 831-7500

Website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm\\_county\\_4\\_h/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/)

Email: [msue.montcalm@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.montcalm@county.msu.edu)

4-H staff email: [haglun10@msu.edu](mailto:haglun10@msu.edu)

## **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Our office is closed during county and MSU holidays or if Montcalm County government offices close for weather. We are also a small office, so there may be times when we are closed unexpectedly due to sickness, programming, or emergencies.

## **County Staff**

Vicki Newcomb, Office Manager

Sunni Haglund, 4-H Program Coordinator

Steven Whittington, Field Crops Educator

## **District Supervisors**

Bill Hendrian, District 8 Director

Roxanne Turner, 4-H Supervising Educator

# Montcalm County 4-H Policies

## 4-H AGE

A 4-H member's age is determined by whatever age they will be during the 4-H year. The 4-H year begins on September 1, but 4-H age is determined by the age that the child **WILL** be on January 1 of that following year. For example, a youth born on January 20, 2005 would have a 4-H age of 18 for the program year that runs September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, even though they are 17 on September 1.

Youth that have a 4-H age of 5 – 19 years of age may join the 4-H program.

- Youth that are 4-H age 5 – 7 years old are considered Cloverbuds, which only participate in non-competitive settings (please select the “Introductory 4-H Projects” project area in 4-H Online).
- 4-H members are ages 8 – 19 and participate in both non-competitive and competitive settings.

## ENROLLMENT/REENROLLMENT

4-H has year-round enrollment, meaning you can join at any time during the program year (between September and August); however, individual experiences or clubs may have additional deadlines to be able to participate in that experience or club.

- Returning members and volunteers should reenroll as soon as you know you are rejoining the program.
- New members must enroll by the deadline for the experience they wish to join. April 15 is the deadline to be eligible to show at fair as a 4-H member.

All youth and volunteers register via the 4-H Online website. More information about 4-H Online and the link to register can be found at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm\\_county\\_4\\_h/4\\_h\\_enrollment](https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/4_h_enrollment)

Please note that you are not considered a 4-H member until you have enrolled or reenrolled in 4-H Online AND your enrollment has been accepted by the Extension office. Only members and volunteers need to enroll in 4-H Online.

## Stay in the loop!

Make sure you are connected to Montcalm County 4-H through the following means:

- Make sure your 4-H Online email address is current! Most communication is done via email through 4-H Online.
- Visit our website regularly at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm\\_county\\_4\\_h/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/)
- Follow Montcalm County 4-H on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MontcalmCounty4H>
- Please make sure your projects are updated in 4-H Online. We do send project-specific emails only to those participants enrolled in certain project areas as relevant.
- Fair information, including the fair book, can be found on the fair website at: <https://montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com/exhibitor-info>

### COST TO JOIN

As of June 2021 and all future program years, joining 4-H is FREE! Some 4-H clubs and experiences may charge a club due, project fee, or other registration/experience fee.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION

4-H clubs, members, and volunteers cannot discriminate by means of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

MSU Extension is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive organization that recognizes and celebrates every one of us. To learn more about our Culture, Access, and Belonging work, please visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>.

### VOLUNTEERS

Our program relies on our volunteers and we appreciate their help! Any adult that wishes to enroll as a volunteer with 4-H must complete the Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to enrolling in 4-H Online. You may wish to volunteer as one of two types of 4-H volunteers:

1. Gold level volunteer. As a Gold level volunteer, you may wish to serve as a club administrative leader, project leader, or a general activity volunteer in your club or at the county level.
2. Silver level volunteer. As a Silver level volunteer, you may wish to serve at a recruitment booth, or other public-facing booth at events (such as 4-H – run events at the fair).

If you are only serving as a one-time guest speaker, setting/cleaning up at an event, or other minimal contact activity, you do not need to go through the process. **Please note that adults who have not successfully completed VSP cannot assist any youth except for their own children.**

VSP includes filling out the online application located at [https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/#/volunteer\\_home](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/#/volunteer_home). This includes completing a background check, reference check, interview, and Volunteer Learning Modules.

### FINANCIAL GUIDELINES AND FUNDRAISERS

Each club, volunteer, member and parent is required to follow the financial guidelines for Michigan 4-H clubs. You can find the 4-H Financial Guidelines for Volunteers and the 4-H Financial Guidelines for Treasurers books linked below:

Volunteers: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial\\_manual\\_for\\_4\\_h\\_volunteers](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial_manual_for_4_h_volunteers)

Treasurers: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial\\_manual\\_for\\_4\\_h\\_treasurers](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial_manual_for_4_h_treasurers)

Please contact the Extension office with any questions.

All 4-H fundraisers must have a completed fundraising request form submitted to the Extension office at least two weeks prior to the start of the fundraiser. A follow-up report form must be completed and submitted no more than 10 days following the event.

## 4-H Pledge

I pledge....

My head to clearer thinking

My heart to greater loyalty

My hands to larger service

My health to better living

For my club, my community, my country and my world.

The 4-H pledge, which should be said at the beginning of every club and association meeting, addresses all four areas of youth development (cognitive, emotional, social, and physical). You should work with the youth to help them memorize the 4-H pledge.

## 4-H Emblem



The 4-H emblem is a four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf, which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The 4-H emblem (commonly called the 4-H clover) is protected by law from commercial and unauthorized use. Due to this protection, only chartered 4-H clubs and organizations are authorized to use the 4-H clover in publications and advertising. The clover must also always been seen with the 18 USC 707 trademark (with few exceptions). There are also very strict policies regarding how you may use

## National 4-H

the clover in documents, apparel, etc. (for example, text or images cannot be placed over the clover). For further explanation of these policies, visit <http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem>.

<http://www.4-h.org/>

4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, empowering six million youth in the U.S. and is part of the Cooperative Extension system of land-grant universities.

National 4-H provides a wealth of resources, including curriculum and activities as well as fund development, for local 4-H programs. They coordinate National 4-H Week, which occurs in

October each year, along with the 4-H National Youth Science Day that occurs that week. They partner with Tractor Supply Company to host the Paper Clover Campaign (customers can donate \$1 to their local 4-H program at each TSC store) each fall and spring.

National 4-H also runs Shop 4-H, which is your go-to source for 4-H gear, including curriculum, apparel, club supplies, and more. Visit <https://shop4-h.org/> to find all that they offer!

### *Did you know?*

*Many of the curricula and activities from Shop 4-H are available to check out for FREE from the Extension office!*

## Michigan 4-H Youth Development

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/index>

Michigan 4-H Youth Development operates under Michigan State University Extension. The program creates non-formal, educational opportunities to help youth thrive in a complex and changing world. There are seven guiding principles that provide the foundation for educational methods, activities and events that positively affect the lives of Michigan's youth. These are:

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
4. Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
5. Youth develop skills that help them succeed.
6. Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism.
7. Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.

Michigan 4-H provides a wealth of resources and activities around a variety of project and topic areas, including animal science, arts, careers and entrepreneurship, citizenship, leadership, community service, environmental and outdoor education, global and cultural education, healthy youth, life skills, science and technology, volunteering, and mentoring.

### **State Awards and Scholarships:**

Youth can apply for different awards and scholarships at the state level. Michigan 4-H State Awards are the highest award levels for the state and include three awards: Mark of Excellence for youth ages 11-12, Junior level awards for ages 13-15, and Senior level awards for ages 16-19. Awards are normally submitted by February and are awarded at the Michigan 4-H Exploration Days event.

Scholarships include the Michigan Rabbit/Cavy 4-H Scholarship for those involved with the rabbit/cavy project area, Michigan State University 4-H Scholarship for high school seniors who have applied to MSU, Michigan State University Pre-College Program Scholarship for students in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade who attend an MSU pre-college program (such as 4-H Exploration Days,



4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp, 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp, or 4-H Capitol Experience), and Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarships.

To view awards and scholarships, visit

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/index).

## Michigan 4-H Foundation

<http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/about.html>

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is a non-profit fundraising organization that solicits, manages, grants and stewards support from private individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations to support Michigan 4-H Youth Development programs. Gifts made to the Foundation support:

- 4-H volunteer training at a reduced cost
- County 4-H volunteer recognition
- State 4-H youth awards and recognition
- College scholarships for 4-H youth
- County and state 4-H grant opportunities
- Creation of new curriculum and learning materials
- Development of new and current 4-H programs
- Development and maintenance of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens at MSU
- 

## State 4-H Workshops and Events

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/events>

There are many statewide 4-H workshops and events that 4-H members can attend throughout the year. A few sample events are listed below. Visit the website linked above to find more information about each event.

- 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp
- 4-H Capitol Experience
- 4-H Exploration Days – The most popular 4-H event!
- 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp
- 4-H Renewable Energy Camp
- 4-H Mentoring Weekend
- 4-H Creative Arts Workshop
- 4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular
- 4-H State Shows (Dog, Horse, Poultry, Rabbit/Cavy, Shooting sports, etc.)

### *Did you know?*

*There are many scholarships available to attend statewide workshops and events. The Montcalm County 4-H Council offers scholarships to cover registration fees.*

*Some events even offer their own scholarships. Call the Extension office to find out more about scholarships for the event you want to attend!*

- 4-H Winterfest
- 4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
- 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
- Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference
- 4-H Robotics Workshop

## Montcalm County 4-H Year

The 4-H year runs from September 1 – August 31. Our county calendar of events can be found on the link above. Below is a sample of a typical program year in Montcalm County 4-H:

### September:

- Fall Leader Training for all 4-H club and committee leaders.
- Nominations and elections for club and association/committee officers are also usually held in September, October or November.
- County award nominations and applications are due on the first Tuesday in September.



### October:

- National 4-H Week is usually the first full week in October. Events during this week usually include the 4-H National Youth Science Day and the Tractor Supply Company fall paper clover campaign.
- National 4-H Dairy Conference
- 4-H Council votes for new officers.
- Awards Banquet - Sponsored by 4-H Council, this event celebrates the achievements of our volunteers and youth selected to receive county awards.

### November:

- Veteran Thank You Luncheon / 4-H CCC Veteran Challenge
- 4-H National Congress

### December:

- Re-enrollment in 4-H Online by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- State 4-H award forms for members age 13-19 are available (usually due in February or March).
- 4-H Scholarship information available.

### January:

- Officer training for new club or group officers.

### February:

- Usually 1-2 countywide winter workshops (craft, science) are held this month.

### *Did you know?*

*Youth can participate in more than one club/experience!*

*Our county and statewide 4-H program runs many SPIN (short term special interest) clubs throughout the year in a variety of topics! Check them out in the club section!*

March:

- 4-H Exploration Days registration opens (sign up early!)
- College Scholarships Due
- 4-Her of the Year App Due
- 4-H Capital Experience

April:

- 4-H Shooting Sports club meetings begin (Program runs April – October)
- Spring break workshops
- 4-H Exploration Days registration deadline is this month.
- New member enrollment deadline is April 1st to be able to attend fair as a 4-H member.

May:

- Fair entry forms due via Showworks for those interested in exhibiting at fair.

June:

- 4-H Exploration Days occurs at MSU.
- Montcalm County Fair (usually the last week)
- 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship

July:

- Summer programs are offered. 4-H State Shoot

August:

- 4-H State Dog and Horse Shows

### *Did you know?*

*YOUth have the power in 4-H! Youth are strongly encouraged to attend county-level association and committee meetings, where you have a voice in shaping county decisions and direction!*

*Many of our associations and committees offer leadership opportunities for youth and teens! 4-H Council, JLA, SAA, and HDC have youth boards. Voting for youth boards occur at each association's first meeting in the fall of each year. Youth are also encouraged to be involved in and take a leadership role with committees!*

## Montcalm County 4-H Committees

Montcalm County 4-H has a variety of committees to guide certain project areas and events. Participation is highly encouraged and many offer great leadership opportunities for youth!

### 4-H COUNCIL

4-H Council is the association that helps to oversee activities for the county 4-H program. Meetings are on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Extension Office and on Zoom. All clubs are encouraged to send representatives to this meeting to have a voice in shaping our county program (all youth 4-H members and volunteers who attend have voting privileges).

4-H Council oversees the following activities:

- Scholarships for attending events
- At the Montcalm County Fair:
  - Opening Ceremonies
  - Market Shack
  - Record Books
  - Still Exhibits / Auction
  - Performing Arts/Style Show
  - Club Booth/Exhibits
  - Showmanship Sweepstakes
- County Awards
- Participation Celebration Awards Banquet

#### YOUTH LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the beef, sheep and swine project areas. Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Ash Foundation Building.

#### SMALL ANIMAL COMMITTEE

Provides educational opportunities for youth involved in birds and poultry, rabbits and cavies, and goats. Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month of the following months at 6:00 pm in the Ash Foundation Building.

#### HORSE LEADERS COMMITTEE

Provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the horse project and organizes the county's State 4-H Horse Show selection of delegates. Horse Leader Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Ash Foundation Building.

#### DOG COMMITTEE

The dog committee provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the dog project. Dog Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Ash Foundation Building.

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Connection Committee(CCC) Committee consists of 4-H Leaders, 4-H Teen Members & 4-H Parents to:

Promote 4-H outside of the Annual Montcalm County Fair, Support the Superintendents in various project areas within our County, Support the 4-H Advisory Council.

#### *Did you know?*

*You can receive text message reminders about 4-H meetings! When you enroll or reenroll in 4-H Online, add your cell phone to the appropriate box, check that you would like to receive texts, and add your carrier from the drop-down menu. Text messages are only sent for those association/committee meetings that are related to the projects you add in 4-H Online.*

The 4-H CCC hosts an annual bake-off, which is typically held in the fall.

4-H Community Connection Committee (CCC) meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month @ 7:15 p.m. (immediately following council's meeting) via zoom.

### SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Shooting Sports Committee consists of 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator, Instructors, and Leaders, 4-H Youth Members, and 4-H Parents, coming together to continue to make the Shooting Sports Program a success. The County 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator plays a key role within the county, ensuring the program is organized and all Instructors and Leaders are informed of updates, events, changes to policy, and to ensure that the Instructors stay certified to teach/coach within their discipline.

### DAIRY COMMITTEE

The Montcalm County 4-H Dairy Committee consists of 4-H Volunteers, youth members, and parents, that are involved in the Dairy Project within our county. They typically meet just prior to the Montcalm County Fair, and a few times throughout fair week.

## Montcalm County 4-H Clubs

There are several different types of clubs within the 4-H structure. 4-H members may be involved with more than one club as fits their needs (most often, members in a community club also join a project club or SPIN club, or may be in two community clubs that focus on a different range of projects).

### COMMUNITY CLUBS

Involve members of a variety of ages and interests. These clubs meet year-long and have general club meetings which may be held on a monthly basis that all club members attend and include club business and educational activities. These clubs may also hold project-specific meetings throughout the year under the guidance of their project leader.

### PROJECT CLUBS

Focus on one specific project area. These clubs meet on a weekly or monthly basis with more than six meetings per year and focus mostly on project work. The current list of Montcalm County 4-H community and project clubs, along with a contact person, contact information, location, and project areas is located at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/uploads/files/MONTCALM%20COUNTY%204H%20CLUBS%20BROCHURE%202021-22.pdf>

### SPIN CLUBS

Also focus on a specific project area like project clubs; however, these clubs are short-term in length (usually one hour per week for six weeks). Past clubs have included LEGO robotics, junk drawer robotics, cloverbud robotics, cooking, nutrition, and entrepreneurship. Offered SPIN clubs vary throughout the year, so watch the newsletter or the county calendar for more information.

## Montcalm County 4-H Projects and Life Skills

Based on the experiential learning model (doing an activity, then reflecting on the activity and applying knowledge learned), youth in 4-H participate in specific program areas through the learn-by-doing approach. These specific program areas are known as projects. Youth will select the projects they want to work on with the support of an adult volunteer leader.

In addition to gaining the valuable content knowledge of the project the youth works with, the 4-H model also teaches members critical life skills, including practical skills such as goal-setting, critical thinking, and record-keeping, as well as personal and interpersonal skills such as leadership, teamwork, character, communication, self-esteem and responsibility. Iowa State University Extension has a Life Skills Model that connects the various life skills to the four H's within 4-H. This model can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/explore/lifeskills>. All 4-H projects can be connected to many of these life skills.

The Michigan 4-H Youth Development Program has seven guiding principles for positive youth development that help us create an environment where youth and adults can learn and grow in a positive way. The principles support volunteer leaders and parents in understanding how Michigan 4-H Programs are developed. You can find the current Guiding Principles of 4-H here: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/bring\\_youth\\_into\\_the\\_promotion\\_of\\_4-hs\\_guiding\\_principles](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/bring_youth_into_the_promotion_of_4-hs_guiding_principles).

# Montcalm County Fair

<https://www.montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com/>

The Montcalm County Fair is the largest event each year where Montcalm County 4-H members have the opportunity to showcase the projects they have been working on all year. The Montcalm County Fair Association is spearheaded by the Fair Board, a group of 15 volunteers who manage the fair and the fair grounds. Fair board meets the first Monday of every month at the Ash Foundation Building on the fairgrounds and their annual membership meeting is in October.

Here are a few things to note about fair:

1. **You do not have to exhibit at fair to participate in 4-H, nor do you have to be in 4-H to exhibit at the fair.** Exhibiting your projects at the fair is an event that you may participate in with your 4-H projects, just like any other event.
2. All youth who wish to exhibit at fair as a 4-H member must be enrolled in 4-H by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. The answers to most questions can be found by looking in the fair book, which is available online at the website linked above. This will include the schedule for fair, general rules, camping rules, livestock regulations, and class entry information. Fair book changes must be submitted to the fair office by September 1. The fair board committee reviews changes with superintendents, approves, and compiles the fair book. This process can be lengthy and it may take until March or April until the current year's fair book is released. If you have questions about the fair book or rules, contacting the superintendent is a good place to start!
4. Superintendents are those that are in charge of a particular project area(s) at the fair. Please remember that they are volunteers! They also hold a wealth of information about their project area and are most likely to know answers to questions regarding their project area. Each animal species has its own rules and policies (located in the fair book or on barn duty/pen or stall fee forms). Those are posted under the appropriate species link on the fair website, but please contact your superintendent for further information. Contact information for each superintendent can be found on the fair website, under "About".

