



May 2026

# 4-H Family News

Ogemaw



 Happy May 4-H Families! 

We again want to express our gratitude to the community for all the support with our bake sale at Tractor Supply Co. We couldn't do everything we do without the community support.

Thank you to the volunteers who have been leading the crochet club. It is a fun and exciting opportunity for local youth!

The BB gun SPIN club starts this week! I can't wait to see youth improve their skills. There is still time to register on 4-H Online if youth would like to participate.

We are now offering a sewing club. Youth ages 10-19 will meet at the MSU Extension office on Mondays beginning May 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00pm. Register on 4-H Online.

We will also be offering a new Craft Exhibition Club. Youth will learn what specifically can be entered into the fair still exhibits. They will do a few projects to enter in the fair. (Registration coming soon)

Thank you to the continued support of volunteers to keep strong programs going and expand new programs. Your help is incredibly valuable and does not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Stephens  
4-H Program Coordinator

## CONTACT US

Stephanie Stephens  
4-H Program Coordinator



MSU Extension Office  
208 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St  
West Branch, MI  
48661

## PHONE & EMAIL:

(989) 345-0692

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

## WEBSITE:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/MSUExtensionOgemawCounty4H>

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Creating Beyond-Ready Youth Through 4-H Project Learning



### Beyond Ready

4-H prepares youth for the world of work by engaging them in high quality, hands-on learning grounded in meaningful project content. When young people apply skills, solve real problems and reflect on their learning, they build confidence and readiness for future careers.

4-H programs intentionally create these opportunities, helping youth practice communication, teamwork, decision making and technical skills that transfer to real world settings. Some ways to deepen project work could include: adding real life tasks, inviting youth to demonstrate mastery or guiding reflection that connects the activity to future workplace expectations. Every project meeting is a chance to help youth become Beyond Ready, capable, and confident.

#BeyondReady

### May 4: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

Online

Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's Youth Business Guide to Success. Discover how you can mentor youth in goal setting, budgeting, marketing and record-keeping for real-world skills.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects)

### May 5: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the five Ps of marketing and explore strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales and build valuable industry connections.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5)

### May 12: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn to keep track of what you spend and earn to make smart choices for market livestock projects. Equip youth with tools to track expenses, set goals and ensure projects are profitable and rewarding.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12)

### May 14: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered each Thursday from May 14 – June 18.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026)

### May 18: Adulting 101 Webinar – Cooking with Confidence

Online

Increase your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking\\_with\\_confidence](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence)

### May 19: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Pitch to Payment

Online

Communication and outreach are important methods to recruit buyers for market livestock projects. Discover how to use social media to promote your project, reach a wider audience and share progress.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19)

### June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting [Michigan.gov/sos](http://Michigan.gov/sos), by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](http://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).

## Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.



Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.

 **SEWING**

Registration for our sewing club is now open for youth ages 10-19! The club will meet Mondays beginning May 11 until June 22 (Excluding May 25th Holiday) from 5:30-7:00pm at the MSU Extension office 205 S 8th St West Branch 48661.

Registration is required (but it is free!) Register here:

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

-If your family is new to 4-H, you will need to create an account-

\*We are starting with older youth, but plan to offer this same experience for younger youth later this year!\*

For questions, please email [steph544@msu.edu](mailto:steph544@msu.edu) or call 989-345-0692



## 4-H YOUTH SEWING

Teaching youth the basics of sewing

**When:** Mondays May 11- June 22  
(Excluding May 25 Holiday)

**When:** 5:30-7:00pm

**Who:** Youth ages 10-19

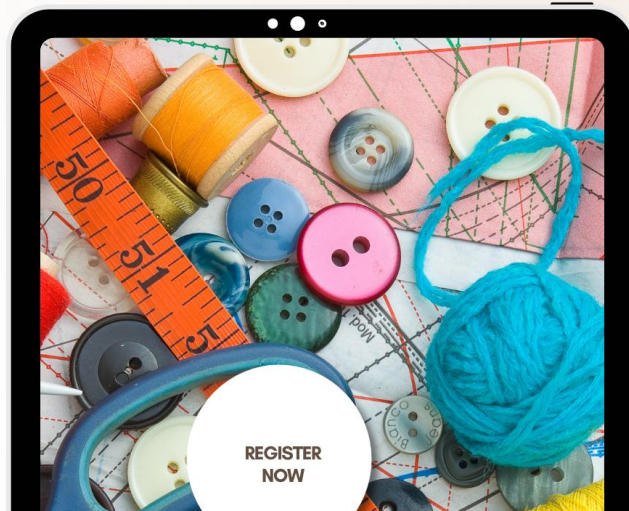
**Where:** 205 S 8<sup>th</sup> St  
West Branch, MI 48661

**Registration Required:**

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

Register for **"SPIN Club Spring Sewing"**

Questions: Email [steph544@msu.edu](mailto:steph544@msu.edu)  
or call 989-345-0692



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS ARE OPEN TO ALL WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION, AGE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILY STATUS OR VETERAN STATUS.

## 🔔 Coming SOON Craft Exhibition



**What:** Getting creative, learning the guidelines and making projects to enter as still exhibits in the fair

**Who:** Youth ages 5-14

**When:** Wednesdays, June 3- July 8, 6:00-7:00p.m.

**Where:** 322 W Houghton Ave

**Register:** <https://v2.4Honline.com/#user/sign-in>

**Contact:** 989-345-0692 or [steph544@msu.edu](mailto:steph544@msu.edu)

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Extension



Beyond  
Ready



# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Babysitting and CPR Class | April 18, 2026 | 9:00am-4:00pm | MSU Extension

Youth Marketing Mandatory Fair Meeting | June 1, 2026 | 7:30pm | Fair Grounds

Exploration Days | June 24-26 | Michigan State University, Lansing

## Ogemaw 4-H Livestock Meetings

January 21, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

March 18, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

May 20, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

July 15, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

September 16, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

November 18, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

## Ogemaw 4-H Council Meetings

January 21, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

March 18, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

May 20, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

July 15, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

September 16, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

November 18, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

## Ogemaw County

MSU Extension Office

208 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St

West Branch, MI

48661

(989) 345-0692

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



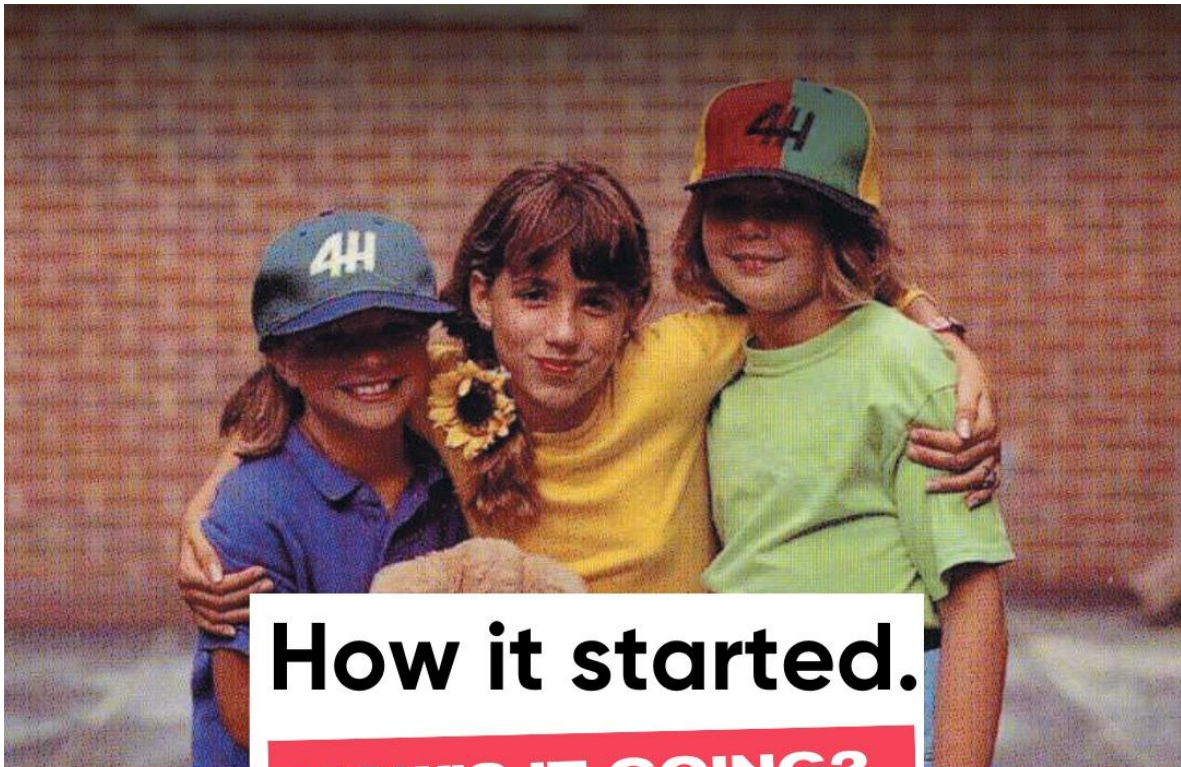
## Has MSU Extension made a difference in your life?

Whether through 4-H, nutrition education, farm programs, or financial resources, we'd love to hear your story!

If MSU Extension has had an impact on you, please share it with us. Include:

- A photo of you from your younger years
- A current photo
- A brief story about how MSU Extension helped shape your journey

Your story could inspire others and showcase the lasting value of Extension programs across Michigan!



**How it started.**

**HOW'S IT GOING?**

Share your 4-H alumni #BeyondReady story!



**Beyond  
Ready**

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY | Extension

[WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/4H/EVENTS](http://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/4H/EVENTS)



# VOLUNTEER WITH MICHIGAN 4-H

Michigan 4-H is the youth development program of Michigan State University Extension. Through fun, hands-on educational opportunities, Michigan 4-H is helping to prepare a ready generation in a world of change. And critical to delivering these opportunities are volunteers - the most essential partner in the 4-H program.

Consider becoming a Michigan 4-H volunteer today and help to prepare the next generation. By giving your time, talent and skills, you can help ready youth for whatever the future holds. Give an hour a week, month or year - there are volunteer roles for any skill level, time commitment and interest area.

With your help, more kids will be ready to take on the world. More youth, more community, more ready!



## Ready to get started?

Volunteer experiences are available in every Michigan county with opportunities to engage at the local, state, national and even international level. To get started, simply scan the QR code or visit [extension.msu.edu/4Hvolunteers](http://extension.msu.edu/4Hvolunteers). To connect with 4-H in your county, contact:



**Ogemaw County MSU Extension**  
205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661  
Program Coordinator: Stephanie Stephens  
989-345-0692 or [steph544@msu.edu](mailto:steph544@msu.edu)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



# Beyond Ready





# 4-H MERCHANDISE

Looking to represent 4-H for our county? We are happy to provide merchandise for Ogemaw County 4-H! Explore our collection of stylish t-shirts and hoodies, available in a variety of colors and sizes for both youth and adults. Every purchase helps to promote and celebrate the local impact of 4-H. You can receive an additional 15% off your purchase by applying the code **15OFF4-HOC** at checkout. If you're looking to save even more, feel free to select in-store pickup with 313 Designs located at 313 W. Houghton Ave. STE A. West Branch, MI 48661. Don't miss out—grab yours today!

Shop Here: <https://www.313designswb.com/shop/4-h/Y5YHVJHU7LCX5C2QZGFPSTSC>

\*Please note, we do not have these available for purchase in the office, they are available online only.





## 2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

### 4-H Animal Science Staff

**Autumn Converse**  
4-H Livestock and Veterinary  
Science Educator  
[conver20@msu.edu](mailto:conver20@msu.edu)

**David Lindsay**  
4-H Equine Educator  
[lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu)

**Kendra Van Order**  
4-H Dairy Educator  
[vanorde4@msu.edu](mailto:vanorde4@msu.edu)

**Jermo Reese**  
4-H Animal Science Program  
Instructor  
[reesejer@msu.edu](mailto:reesejer@msu.edu)

**Jacob Stieg**  
4-H Poultry Point of Contact  
[stieg@msu.edu](mailto:stieg@msu.edu)

**Kat VanDouser**  
4-H Dog Point of Contact  
[krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu)

**Glenda Weiss**  
4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact  
[weissgle@msu.edu](mailto:weissgle@msu.edu)

<b>January 24</b>	4-H State Rabbit Show
<b>Feb. 27- March 1</b>	4-H Dairy Conference
<b>March 7</b>	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
<b>March 14</b>	4-H Horse Communications Contest
<b>March 21-22</b>	Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show
<b>March 21</b>	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop
<b>March 22</b>	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl
<b>April 11</b>	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
<b>April 12</b>	4-H Hippology State Contest
<b>May 6</b>	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
<b>June 10-11</b>	Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp
<b>June 27</b>	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
<b>July 1</b>	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
<b>July 6-7 &amp; 8-9</b>	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
<b>July 13-16</b>	4-H Youth Dairy Days
<b>August 13-16</b>	4-H State Horse Show
<b>September 19</b>	4-H State Dog Show



**Scan me** for more  
information about these  
programs!



Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.