



FEBRUARY 2026

# 4-H Family News

Ogemaw



Happy February,

Youth who plan to MARKET in the 2026 Ogemaw County Fair are required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training. This can be completed online by selecting “Web-Based Training” for \$12, or in person by selecting “Instructor-led training” for \$3. There is also a “test out” option for \$36-\$48.

We are offering two dates/times for in person this year. (Youth only need to attend ONE or complete the online course) These dates are February 13, 2026 at 7:00pm and February 19th at 6:30pm. Both trainings will be held at the Ogemaw Heights High School Auditorium. Youth must be registered 24 hours prior to the training. It is important to be on time and stay for the duration of the training to receive credit. It should be about an hour long.

If attending in person, youth must be registered prior to the training and complete a pre-test. Registration is open at [www.yqcaprogram.org](http://www.yqcaprogram.org) Find our specific time and location.

If you have any questions please contact the office at 989-345-0692 or email [steph544@msu.edu](mailto:steph544@msu.edu)

Thank you!

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/>

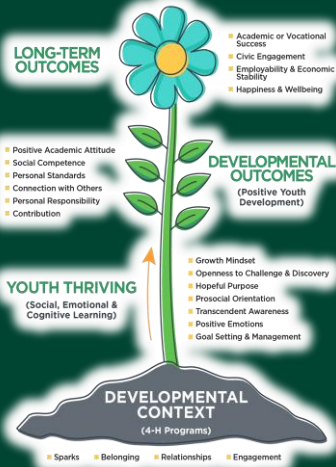
<https://www.facebook.com/MSUExtensionOgemawCounty4H>

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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a “roll call” or “ice breaker” at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of “What’s your favorite cheese?”, know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.  
#BeyondReady

### February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month’s session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with “Walking a Path of Conservation.” Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february)

### February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn’t just an activity—it’s a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences)

### February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11)

### February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats)

### February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026)

### February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



## Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

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. Held May 7 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

## Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin! This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.



Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.

## Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.



Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).

## 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!



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

✨ Have you spotted our 4-H quilt boards yet? ✨

We'd love for you to check them out, snap a photo and share it on Facebook publicly to show your support for 4-H. ❤️ You just might earn a prize!

Each month, these boards will rotate to local businesses. Could your business be next? If you'd like to feature one, reach out, we'd love to partner with you.

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



# 4-H Family News

OGEMAW COUNTY



**Beyond  
Ready**



# 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)

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# Beyond Ready



# HERE IS SOME OF THE GOOD STUFF 4-H OFFERS!

Calling all 4-H members ages 12-19 years old (current 4-H age)

Have you heard of Michigan 4-H State Awards? Do you like to receive recognition for your hard work? Interested in earning a scholarship to attend 4-H Exploration Days or a cash award?

Join us for a webinar to learn more about the awards program.

February 25, 2026 4:00 pm

Meeting ID: 962 3624 0828

Passcode: 847857

Ready to get started:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index)

Applications accepted March 1-April 1

**Beyond  
Ready**



**Interested in applying for a  
Michigan 4-H State Award  
but not sure where to start?**



**Join us on a webinar  
to learn more!!**

**January 29 @6:30 p.m.**

**February 25 @4:00 p.m.**



**MSU EXTENSION**



**WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/4H/EVENTS**

HERE IS SOME OF THE GOOD STUFF 4-H OFFERS!

Due to an unexpected scheduling issue, Michigan 4-H Day with the Tigers will now take place on Sunday, April 12! Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for this fun day at Comerica Park as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins. Receive a co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers bucket hat and make a donation to 4-H with your ticket. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Michigan4H26>.

# Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

NEW  
DATE!



Beyond  
Ready

April 12

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## HERE IS SOME OF THE GOOD STUFF 4-H OFFERS!

Registration is now open for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop!

This one-day workshop will take place on Saturday, March 7 on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is designed for 4-H youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1, 2026) and Active Gold MSU Extension volunteers in beef, sheep, goats, and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of breakout sessions, including intro to your species project, animal evaluation, marketing your livestock project, nutrition, and more! Registration will cost \$35, which includes lunch and a t-shirt. Full details and a link to register can be found here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2026>

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**2026**

**Michigan 4-H  
Spring  
Livestock  
Workshop**

**March 7, 2026**

♥ Show your love for 4-H this Valentine's Day! ♥

Looking for a heartfelt way to support Michigan youth? Give the gift that keeps giving—the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate! Every plate purchased helps fund programs that empower young people to learn, lead and grow.

♥♥ Share the love, show your pride, and make a difference—order your 4-H plate today through the Michigan Secretary of State!

📎 Learn more at [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).



**GET YOUR 4-H LICENSE PLATE**

Learn more: [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate)

Do you want to make our state a better place? 4-H Capitol Experience is now open for registrations! Join us at the Michigan Capitol March 15-17 to learn more about state government, and how your voice can make an impact! More information available on our website at

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/)

# Capitol Experience



**Cost \$365**

Scholarships may be available through your local 4-H office!

**MARCH 15-17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**



Register by March 1<sup>st</sup> @<https://events.canr.msu.edu/CapitolExperience2026/>




**WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/4H/EVENTS**

## HERE IS SOME OF THE GOOD STUFF 4-H OFFERS!


 Calling all Michigan youth ages 13–19!


Get ready for the Smart Money Missions GooseChase Game — an interactive scavenger hunt that teaches money skills while you play!  

 April 1–21, 2026

 Register by April 20 at 11:45 PM

 Play on the GooseChase app

Complete fun missions, earn points, and you could win \$50 gift cards! A minimum of \$500 in prizes will be awarded. 

 Download the GooseChase app, create a username using your first and last name, then register at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-mission-goosechase-game>

Sponsored by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation & Michigan 4-H Foundation.

# 2026 Money Smart Mission GooseChase Game



**Who: Michigan residents aged 13-19**

**What: Fun online missions to show your money smarts  
and learn about finances and entrepreneurship!**

**When: 4/1/26 - 4/21/26**

**How: Register online to access contest**



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



## 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!



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# 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.





# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Ogemaw County

YQCA Training | February 13, 2026 | | 7:00pm | OHHS | 960 M-33 West Branch, MI 48661

YQCA Training | February 19, 2026 | 6:30pm | OHHS | 960 M-33 West Branch, MI 48661

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

### 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

