



March 2026

4-H Family News

Ogemaw



Happy March,

We are in full swing with our animal clubs as YQCA trainings are completed and clubs have been meeting each month.

Friendly reminder that senior scholarship applications are due on Friday, March 13th by 4:00pm.

Our spring babysitting class registration is officially open! See page 7 for details.

We are looking for individuals to become volunteers to offer a sewing club for our county. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the office.

I hope your year is going well so far!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Stephens
4-H Program Coordinator



CONTACT US



Stephanie Stephens
4-H Program Coordinator

MSU Extension Office
208 S. 8th St
West Branch, MI
48661

PHONE & EMAIL:

(989) 345-0692

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

*Preparing youth
to be
Beyond Ready*



**Beyond
Ready**

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.

Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.

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**

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



The Heart of 4-H

WELCOME...

Contact us:

Stephanie Stephens
4-H Program Coordinator

MSU Extension Office
208 S. 8th St
West Branch, MI
48661



Beyond Ready

The heart of 4-H

By Stephanie Stephens

Ogemaw County 4-H Program Coordinator
Michigan State University Extension

Why our community needs volunteers now more than ever

Across Michigan and the nation, youth programs are feeling the strain of shrinking volunteer numbers, and 4-H is no exception. While the need for youth development opportunities continue to grow, the number of adults able to step forward and support these programs is not keeping pace.

Volunteers have always been the backbone of 4-H. Caring adults can serve as club leaders, mentors, instructors, chaperones and positive role models. MSU Extension provides volunteers with ongoing support, training, materials, and even funds for clubs or events. Local volunteer, Elton L. said he “enjoys seeing youth learn new skills and

watching these skills progress with age.”

Without volunteers, our local youth are unable to have access to hands-on learning experiences that teach confidence, leadership, responsibility and community involvement.



Stephens

We need you! Amazing things happen when caring adults share their talents. We’d love to offer more hands-on opportunities for youth to learn life skills such as sewing, cooking and nutrition, vehicle maintenance, and so much more.

Do you have a skill, hobby, or passion you’d be excited to share? Your knowledge could spark confidence, creativity, and lifelong skills in a young person right here in our community.

Let’s make it happen together. Call the MSU Extension office at 989-345-0692 or email steph544@msu.edu to learn more.





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. 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

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Beyond Ready



BABYSITTING AND CPR CLASS FOR YOUTH



CALLING ALL YOUTH AGES 10-19 WHO WANT TO LEARN LIFE SAVING CPR AND FIRST AID. PLUS BABYSITTING SKILLS SUCH AS DIAPERING, FEEDING, EMERGENCY SKILLS, CARING FOR INFANTS/TODDLERS, AND MORE!

DETAILS

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026

9:00AM-4:00PM

COST: FREE

LUNCH PROVIDED

REGISTRATION : 4-H Online

NEW USERS REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://V2.4HONLINE.COM/#/USER/
SIGN-IN](https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in)

(CREATE A FAMILY ACCOUNT)

EXISTING USERS REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://OGEMAWCOUNTYBABYSITTI
NGANDCPR.4HONLINE.COM](https://ogemawcountymbabysittingandcpr.4honline.com)

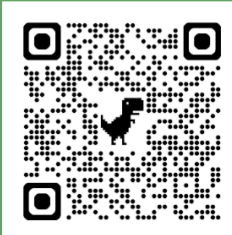
**THANK YOU TO OUR
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Ogemaw County
Child Protection Council



M | **My Michigan Health**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH



**DRUG-FREE
COALITION**
OF OGEMAW COUNTY

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

MICHIGAN STATE
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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



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



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

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Ogemaw County

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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.



✨ 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



4-H Family News

OGEMAW COUNTY



**Beyond
Ready**



2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse
4-H Livestock and Veterinary
Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay
4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order
4-H Dairy Educator
vanorde4@msu.edu

Jermo Reese
4-H Animal Science Program
Instructor
reesejer@msu.edu

Jacob Stieg
4-H Poultry Point of Contact
stieg@msu.edu

Kat VanDouser
4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glenda Weiss
4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

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



Scan me for more
information about these
programs!

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