



JULY 2026

4-H Family News

Shiawassee County Clover Connection



Welcome to a Busy 4-H Summer

Hello 4-H families and friends!

It's summertime, and that means we've got an exciting monthly newsletter to share. As always, we've included information on upcoming statewide events, along with several local highlights. Be sure to check out all the available opportunities your child may be interested in.

In this edition, you'll find information about volunteering in the 4-H Foodstand during fair week and how you can share your fair week photos with us. We've also included highlights from 4-H Explorations Days and Shiawassee 4-H Camp.

There's a lot to explore, so make sure to take a few minutes to check it all out. We look forward to seeing what Shiawassee County 4-H continues to accomplish this summer!

Sincerely,

Alexis Wheeler

4-H Program Coordinator

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SHIAWASSEE 4-H ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

Did you know that as a Shiawassee County 4-H member, you can attend county advisory board meetings as a guest? Below is a list of all the Shiawassee County 4-H advisory boards and their upcoming meeting dates and times.

All meetings take place at the Shiawassee County MSU Extension office (149 E Corunna Ave, Corunna, MI 48817). We hope to see you there!

4-H COUNCIL | JULY 6 | 7:00 PM

SMALL ANIMAL ASSOCIATION | JULY 8 | 6:30 PM

4-H HORSE LEADERS | JULY 13 | 7:00 PM

4-H DAIRY PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE | JULY 20 | 6:30 PM

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth to
be Beyond Ready
through the fair
experience*



Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days

July 16: Water Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day

July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

Haithco Park, Saginaw

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp

July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day

July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026

July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.



2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship.





County 4-H News

2026 4-H Exploration Days Recap



Seven Shiawassee County 4-H members had the opportunity to attend 4-H Exploration Days on Michigan State University's campus. They spent three days and two nights meeting new people, learning new skills, and experiencing campus life.

Participants enjoyed dining in the campus dining halls like college students and even had a visit from Sparty during their time on campus.

A special thank you to Don and John for serving as chaperones for the boys and for teaching multiple shooting sports sessions. In addition, Alexis served as a chaperone for the girls and also taught a session.

One of our members attended both sessions offered by Shiawassee County staff and volunteers and shared that they were his favorite sessions of the entire trip.

Planning to Help in the 4-H Food Stand? Volunteer Steps to Know

Are you an adult who might be helping out in the 4-H Food Stand this summer? All adults working in the food stand need to complete the **MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process** and become, at minimum, a **Silver Level volunteer**—and some responsibilities may require you to be a **Gold Level volunteer**, depending on your role.

Summer may seem far off, but it'll be here before you know it—so don't wait to start the process! If you haven't already gone through the selection steps and think you'll need to, you can apply through [Volunteer Central](#).

If you have any questions or need help figuring out what level of volunteer status is required for your role, feel free to reach out to Alexis Wheeler at wheel297@msu.edu. We're looking forward to another great fair season and appreciate your support!

Share Your 4-H Fair Photos

As we near the 2026 Shiawassee County Fair, I want to encourage parents and youth to share any photos they take during fair week. Please feel free to email photos to wheel297@msu.edu, along with the names of the individuals pictured, for a chance to be featured on our Facebook page or in the monthly newsletter.

We love highlighting all the great things our members are doing during the fair. Please note that any youth in photos must be enrolled in 4-H Online and have a signed media release on file.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Oh, the Places We Went: 2026 Shiawassee 4-H Camp Recap



Shiawassee 4-H Camp was a huge success! Youth had the opportunity to take part in archery, arts and crafts, swimming, boating, learning about wildlife and fire building, and, of course, camp songs.

Campers were also well fed with amazing meals prepared by our awesome kitchen staff, including a fun ice cream social on Sunday night. Our camp counselors and volunteers worked hard to make this an unforgettable experience for the campers—from creating Dr. Suess-inspired characters like Grumpletrunk and Fishy Larry to making sure everyone had a great time.

We were excited to welcome special guests who taught campers, counselors, and staff about wildlife birds, including owls and falcons, as well as fire-building skills. Campers walked away with new skills, new friendships, and lasting memories.

We can't wait for the 2027 Shiawassee 4-H Camp!

