



JUNE 2026

4-H Family News

Shiawassee County Clover Connection



June Edition of the Clover Connection

Summer has arrived, and we have lots of updates on summer 4-H events to share. As always, we've included information on **upcoming statewide events**, along with several local highlights. Be sure to check out the statewide opportunities your child may be interested in participating in.

This month's newsletter is coming out a little early so that you see that **Shiawassee 4-H Camp registration is open** before it closes. Be sure to get signed up so you don't miss out!

We've also included important **fair information**, including volunteer requirements for the **4-H Foodstand** and key dates for fair entries, so make sure to review those carefully.

In addition, you'll find recaps of recent local events, including our **embryology programming** in school classrooms and **camp counselor trainings**. We're excited to share all the great things happening in Shiawassee County 4-H!

Sincerely,

Alexis Wheeler

4-H Program Coordinator

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 | JUNE 1 | 7:00 PM

SMALL ANIMAL ASSOCIATION | JUNE 3 | 6:30 PM

4-H HORSE LEADERS | JUNE 8 | 7:00 PM

4-H DAIRY PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE | JUNE 10 | 6:30 PM

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION | JUNE 11 | 6:30 PM

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing Youth to Be Beyond Ready Through 4-H Livestock Projects



Beyond Ready

4-H livestock projects provide powerful, real-world learning that helps youth become Beyond Ready for life, work and leadership. Caring for animals teaches responsibility, time management and problem solving, all of which are essential skills for future success. Through chores, recordkeeping and making informed decisions, youth practice accountability and perseverance.

Livestock projects also build confidence as members explain their work to judges, interact with buyers and demonstrate professionalism in the show ring. When volunteers encourage reflection, support goal setting, and help youth connect these experiences to life beyond the barn, young people begin to see how their efforts today prepare them for tomorrow. Are your project activities helping youth become Beyond Ready?

#BeyondReady

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. Find new caches, trade travel bugs, explore the gardens and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache

June 9: Online Extension Extras for Parents: Internet Safety

Online

Screens are everywhere, and children are spending more and more time in front of them. This session will discuss topics including steps to take to keep kids safe online, apps youth use and their safety, Michigan laws, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-internet-safety-6-9-26

June 11: Adulting 101 – AI and You: Smart, Safe and Savvy

Online

As part of the Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar series, this session will explore the basics of how artificial intelligence works, ways it can support you, and how to make smart decisions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you

June 18: Pirate and Pixie Garden Party

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Argh me mateys. Join a morning of swashbuckling fun! Go on a treasure hunt, making pixie dust, decorate an eye patch and more!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pirate-and-pixie-garden-party

June 23: Digger Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, East Lansing

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in communities.

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

July 1: 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging State Contest

Farm Bureau Pavilion, East Lansing

Participants will demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve communication and decision-making skills. Register by June 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Register for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive

While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award. Registration is due by June 15. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026.



MSU Extension honors 11 Michigan 4-H volunteers for 50 years of service in 2026

For the sixth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

“We give thanks for every volunteer in our program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “Michigan 4-H would not exist as it does today without the dedication of volunteers who generously share their gifts, and these 11 remarkable individuals in particular have been sharing their gifts for a half-century. We offer them our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all they’ve done for our organization and Michigan 4-H’ers.”

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2026 are:

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kay Booth, Barry County | • Deb Pincumbe, Ingham County |
| • Joyce Goerge, Clinton County | • Linda Preston, Cass County |
| • Betty Groth, Cass County, | • Peter Preston, Cass County |
| • Beverly Koppelman, Monroe County | • Kathy Williams, St. Clair County |
| • Gary Koppelman, Monroe County | • Mary Yeomans, Midland County |
| • Michael Lee, Osceola County | |

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at:

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Shiawassee 4-H Camp Registration Now Open



Registration for **Shiawassee 4-H Camp** is currently open! Registration closes on **June 1**, with late registration available through June 9, depending on availability. Camp will take place **June 13-15** at **Camp Neyati**.

This year's camp will feature a **Dr. Suess-inspired theme**, adding an extra dose of creativity and fun. Campers can look forward to three days of excitement, including archery, crafts, and outdoor adventures, along with plenty of opportunities to make new friends.

Camp is open to youth **ages 7-12 as of January 1**. Don't miss out on one of the best parts of the summer!

The cost is **\$75 if registered by June 1**, with late registration at \$100. Registration is completed through [4-H Online](#). Youth must be enrolled and approved in 4-H Online before they can be registered for the event.

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!

Shiawassee County Fair Entries Opening Soon

Shiawassee County Fair entries will be open **June 1-15** for in-county exhibitors and June 16-20 for out-of-county exhibitors. Don't miss the opportunity to get your 4-H projects entered for this year's fair.

Entries must be completed online through [ShoWorks](#). The 2026 Exhibitor's Guide is available on the [Shiawassee County Fair website](#) and includes important information such as class lists, rules and regulations, and details for exhibiting at the fair.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the **Shiawassee County Fair office** at (989) 743-3611.





Program Recaps

Embryology in the Classroom

This spring, Alexis partnered with Shiawassee County Farm Bureau to bring embryology programming to classrooms at New Lothrop Elementary and Emerson Elementary. Students had the opportunity to watch chicks develop and learn about the lifecycle firsthand.

This program continues to be a favorite, with students excited to participate and eager to ask questions throughout the experience. Their enthusiasm and curiosity make this program even more meaningful.

Be sure to check out some pictures from the program!



Camp Counselor Training at Camp Neyati

Our camp counselors recently headed up to Camp Neyati for their overnight camp counselor training. During their time at camp, they had the opportunity to sharpen their skills through team building activities and trainings.

They also completed community service by helping clean up the camp and get it ready for the many summer programs that take place there.

These individuals are growing into great leaders, and we can't wait to see them put their skills into action at Shiawassee 4-H Camp!

