



APRIL 2026

# 4-H Family News

## Washtenaw County



### Does your Cloverbud Need a Mentor?

Do you have a Cloverbud (4-H member between 5-7 years old) who wants to learn about a Livestock & Dairy or Small Animal Project area? We have 4-H mentors to help them along the way! This is a great opportunity for our younger members to build skills and also for our teens to get leadership and mentoring experience.

The Cloverbud Mentor program matches Cloverbuds with an older experienced 4-H member who can also provide an animal for them to show at the 4-H Youth Show. We have several teens interested in helping mentor a cloverbud that do not yet have a match for this year.

If you are interested, please contact please contact Kathy Grau, [kgrau3437@aol.com](mailto:kgrau3437@aol.com) or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, [hammerfarm89@aol.com](mailto:hammerfarm89@aol.com) or 734-216-7048



### UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

#### 4-H Ambassadors Meeting

April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

#### Livestock & Dairy Committee Meeting

April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

#### Project RED (Rural Education Days)

April 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

#### Market Feeders, Goat, Sheep, & Swine Tagging/Weigh In

April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

#### Horse Board & Association Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

#### Still Projects Committee Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm on Zoom

### CONTACT US

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Sign Up Now: Rabbit Showmanship Clinic on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm



Come join us on Saturday, April 11th, from 1:00-3:00 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds in Barn E for a rabbit showmanship clinic hosted by 4-H Teen Leader Genevieve Peale of All Around 4-H Club.

We will have a group demonstration showing all the steps of 4-H rabbit showmanship and handling. The idea is to help new and old exhibitors who would like extra practice and support with their showmanship skills.

All ages, cloverbuds, and up are welcome. There will even be extra rabbits if youth don't have one yet and want to try it out.

After the showmanship practice, there is a chance for kids to assemble their own rabbit first aid kit. An explanation of what materials are needed and why will be discussed.

[Sign up here!](#)

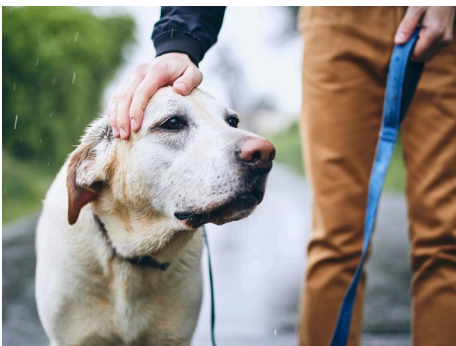
## Stil Projects Jar Workshop on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 pm

At this hands-on workshop hosted by 4-H teens, youth will pick from different recipes and make a food gift jar by measuring out and adding different ingredients. These recipes will be for sweet and savory jars and they can also customize their recipe. Then youth will get to decorate their jars. This workshop is open to ages 5-19 but cloverbuds (5-7 year olds) must have an adult or teen helper present during the workshop. This event will be at the MSU Extension Office. There is a \$5 fee for this workshop to cover the cost of supplies.



[Register here!](#)

## Save the Dates: Washtenaw County 4-H Dog Training: Wednesdays April-July



Calling all 4-H members with furry best friends at home! Ready to learn how to train your dog and have a blast doing it? Washtenaw County 4-H Dog Training is coming back soon on Wednesday Evenings. These trainings are led by Cristy Rice, our Dog Superintendent, who is a Licensed Veterinary Technician with five years of volunteer experience helping 4-H youth build confidence, skills, and joyful connections with their pups. At these trainings 4-H'ers will learn the basics of dog training, fun activities like rally, obedience, showmanship & tricks. Classes will run weekly on Wednesday evenings, but the time and date are being determined. We will send out information as soon as we have a date/time and location.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Calling All Youth and Adults: Volunteers Needed for Project RED April 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>



Project RED (Rural Education Days) at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds is a great opportunity for youth and adults to volunteer and help educate 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, teachers, and chaperones about agriculture!

We need volunteers for the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> and also for set up on the afternoon/evening of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for animal exhibits, group leaders, commodity displays, and other educational exhibits. We welcome adults and youth for these volunteer opportunities and can provide a letter to a school for youth volunteering.

[Sign up here to volunteer!](#)

## Sign Up Now for 4-H Archery Starting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

The Washtenaw County 4-H Archery Club will begin meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. The club will meet each Tuesday from 6-8 pm until the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show. 4-H Archery is open to 4-H youth ages 8-19 years old, but limited to 25 youth, so sign up now. **Youth must pre-register for this program and must be enrolled in 4-H Online before attending.** No equipment is necessary to participate, but you may bring your own if you wish.



Recurve, long-bow, and compound bow under a 55 lb. draw weight are permitted. Additionally, a finger tab and arm guard. If you have questions, please contact Jenny Speyer, [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu).

Register now: <https://forms.gle/efQCP3PsaeLHEMd57>

## Hoof Trimming with Jr. Livestock on May 16<sup>th</sup>: Complete the Survey



Junior Livestock is once again organizing a cattle hoof trimming event on May 16<sup>th</sup> at a 4-H Family's farm. If you are interested in attending, please [complete the survey](#) so they can get numbers for the event.

The deadline to complete the survey is **April 27<sup>th</sup>**.

If you have questions about this event, please contact Kathy Grau, [kgrau3437@aol.com](mailto:kgrau3437@aol.com) or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, [hammerfarm89@aol.com](mailto:hammerfarm89@aol.com) or 734-216-7048.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Weigh In and Tagging on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 AM

Weigh in and tagging for feeders, market goats, sheep, and swine to be exhibited at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Questions? Contact Amy Harris, [harr1976@msu.edu](mailto:harr1976@msu.edu).



Here are a few reminders about weigh-in/tagging rules:

- ALL cattle must have an RFID tag in their ear before they are transported. If you don't have the ability to tag the animal at home, please bring the RFID tag and tagger with you and we will get it in the ear at tagging.
- Animals MUST be tagged in at the spring weigh-in in order to be shown at the 4-H Youth Show.
- All males must be castrated before tagging
- All sheep and goats must have a Scrapies tag or tattoo in order to exhibit at the 4-H Youth Show
- Exhibitors wishing to exhibit in the commercial lamb class must provide a receipt of purchase at weigh in that is within the current market range for feeder lambs for market.
- Lambs cannot exceed 110 pounds at the spring weigh-in
- All market hogs must be tagged at the spring weigh-in, but they will NOT be weighed. Hogs are not allowed to leave the trailer.

## Swine Tagging Information for Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Participants

All Swine being shown at exhibitions, including fairs, jackpot shows and other events are required by state law to have an official ID in place. **The 4-H office will be providing RFID tags for exhibitors.**

## Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Superintendent Openings



We still have a few spaces open for 4-H Superintendents for the 4-H Youth Show. We still have the following roles vacant:

- Herdsmanship
- Haul Out

These roles require folks to be at the 4-H Youth Show during the week. Herdsmanship will need to be in regularly and Haul Out is needed after the 4-H Auction and early Saturday morning. If you are interested, please contact Amy Harris for more information at [harr1976@msu.edu](mailto:harr1976@msu.edu).



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Reminder: May 1<sup>st</sup> Forms Due for Horse & Pony Exhibitors



If you are planning to show a horse/pony at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show or at State 4-H Horse Events this year, you must turn in Horse & Pony ID Forms. **New this year, exhibitor's agreement form must be submitted with the horse/pony identification form on May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Any missing paperwork will be denied entrance to Youth Show. Exhibitors can show 2 horses and 1 mini this year. Horse leaders are encouraged to bring the completed forms to the Horse Association Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office. If you cannot bring them then, they can be turned into our office between 8:30 am – 3:30 pm (closed 12-1 pm).

### Horse/Pony Forms Due:

- Horse/Pony Identification Form
- Horse/Pony Registration Fee Payment (Cash or Check)
- Back Up Project Form (optional)
- Special Stall Requests\* (optional) *\*Must be present at Horse Association Meeting*
- Trailer Parking Information
- Valid Coggins

If you have questions about these forms or horse projects, please contact Amy Harris, [harr1976@msu.edu](mailto:harr1976@msu.edu).

## Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Team Attends Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 youth from Washtenaw County attended the 2026 Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference held on the MSU campus. The purpose of the program is to provide 4-H'ers with the opportunity to learn about Michigan agriculture, to increase their knowledge of the dairy industry in Michigan, to develop their self-esteem, self-awareness, and leadership skills, and to help them become more knowledgeable about the many issues affecting agriculture now and in the future.

Over the weekend youth from across Michigan took part in several hands-on workshops that included dissections of the 4 compartments of a cow's stomach and an embryology demonstration allowing youth to use different techniques of embryo collection. Teaching sessions covered animal behavior, dairy judging, nutrition and colostrum management. And participants were able to take tours of the MSU Meat Lab (with a presentation on carcass evaluation) and the new MSU Dairy Teaching & Research Center.



The weekend provided the youth opportunities to engage with industry experts and MSU faculty, staff and students. Along with competitions to encourage youth participation.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Reminder all your Friends! 4-H Online Enrollment Required by May 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in 4-H Youth Show

4-H members who want to participate in Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show must be enrolled in [4-H Online](#) by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are a club leader or teen leader, check in with the members in your club and make sure they are enrolled.



Registration for the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show is through FairEntry and will open May 29<sup>th</sup> and closes June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Save the Date: YQCA Training Sessions on April 6<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm



All market beef and swine exhibitors are required to have an updated YQCA certification before marketing animals at the 4-H Youth Show auction. This certification can be obtained by participating in an online or in-person training.

Thanks to a grant from Bayer, this training is provided free of charge to Washtenaw 4-H exhibitors. Please follow the steps below to complete a certification.

1. Contact the MSU Extension Office (734-997-1678 or email [cousin40@msu.edu](mailto:cousin40@msu.edu)) to obtain a coupon code (optional) to receive the training for free- you will need to specify if you need an online or in-person code.
2. Register through [www.yqcaprogram.org](http://www.yqcaprogram.org) – this step is required whether you attend in-person or online!
3. Sign up for your in-person training on the site and/or complete the online training. The April and May dates will be listed in the YQCA system for in-person training options.
4. Be sure to complete the pre-test before you attend an in-person training.
5. **If you want to complete an online YQCA training, you MUST wait until a year has lapsed on your previous training. If it is too close to the Youth Show, we recommend taking an in-person training. You do NOT have to wait a year to take an in-person training.**

We are offering two opportunities for in-person training at the Washtenaw MSU Extension Office on April 6<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Washtenaw exhibitors are also welcome to attend YQCA trainings in neighboring counties. Those opportunities will be shared as they become available.

Need help registering? Check out the [YQCA Help Page](#) to help walk you through the registration process.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Silver Level Volunteer Screening for 4-H Kitchen Volunteers

Are you planning to volunteer this July at the 4-H Kitchen? (Don't you want to hang out with cool 4-H kids like these??) Get started now on your volunteer screening. The MSU Extension screening and selection process for volunteers ensures those who work alongside us or directly with youth and the people we serve are safe and have positive experiences that enrich their lives.



Adults who work in the 4-H Kitchen or at one time events need to complete the **silver** level volunteer screening. This DOES NOT require an interview, references, or trainings. If you completed this screening last year, you do NOT need to redo the screening. You can start the [application here](#).

If you have already been screened, you do not need to redo the process each year.

Make sure to choose **Silver** level, **4-H Youth Development** as the program and **Washtenaw** as your county. You will only need to complete an application and consent to a background check. If you have questions about the process, please email Jenny at [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu) or call 734-436-1362.

This level of volunteer is only for one-time events like the 4-H Kitchen. If you are interested in volunteering more than for 4-H Kitchen, please reach out to Amy or Jenny about the process. We are always looking for folks interested in volunteering for our 4-H programs.

## One Time 4-H Volunteer Opportunities for Teens and Volunteers



Do you want to help out Washtenaw County 4-H but don't have a lot of time? Check out one of these upcoming one-time opportunities for 4-H teen leaders and 4-H volunteers. Not a volunteer yet? Contact Jenny or Amy for more information on the process. We can also sign off on volunteer hours for teens that need them for school, NHS, or other organizations.

Here are some upcoming events we need help with:

- Tuesday April 21st from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Bach Elementary School in Ann Arbor: 4-H Staff need assistance with Earth Day activities
- Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> with time TBD at the Novi Home & Garden Show at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace helping 4-H staff with garden related kids activities and sharing about how to get involved in 4-H.

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Jenny at [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu) or call 734-436-1362.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Saline 4-H Farmers Serves at the Washtenaw County Dairy & Livestock Banquet



Thank you to Saline 4-H Farmers 4-H Club for serving milk and coffee at the annual Washtenaw County Dairy & Livestock Banquet at Chelsea High School on March 20th. They also got the chance to chat with Representative Kathy Schmaltz, the State Representative for the 46th House District, which includes the city of Jackson, Blackman and Leoni townships, and parts of Grass Lake and Summit townships in Jackson County, as well as the city of Chelsea and Sylvan Township in Washtenaw County.

## Two Washtenaw County 4-H Members Attend 4-H Capitol Experience

Harper Jane Adkins and Raelyn Bristle attended the 4-H Capitol Experience. An annual conference that helps prepare youth for active citizenship by focusing on civic engagement and public policy. Youth registrants selected an issue group according to their interests. Each issue group was facilitated by a teen steering committee member supported by an MSU Extension staff person. Issue groups provided a space for youth to meet peers from across the state while talking about their ideas and what they learned.

Participants could choose from:

- Environment/Natural Resources
- Health
- Jobs & The Economy/Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Civil Rights/Youth Advocacy
- Education/Teacher Retention
- Crime/Law Enforcement

Youth were given the opportunity to:

- Meet elected officials
- Hear from experts in policy representing a broad range of careers
- Hear from young people who have made a difference in their communities
- Discuss hot topics important to youth









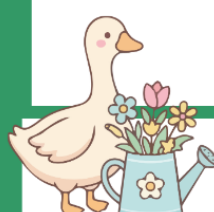


This was an incredible chance for youth to get close to political figures and gain a better understanding of how different bills and policies are adopted.





# April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	6 6 pm- YQCA In Person Training at MSU Extension Office	7	8  6:30 pm- 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	9  7pm- Livestock & Dairy Committee Meeting	10	11  1-3 pm - Rabbit Showmanship Clinic at WFCG Building E
12 2-3:30 pm - Still Projects Jar Workshop 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 4-7 pm - Set up for Project RED	 <b>Project RED</b>			24	25 8 am - 11 am Tagging/ Weigh In for Market Feeders, Goats, Sheep, Swine at WFCG
26 	27 	28 6:30/7 pm - Horse Board/Asstn Meeting 6:30 pm - Still Projects Committee Meeting	29	30 4-H ONLINE Enrollment DEADLINE is May 1st to participate in 4-H Youth Show! Also Horse/Pony Forms are Due!		
6-8 pm - Archery Practice Starts (Pre-registration Required to attend)						



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Building awareness in 4-H experiences



## Beyond Ready

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

### April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

*Online (Goosechase App)*

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)

### April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

*Comerica Park, Detroit*

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as 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.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers)

### April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

*Online*

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart)

### April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

*Tractor Supply Stores everywhere*

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign)

### April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

*Online*

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21)

### April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let's Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease

*Online*

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease)

### April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk

*Online*

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_great\\_lakes\\_natural\\_resources\\_camp/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/).



## Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/).

## Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit [www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html). For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4h\\_military\\_families](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families).