



JANUARY 2025

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association Tack Sale: Sunday Feb. 23rd



The annual Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association Tack Sale will be Sunday February 23rd from 10 am to 2 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds in Buildings C and D at 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. Vendors will have new and used horse tack, riding apparel, crafting supplies, livestock and showing attire, and more! There will also be a silent auction. This event is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Association with proceeds from the tables/space reservations supporting the Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Program. Please share this event with your friends & family!

Reservations and payments are required by February 1st for vendors. The first table/space is \$25 with additional table space being \$15. 4-H members and 4-H Clubs have a discounted rate of \$15 for the first table and 10 per additional table. There is a late fee of \$10 for any tables/spaces that are not reserved or payment submitted by February 1st.

To reserve a table/space, please complete [the flyer](#) and return it to the MSU Extension Office.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Still Projects Committee Meeting

January 7th at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Advisory Council Meeting

January 9th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee Meeting

January 23rd at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Engine SPIN Club (FULL)

Starting January 26th from 1-3 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Association Meeting

January 28th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Project Galore

February 8th at 1 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Association Tack Sale

Sunday February 23rd

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Join the Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team



Do you know a 4-H'er interested in dairy science, dairy production, or veterinary science? Encourage them to join the Dairy Quiz Bowl Team! The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month January through July. They discuss dairy science and dairy production topics. The material is also very relevant to youth interested in vet science. Meetings are at Horning Farms in Manchester and the first meeting is Monday, January 20th at 6:30 pm.

Interested in participating? Please contact Katelyn Packard at klhorning14@gmail.com.

Registration Coming Soon for Project Galore on February 8th

We are still finalizing our schedule for Project Galore on Saturday February 8th from 1-4 pm at the MSU Extension Office. We do have confirmation on the following projects that will be offered: Robotics, Potholder Weaving, Cat Showmanship, and Quilling! There will be more projects available as we finalize with instructors.

We will be sending out the registration soon and the cost to attend will be \$5 per youth. Most of the sessions will be geared for ages 7 and up but youth 5-6 years old can attend if a parent is there to support them in the sessions.



This event is open to current 4-H members but also a great event for families interested in joining 4-H!

4-H Officer Roles & Parliamentary Procedure Training: February 5th



Washtenaw County 4-H will have an officer training for youth (8-19 years old) and adult 4-H leaders in the MSU Extension Office on Sunday, February 5th from 6:30-8 pm. This training will be led by Janelle Stewart, MSU Extension Educator in Leadership, Civic and Cultural Engagement. This training is recommended for youth and adults in officer roles and a great opportunity for those who are interested in officer roles in the future. This is a hands-on interactive training!

Questions? Contact Amy Harris, harr1976@msu.edu.

Register at: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cURe1VRjPB5Djim



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Interested in Joining our Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology and/or Horse Judging Teams?

Washtenaw County 4-H is looking for registered 4-H members (ages 5-19) to join our Hippology Team and/or Horse Judging Team! The Hippology contest is on Saturday March 15th and Horse Judging is on Saturday March 29th.

Hippology is the study of all horse-related knowledge, including judging, anatomy, breeds, colors, care, equipment, tack, health and welfare, and riding disciplines. Horse Judging is your opportunity to become the judge and place horses based on conformation (halter) and performance (riding).



Both teams compete against other Michigan counties and senior divisions can qualify for the national contest. Cost is roughly \$23 per member, per team. Optional study sessions will start in early February.

If you are interested in participating on both/either teams, please contact Angela Oakman by January 31, 2025 - email: angela_oakman@yahoo.com cell: 734-395-9714 (call or text). The Practice Horse Judging Workshop (event at MSU January 31-Feb 1) is highly recommended for anyone participating on the Horse Judging team. [Check out the MSUE website for more information.](#)

William Rogers Places in the Top 6 Youth in the State at the Michigan Farm Bureau High School Discussion Meet



Congratulations to William Rogers of Saline 4-H Farmers who placed in the top 6 youth in the State of Michigan in the Michigan Farm Bureau High School Discussion Meet. William placed in the top 5 at the regional meet in November and then went on to compete at the State Competition on December 4th in Grand Rapids. William was a part of the Washtenaw County 4-H Discussion Meet Team organized and led by 4-H Volunteer Mandy Rogers. If you know a teen interested in participating in this team next year, keep an eye out for information in our newsletter in late summer 2025.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

What are Our 4-H Committees and What Do They Do?

As we have many families and members new to 4-H, we want to remind new and experienced 4-H'ers of the opportunities available at our 4-H Committee meetings.

In our county, we have the following committees that provide opportunities for youth and volunteers to have their voices heard and participate in leadership positions. We encourage all of our youth and leaders to attend one or more of these meetings to keep up to date on our programs and opportunities.

- The Horse Association focuses on horse and pony projects and is responsible for making many decisions related the horse and pony projects in the Youth Show. They also organize an annual tack sale and clinics. This Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office.
- The Advisory Council supports our 4-H program by providing financial support through their annual holiday tree sale to our college scholarships, our annual 4-H recognition program, and many recruitment and outreach initiatives. The Advisory Council also helps with the award selection process for our scholarships and plans and coordinates recruitment events and campaigns. This small but mighty committee can use more volunteers and youth to help in their mission. This Committee meets the second Tuesday of odd months at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office.
- The Livestock and Dairy Committee focuses on sheep, swine, beef cattle, and dairy cattle 4-H projects. The Livestock and Dairy Committee is responsible for making many decisions related to Livestock projects in the Youth Show. This includes Youth Show book changes, weigh-in, and planning for the Youth Show itself. This Committee meets the second Thursday of even months at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office.
- Small Animal Committee is open to any youth, parents, or volunteers who are active or interested in goat, llama, poultry, rabbit, dog, cat, cavy, or pocket pet 4-H projects. This group also works very hard on planning for the small animal portions of the Youth Show, arranging small animal related workshops, and recruiting new 4-H members. This Committee meets the fourth Thursday of odd months at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office.
- Still Projects Committee is responsible for coordinating the Still Projects part of the Youth Show and for planning clinics and project days throughout the year to introduce youth to new project areas. This Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each even month at 6:30 pm on zoom. You can find the zoom information in our reminder emails or email Jenny Speyer to get on the calendar invites.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Register Now for the 4-H Spark and Share Summit: March 8th in Frankenmuth



Reignite your passion for 4-H at the 2025 Spark and Share Summit March 8th at the Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center in Frankenmuth!!

4-H Volunteers and teens (12 years old and older by January 1st) can register for this 1-day conference where they can learn new projects and information that they can take back to teach and share in their local 4-H program at:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SELeaderMeet2025/>.

This is a great event to get energized with lots of creative and innovative ideas for working with youth in their county 4-H program, support and encourage launching new projects in your 4-H club, meet and share ideas with 4-H teens and adult volunteers from other counties, and learn hands-on activities that you can reteach with youth in your club.

Registration is \$50 and includes lunch and selection of up to 3 breakout sessions. This discounted rate is thanks to a generous donation from the Michigan 4-H Foundation. There is also a room block available at a local hotel if you want to make it a weekend! A link to session descriptions is available through the registration page.

The deadline for registration is February 8th.

Washtenaw County 4-H has funds for scholarships for 4-H events and programs if teens and leaders are interested in attending. Please reach out to Amy Harris, harr1976@msu.edu or Jenny, speyerje@msu.edu for more information.

More Still Project Ideas for 4-H Club Meetings

As the weather gets cold, it's a great time for Still Projects! There are lots of great projects that 4-H'ers can work on to grow their creativity and skills.

Are you struggling with ideas for your club? We will be sharing some fun ideas for 4-H curriculums across the country. One idea for this month is a fiber arts project.

- [Oregon State University Macramé Knots & Projects](#)





4-H Club Happenings

Country Expressions 4-H Club Donates to Youth In Need

Country Expressions 4-H Club collected donations for Youth Haven Ranch in Rives Junction at their December Christmas party/meeting. Youth Haven is an organization that hosts camps for disadvantaged and at-risk children along with providing at-home programs through care packages, letters and cards. Thank you, Country Expressions members, for providing these donations for children in need across Michigan.



Saline 4-H Farmers Donates to Saline Area Social Services & Represents Washtenaw County 4-H at Tractor Supply Company for Paper Clovers



This winter, Saline 4-H Farmers 4-H Club donated items to Saline Area Social Services including food, paper products, and more. Saline Area Social Services' mission is to provide food, emergency aid, and support to those in need in the Saline community. Thank you, Saline 4-H Farmers for helping support families in need in our community!

Saline 4-H Farmer members also helped represent Washtenaw County 4-H at Tractor Supply Company this December for the Paper Clover Campaign. The Paper Clover Campaign usually happens in the Fall, but this year it was moved to late November and early December to coincide with new 4-H Christmas ornaments available at Tractor Supply stores. Donations from Paper Clover Campaigns help fund scholarships for 4-H youth to attend leadership and state level events like camps, workshops, and programs.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Attend the State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show & Expo



Join us for the 2025 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo at the MSU Pavilion! Youth may choose to exhibit their rabbit and/or cavy as well as to compete in other contests such as breed identification, photography, educational display, showmanship, and new this year -skillathon.

Showmanship exhibitors are required to pre-register by January 17. All other contest registrations are done onsite at the show.

Educational sessions will also be scheduled throughout the day with the support of The Rabbit School and Rabbit Tutor.

Learn more at:
www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025_showmanship_rabbit_and_cavy_show.

January 6: Online Parent Talk System Series (Mondays in January and February)

Online

This parenting workshop is designed to improve communication and provide practical verbal strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. This class is for caregivers of toddlers to teens and will take place on Monday evenings for six weeks, beginning on Jan. 6.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-january-february-25

January 14: Wild Spartans – Working my dream job with Michigan Sea Grant

Online

Take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month, delve into the freshwaters and skies that surround as you meet Elliot Nelson with Michigan Sea Grant. You'll learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is youth ages 12-19. www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-january-2024-2025

January 14: Adulting 101 – Decreasing Stress with Mindfulness

Online

Are you ready to leave for college or be out on your own? Are you prepared to do adult tasks related to finances, home, health or finding a career? Adulting 101 can help you learn real life skills to successfully transition to living independently. In this session, learn how stressors can affect physical and mental health and practice mindfulness techniques to use in everyday life.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2025

January 23: Gearing up for success through apprenticeships: Advance your career in automotive research and development

Online

Are you passionate about vehicles and ready to jump-start your career? Enjoy technology, robotics and hands-on problem solving? Join this webinar designed to provide valuable insight into the skills and certifications you need to excel in today's fast evolving automotive industry.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/gearing-up-for-success

January 30: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Building a Culture of Appreciation by Recognizing 4-H Volunteers and Youth

Online

Discover simple, impactful ways to celebrate and recognize volunteers and youth involved in your club.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-building-a-culture-of-appreciation-recognizing-4-h-volunteers-youth-noon

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-building-a-culture-of-appreciation-recognizing-4-h-volunteers-youth-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 16-18, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on:

agriculture; civil rights; crime, law enforcement and corrections; education; energy, environment and natural resources; health and human services; and jobs and the economy.

The cost to register in 2025 is \$365, which includes most meals, materials, and lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Resolve to have a great 4-H year

Adapted from: www.canr.msu.edu/news/resolve_to_have_a_great_4_h_year.

As we start the New Year, how can 4-H clubs resolve to improve in the year ahead? Here are ten suggestions to make the upcoming year a successful one.

Resolve that:

1. Club meetings will start and end on time.
2. Business meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order and that all club paperwork, such as minutes, club inventory and financial statements, will be completed in a timely manner.
3. All members will take part in discussions and have a say in decisions that are made. Keep a chart with each members' name and when they speak at business meetings.
4. The club meeting place will be a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for all club members.
5. Fun will be included in each meeting.
6. A learning activity will be included in each club meeting. Ideas include exploring a new 4-H curriculum, having members volunteer to do a demonstration, doing a show and tell about each members' favorite project, or bringing in a guest speaker.
7. The club will pursue at least one community service project chosen, planned and celebrated by the club.
8. New members will have a buddy they may talk with about any 4-H questions.
9. The 4-H pledge will be said at every meeting.
10. Every club member will be recognized in some way to let them know they are cared about.



SAVE THE DATE – Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin returns on March 1, 2025! For nearly two decades, this has been exciting event attended by Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers and families. We look forward to continuing this event in 2025 as 4-H'ers from across the state come together for a day of fun, comradery and basketball at MSU.

Make plans to join us on March 1 as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Minnesota Gophers. Tickets will be available soon; visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin for more information.