



OCTOBER 2025

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Save the Date! 4-H Recognition Program: Sunday November 2nd



We are excited to once again celebrate our 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, and 4-H supporters at our annual 4-H Recognition Program on Sunday November 2nd from 2-4 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Doors open at 1:30 pm and this event is open to all! Popcorn and beverages will be served and we ask our families to bring a dessert if able.

During this special annual event, we will recognize the I Dare You Award winner, 4-H Leader of the Year, Angel Award, Friend of 4-H, Club Spirit, and several other county-level awards & recognition. Invitations for winners will be going out in the next few weeks, but we encourage all 4-H members to attend and cheer on your friends, volunteers, and community supporters.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

National 4-H Week

October 5-11th

Livestock & Dairy Committee Meeting

October 9th at 7 pm at MSU Extension Office

Horse Board & Association Meeting

October 28th at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Still Projects Committee Meeting

October 28th at 6:30 pm on Zoom

4-H Recognition Program

November 2nd from 2-4 pm at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

CONTACT US

Amy Harris

4-H Program Coordinator

harr1976@msu.edu

Jenny Speyer

4-H Program Instructor

speyerje@msu.edu

705 N. Zeeb Rd.,
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, Michigan
48107

PHONE & EMAIL:

734-997-1678

msue.washtenaw@county.msu.edu

WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/washtenaw/>

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Re-Enroll for the 2025-26 4-H Program Year!



The new 2025-26 4-H Program year has begun and it's time to start re-enrolling your family in [4-H Online](#)! We recommend enrolling as soon as possible so you don't miss any important communications and also, so you are covered under 4-H supplemental insurance policies. Club leaders should make sure families are re-enrolled before they begin participating in 4-H activities.

If you have don't want to enroll online or need a paper enrollment form, please contact 4-H staff or stop by our MSU Extension Office between 9 am – 12 pm or 1-4 pm Monday-Friday.

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Superintendents Applications Open

Interested in taking on a role as a superintendent at the 4-H Youth Show? We are looking for folks who are passionate about a project area and providing positive educational opportunities for youth at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show. If you're interested, please look over [superintendent responsibilities and the letter of intent](#). We ask that all letters of intent (from new applicants and existing superintendents) be returned to the office by November 1, 2025. There are plenty of opportunities available, including animal and non-animal barn specific superintendents!

Not all previous superintendent intents are turned in yet so, we do not yet know what positions are available but if you are interested, please let us know. Questions? Please contact Amy, harr1976@msu.edu.



Congrats to Washtenaw County 4-H Tri-CAT Participants!



Congratulations to four Washtenaw County 4-H'ers who participated in the 2025 Tri-County Archery Tournament at the Washtenaw Sportsman's Club in Ypsilanti, MI on Sunday Sept. 7th. These youth were Kaya Kim, Luke Kim, Henry Tsallis, and Vivienne Turri. Here are their placings:

Barebow Division

Junior:

- 1st place Vivienne Turri
- 2nd place Luke Kim

Senior:

- 1st place Kaya Kim



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Ada May and Webb Harwood Scholarship

We are now accepting applications for the Ada May and Webb Harwood Memorial Scholarship. The applications is now available on our website and due on November 10th. This scholarship is for youth who have participated in either animal science or home economics projects during their time in 4-H or FFA. Youth show be incoming freshman or higher continuing their education at an accredited institution of high education. Check out the application for the full list of qualifications. Questions? Please contact Jenny Speyer, 4-H Program Instructor at speyerje@msu.edu.



102.9 W4 Country Hometown Tour Partnership with Washtenaw County 4-H



We have been so excited to start a partnership with 102.9 W4 Country at their Hometown Tour this fall. We have had the chance to have 4-H'ers, 4-H Staff, and 4-H Volunteers on the air to talk about the impacts of our program and promote 4-H to youth across our county. We want to thank Wolverine Rental for starting this partnership for us and the folks at 102.9 W4 Country for being so flexible in getting us on the air.

Thank you to the following 4-H clubs, 4-H members, and 4-H volunteers who showed up to represent our program:

Double L Llama 4-H Club including Adyson Dubnicki, Nathan Dubnicki, Kasen Alder, Daniel Reeves, and Jennifer Dubnicki. Raelyn Bristle and Valisa Bristle of Townline Workers, Dillion Neigebauer of Country Expressions, Genevieve Peale of All Around, Amy Sweet of S & L Bauernhof, Vivienne Turri of Science, Animals, and Arts, Doug Lewis the leader of Calico Kids, Evan and Grace Weidmayer of Country Expressions, and Amelia Harris of Next Level 4-H Club and the Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team.

If you want to hear us live, tune in to 102.9 FM between 7-8 am on Tuesday mornings and from 3-6 pm on Thursdays until the end of October. There might also be a special 4-H Themed Beat Brian's Brain coming soon!

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Premium Checks Arriving!

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show premium checks should be arriving or have arrived. Please don't forget to cash or deposit your checks! Outstanding checks make it difficult for accounting. If for some reason you don't want your premium check, you can let 4-H staff know and it can get given back as a donation to the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Run for a Washtenaw County 4-H Committee Officer Position!



We need more 4-H youth to use their voices and shape our program at our Washtenaw County 4-H Committee meetings! This is YOUR 4-H program, and we encourage 4-H members run for officer positions on committees relevant to their projects and interests.

Our Washtenaw County 4-H Committees include Advisory Council, Horse, Livestock & Dairy Committee, Small Animal Committee, and Still Projects Committee.

Youth interested must be enrolled 4-H members prior to being elected. **Adults interested in serving on a committee must be Gold level volunteers prior to being elected.** If you are interested in running for an elected position on any of the following committees, please contact Amy Harris harr1076@msu.edu or Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu for Still Projects Committee.

Check out the list below of the requirements for each position and when elections are held:

- Advisory Council: Elections are held in January and must be 4-H age 14 years old to be eligible for an officer position. This committee focus on promoting 4-H, fundraising, scholarships, awards and planning the 4-H Recognition Program, and more.
- Horse Association: See the article on the next page of the newsletter for a full description of Horse Board roles.
- Livestock & Dairy Committee: Elections are held in October, and 4-H members must be 4-H age 14 years old to be eligible for an officer position. Youth need to have a nomination form signed by their 4-H leader. Livestock and Dairy Committee's goals include developing and support 4-H livestock and dairy projects, providing opportunities for youth and adult leadership development, and to encourage, educate, and support 4-H membership in raising, producing, and marketing a good quality livestock project.
- Small Animal Committee: Elections are held in November and 4-H members must be 4-H age 14 years old to be eligible for an officer position. Small Animal Committee's goals are similar to the Livestock & Dairy Committee but focus on Small Animal projects including goats, poultry, cavies, rabbits, dogs, cats, and llamas.
- Still Project Committee: Elections are held in October and 4-H members must be 4-H age 13 years old to be eligible for an officer position. Still Project Committee's goals are to oversee the planning and execution of still projects judging at the Washtenaw 4-H Youth Show, Washtenaw 4-H still projects workshops, and other Washtenaw 4-H still projects related events, provide Washtenaw 4-H youth with leadership opportunities as members of the Committee, and advise Washtenaw MSUE 4-H staff in making Still Projects related decisions.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Run for a Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Board Positions!

Are you interested in being on the County Horse Board? Come to the next meeting on October 28th at 7pm at the County office. There we will be finishing up nominations as well as electing the next Horse Board. Your 4-H age must be 13+ years old for each role unless specified. The roles include:

- **President:**
 - Runs the board, lead meetings, etc.
- **Vice President:**
 - Assists the president, takes on roles of board members that are not present
- **Treasurer:**
 - Deals with the money and reporting on it
- **Reporting Secretary:**
 - Takes notes in the meetings and makes the meeting minutes
- **Corresponding Secretary:**
 - Manages social media and communicatory things
- **Member at Large:**
 - Board member with no specified role, great role for those just starting and also to take a larger role in the community
- **Junior Member at Large (10-12 years old):**
 - Open to 4-H members between 4-H Age 10 and 12 years old, same duties as Member at Large



Washtenaw Co 4-H MI Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Team Starts Practicing



Four youth from Washtenaw County 4-H began meeting this Fall to practice for the Michigan Farm Bureau Regional Discussion Meet in November. If any of the youth qualify, they may then go onto the State Discussion Meet in December. Unlike a debate, the Michigan Farm Bureau Discussion Meets simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This year's team is led by 4-H volunteer Mandy Rogers and includes 4-H members Stephen Garcia, Raelyn Bristle, Grace Weidmayer, and Harper Jane Adkins. We can't wait to hear how they do and all they learn in the process.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Spark & Share Summit 2026: Accepting Session Proposals



Session proposals are currently being sought for the second annual 4-H Spark and Share Summit. The one-day workshop is designed to bring together 4-H volunteers, teen leaders and CYI staff from across the state to share ideas, explore interests, and ignite sparks in a variety of hands-on activities. The summit is being hosted by the Southeast Region of MAE4-HYS in Frankenmuth on March 7th, 2026 and is open to participants statewide.

Last year we had several teens from Washtenaw County attend, and they all had a great time! We now want folks to consider proposals to lead a session!

If you are interested in teaching a session, please submit your proposal by October 19th at <https://tinyurl.com/4Hleadermeet> Previous surveys indicated high interest in learning more about the following topics: Livestock and Animal Science, Marketing Your Animal, Expressive Arts, STEM, Civic Engagement, Gardening, Successful Fundraising, Club Financial Management, Club Basics, and Club Engagement, but you don't have to stick to these topics.

Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Treat of Agriculture on October 21st at 6 pm

Don't miss Washtenaw County Farm Bureau's super fun Treat of Agriculture on October 21st from 6-7:30 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds Building D. This is a FREE Trick-or-Treat Style Event open to kids 12 and under. Enjoy Michigan Agriculture Products instead of traditional Trick-or-Treat Candy. Treats are guaranteed to the first 250 children.

Come in costume, FREE photo booth, & fun Halloween games. Washtenaw County 4-H will be there at a table and we know lots of our 4-H families will be volunteering at this fun event.



Ideas for the 4-H Youth Show for the Bicentennial of Washtenaw County



Did you know 2026 will be the Bicentennial of Washtenaw County? The County is planning ways to celebrate this milestone, and we are working on plans to integrate this into the 4-H Youth Show.

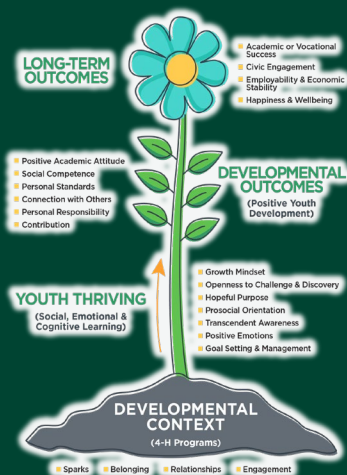
We want your help in thinking of ways we could celebrate at the 4-H Youth Show. Are there ways we can integrate our county's history into the Youth Show contests? What about Club Booths? Decorations?

If you have ideas, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Why 4-H? This is a question asked many times of our youth and adults. What made you want to get involved and what keeps you coming back?

This is the SPARK of 4-H and serves as one of the four developmental context areas of the Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development. We strive to reach our members where they are and help them grow through the 4-H program.

To do this, we need to know what your spark is...

- Is there a specific project that brought you here?
- Is there a project you would like to see us add?
- Did you show up because you had friends in the program?

Reach out to your local 4-H staff to share your ideas.

October 4: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2025

October 5-11: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 6: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth With Skills for Life

Online

Life doesn't come with a manual—but 4-H comes pretty close! Join Michigan 4-H State Leader Jodi Schulz for a fun and practical look at how volunteers can help young people build the skills they need to be Beyond Ready. This session will be offered twice:

- 12 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life
- 7 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm

October 14: Wild Spartans – Helping Others Help Nature

Online

Join 4-H staff for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This session will feature Trish Brockman, and ecologist with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., who will help to explore the world of helping threatened and endangered wildlife. Open to youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026

October 23: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Officers in Action: Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles

Online

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. Learn how to support club officers in meaningful ways that promote responsibility, teamwork and real-life leadership skills. This session will be offered twice.

12-1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon

7-8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Do you know someone deserving of the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year?

Can you think of someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic, or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2025 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Hey, leaders of tomorrow - if you're age 12–19 and ready to grow skills, make friends, and become beyond ready for your future, join the 4-H Future Squad!

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club that was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the fifth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2025 through May 2026, virtually through Zoom. Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Club meetings for the 2025-2026 year will take place on a variety of days of the week. Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail. This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at:

www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.



