



August 2025

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



August Newsletter Contents:

- Wayne County Upcoming Events
- 4-H Member Spotlight
- 4-H Volunteer Spotlight
- 4-H Success Stories
- 4-H Volunteer Tip of the Month
- Statewide Calendar of Events
- Statewide 4-H News

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

Garden to Table Summer Workshop Series

In this hands-on program, youth will explore the journey of food from seed to plate! Participants will learn how to plant and care for a garden, harvest fresh produce, and turn their homegrown ingredients into simple, healthy meals. Activities promote teamwork, environmental awareness, and healthy living through fun and engaging gardening and cooking experiences.

Where: Taylor Community Library
(12303 Pardee Rd, Taylor, MI 48180)

When:

- **8/22, 4-5:30pm:** Keep it Fresh! Learn simple ways to make your garden harvest last longer! Youth will explore easy preservation methods like quick pickling, drying herbs, and freezing produce.

Cost: Free!

Suitable for ages 10 & Up.

Registration Required:

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

Garden to Table Workshop Series

at Taylor Community Library

Jun 20th 2-3:30 PM:
Plant it, grow it eat it!

Jul 25th 4-5:30 PM:
Harvest and Snack

Aug 22nd 4-5:30 PM:
Keep it Fresh

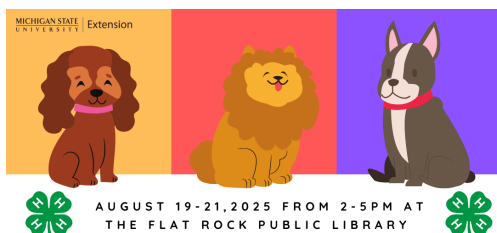
Registration
Required, suitable
for ages 10 & up



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Dog Days of Summer 4-H Mini Day Camp

Join us for a tail-wagging good time at this 3-day 4-H mini day camp all about dogs! Youth will explore canine anatomy, breeds, nutrition, grooming, first aid, enrichment, and careers in the dog world. Campers will participate in making homemade dog treats and toys, practicing pet care skills, and meeting a dog trainer. Dog ownership is not required to participate—just a love for animals and a curiosity to learn!



Dog Days of Summer 4-H Mini Day Camp



Pre-Registration Required by: August 12, 2025

Registration Link:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/dog-days-of-summer-4-h-mini-day-camp>

Cost: FREE!

Who: Youth ages 8-14

Where: Flat Rock Public Library (25200 Gibraltar Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134)

When: August 19-21, 2025 | 2-5 PM

Contact: Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408)



Wayne County Upcoming Events

Wayne County Fair

When: August 4th-9th

Location: 10871 Quirk Rd, Belleville, MI 48111

Kids Day: Thursday August 7th 12pm-4pm.

For more information go to the fair website:

<https://www.waynecountyfairgrounds.net/wayne-county-fair>



4-H Power Hour: Daily Fun at the Fair

Looking for a break from the barns? Stop by the Rabbit Barn each day from 2:00–3:00 PM for 4-H Power Hour, a series of fun, hands-on activities open to all 4-H youth and youth exhibitors at the fair!

- Each day features a new activity designed to spark creativity, build connections, and add a little extra fun to your fair experience.
- No need to sign up, just drop-in and join the fun!



4-H Fair Week Goosechase Challenge

Get ready for some fun at the fair! All 4-H fair exhibitors are invited to take part in our annual Fair Week Goosechase—a fast-paced, interactive scavenger hunt filled with exciting missions, trivia challenges, and chances to connect with fellow 4-H'ers.

- New missions are released throughout the week, and *anything can happen!* Compete solo or as a team of up to four for a chance to win gift card prizes for the top three scorers!
- Open to all youth participants. Please note: Youth ages 13 and under must participate with a parent or guardian.
- Don't miss out on the fun, join the chase! Join codes will be released on Sunday August 3rd during fair meetings.

For any questions about the fair and 4-H sponsored events at the fair, please reach out to Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu).



Member Spotlight- Lillian Henderson

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I've won a couple first, second and fifth place awards with rabbits. I've tried showing Goats, which I didn't place in, but it was fun.

How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

I got involved in 4-H through my teacher Mrs. Jerome. I originally was going to the farm for community service, but I then joined the club at Pingree Farms. This was in sixth grade.

What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

I am from the city, so there aren't many opportunities to work with animals like this, so when I heard that I could I decided to try it.

What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

I think that doing 4-H has made me a bit more social. I'm not a very talkative person, but it has slowly proven that the more you speak up for yourself the more you can achieve.

What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

I would advise to be prepared and organized. A lot of the projects in 4-H are not difficult but take time, so if you are agonized with your ideas, you can pick up where you left off.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My favorite memory is probably when I first showed a goat. I was not great at it, but I did it with my friend and I love Goats in general. I also like when I went to the farm to plant plants. It was hot but looked pretty in the end.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to continue 4-H. I wasn't as active this year, but I plan on getting back into it for the next. I just started High School, so I am more focused on moving forward in that currently.





Volunteer Spotlight- Sherill Schalte



Where do you volunteer, and how did you get started?

As a volunteer and club leader with Wayne County my involvement with 4-H dates to my childhood and has continued into my adult years.

What has been your favorite or most fulfilling part of volunteering with 4-H?

As A 4-H volunteer my experiences has been highly fulfilling especially when meeting new families and directing them towards their areas of interest with the 4-H youth programs offered.

What volunteer projects do you most like to be a part of?

I enjoy being part of the livestock community I enjoy introducing a variety of animals and sharing my knowledge with the youth in my club regarding animal care, leadership and responsibilities.

Do you have any advice for other 4-H volunteers?

Get involved learn as much as possible with every opportunity that comes your way then share your knowledge with the next 4-H volunteer.

Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?

As a result of participating in 4-H I have developed lifelong friendships throughout the years.



Success Stories

Wayne County Launches First Beginner Horse SPIN Club

This spring, Wayne County 4-H proudly launched its first Beginner Horse 4-H SPIN Club: Intro to Horses, offering youth hands-on experience with horses without the cost or commitment of ownership. Led by long-time 4-H volunteer Diane Sloan, the club met twice a month from April through June and welcomed 18 new 4-H members for a six-session series focused on horsemanship basics.

Youth explored topics like horse safety, grooming, tack, nutrition, and introductory riding. The program was free to families and designed to remove common barriers to equine education. Interest was so high that registration filled within days, and a waitlist quickly formed.

Youth reflected on their experiences with enthusiasm and gratitude:

- “The club was really fun. I enjoyed teaching and giving youth the opportunity to ride,” said Diane.
- “My favorite part was riding. It’s fun to progress in your capabilities.”
- “I didn’t know there were so many things to be aware of when walking a horse.”
- “Diane and her helpers were awesome! So knowledgeable and approachable.”

This club marks an exciting first step in revitalizing the 4-H horse program in Wayne County and making horsemanship accessible to a new generation. Plans for future sessions are already in motion thanks to the incredible response and dedication of our volunteers.





Success Stories

Wayne County 4-H Rolls Into Summer with First Countywide Skating Night

On Sunday, June 8, 2025, Wayne County 4-H made history by hosting its first-ever countywide 4-H Skating Party, *Roll Into Summer: 4-H Family Skating Night*, at Rollers Skate Park in Belleville. The event brought together 35 youth and family members for an evening of roller skating, games, prizes, and fun.

This event was the first official program led by the newly revived Wayne County Junior Livestock Board, which relaunched in Fall 2024 after being inactive for nearly seven years. The youth board planned and hosted the event from start to finish, showcasing the power of youth leadership and voice in shaping the 4-H experience.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of skating, socializing, and friendly competition through interactive games and door prize drawings. Thanks to funding from the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Wayne County Endowment Fund, the board was able to provide giveaway baskets and game prizes. An additional \$200 donation helped offset event costs, and the Junior Livestock Board raised \$205 in profit to support future youth-led activities.

While the board had hoped for a larger turnout, members expressed pride in what they accomplished especially as this marked the first countywide 4-H social event since the COVID-19 pandemic. The night served as a celebration of renewed momentum for 4-H in Wayne County.

Youth organizers reflected on their experiences and what they learned:

- *"My favorite part of the event was greeting people and helping them learn how to roller skate."*
- *"I'm pretty happy with the turnout. I learned meeting skills and how to work as a team to find the right dates!"*
- *"It was fun hanging out with friends and seeing our plans come to life. Planning was harder than I expected, but when we hit bumps in the road, we adapted and kept going."*

The event was more than just a night of skating; it was a reminder of what young people can achieve with encouragement, teamwork, and the opportunity to lead. The success of this event lays a strong foundation for future youth-led programming in Wayne County 4-H.





Volunteer Tip of the Month

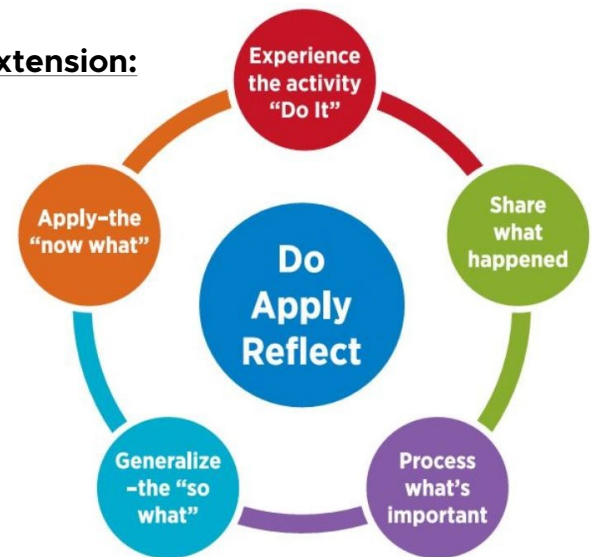
Volunteer Tip of the Month: Strengthening Club Meetings

For full article visit: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/strengthen_your_4_h_club

Looking for more ways to strengthen your club?

Here are ten suggestions from Michigan State University Extension:

- Spend time with the 4-H members and do fun and educational activities together as a 4-H club.
- Plan ahead with members so everyone knows what to expect.
- Establish a balance between project activities, club meetings, community service and fun.
- Listen carefully to understand each member's viewpoint.
- Show consideration and appreciation. Celebrate your club.
- Develop pride in your club. This could be through club shirts, signs, notes, folders or some other youth-generated idea.
- Help each other and be willing to let others help you.
- Connect with other 4-H clubs and plan programs together.
- Take part in county, regional and state 4-H activities.
- Give back to your 4-H program and the community.





Announcements

Now Forming:

2024–2025 Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event Planning Committee!

Wayne County 4-H is beginning preparations for the 2024–2025 Recognition Event—and we need YOUR help to make it a success! We're looking for adult Gold Level volunteers and teen leaders (ages 12 and up) to serve on this year's planning committee. Whether you love organizing events, getting creative, or just want to lend a helping hand, there's a role for you!

▪ Why get involved?

- Help shape one of the biggest events of the year
- Share your ideas on awards, themes, decorations, and more
- Build leadership and teamwork skills
- Choose a role that fits your interests and availability



WE WANT YOU!

The event will take place in late January, with our first committee meeting happening in September 2025. This year's committee will be more flexible—members will take on specific tasks based on their availability and skills.

Committee Roles Include (but are not limited to):



Graphic Design – Create social media graphics, invitations, programs, and other print materials.

Awards – Proofread applications, assist with judging, and help select prizes.

Fundraising & Donations – Seek out silent auction items, sponsorships, or supply donations.

Data & Mailings – Compile mailing lists in Excel, create labels, and manage RSVPs.

Day-Of Support – Assist with event setup/cleanup, registration, food line, activity stations, presenting awards, and silent auction management.

Planning & Implementation – Help make key decisions on theme, decorations, food, awards, and more!

Whether you want to dive in or just lend a hand in one area, there's a spot for you on the committee. Your voice and talents matter! And it takes a team to make this event a success! Interested? Complete the short interest form here By September 1, 2025:

<https://forms.gle/SDReuJn2oYZuU76V9>

Questions? Contact Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408).

Let's work together to create a meaningful and memorable event that celebrates the achievements of our Wayne County 4-H youth and volunteers.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Are you a current or former 4-H'er?

Join us for the MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception

Sept. 3

5:30 - 7 p.m.



Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension * 4-H GROWS HERE

Join MSU Extension for the eighth annual MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception on Wednesday, September 3.

All current or former 4-H'ers attending MSU this fall are invited to stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

Members of the MSU Extension staff will be on site to interact with 4-H alums and free pizza and pop will be provided. Come to meet fellow 4-H'ers, network with staff and students and have fun.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception.

Want to learn more about collegiate 4-H at MSU? Plan to stop by this event and stay for the club's first meeting of the fall semester, to start at the conclusion of the event.

August 2: Breakfast on the Farm

MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center, Lansing

Live in or around Ingham County? Stop by Breakfast on the Farm at the MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center. The event will include tours of the farm and great food.

www.canr.msu.edu/breakfast_on_the_farm/find_a_breakfast

August 14-17: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

The State 4-H Horse Show is an annual, three-day event that brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event; spectators are welcome.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show

August 14: Beach Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Celebrate the end of summer at the garden with a day at the beach! Make sand castles, paint shells, play beach games and more. Bring your beach towel and suit and come ready to get wet.

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

August 18: Adulting 101 - Navigating Life: Addressing and Handling Peer Pressure

Online

This interactive presentation will explore the reality of peer pressure and ways to identify, process, and overcome it, to ensure healthy decision making and positive self-confidence.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-navigating-life

September 17: Adulting 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress and Deliver with Confidence

Online

Learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

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

September 20: Michigan State 4-H Dog Show

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna, MI

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-H'ers from counties across Michigan. Registration is due by August 31 and spectators are welcome!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Safe food for 4-H events

Food safety is important when hosting food events or fundraisers. A new fact sheet, **Safe Food for 4-H Events**, was created to provide education and resources for 4-H staff, volunteers and youth who are coordinating and participating in 4-H food fundraisers or events. View the factsheet at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/safe-food-for-4-h-events.

In addition, MSU Extension held a training on food safety best practice guidelines for those who are planning for, preparing and implementing food fundraisers or events. 4-H families are encouraged to watch the training online at https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Safe+Food+for+4-H+Events/1_krsqfes3.

As 4-H families plan fundraisers and other activities throughout the year, remember to review these important resources as a reminder of food safety best practice recommendations.



Going home: Biosecurity tips for animals that travel off the farm

Adapted from: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/biosecurity_tips_for_animals_that_went_to_the_county_fair.

Animals that are exhibited at the county fair, jackpot shows, and other exhibitions are likely near and dear to their exhibitor's hearts. Michigan State University Extension offers these biosecurity steps exhibitors can take to protect their show animals and those that were left at home once the event has ended.

- Keep animals that left home separate from animals that did not for a minimum of 14 days. If at all possible, do not allow nose-to-nose contact and provide as much distance between animals.
- Disinfect all buckets, feeders, tools and footwear that left home.
- Throw away any feed or hay that left home.
- Always wear clean clothes and footwear. Boot coverings may be helpful when caring for isolated animals.
- Take care of animals that stayed home from the show first, and animals that were at the show second. Do not go back and forth between animals as this increases the risk of cross-contamination.
- Do not eat or drink in the barn.
- Observe animals daily for signs and symptoms of illness, such as:
 - Obvious pain or discomfort
 - Decrease in appetite and water intake
 - Fever
 - Lethargy
 - Diarrhea or changes in consistency in manure
 - Discharge from nasal cavity or eyes
 - Overall weakness

Care of animals after traveling is just as critical as their pre-show care. Exhibited animals were exposed to new animal populations and fair-goers, and will typically experience a lot of stress during their time away from home. By practicing these biosecurity steps, you can help keep all of your animals safe and healthy.

