



JUNE 2025

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



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CONTACT US

[Richard Wooten](#)

MSU Extension – Wayne County
District Director

[Diane Wisnewski](#)

4-H Supervisor

[Laurie Rivetto](#)

4-H Educator

[Ashleigh Klein](#) [LaToya Jones](#)

4-H Program Coordinators

[Waverly Eubank](#) [Holly Sysol](#)

4-H Program Instructors

PHONE & EMAIL:

(734) 721-6576
(Western Wayne)

msue.wayne@msu.edu

WEBSITE:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/MI4HWayne>

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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:

- **6/20, 2-3:30pm:** Plant it, grow it, eat it!
Youth will learn the basics of gardening, including how to start seeds, transplant seedlings, and care for plants. Participants will create their own mini container gardens to take home, using herbs or veggies that are easy to grow.
- **7/25, 4-5:30pm:** Harvest & Snack!
Participants will explore how to identify when produce is ripe and ready to harvest. They'll pick garden-grown fruits and vegetables, learn about their nutritional value, and prepare a simple meal.
- **8/22, 4-5:50pm:** 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 (Opens May 1st): <https://events.anr.msu.edu/gardentotableworkshops/>

Apply Today: Scholarship to attend Michigan State University

If you currently attend or are planning to attend Michigan State University this fall, please consider applying for the Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship. The amount will be between \$1250 - \$2500 (depending on the number of applicants chosen). All you need to do is type a one-page essay (double spaced; size 12 font) on 'How 4-H has prepared you for your future'.

Please send your essay to 4-H Program Coordinator, Ashleigh Klein at apelashl@msu.edu by the deadline: **July 15, 2025.**

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



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Wayne County Upcoming Events

Roll into Summer- 4-H Family Skating Night

Join us for a fun-filled evening of roller skating, games, socializing, and more as we kick off summer in style!

When: Sunday, June 8: 5:30 – 8:30pm

**Where: Rollers Skate Park
(19750 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111)**

This event is hosted by the Wayne County Junior Livestock Board and is open to all 4-H families and non-4-H families too!! EVERYONE is welcome!

Admission:

- Ages 8 & up: \$10
- Ages 3 – 7: \$5
- Ages 2 & under: Free

Mark your calendars and get ready to roll into summer with us!



4-H Garden Day



Wayne County MSU Extension 4-H Volunteer Day in the Garden - MSU - Detroit Partnership for Learning and Innovation (DPFLI)

Come out and have fun in the dirt! Get to know, DPFLI x 4-H. Take a tour of the grounds. Plant flowers, trees, fruit, etc...

Registration:

<https://forms.gle/3cu2db6dswGPr1dL9>

This is an outdoor event!
NOTE: Rain will cancel the event

Any questions, please contact LaToya J. @ Cainjone@msu.edu or Leave a message @ 313-494-4716.

Date: Sunday, June 7th

Time: 12-2pm

Location:

MSU DPFLI
16745 Lamphere
Detroit, MI 48219

Free Event
Garden tools optional



Volunteer Spotlight- Melissa Rinke

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

I am a Wayne County volunteer with the Way Cool Cloverbuds Club. A good friend took over the club as a leader and asked if I'd be interested in co-leading. After experiencing our first year in 4-H and participating in fair week, I was all in!

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

Seeing our youngest 4-Hers thrive! Our club focuses on creativity and community. Watching the Cloverbuds come out of their shell when they get to share something exciting in their life or when they create something awesome is so rewarding!

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

Anything animal related! This year we took our club to learn about chickens and horses! My oldest rides and is in a 4-H horse club. I didn't grow up around livestock/horses and love learning about the animals alongside my kids and club members!

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

Take advantage of the support from your program coordinators and resources 4-H provides! There is SOO much available online, in person, and virtually. I love listening to the pre-recorded (or live!) seminars. They have helped me learn to run our club more smoothly and connect with our Cloverbuds better! Whenever I have a question, I can't find an answer to, I reach out to our program coordinator who is always more than willing to assist.

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

Being a part of 4-H has been so enriching for my family. My oldest now has a group of kids that range in age from younger than her to older. She now has a community that shares her interests and supports her. My youngest sees her older sister thriving and can't wait to join next year. As a parent, I now have a network of experienced 4-H parents to lean on and learn from. I'm looking forward to continuing to share what I've learned with our 4-H community.





Success Story

Livestock Clinic Brings 4-H Members Together to Learn and Grow

The Wayne County 4-H Livestock Clinic is an educational event designed to prepare youth for success in livestock projects and exhibitions. Open to all 4-H members, the clinic provides hands-on learning opportunities with a focus on animal care, showmanship, and industry best practices. Youth participants engage with experienced presenters and industry professionals to gain valuable knowledge on topics such as feeding and nutrition, grooming, animal health, and proper handling techniques.

The clinic offers species-specific sessions, including beef, swine, goats, rabbits/cavy, and poultry, ensuring youth receive targeted instruction relevant to their project animals. In addition to hands-on skill-building, youth practice show ring etiquette and receive feedback to help build their confidence and abilities ahead of fair season.

Now in its third year, the Wayne County 4-H Livestock Clinic has continued to grow in size, scope, and impact, serving as a key educational opportunity for youth engaged in livestock projects. What began as a single-day clinic has evolved into a two-day event, with small animal sessions held Friday evening and large animal programming offered all day Saturday, May 16-17, 2025, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. This expanded format allowed for deeper learning and better scheduling for families and volunteers.

In 2025, 40 youth participated, up from 26 in 2024, marking a 54% increase in attendance. Participants ranged in experience levels, from first-year members to seasoned showmen, and they engaged in both species-specific sessions and broader livestock project workshops. This year's clinic included: showmanship sessions for beef, dairy, swine, goats, rabbits/cavies, and poultry. As well as educational classes on breed and market classes, nutrition and illness, halter breaking and training, animal first aid, and marketing your 4-H project.

Participants were excited, engaged, and eager to apply the knowledge they had learned. One youth, after attending the Marketing Your 4-H Project session, shared, "This was my second favorite class, pigs were my first. It's hard to beat pigs." Another noted, "I didn't know there were different ways to talk to buyers. I feel more confident now that I know how to explain my project."

When asked what they enjoyed most about the clinic, one participant enthusiastically responded, "The hands-on aspect! Having the opportunity to touch and interact with the small animals was awesome." This sentiment reflects the clinic's commitment to experiential learning, providing youth with genuine opportunities to connect with animals and develop practical skills through direct interaction.



Wayne County 4-H Livestock Clinic Participants at the Large Animal Clinic on Saturday, May 17th, 2025, wearing their T-shirts from our sponsors.



Success Story Continued

The impact of the clinic extended beyond the youth as well, thanks to a committed team of more than 10 volunteers and MSU Extension staff, who contributed nearly 100 combined hours to planning, preparing, and leading the sessions. Their dedication ensured a high-quality experience, and their presence helped model leadership, teamwork, and knowledge-sharing.

Additionally, the clinic received financial support from the Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Grant, awarded to Wayne County volunteer Donna Budd in 2024. This funding allowed for the addition of new sessions and supplies as well as covered the cost of clinicians, ultimately enriching the overall program experience for youth. We would also like to give a special thank you to the sponsors for the 2025 Wayne County 4-H Livestock Clinic T-shirts: A Design Line Embroidery LLC, Budd Farm, Cadillac Asphalt LLC, Garden Fantasy on Main, Parkway Services Inc, and Robson's Greenhouse.

The Wayne County 4-H Livestock Clinic is more than just a learning event; it's a transformational experience for youth, fostering confidence, deepening their knowledge, and strengthening their connection to agriculture. By offering both species-specific and project-based learning opportunities, the clinic equips youth with practical skills, encourages responsibility, and prepares them to be confident representatives of their 4-H projects. Each year, the clinic continues to grow "bigger and better," proving its value in developing the next generation of livestock leaders and ag-savvy youth in Wayne County. With strong volunteer support, grant funding, and a commitment to excellence, the clinic stands as a shining example of what's possible through the 4-H program in Wayne County.

Join us at the 2025 Wayne County Fair! Come see all the hard work and dedication of our 4-H youth on display at the Wayne County Fair, August 4–9, 2025! From livestock to creative arts, 4-H'ers will be showcasing the projects they've worked on all year. Don't miss the Wayne County Youth Auction on Thursday, August 7th at 6:00 PM, where you'll have the opportunity to support local 4-H members in their market animal projects. It's a great way to invest in the future of agriculture and celebrate the accomplishments of our youth!



Long time 4-H Volunteer, Anita Sampson, teaching a session on Poultry Basic Care.

4-H member, Jesse Brown, developing swine showmanship skills.



Rabbit Judge, Henry Carpenter, teaching 4-H youth to select their market rabbit projects.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Showcase your photography, videography and graphic design skills at 4-H Dairy Days!



New for 2025, Michigan 4-H Dairy Days will have feature three new contests! These contests are open to any Michigan 4-H youth ages 8-19, regardless of their enrolled project area.

Showcase your creative skills by submitting your entries to:

- Photography
- Graphic design
- Videography

So grab your cameras, get those creative juices flowing and show us what you've got!

Submissions are due June 5. Learn more at tinyurl.com/DDcreative.

June 6: Fairy Garden Workshop

Britton

Youth ages 5-19 will learn the basics of miniature gardening and some fairy lore.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/fairy-garden-workshop25

June 7: 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. We will be finding new caches, trading travel bugs, exploring the gardens and much more.

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

June 13: 4-H Terrarium Workshop

Britton

Youth ages 8-19 will create a miniature, self-sustaining ecosystem, in a controlled indoor environment.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-terrarium-workshop

June 20: Garden to Table Summer Workshop Series

Taylor Community Library, Taylor

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.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-to-table-summer-workshops

June 24: 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 our communities.

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

June 28: Michigan 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Come test your dairy industry knowledge against other 4-H'ers! This free event is open to any 4-H youth ages 8-19. Youth may enter as individuals or as teams.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-mi-4-h-dairy-quiz-bowl>





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 competing in the Michigan Livestock Expo but 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 12. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2025.

Ten Michigan 4-H volunteers honored for 50 years of service in 2025

For the fifth 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.

“Simply put, our Michigan 4-H programs would not be possible without the help of caring volunteers who give their time and talent,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “MSU Extension is grateful for every volunteer in every program, but these ten individuals deserve special recognition. They have given so much to 4-H over their five decades of service and we offer our heartfelt thanks for all they have given to support 4-H youth.”

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2025 are:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Cheryl Barton, Shiawassee County | • Vanessa Powell, Jackson County |
| • Linda Bogue, Cass County | • Diane Shepherd, Sanilac County |
| • Lisa Coe, Barry County, | • Paul Shoup, Mason County |
| • Janel Horrocks-Boehmer, Ingham County | • Bernadette Strahl, Menominee County |
| • Sharon Mitchell, St. Joseph County | • Marla Wedge, Allegan 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/>.