



October 2025

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond
Ready**

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Beginner Horse Club

Do you love horses or want to learn more about them? The 4-H Beginner Horse Club is the perfect opportunity for youth ages 10-19 to dive into the world of horses—no riding and no experience required!

Over six fun-filled weeks, you'll get hands-on experience learning how to safely interact with horses, care for them, and understand their behavior. From grooming and feeding to handling tack and leading, you'll build confidence and skills alongside other horse-loving youth.

No horse? No problem! All you need is curiosity and a willingness to learn. Spaces are limited—sign up today and take your first step into the exciting world of horses!

What You'll Learn and Meeting Dates:

- Oct 5: Tack & equipment basics
- Oct 19: Groundwork & leading
- Oct 26: Horse nutrition & feeding
- Nov 2: Intro to riding concepts and club showcase! Show off your new skills to family and friends as we celebrate your accomplishments with a fun club showcase and certificate ceremony.

Come for the horses, stay for the fun! All club meetings are held from 1pm-3pm on above dates.
Meeting Location: 48036 Willis Rd, Belleville, MI, 48111

For questions about the club please contact the Club Leader: Diane Sloan at 734-330-3868 or dianesloan123@yahoo.com

Registration Details: Open to youth ages 10-19 as of Jan 1, 2025. Youth must pre-register to join. Spaces are LIMITED! Registration will be through 4-H Online system. Please select Wayne for your County and when you arrive at the club selection tab please select "SPIN Club Beginner Horse 4-H: Intro to Horses" at time of registration. For step-by step guide to 4-H Online enrollment, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/4-h-online-support and select the "Family Enrollment Guide."

For enrollment questions please contact the 4-H Program Coordinator: Ashleigh Klein at apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408

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Beyond Ready

INTRO TO HORSES 4-H CLUB
Fall 2025, 6-week Club for young horse enthusiasts!
No experience or horse required!
First meeting: Sun, Sept 21st, 1-3 pm

Scan QR Code to Register

Select SPIN Club Beginner Horses 4-H: Intro to Horses at time of registration



Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Fall into Fun Celebration




The Wayne County Fair board is excited to invite all 4-H families to a special Fall into Fun Celebration as their way of saying thank you for everything you did to make this year's fair a success. From preparing the grounds to supporting the youth, clubs, leaders, parents, and sponsors—your time, talent, and dedication made all the difference, and they want to celebrate you!


 **When:** Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM

 **Where:** Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd, Belleville, MI 48111

What to expect:

 **Scarecrow Decorating Contest** – Each club will receive a scarecrow base. Just bring your own materials to decorate, stuff, and show off your creativity!

 **Costume Contest** – Wear your favorite fall or Halloween costume! Prizes will be awarded for all ages.

 **Food & Fun** – The Fair board will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Families are being asked to bring a side dish to pass. Please bring your own beverages.

Sign-up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4FAFAB2DABF8C61-58993175-fall#/>

This is a chance to come together, relax, and celebrate all that was accomplished this year. The Fair board truly appreciates each of you and looks forward to seeing you there!

 **For questions, please contact Jenna or Donna Budd at 734-740-8426.**





Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Virtual Club Open For New Members!

🔥 Think you're ready for the future? Let's go BEYOND ready! 🔥
If you're 12-19 and want to level up your skills, meet awesome people, and make a real impact, the 4-H Future Squad is where it's at. 💡💬🌍 This virtual 4-H club meets twice a month covering a range of educational topics at each meeting. Come join the fun! This can be a primary or secondary club.

What is 4-H Future Squad?

- A virtual 4-H club for youth 12-19 years old
- Opportunity for youth to learn skills to help them be beyond ready for their future
- A great space for youth where another club option is not available locally yet youth want an ongoing 4-H experience
- An opportunity for youth to experience 4-H and build into other experiences- many go on to attend Exploration Days, Capitol Experience, SYLC, etc

Some feedback from last year's members:

- [When referencing their favorite part of 4-H Future Squad] "Learning all about important life skills from amazing instructors and being around a great group of peers"
- A take away I had is that this is a great group of people and that I learn so much every year.
- My favorite part was coming to all the session I could and learning life skills while being around peers and great instructors.
- I liked that we learned about things that will help me as an adult.



BOOST YOUR FUTURE WITH

4-H Future Squad

A virtual 4-H Club, creating community among youth aged 12-19, while focusing on a variety of topics and tools for a successful future!



See below for more details!

📱 [Click here](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/) to learn more & fill out interest form:

(<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>)

💚 #4HFutureSquad #BeyondReady

This can be a primary or secondary club. For more information on how to register, fill out the survey link and/or contact your Wayne 4-H Program Coordinator or Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu.



Wayne County Upcoming Events

Fall Fest in Detroit: Let's Be Beyond Ready!

🍁 Saturday, October 4th come out to learn about MSU 4-H and have some fun. 🍁
Light refreshments will be provided.

Event includes:

- Games
- Light Refreshments
- Butter Making
- Family Safety Education
- Tractor Rides
- Music and MORE



Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE) Scholarship

The Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE) is once again pleased to announce their scholarship program. The organization will offer up to six scholarships in 2026 valued at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be involved with a fair, festival or a MAFE associate member. Applicants must be seniors in high school or enrolled in post-secondary education. Winners will be recognized at the 2026 MAFE Convention in January.

[Click here](#) for the application or visit mifairs.com. Applications are due November 3.



Member Spotlight- Cameron James

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

One of my biggest 4-H achievements was getting to show/protege a cow at the fair last year. It was a great learning experience and something I'll always be proud of.

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

I joined 4-H with my sister about six years ago, and it's been a big part of my family's life ever since.

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

I was drawn to the 4-H program because of my family and the farm friends I made, and the chance to try new things. I liked the idea of exploring activities like archery and showing animals, and it turned out to be a good experience."

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

Through 4-H, I've learned new skills and had opportunities to grow in ways I never expected.

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

My advice to someone thinking about joining 4-H is to just try it—you never know if it's right for you until you give it a chance.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My favorite memory of 4-H is the fair and all the fun times we had—especially the harmless pranks we played. It brought everyone closer and made the experience unforgettable.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm not exactly sure what the future holds, but I'm looking forward to finishing driver's training, starting my junior year of high school, and exploring career options by trying out one of the programs at Oakland Schools Technical Campus.

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

I played on the varsity football team this past year, which was a great experience. I'm thinking about playing again next year, and I'm excited to keep challenging myself both in sports and through 4-H.





Volunteer Spotlight- Dena Brown

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

I volunteer in both Wayne County and Washtenaw County. I got started in 1987 when my 8-year-old daughter decided she loved pigs and wanted to show them at the Wayne County Fair.

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

"My favorite part of volunteering with the youth in 4-H is watching them grow in confidence. It's amazing to see their excitement when they master a new skill, whether it's caring for an animal, giving a presentation, or working together on a project. Being part of those 'lightbulb moments' — when they realize just how capable they are — is what makes volunteering so rewarding for me. Through the Wayne County 4-H protege program the youth who do not have access to farm animals are able to learn and show those animals. This program is how we started in 4-H over 37 years ago."

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

I love helping 4-H kids learn new things — from making crafts to working with animals to practicing their skills in the Master Stockman program. It's so much fun to see everyone try, learn, and grow!

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

"Stepping into a leadership role in 4-H is exciting — and maybe even a little overwhelming at first. The most important thing to remember is that you don't have to know everything. What kids value most is your time, your encouragement, and your willingness to learn right alongside them. Start small, keep activities fun and hands-on, and celebrate every step forward, no matter how small it may seem. Above all, enjoy the journey. You're not just teaching skills — you're helping shape tomorrow's leaders, one meeting at a time."



Success Story

Dog Days of Summer 4-H Camp a Paws-itively Fun Success!

This August, Wayne County 4-H hosted its first-ever Dog Days of Summer Mini Day Camp at the Flat Rock Public Library. It was a tail-wagging hit! Over three days, 16 youth ages 8–14 explored the exciting world of dogs through hands-on learning and activities.

Campers learned about dog breeds, nutrition, grooming, first aid, and careers in the canine world. They played dog breed bingo, made homemade dog treats, acted out first aid scenarios, practiced nail trimming, built enrichment toys, and capped it all off by meeting a professional dog trainer. As one participant shared, *“My favorite part was making dog treats and meeting a real dog trainer!”*

The camp was designed to give urban youth an accessible way to engage with animals. Youth left with new skills, new friends, and plenty of excitement for future 4-H dog programs. Another camper summed up the fun simply: *“It was a lot of fun!”*

With such positive energy, Wayne County 4-H looks forward to expanding dog programming and building a sustainable 4-H Dog Program that youth and families can enjoy for years to come. We’re looking for experienced 4-H volunteers to help lead and grow the Wayne County 4-H Dog Program! If you have a passion for dogs and youth development, we’d love to connect with you. Contact Ashleigh Klein at apleashl@msu.edu if you’d like to help!





Volunteer Tip of the Month

Volunteer Tip of the Month: Kick Off the New 4-H Year with a Plan!

A new 4-H year is the perfect time to get organized and energized. Taking time to plan reduces stress, increases engagement, and keeps youth at the center of the experience.

A well-planned year helps clubs:

- Build excitement and youth leadership
- Stay connected with families and volunteers
- Reduce last-minute stress
- Celebrate achievements along the way

Key steps for success include setting goals, creating strong communication systems, engaging families and volunteers, ensuring youth voice guides decisions, and taking time to celebrate and reflect.

To support your planning, MSU Extension offers two helpful tools:

[4-H Club Calendar](#) – plan the whole year in advance.

[4-H Meeting Outline](#) – organize meetings for smooth, meaningful experiences.

With a clear roadmap, your club is ready for a fun and impactful 4-H year!

👉 [Learn more in the full article here](#)





Shout Outs

Celebrating Our Graduating 4-H Members

This year, we celebrate several outstanding youth who have reached an exciting milestone—their graduation from the Wayne County 4-H Program in the 2024-2025 year. While we will truly miss their presence, we look forward to seeing how they carry their 4-H experiences into the next chapter of their lives. We also hope they will consider giving back by sharing their talents as future 4-H volunteers.

Each of these young people has left a lasting mark on Wayne County 4-H, and we are so proud of all they have accomplished. Congratulations on your achievements, and best wishes as you pursue your future goals. We know 4-H has prepared you to be Beyond Ready for whatever comes next!

Congratulations to:

- Gabby Cumbo, Next Level 4-H Club
- Grace King, Mustangers 4-H Club
- Hannah Giacalone, Mustangers 4-H Club
- Jack Richendollar, Outstanding 4-H Livestock
- Kylee Earley, Mustangers 4-H Club
- Luke Budd, Superstock 4-H Club

These members will be specially recognized at our Annual Recognition Event in January 2026.





Announcements

Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event

The 2024–2025 Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event is almost here!

When: January 31, 2026

Where: WCCCD Downriver Campus,
21000 Northline Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

Join us for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our Wayne County 4-H youth and volunteers. From years of service to remarkable achievements, this event is all about recognizing the people who make 4-H shine. This year's theme is "Celebrating the Magic of 4-H!" Expect an inspiring program, opportunities to apply or nominate someone for awards, and plenty of memorable moments with the 4-H community. Mark your calendars—you won't want to miss it!

MSU Extension Wayne County 4-H Award Applications and Nominations Now Open!
Please visit:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/2024-2025-4-h-recognition-event> to find award applications for youth, adults, and clubs.

Questions? Direct them to Ashleigh Klein
(apelashl@msu.edu) or 734-727-7408.
4-H Enrollment is OPEN!

4-H Online 2025-2026 Enrollment Open!
Enrollment is now open for the 2025-2026 4-H Year!

Why is re-enrollment important?

- Ensures youth are covered under the American Income Life Insurance
- Access to updated contact and health information
- Youth are eligible to receive awards and scholarships
- Helps tell the 4-H story for youth in Wayne County
- Keeps youth "Member years in Program" number accurate.





Fun Stuff





Fun Stuff

MAPLE BACON RICE KRISPIE TREATS

INGREDIENTS

- ½ lb Bacon, cooked and chopped
- 3 Tbs Butter
- 1 Tbs Maple Extract
- 10 oz pkg Marshmallows
- 1½ Tbs Maple Syrup
- 6 cups Rice Krispie Cereal
- 16 oz Melting Chocolate
- Sea Salt

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare 9x13 in pan with baking spray.
2. Melt butter in a large pot over low heat.
3. Add marshmallows and stir constantly until fully melted.
4. Stir in maple syrup, maple extract, & chopped bacon. Remove from heat.
5. Stir in Rice Krispies until completely coated in marshmallow mixture.
6. Press evenly into baking pan. Don't press too hard


MAPLE BACON RICE KRISPIES CONTINUED

7. Melt chocolate in microwave
8. Pour chocolate over the Krispies and spread into an even layer
9. Sprinkle a little sea salt over the chocolate
10. Allow the Rice Krispies to cool completely, then cut into bars.

RECIPE SUBMITTED BY HOLLY SYSOL



Fun Stuff



ACORN SQUASH STUFFED WITH ITALIAN CHICKEN LOAF

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Tbs melted coconut oil
- 2 medium acorn squash
- 1½ pounds ground chicken
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 small red pepper, diced
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 2-3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 large egg
- 1¼ tsp sea salt
- ¾ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp dried parsley
- ¼ - ½ tsp red pepper flakes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F
2. Brush 2 Tbs oil on bottom of a baking dish.
3. Cut squash in half & remove seeds & pulp. Place in dish.
4. Place chicken in a large mixing bowl & set aside.
5. Place skillet over med/high heat. Add 1 Tbs oil. When hot, add onion, pepper, & carrot. Cook for 3 minutes.
6. Add garlic & cook 1 minute more. Remove from heat and let cool.
7. Add the egg, salt, pepper, basil, thyme, parsley, and pepper flakes to the chicken. Then add vegetables. Combine well with your hands, but do not over mix.
8. Scoop mix into acorn halves evenly. Bake for 1 hour



Fun Stuff



HOMESTEAD HAMBURGER SOUP

INGREDIENTS


- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup diced potatoes
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- 1 cup sliced celery
- ¼ cup uncooked rice
- 3 cups water
- 1 beef bouillon cube
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- ¼ tsp basil
- ¼ tsp thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 32 oz can stewed tomatoes, undrained

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Brown ground beef and onions in a stockpot. Drain excess fat.
2. Add remaining ingredients & stir so the tomatoes become slightly mashed.
3. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, & simmer for 1 hour.



Fun Stuff



ROASTED CARROTS AND BUTTERNUT SQUASH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb butternut squash, peeled
- 1 lb carrots, peeled
- 3 Tbs olive oil
- 2 ½ tsp sea salt
- 1 ½ tsp black pepper
- 2 Tbs minced chives
- 1 Tbs minced parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 450°F. Line a baking sheet with parchments paper.
2. Cut squash in half & then into slices. Then cut the carrots into slices.
3. Places squash & carrots into a large bowl. Add salt, pepper, & olive oil. Toss well to coat.
4. Place in a single layer & roast 25-30 minutes
5. Add chives and parsley to top.



Fun Stuff



SWEET POTATO CHICKEN POPPERS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb ground chicken
- 2 cups finely grated sweet potato
- 2 Tbs + 1 tsp coconut oil
- 2 Tbs coconut flour
- 1 Tbs garlic powder
- 1 Tbs onion powder
- 1 tsp sea salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp paprika

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F & line baking sheet with parchment paper lightly greased with 1 tsp coconut oil.
2. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl, & thoroughly mix
3. Begin rolling into small, semi flattened, poppers & place on baking sheet.
4. Place in oven for 25-28 minutes, flipping halfway through.
5. Allow to cool & then serve with your favorite sauce.



Fun Stuff



PALEO APPLE MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups almond flour/meal
- 3 eggs
- 2 Tbs melted grass fed butter
- 2 T + $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1-2 apples
- 1 tsp baking soda
- Pinch of salt

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325 °F. Core apple(s) and then blend in a food processor until they are finely chopped.
2. Mix all ingredients together, fill muffin cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
3. Bake for 20 minutes



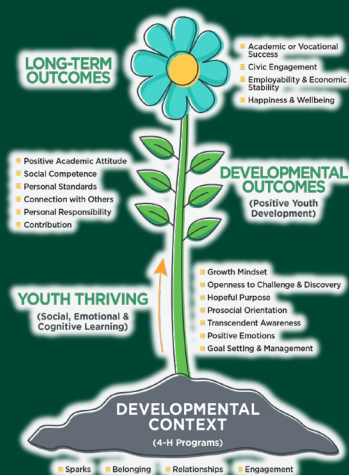
Fun Stuff





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.

