



4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY

September 2025



**Beyond
Ready**

September Newsletter Contents:

- Wayne County Upcoming Events
- 4-H Member Spotlight
- 4-H Volunteer Spotlight
- 4-H Volunteer Tip of the Month
- Fun Things!
- Statewide Calendar of Events
- Statewide 4-H News

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>

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.










Wayne County Upcoming Events

Fall 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Learn, Connect, and Get Inspired!

Get ready for an exciting lineup of free webinars designed just for Michigan 4-H volunteers! This fall, join experts from Michigan State University Extension to gain fresh ideas, build new skills, and connect with volunteers from across the state.






Attend one or attend them all—each session is offered twice (noon & 7 p.m.) and recorded for later viewing.

Fall 2025 Topics:

-  Sept. 11 – Plan with Purpose: Designing Your Best 4-H Year Yet
-  Sept. 18 – Friendly but Firm: Boundaries That Make Volunteering Better
-  Oct. 6 – Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth with Skills for Life (with Michigan 4-H State Leader Jodi Schulz)
-  Oct. 23 – Officers in Action: Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles
-  Nov. 18 – So You Want to Be a Club Leader? Let's Talk!

→ Learn more & register: [Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series](https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series)
(<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>)


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

 [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

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.

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

Beginner Horse 4-H Club: Intro to Horses

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!

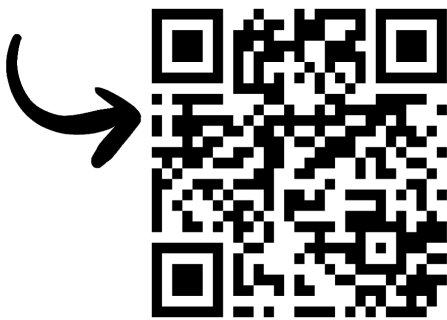
Over six fun-filled weeks, you'll get hands-on experience learning how to safely interact with horses, care for them, and understand their behavior. From grooming and feeding to handling tack and leading, you'll build confidence and skills alongside other horse-loving youth. No horse? No problem! All 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:

- Sept 21st: Horse safety & behavior
- Sept 28th: Grooming & daily care
- Oct 5th: Tack & equipment basics
- Oct 19th: Groundwork & leading
- Oct 26th: Horse nutrition & feeding
- Nov 2nd: Club showcase and riding concepts. 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!

Scan QR Code to Register



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

OR

Visit 4-H Online at

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-up>

Family Enrollment Guide can be found at

https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/4-h-online-support

Member Spotlight- Alex Coan

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

In previous years I was prince and king of the Wayne County Fair. I was also Jr Master Equestrian and have won the Western Challenge in the past.

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

I first got involved in 2017 when I got my pony and showed as a protégé. I joined American Youth 4-H club because my mom was a member of this club when she was little. I am proud to be part of a club that has been around for over 50 years.

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

When I got my pony from my Nana and could first participate in 4-H though protege.

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

Valuable life experience that I look forward to using in my future, such as caring for different species of animals and learning how to communicate well with lots of people.

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

It is a fun experience and there are lots of things to learn from 4-H.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My first year showing my own horse, Rudy. I bought Rudy in 2021 after leasing a horse for a couple of years. Rudy is my best friend, and I love spending time at the barn with him. He has had some medical issues in the past, but we worked through it and now he is better than ever.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to attend Michigan State University after high school for a major in Zoology and minor in Biology to eventually work in an animal related field





Volunteer Spotlight- Amanda Longo



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

The Mustangs for our equine club and I am the leader of a local club for Cloverbuds called The Way Cool Clover Buds. I also volunteer in a local equine based therapy program for youth called Healing with Horses.

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

"Working with the kids, seeing their excitement in learning and discovering new things/experiences. On a personal level, all the new friends and memories we have made with your equine club".

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

Anything horse related.

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

Let the kids take the lead and just have fun!

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

"Our family shares a deep love for horses and a strong commitment to their lifelong well-being. We believe every horse deserves a safe, caring home and we actively support Mareworthy, a charity dedicated to rescuing and rehoming Thoroughbred mares. Through their incredible work, these horses are given a second chance to live peaceful, meaningful lives with people who cherish them as much as we do! We hope that one day, we'll be able to open our hearts and our home to one or two of these special mares, offering them a new purpose and a forever place where they can thrive. You can find more education, information and help too at Mareworthy.com".

Special Shout Outs!

Michigan 4-H Horse Show Wayne County Delegation!

Congratulations to Amelia Harris for representing Wayne County at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show that was held August 14th-17th, 2025. Amelia received several 1st place ribbons in her age division with two overalls and a top 5 overall. On behalf of the Wayne County 4-H staff we couldn't be prouder! Congratulations Amelia on this success!



2025 Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to our 2025 Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship Recipients! We are proud to recognize Elijah Robinson and Caoilainn James as the 2025 recipients of the Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship. Each awardee will receive a \$2,500 scholarship applied directly toward their tuition at Michigan State University.

To be eligible, recipients must be active Wayne County 4-H participants or recent 4-H Alumni within the last 3 years and enrolled as full-time students at MSU for the 2025–2026 academic year.



Caoilainn will enter her sophomore year at MSU, majoring in Animal Science.



Elijah will begin his freshman year at MSU, studying Biomedical Science through Lyman Briggs College.

Please join us in congratulating Caoilainn and Elijah on this outstanding achievement and wishing them continued success in their academic journeys!



Special Shout Outs!

2025 Goosechase Winners!



1st Place Team:
Pour of Four (Nyla B., Anna G., Elyse B., and Juliet B.)



2nd Place Team:
American Youth (Rory C., Alex C., Annabelle S., and Aubree S.)



3rd Place Team:
The Gorgeous Georgeish (Ezra, Nico C., and Stella C.)

Congratulations to our 2025 Wayne County Fair week Goosechase winners!



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Volunteer Tip of the Month: Sportsmanship

For full article visit: https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources

Here are four key takeaways from the article:

- Displaying respect for animals. This means exercising good animal management through proper healthcare and nutrition, as well as fair training practices. Animals deserve humane treatment in exchange for what they provide.
- Displaying respect for opponents. Sportsmanlike competitors recognize and appreciate a well-prepared, challenging opponent who can bring out the best in them and share that appreciation with their opponents.
- Displaying respect for the “game.” This includes respecting and following the rules of the event. It also includes always trying one’s best, using skill and training to achieve positive results, and appreciating the training process.
- Displaying respect for others. Judges, show managers, parents, trainers, coaches and leaders deserve respect as well. If one is feeling frustrated, it is important to find an appropriate location and time to vent or show this frustration

You can also implement this into your club meetings:

4-H Sportsmanship Activity Series

A series of activities that can be used at club meetings, events or other youth activities to create a better understanding of the concept of sportsmanship and begin practicing important sportsmanship skills. These activities, just 5-20 minutes in length, are great for club meetings or larger groups.

- [Sportsmanship: What is it?](#)
- [Common Ground](#)
- [Good Sports Greeting Cards](#)
- [Pass the Fruit](#)
- [Sportsmanship Role Play](#)

The 6 Keys to Good Sportsmanship



Conduct

You should always strive to set a good example for everyone who is watching. Younger members look up to the older ones and follow their example. Be sure your example is a good one!

Fairness

Are you following the rules? Do you know what all the rules are? Does everyone? Never take shortcuts or unfair advantages.



Honesty

Is that the truth? Be strong and confident enough to always be honest -- with yourself and those around you.



Competitive Spirit

Is everyone having fun? Competition isn't just about winning, it's about creating an opportunity for EVERYONE to work hard to become the best they can be.



Courtesy

Are you being respectful? Work at creating an atmosphere of welcoming openness and always treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

Graceful Acceptance of Results

Win or lose, there is always something to be learned from the experience. Being able to lose (and win) gracefully is the mark of true sportsmanship.





Announcements

4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award

We are excited to announce the return of the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award! This award recognizes 4-H youth and adults who display extraordinary sportsmanship in animal science programs in their communities.

Nominations are due via email (preferred) or snail mail by October 15th. If submitting via email, please send them to the 4-H Animal Science inbox at 4h.animalscience@msu.edu.

A complete nomination includes:

- 1) Nomination form
- 2) At least one nomination letter from a 4-H volunteer or leader
- 3) A letter of support from the county staff person

The strongest nominations include specific examples of how the individual demonstrated good sportsmanship.

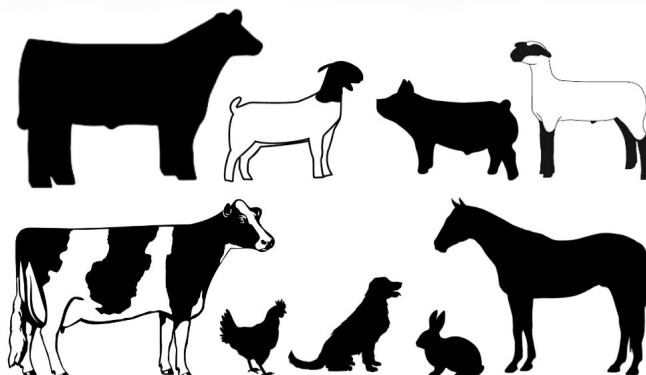
You can find full details, including the nomination form, here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources

Questions can be directed to the 4-H Animal Science Educator team:

- Autumn Converse at conver20@msu.edu
- David Lindsay at lindsa75@msu.edu
- Kendra Van Order at vanorde4@msu.edu
- or our shared inbox at 4h.animalscience@msu.edu

Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award



Nominations due October 15



Announcements

NEW THIS YEAR!!! 2025 Fall Leader Meeting

All club leaders and co-leaders are expected to attend one of the 2025 Fall 4-H Leader Meeting dates to receive important updates, training, and materials for the new program year. This meeting will cover enrollment procedures, financial reporting updates, upcoming opportunities, and compliance requirements. Light refreshments will be provided, and gift card door prizes are available for attending.

Option one:

- Date: Thursday, September 25th, 2025
- Time: 6:30-8:30 pm
- Location: Wayne County Fairgrounds, Abbott Building (10871 Quirk Rd, Belleville, MI 48111)

Option Two: This option is after the re-enrollment paperwork deadline and if you are looking for support on this, we encourage you to attend the first meeting option.

- Date: Wednesday, October 8th, 2025
- Time: 4-6pm
- Location: Focus Hope MSU Extension Office, 2nd Floor Classroom (1360 Oakman Boulevard, Detroit, MI, 48238)

Please Note: Failure to attend one of the meeting options will impact your club's ability to participate in the 2025–2026 4-H program year. Clubs that do not attend will experience delays in the re-enrollment process, and no club activities may take place until all required steps are completed.

RSVP to one of the Fall Leader Meeting Dates by Friday September 19th:

<https://forms.gle/jFESkJxXPkJUYhk8A>

It's Time for 4-H Club Re-enrollment!

All 4-H Leaders received re-enrollment instructions by email in August. Club and Advisory Group re-enrollment paperwork is due between September 1 and October 1, 2025.

Please note: 4-H Online enrollment will only open for clubs once all paperwork and requirements have been completed.

If you have any questions or need assistance with this process, please contact Ashleigh Klein at apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408.

All required documents and a helpful checklist can also be found on our website under the Volunteer and Club Resources tab:

👉 [Volunteer and Club Resources – Wayne County 4-H](https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/volunteer-and-club-resources)
(<https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/volunteer-and-club-resources>)



Fun Stuff

September Trivia Fun

1. What do the four H's in 4-H stand for?
A. Hope, Help, Hands, Heart
B. Head, Heart, Hands, Health
C. Honor, Home, Hands, Heart
2. What year was 4-H founded?
A. 1902
B. 1910
C. 1899
3. What crop is harvested most in the U.S. during September?
A. Corn
B. Strawberries
C. Wheat
4. Which farm animal is known for having the best memory?
A. Chickens
B. Goats
C. Pigs
5. What pigment gives leaves their orange color in the fall?
A. Chlorophyll
B. Carotene
C. Xanthophyll
6. What is the first day of fall called?
A. Autumn Solstice
B. Fall Equinox
C. Harvest Moon
7. Apples float in water because they are...
A. Full of tiny air pockets
B. Heavier than water
C. Shaped like a balloon
8. Which insect is often seen migrating in fall?
A. Dragonfly
B. Butterfly
C. Grasshopper
9. What animal grows a new set of antlers every year?
A. Moose
B. Deer
C. Cow
10. What's the name of the fear of pumpkins?
A. Cucurbitophobia
B. Pumpkinitis
C. Jackophobia

Answers: B, A, A, C, B, B, A, B, B, A



Fun Stuff





Fun Stuff

Head, Heart, Hands, and Healthy Fall Fun

SCAVENGER HUNT

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> an orange pumpkin | <input type="checkbox"/> a y shaped stick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a red leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> a bird in a tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an acorn | <input type="checkbox"/> a pine tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a pinecone | <input type="checkbox"/> an unusual rock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something that smells like fall | <input type="checkbox"/> a mushroom or fungus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal tracks in the dirt | <input type="checkbox"/> a cobweb (real or fake!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a squirrel or chipmunk | <input type="checkbox"/> a pair of boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a feather | <input type="checkbox"/> a tree stump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a seed or seed pod | <input type="checkbox"/> something with berries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a tree with colorful leaves | <input type="checkbox"/> a cup of cocoa or cider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something smooth | <input type="checkbox"/> a leaf bigger than your hand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something rough | <input type="checkbox"/> a cloud shaped like an animal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something bumpy | <input type="checkbox"/> a V shaped formation of birds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something crunchy | <input type="checkbox"/> an apple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something spiky | <input type="checkbox"/> a fall dessert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a leaf with more than 2 colors | <input type="checkbox"/> a black bird |

If you would like your photos included in the October newsletter, please send them to sysolho1@msu.edu

Anyone who completes the scavenger hunt will receive a small 4-H swag gift



Fun Stuff



Fall Recipe Swap

SEND YOUR FAVORITE FALL RECIPE TO SYSOLHO1@MSU.EDU TO
HAVE IT FEATURED IN OCTOBER'S NEWSLETTER



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wild Spartans Series returns



Join Us Online
WILD SPARTANS
MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN LEARNING
SCIENCE • RESEARCH • CAREERS • CONSERVATION
October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST

Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will begin in October and be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration is required: www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026.

September 11: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Planning with Purpose: Designing Your Best 4-H Year Yet Online

This webinar will guide volunteers through seasonal planning, setting goals and aligning club activities with youth development outcomes. This session will be offered twice.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-7pm

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

Participants will 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%20\(COPY_1754674660740\)](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-professionalism%20(COPY_1754674660740))

September 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Friendly but Firm: Boundaries that Make Volunteering Better Online

Learn how to say “yes” with intention, “no” without guilt, and keep your 4-H experience fun, respectful, and drama-free. This session will be offered twice.

- **12 p.m.:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-noon
- **7 p.m.:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-7pm

September 20: 2025 Michigan 4-H Dog Show

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-Hers from counties across Michigan. Spectators welcome.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show

September 20-21: Fall 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification for Adults and Teens

Shiawassee Conservation Association, Owosso

Learn about 4-H shooting sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use, and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/fall-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-for-adults-and-teens

October 3: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

Henry Center for Executive Development, Lansing

4-H donors are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

2025 Michigan 4-H State Award Winners Announced

The Michigan 4-H State Awards program recognized outstanding 4-H members during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members and recognizes excellence in learning, leadership and service.

In total, 38 4-H members from 15 counties submitted applications for this year's program. Recipients of the 2025 awards are:

- **Achievement:** William Rogers of Washtenaw County
- **Beef Science:** Emma Verbeek of Delta County (junior division)
- **Birds and Poultry Science:** Avery Mastěj of Van Buren County (junior division)
- **Civic Engagement and Service:** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Companion Animal Science:** Taylor Johnson of St. Joseph County (junior division) and Makenzie Rehberg of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Dairy Science:** Adrienne Balchik of Gogebic County (junior division) and Harper Jane Adkins of Washtenaw County (senior division)
- **Equine Science:** Lillian Wasson of Oceana County (junior division)
- **Food, Nutrition, Health and Fitness:** Vivienne Turri of Washtenaw County (junior division)
- **Gardening and Horticulture:** Trent Simons of Otsego County (junior division)
- **Goat Science:** Aleah Simpson of Houghton County (junior division) and Alison Borowski of Alpena County (senior division)
- **Leadership:** Zoe Rorick of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Lyla Lapaugh of Eaton County (junior division)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** John Jinks of Monroe County (junior division)
- **Sheep Science:** Morgen Schmidt of Monroe County (junior division) and Owen Plum of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Swine Science:** Taylor Trattles of St. Joseph County (junior division)
- **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Verina Duncan of Eaton County (senior division)



The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to 4-H members who are 12-19 years old with two or more years of 4-H experience. To qualify, 4-H'ers must submit a written application that showcases the learning experiences, knowledge and skills they've acquired through 4-H, as well as their contributions to 4-H communities. Submissions are reviewed by a selection committee. In addition to a plaque, each 4-H State Award winner in the senior division received a \$300 cash award, junior winners received \$100 cash awards, and achievement award winner received \$500. These awards are made possible by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

National 4-H Week: October 5-11

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 5-11, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Learn more about ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>.