



4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY

September 2026



**Beyond
Ready**

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Learn by doing.

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Farm to Table Workshop Series

Save the Dates

4-H Farm to Table Workshop Series

Allen Park Farmer's Market!

Fridays

October 2nd-16th, 2026

5:00 - 6:30pm

The 4-H Farm to Table Workshop Series is a hands-on educational experience that helps youth in grades 4th and up, explore where their food comes from and how it moves from the farm to their table. Through engaging workshops, participants learn about local agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and sustainability while building practical life skills. Youth explore how food is grown and harvested, connect with agricultural and food experts, and take part in hands-on cooking activities using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The series emphasizes experiential learning, teamwork, and confidence-building while encouraging healthy food choices, an appreciation for local food systems, and the 4-H philosophy of learning by doing.

Registration and more details coming soon! <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-farm-to-table-workshops>

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



Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Beginner Horse Workshop Series

Interested in horses but don't know where to start? Join us for the 4-H Beginner Horse Workshop Series on Sundays in October 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This hands-on educational series is designed for youth ages 5-19 (as of January 1, 2027) and welcomes participants with little or no horse experience.

Participants will learn horse grooming, halter and lead line skills, basic western riding concepts, horse nutrition basics, and more while building confidence and learning safe horse handling practices.

No riding experience is required. More details and registration information coming soon! Stay tuned and save the dates today.

Registration and Information: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-beginner-horse-workshop-series>

Questions? Contact Ashleigh Klein at apelashle@msu.edu or 734-727-7408.





Wayne County Upcoming Events

Join the 4-H Future Squad!

4-H Future Squad virtual club is open for enrollment!

Youth ages 12-19 (as of Jan 1, 2027) can connect virtually with peers from across Michigan while building real-world life skills, exploring careers, and preparing for the future. Join as your only 4-H club or as a second club to expand your 4-H experience! Club meetings are online, twice a month, from October 2026- May 2027.

♥ Learn more and fill out the interest form at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>

JOIN NOW!

Michigan 4-H Future Squad

YOUR FUTURE CALLED.

IT WANTS YOU ON THE SQUAD!

JOIN 4-H FUTURE SQUAD

TO CONNECT WITH OTHER YOUTH AGES 12-19,

EXPLORE NEW TOPICS, AND BUILD SKILLS FOR SUCCESS.

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Member Spotlight- Abel F.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I was elected Vice President of my 4-H club, SuperStock.

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

My mom asked me if I was interested in joining 4-H, though I didn't really have a choice. We began last year through the protege program. I showed chickens, rabbits, and goats. My favorite was showing goats.

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

I am glad my mom made me join because I got to show goats. I've made some friends and I am excited to go to exploration days this year.

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

I have gained experience in how to handle animals and how to care for them.

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

I would say "Do your best", because it's hard work but if you put your mind to it you can do hard things.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

Last year at fair, there was a DJ that let us take over the stage and have a karaoke night. It was fun to sing and dance around to the music.

What are your plans for the future?

This year we are getting our own goats and I'll be taking care of them on our land. I plan on showing the same animals again but on my own, not as a protege. I am excited for exploration days, and for a fun fair week!

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

Outside of 4-H I love video games, being outside, and playing in sports. I am apart of the middle school cross country, swimming, and track teams.



Do you want to be featured under our member spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form <https://forms.gle/U5nBbBYPs3YaNvqZ7>



Announcements

2026 Fall Leader Meeting & Training

All clubs are expected to have at least one leader attend one of the 2026 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 and door prizes will be provided.

Option one:

Date: September 24, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Wayne County Fairgrounds, Dinning Hall (10871 Quirk Rd, Belleville, MI 48111)

Option Two:

Date: September 29, 2026

Time: 4pm-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 2026–2027 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. If you are unable to attend one of the above dates, please contact your local program coordinator to schedule a make-up session.

RSVP to one of the Fall Leader Meeting Dates by Friday September 18th:

<https://forms.gle/bFFa5jE7dQczeBX39>



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Leading Meetings With Youth

As we begin a new 4-H year, it's a great time to reflect on how we create meaningful opportunities for youth leadership within our clubs. Youth are more engaged, invested, and excited about 4-H when they have an active role in planning, decision-making, and leading club activities. While adults provide guidance and support, some of the most impactful learning happens when young people are given the chance to take ownership of their club experience.

As you plan your upcoming meetings, consider the following:

- Give youth leadership roles during meetings, such as officers, committee chairs, or activity leaders.
- Involve youth in creating meeting agendas and planning club activities.
- Balance club business with hands-on learning opportunities.
- Incorporate icebreakers and team-building activities to build connections among members.
- Ensure every member has an opportunity to share ideas and contribute to discussions.
- Recognize youth for their efforts, leadership, and accomplishments throughout the year.
- Connect club learning to service projects that allow youth to make a positive impact in their communities.

Small changes can make a big difference in helping youth develop confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of belonging within your club. As volunteers, one of the greatest gifts we can give young people is the opportunity to learn by doing and lead by example.

Looking for additional ideas and strategies? Check out Michigan State University Extension's full article, "Eleven Tips for Running Effective Meetings with Youth":

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/ten_tips_for_running_effective_meetings_with_youth





Fun Stuff

Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cookies

I had extra whole wheat flour in my pantry that I needed to use. I ended up coming across this cookie recipe that honestly tastes a lot like Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal. I feel like this is the perfect flavor as we transition from summer to back to school time.

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup corn syrup
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons maple flavoring
- 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream butter, 1/2 cup sugar and brown sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg, corn syrup, vanilla and flavoring. In another bowl, whisk remaining ingredients; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Refrigerate, covered, until firm enough to shape, about 1 hour.
2. Preheat oven to 375°. Place remaining sugar in a shallow bowl. Shape dough into 1-3/4-in. balls; roll in sugar. Place 2 in. apart on parchment-lined baking sheets.
3. Bake until edges are golden brown, 11-13 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting the new 4-H year with a focus on being Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

A new 4-H year is the perfect time for volunteers and youth to set the tone for growth, learning and readiness. Beginning the year with intentional activities helps young people build confidence, explore their interests, and understand how their 4-H experiences prepare them for life beyond the club.

Early goal setting, reflection and hands-on project work encourage youth to practice important skills such as communication, decision making and responsibility. Volunteers play a key role by helping youth make connections between what they do in 4-H and the skills they will need in future school, work and community settings.

By starting strong and reinforcing these ideas all year long, clubs can help ensure youth are truly Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

#BeyondReady

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner! Plan to stay after for the first meeting of the fall semester for MSU Collegiate 4-H!

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

September 20: Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival

Schomaker Farms, Saginaw

Join the Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival for a fun-filled afternoon at Schomaker Farms! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, learning, and community. The public is welcome!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-4-h-fall-festival

September 23: Adulting 101 – Are You Ready?

Online

Get ready for anything! This workshop will teach youth how to stay calm, make a plan and handle emergencies with confidence and safety.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026

October 2: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

University Club of MSU, Lansing

4-H donors and staff with 4-H responsibilities are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting. Register by September 18.

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

October 3: Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration

University Club of MSU, Lansing

Join us to celebrate and recognize Michigan's outstanding 4-H youth, alumni, volunteers, partners and staff. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-legacy-celebration

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

For more than 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities.

Celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week! Learn more and find ideas of how to celebrate in your community online.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>

October 5: Go Green for 4-H!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H!

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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Re-enroll for the 2026-2027 program year!

Welcome to September and the new 4-H program year! Beginning Thursday, September 3, you may login to your family's 4-H Online (mi.4honline.com/) account and enroll your 4-H members for the 2026-2027 program year. All returning families should utilize the same email address to access their account as they have in the past.

If you do not remember your login email, do not create a new account, simply contact your county staff member (www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/county/) for assistance. Thanks for being a part of the 4-H community!



**How to Register with 4-H:
Returning Family**

1. Visit **mi.4honline.com**.
2. Log in to your account.*
3. Click "Enroll Now" for the returning member(s).
4. Update information.
5. Continue until you click the final SUBMIT button.
6. Add members if needed.

*If you need assistance accessing your account, contact your local 4-H staff; do not create a new account.

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National 4-H Week: October 4-10

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 4-10, 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.

Join with 4-H'ers around the country in activating on two important initiatives:

Monday, October 5: Go Green!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H! Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag National 4-H, Michigan 4-H program, and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Thursday, October 8: Thankful Thursday

On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the mentors, educators and volunteers who are making positive impact on your people's lives in 4-H. Share who you're thankful for and celebrate how they are making a difference on Thursday, October 8! Share your 'Thankful' story on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

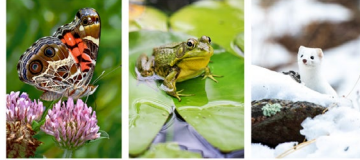
Learn more about more ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week.

Wild Spartans returns!

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 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 required:

www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE • RESEARCH • CAREERS • CONSERVATION

October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST
Registration required:
www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series

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