



May 2026

4-H Family News

Jackson County Connections



Jackson County Fair Registration

Fair Entry Opens Soon!

Fair Entry will open **May 15th** and close **June 26th**
at 5:00 pm

2026 Jackson County 4-H Fair Book

The 4-H Fair Book is now available on our website:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/jackson-county-fair>

Need Help?

If you need assistance with 4-H side of fair entry or have questions, please contact the MSU Extension Office to schedule a time to meet. We're happy to help!

CONTACT US

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WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/>

Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Association Meetings Are A Great Opportunity To Meet With Superintendents To Discuss Fair Related Questions, Species Specific Info, & Expectations Packets.
Hope To See You There!!

May Meetings

Monday 11th 6:30pm
Horse Council
MSU Extension Office

Tuesday 12th 6:30pm
Small Animal Association
MSU Extension Office

Thursday 14th 6 pm
Pocket Pets

Friday 15th
Fair Entry Opens

Tuesday 19th 6pm
Cloverbuds
See Flyer For Details

Wednesday 20th 6:30pm
Livestock Association
MSU Extension Office

June Meetings

Monday 1st 6:00pm
Foundation
MSU Extension Office

Friday 15th 5:00pm
Feeder Calf Google Form Due

Tuesday 16th 6:00pm
Cloverbuds
See Flyer For Details

Friday 19th
Swine Showmanship Clinic
Jackson County Fairgrounds
More Info to Come

Friday 26th 5:00pm
Fair Entry Due

REMINDER- Please read the IRS requirement email regarding federal tax form requirements that will affect youth participating in livestock auctions



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Champions Choice Camp Sheep & Goat Clinic

Join us for Champion's Choice Camp, a hands-on clinic focused on building confidence and skills in goat and sheep showmanship! Participants will learn proper handling techniques, ring presence, and tips to stand out to the judge. Whether you're new to showing or looking to improve, this camp is a great opportunity to learn, practice, and have fun with others who share your interest.

May 23rd at the Jackson County
Fairgrounds

www.championchoicecamps.com

For More Information & To Register





Do You Have Gardening Questions?

ASK YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS!

Beck's Flower Shop & Gardens

2322 Lansing Ave #1643,
Jackson, MI 49202

10 am - 4 pm

May 9th, 2026

Cover Crop Grazing & Variety Trial Field Day

3 CCA
CEUs

May 12, 2026
9:00am-12:30pm

Kellogg Biological Station
9693 N 40th St.,
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Help your clients take their cover crop management to the next level!

Topics covered

- Tour cover crop variety plots
- Grazing cover crops
- App for in-field measure cover crop biomass

Training intended for farmer advisors
and farmers

This cover crop training is intended to build on the October 2025 event at KBS, though previous attendance is not required.

REGISTER BY MAY 4

Registration is free but
please preregister

Lunch included!

tinyurl.com/4drzb9wb



Kellogg Biological Station
Long-Term Agroecosystem Research



Center for
Regenerative
Agriculture



FRIS & BARBARA
Erb Family
Foundation



Sustainable Agriculture
Research & Education

Food Grade Grains Field Day at Boyer Livestock

2 RUP
credits

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 11:00am- 2:30pm
7731 Clark Lake Rd, Clarklake MI 49234

Join us for a day for learning and networking to strengthen the local grain value chain

- 11:00 am-12:30 pm Field tour and wheat, rye, barley, and oat management with Brook Wilke (MSU), Dennis Pennington (MSU), Jamie Zbinden (Legacy Seed & Chem), John Meadows (Nutrien)
- 12:30 pm-1:15 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm-1:45 pm Cover crop benefits and seed production with Jeff Boyer and Madelyn Celovsky (MSU Extension)
- 1:45 pm -2:30 pm Food grade grain value chain discussion moderated by Julie Doll (Michigan Ag Advancement) featuring Joe Goetz (Goetz Brothers Organics), Todd Wright (Knappen Milling), Claire Smith (Tenara Grains), Robert McIntosh (Original Grains), & Josh Palmer (Upstart Bakery)

Featured crops: wheat, barley, cereal rye, and oats

REGISTER BY JUNE 5

This event is free but please preregister so we have an accurate headcount for lunch.

Scan the QR code or visit
forms.gle/nbUCTEJ7mR5WM2N46

Or contact Madelyn Celovsky
248-385-7886 or celovsk2@msu.edu





Help your clients take their cover crop management to the next level! Attendees will get hands-on training to evaluate cover crop performance and learn about grazing livestock on cover crops. The field day is intended for farmers and farmer advisors. Lunch included, 3 CCA credits.

Register by May 4 at <https://forms.gle/oaBVSE6Rm3K7Q4v48>.

Cover Crop Grazing & Variety Trial Field Day

at Kellogg Biological Station
9693 N 40th St., Hickory Corners, MI 49060
May 12, 2026 | 9:00am-12:30pm



Join for a day of learning and networking to strengthen the local grain value chain. Learn about oat, wheat, barley, and rye production and hear from a panel of processors, millers, and bakers who turn local grain into consumer ready products. Registration is free. Lunch included. 2 RUP credits. Register by June 5 at <https://forms.gle/pYMME4pFeEeswP4X8>.



FOOD GRADE GRAINS FIELD DAY

at Boyer Livestock
7731 Clark Lake Rd, Clarklake MI 49234
June 10, 2026 | 11:30-2:30

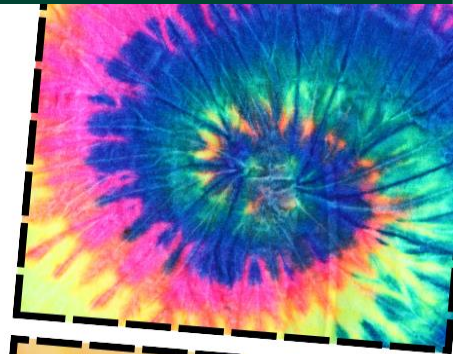




JACKSON COUNTY 4-H CLOVERBUDS

JOIN THE FUN!!

- * January 20th - Tie Dye Time
- * February 17th - Chef Cloverbud
- * March 17th - Canvas Painting
- * April 21st- Rock Lab: Explore, Sort, & Create
- * May 19th - Buzz Builders: Inside The World of Bees
- * June 16th- 4-H Council Night (activities the youth council)



ALL ACTIVIES ARE
FROM 6-7:30PM
COST \$5 PER ACTIVITY
MSU EXTENSION
OFFICE
1715 LANSING AVE
STE 257
JACKSON, MI 49202

OPEN TO ALL JACKSON
CO. 4-H MEMBERS
5-7 YRS OLD.
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE
CONTACT JESSICA
WALDRON AT
517-788-4292 OR
WALDRO45@MSU.EDU



**REGISTER AT:
WALDRO45@MSU.EDU
BY THE FRIDAY
BEFORE EACH CLASS**



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Creating Beyond-Ready Youth Through 4-H Project Learning



Beyond Ready

4-H prepares youth for the world of work by engaging them in high quality, hands-on learning grounded in meaningful project content. When young people apply skills, solve real problems and reflect on their learning, they build confidence and readiness for future careers.

4-H programs intentionally create these opportunities, helping youth practice communication, teamwork, decision making and technical skills that transfer to real world settings. Some ways to deepen project work could include: adding real life tasks, inviting youth to demonstrate mastery or guiding reflection that connects the activity to future workplace expectations. Every project meeting is a chance to help youth become Beyond Ready, capable, and confident.

#BeyondReady

May 4: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

Online

Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's Youth Business Guide to Success. Discover how you can mentor youth in goal setting, budgeting, marketing and record-keeping for real-world skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects

May 5: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the five Ps of marketing and explore strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales and build valuable industry connections.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5

May 12: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn to keep track of what you spend and earn to make smart choices for market livestock projects. Equip youth with tools to track expenses, set goals and ensure projects are profitable and rewarding.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12

May 14: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered each Thursday from May 14 – June 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026

May 18: Adulting 101 Webinar – Cooking with Confidence

Online

Increase your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence

May 19: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Pitch to Payment

Online

Communication and outreach are important methods to recruit buyers for market livestock projects. Discover how to use social media to promote your project, reach a wider audience and share progress.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19

June 6: 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.

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





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Jackson County 4-H 2026 Expectation Packets

[Poultry Expectation Packet](#)

[Rabbit Expectation Packet](#)

[Goat Expectation Packet](#)

[Dog Expectation Packet](#)

[Beef Expectation Packet](#)

[Sheep Expectation Packet](#)

[Dairy Expectation Packet](#)

[Swine Expectation Packet](#)



Jackson County 4-H Exhibitors:
Please take time to review your project expectations packet, where you'll find important details for each species.

These can all be found on our MSU Extension website under 4-H [Jackson County Fair](#)



• Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

• Jackson Co. 4-H Small Animal Assoc. Facebook Page:

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

• Jackson County 4-H Livestock Assoc. Facebook Page:

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

• Jackson County Horse Council Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232601997473213>



Fair Prep BECAUSE IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PREPARING

How To Market Your 4-H Livestock Project



Want to Rock Your 4-H Auction Experience?

Learn how to market your project like a pro, attract potential buyers to the auction, and write a thank you card that really stands out (because it should be more than just "thanks for supporting me")!

Check out these helpful links for tips, ideas, and inspiration to make the most of your 4-H journey!



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/BEEF](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/bef)

[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SHEEP-GOATS](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/sheep-goats)



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SMALL-ANIMAL](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/small-animal)

https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/general-marketing-resources

- [SHOWMANSHIP/ SWEEPSTAKES PACKETS](#)
- [POULTRY](#)
- [DAIRY GOATS](#)
- [MEAT GOATS](#)
- [RABBITS](#)
- [DOG OBEDIENCE](#)
- [HORSE](#)
- [SHEEP](#)
- [MARKET BEEF](#)
- [SWINE](#)
- [DAIRY](#)



JACKSON COUNTY FAIR 2026 DATES AUGUST 9TH – 15TH

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



**Did you know you
can show and grow
with
Youth Business Guide
to Success?**

Spring Sale!

Enjoy the fun now thru May 31, 2026!

Grab your goodies for
\$5.20 plus shipping





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.



Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.