



MAY 2026

4-H Family News

Livingston County



4-H Ambassadors Marketing Your Best Self Workshop

Want to improve your communication skills and learn how to connect confidently without relying on artificial intelligence, or AI? Join the Livingston County 4-H Ambassadors for a hands-on session about positive networking and real-world social skills. You'll practice introductions, conversation skills, application writing, email etiquette, and crafting an elevator speech—and leave with greater confidence in your communication abilities.

We will be hosting this workshop at the MSU Extension Office on Wednesday May 27th from 6-7 pm. This program is open to youth ages 10-19 years old. Youth do not need to be enrolled in 4-H to participate, so bring some friends!

[Sign up here!](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Animal Project Committee General Meeting

May 5th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Committee General Meeting

May 12th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

4-H Council Meeting

May 19th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Marketing Your Best Self Workshop

May 27th from 6-7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee Trail Ride on Sunday May 17th



Livingston County 4-H is having a group trail ride on Sunday May 17th at Proud Lake Equestrian Staging Area, Proud Lake Loop 2, Milford, MI 48381 - ready to ride at 2pm. There will be an Obstacle course and then trail ride. This ride is open to 4-H members ages 8 and up and you must bring your own horse.

If you have questions, please contact Lynn Perry at 517.376.1164 or lynn_perry@yahoo.com.

Fowlerville Youth Show News & Deadlines

Now that May 1st Forms have been turned in, it's time to planning for your Fowlerville Youth Show registration. You can find the Youth Show book on their website and registration will open on

We also encourage exhibitors and families to attend the Fowlerville YS Entry Night on June 8th at 5 pm at the Livestock Arena at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds. There will registration help, a buyer letter workshop, and superintendents will be there to answer your questions.

A few other reminders for exhibitors:

- Dog show times have changed! Obedience and Showmanship will be on Saturday and Rally/Agility will be on Tuesday.
- Foods: Exhibitors in this department must provide a photograph or small poster display of their culinary project at the time of judging. Photographs or posters are to be left for display, no foods may be left in any barn following the conclusion of judging, excluding Cake Section 258 and Department 29 Food Preservation.

Also, the Fowlerville Family Fair has recently created a new Facebook group for the Youth Show. This is the best place (other than their website) to get up to date information on the Fowlerville Youth Show. You can find the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fowlervillyouthshow>

Finally, check out their [Youth Show newsletters](#) for more information!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Sign up Now for Horse Levels of Achievement in May

Attention 4-H horse and pony exhibitors, it's time to sign up for Horse Levels of Achievement. This is open to ALL enrolled 4-H members in Livingston County ages 5-19. Evaluations are done by interview with a Gold Level Volunteer. Levels 1 & 2 do not require a horse. Achieving Level 1 is a requirement to be a Delegate to the 4-H State Horse Show.

- Level 3 speeches at May Horse Committee Meeting on May 12
- Levels 1 & 2 evaluations at Labadie Farm on May 18
- Level 3 demonstrations at Labadie Farm on May 20

[Signups required!](#)

[Levels Information is on our website.](#) You can also check out the [Level 1 Study Guide](#), [Level 2 Study Guide](#), and [Level 3 Study Guide](#).

Congratulations to the following for successfully completing the Horse Levels of Achievement in April:

- Level 1: Savannah Williams (Barnyard Banditz), Lacie Howie (It's A Pleasure), Zoe Kilduff (Canter Lopes).
- Level 2: Zoe Kilduff (Canter Lopes 4-H Club)

Obstacle Clinic at Firefly Farms on October 10th



4-H Club leader Stacey Carroll will be hosting an Obstacle Clinic on October 10th from 10 am – 1 pm at her farm, Firefly Farms at 6418 Challis, Brighton, MI and wants to extend the invitation to 4-H families. Although this is not a 4-H event, she does have a lower cost for 4-H members. Check out the flyer for more details on the club's Facebook page and if you have questions please contact Stacey at 312-848-1791.

You can find the flyer [here](#).

Michigan Statewide 4-H Trail Ride Program

Want to get recognition for your Trail Riding? This statewide initiative recognizes youth who actively participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project. The program encourages consistent riding, skill development, horse conditioning, safety awareness, and lifelong engagement with horses.

Mark your miles [here](#).





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee 2026 Night Run Series & Leaders Day



Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee is excited to announce the upcoming dates for their 2026 Night Run Series and the 2026 Leaders Day Open Youth Horse Show!

The Night Run Series will be on Wednesdays at 6 pm on May 27th, June 3rd, June 10th, and July 8th at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds. Rain date is July 12th. Prizes for each division are 1st Belt Buckle, 2nd Lawn Chair, 3rd Picture Frame, and Open Payback. This is an open show for Adults (+20), Seniors (15-19), Intermediate (12-14), Juniors (9-11), and walk/trot (8+).

Events include barrels, poles, and other speed games. For more information and to enter, check out the full Showbill: <https://bit.ly/4HNightRun26>

The 2026 Leaders Day Open Youth Horse Show will be on July 11th at Cohoctah Park, 1000 W Allen Rd., Howell, MI 48855. Highpoints for English, Western, Gymkhana. Rosette Ribbons for 1st-8th place. There are four divisions: 8-13, 14-19, Pony 8-19, and Walk/Trot 8-19. Also there are Cloverbud and PEP/TRP classes.

For more information, check out the full Showbill: <https://bit.ly/4HLeadersDay26>

Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program Needs Volunteers!

Also, Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program needs more volunteers for their Tuesday and Thursday evening programs June-July! This program assists children with special needs through therapeutic equine activities. There are many volunteer opportunities available for adults and youth (teens).

Tasks include:

- Grooming horses
- Tacking horses
- Assisting with check-in and class preparations
- Supporting wranglers during their class



Do you have a passion for both horses and teaching? We are also looking to add an additional paid instructor to our program.

Contact us at the email below for information on any of the opportunities above and more!

Email grandequestrians@gmail.com to sign up or for further information!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

One Time 4-H Volunteer Opportunities for Teens and Volunteers

Do you want to help out Livingston County 4-H but don't have a lot of time? Check out one of these upcoming one-time opportunities for 4-H teen leaders and 4-H volunteers. Not a volunteer yet? Contact Jenny or Kat for more information on the process. We can also sign off on volunteer hours for teens that need them for school, NHS, or other organizations.



Here are some upcoming events we need help with:

- Thursday May 7th from 5-7 pm at Navigator School in Pinckney for STEAM Night: 4-H Staff need assistance with a floating activity
- Thursday May 28th from 5 – 7 pm at Fowlerville Elementary End of Year Celebration : 4-H Staff need assistance with activities for kids

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Jenny at speyerje@msu.edu or call 734-436-1362.

Silver Level Volunteer Screening for 4-H Kitchen Volunteers



Are you planning to volunteer this July at the 4-H Kitchen? Get started now on your volunteer screening. MSU Extension is firmly committed to ensuring the safety of those who take part in our programming by providing a thorough screening and selection process for MSU Extension volunteers. This ensures those who work alongside us or directly with youth and the people we serve are safe and have positive experiences that enrich their lives.

Adults who work in the 4-H Kitchen or at one time events need to complete the **silver** level volunteer screening. This DOES NOT require an interview, references, or trainings. If you completed this screening last year, you do NOT need to redo the screening. You can start the [application here](#).

Make sure to choose **Silver** level, **4-H Youth Development** as the program and **Livingston** as your county. You will only need to complete an application and consent to a background check. If you have questions about the process, please email Kat at krollkat@msu.edu.

This level of volunteer is only for one-time events like the 4-H Kitchen. If you are interested in volunteering more than for 4-H Kitchen, please reach out to Kat about the process. We are always looking for folks interested in volunteering for our 4-H programs.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Barnyard Bandtiz 4-H Club Updates



Barnyard Bandtiz 4-H Club offered a Speed Clinic with Megan Strauer at Hardy Farms, on April 19th. The club had a lot of fun working on their Barrels, Poles, and 2-Man Relay techniques. They are very excited for the upcoming season!

Reminder for Still-Life Auction Projects: Finishing Touches Matter

Are you planning to exhibit a Still-Life Auction project at the Fowlerville Youth Show? As you are preparing or putting the finishing touches on your projects, please take a moment to ensure they're truly ready for your buyer.

Think about how your item will be used or displayed- does it need to be weatherproofed if it's outside? Does it need hooks or other hardware so it can easily be hung or set up? Little details like these make a big difference and help show off all your hard work!



Let's make sure your projects are not just beautiful, but also complete and ready to be judged and then off to their new homes!

If you have any questions or need help with ideas, reach out to your 4-H Leader or Amanda Hardies at jamhardies@gmail.com. It would also be a great time to start checking the fair book to note any changes in your areas of expertise.



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





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:

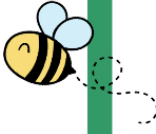
- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance 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.



May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1  MAY 1 FORMS DUE!!	2 8:00-2:00pm Tagging for Market Cattle, Feeders, Goats, and Sheep
3	4 	5  7pm - Animal Project Committee Meeting	6	7 	8	9
10	11	12  7pm - Horse committee meeting	13	14	15 	16
17 	18	19 7pm - Council Meeting	20	21	22	23 
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 Night Run Series Horse Show 	28	29 	30
31						



ARBA Rabbit show at the Fowlerville Family
Fairgrounds - For more information, see:
<https://msrba.net/>

