



4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

MAY 2026
Volume 10 Issue 9



Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er

Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er applications are due to the MSU Extension Office in Clinton Township by June 30th. Applications are available online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h/Awards-Recognition/>. For more information, contact 4-H Program Coordinator Rebecca Konarski at 586-783-8163 or konars13@msu.edu.

Signing Day - Class of 2026 Seniors

High school seniors are invited to celebrate their 4-H success as they prepare to graduate and take the next step and choose a path forward - work, apprentice program, military, or higher education. The event will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Armada Fairgrounds in Barn 3. Attendees will receive a certificate, pin, and small gift in recognition from the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council for this milestone.

Registration is required by May 5th and youth must be enrolled in Macomb County 4-H. Register at <https://forms.gle/gZkPPMT4FBY8G2ho8> or email leannestallmann@comcast.net.



Other 4-H Youth Council events

Save the dates for these upcoming events hosted by the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council. Details will be announced.

- **Leather Project** - May 17, 2026 / 12:30-1:30 p.m. / Sign up by May 7th Armada Fairgrounds, Barn 3, 74280 Fair Street, Armada <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAAAC29A6FDC34-63778793-leather>
- **Culinary "Chopped" Workshop** - July 7, 2026 / 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MSU Extension Assembly Rooms, 21885 Dunham, Clinton Twp.
- **4-H Year-End Party** - September 12, 2026 / 3-7 p.m. Armada Fairgrounds, Barn 3, 74280 Fair Street, Armada

Reel into Fishing – July 28-30

Save the Date! Macomb County 4-H and the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) are sponsoring the Reel into Fishing program at Lake Saint Clair Metropark, 31300 Metroparkway, Harrison Township from July 28-30, 2026. Participants ages 10-14 will learn how to fish, take part in a charter boat experience, and enjoy additional hands-on activities. Details will be shared soon. Sign up to receive program information and updates: <https://forms.office.com/r/t4BBhh96KG>

Welcome New 4-H Volunteers

Tracie Mastrogiacomio - School Section Project Leader
Josephine Mandala - Detroit Tank Arsenal 4-H Club
Leanna Konarski - School Section Project Leader
Rachael Gaj - Ray Community Project Leader

MACOMB COUNTY 4-H STAFF

Kristi Evans, District 11 Director

Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Educator

Elizabeth Duran, 4-H Program Coordinator

Rebecca Konarski, 4-H Program Coordinator

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WEBSITE

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

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

Macomb County 4-H team shines during State 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology contests

Macomb County 4-H'ers put their horse knowledge and skills to the test during the Michigan 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest on April 11th and the Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest on April 12th at the Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University in East Lansing. According to the Macomb County team's coach Amanda Kutchey, there were over 250 youth competitors from across the state. Kutchey said she was proud to volunteer coach Macomb County's eight participants representing six clubs from across the county. Seven of the eight youth were first-time participants. Here's how they fared:

Michigan 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest

- Jr. Novice Reasons Individual
8th place- Lorelei
6th place - Paisley
5th place - Kaitlin
- Jr. Novice Overall Individual
7th place - Kaitlin
3rd place - Vivian
2nd place - Ava
- Jr. Novice Teams Reasons
2nd place - Macomb B (Lorelei, Vivian, Vaino)
1st place - Macomb A (Paisley, Kaitlin, Ava)
- Jr. Novice Teams Overall
4th place - Macomb B
1st place - Macomb A
- Sr. Novice Reasons Individual
5th place - Sarah
- Sr. Novice Overall Individual
4th place - Sarah
- Sr. Regular Reasons Individual
6th place - Alyssa

State 4-H Hippology Contest

- Jr. Novice- Slides
5th place - Vaino
- Jr. Novice- Team Overall
4th place (Lorelei, Vaino, Vivian)
- Jr. Regular- Judging
2nd place - Paisley
- Jr. Regular- Exams
4th place - Kaitlin
- Jr. Regular- Individual overall
8th place- Ava
4th place - Paisley
- Jr. Regular- Team Overall
3rd place - (Ava, Paisley, Kaitlin)
- Sr. Regular- Judging
3rd place - Alyssa
- Sr. Regular- Slides
3rd place - Sarah
- Sr. Regular- Stations
4th place - Sarah
- Sr. Regular- Exam
1st place - Sarah
- Sr. Regular- Individual Overall
1st place - Sarah

Thank you to the Macomb County 4-H Horse Leaders for supporting our youth!

Photos and information are from Amanda Kutchey, 4-H Volunteer. Additional photos from Amanda have been shared to the [Macomb MSUE 4-H Facebook page](#).



Pictured are the Macomb County 4-H participants with Volunteer Coach Amanda Kutchey at the 2026 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest (left) and State 4-H Hippology Contest (right).

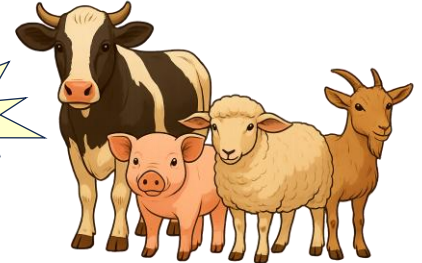


COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS (Continued)

Save the dates for upcoming 4-H livestock showmanship clinics

Save the dates for these upcoming 4-H livestock clinics at the Armada Fairgrounds in Armada:

- Sheep & Goat Clinic (June 27 / 9 a.m.)
- Cattle Fitting Clinic (June 27 / Following the Sheep & Goat Clinic)
- Swine Clinic (June 28 / 9 a.m.)



Sign-up information will be coming soon. For more information, contact 4-H Program Coordinator Rebecca Konarski at 586-783-8163 or konars13@msu.edu.

Are you going to Exploration Days at MSU?

4-H Exploration Days Orientation is June 8th in MSU Extension Assembly Rooms A & B, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township. Attendance is required. Can't make it? Contact Nikki Knight at 586-469-5979 or knightn9@msu.edu.



OTHER LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Armada Fair updates

4-H/Youth Organizations Entries: 4-H/Youth Organizations entries will be accepted May 1-31, 2026, either online or in-person at the Armada Fair Office, 74280 Fair Street, Armada. Forms, fair books and additional information are available online at <https://www.armadafair.org/exhibitors>.

Armada Fair Clean-Up:

Save the dates! The Armada Fair Clean-Up dates are June 14 and August 9, 2026. We will start at 10 a.m. each day. Come and help ready the Armada Fairgrounds (74280 Fair Street, Armada) for the 2026 Armada Fair season!

Tagging Dates:

Swine - Sunday, June 14, 2026, 8-10:30 a.m.

Goats, Sheep, & Prospect Beef - Sunday, June 14, 2026, 10:30 a.m.-Noon

All Poultry & Rabbits - Sunday, July 19, 2026, 10 a.m. – Noon

Tagging will take place in Barn 15 at the Armada Fairgrounds.

Camping

Camping applications for the week of the Armada Fair will be available from May 1-June 30 at <https://www.armadafair.org/exhibitors>.

Preserving MI Harvest Preserving Toppings: Jam, Jelly, Syrup, Sauces

Thursday May 7, 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. EDT

Learn preservation tips and recipes to use your frozen berries for tasty syrups, sauces, jams, and jellies in the winter.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/Preserving2026/>

Junior Leadership Macomb – June 22-26

Junior Leadership Macomb Post Caption: Do you know any students going into their junior year this fall in Macomb County? Tell them to SIGN UP for Junior Leadership Macomb! You will explore career opportunities and make connections throughout a weeklong program in the end of June. We will take trips to many exciting places throughout the program such as a live courtroom experience and Macomb East Campus for the police and fire training facility and even Metro Beach. With high school ending in just two years, JLM prepares you for life after high school and allows you to make lifelong connections to help you thrive. Apply today at

<https://www.leadershipmacomb.org/programs#JuniorLeadershipProgram>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Youth Business Guide to Success curriculum

The Youth Business Guide to Success helps 4-H youth build real-world skills like goal-setting, budgeting and marketing through their market animal projects. This Michigan-made curriculum includes engaging activities and practical tools for both youth and volunteers, supporting confident decision-making beyond the fair. Available through May 31 for \$5.20 plus shipping (while supplies last). Order now at <https://spartanspiritshop.msu.edu/products/bulletin-4h1694>



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 <https://www.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.

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.**

"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.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

4-H Volunteer Webinar - Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

4-H volunteers are invited to join MSU Extension for the Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar, Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs: Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects, on May 4th from 12-1 p.m. via Zoom. Learn to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using MSU Extension's curriculum Youth Business Guide to Success.

Register to receive the webinar link: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects>

Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp

The Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp is June 16–17, 2026 at Michigan State University in East Lansing. The camp is ideal for youth ages 12-19 who want to sharpen their livestock judging skills. The overnight camp offers hands-on learning with reasons training, practice classes, one-on-one coaching in swine, small ruminants, and cattle, plus a mock contest. It's being co-hosted by Michigan 4-H and the MSU Collegiate Livestock Judging Team.

Coaches are invited to a FREE coaches training session on Wednesday during the mock contest (pre-registration required).



Space is limited! Registration will be open until May 15th or until the camp is full. Register online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-youth-livestock-judging-camp-2026>



Support 4-H at TSC through May 3rd

The Spring Tractor Supply Company (TSC) 4-H Paper Clover Campaign runs through May 3, 2026! There's still time to support 4-H at Tractor Supply Company (TSC) by purchasing a \$1 Paper Clover at checkout. Macomb County has four TSC store locations:

- 57155 Gratiot Ave, New Haven, MI 48048
- 67500 South Main Street, Richmond, MI 48062
- 12020 Hall Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48313
- 66143 Van Dyke Road, Washington, MI 48095



Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

The State 4-H Horse Show is August 13-16, 2026 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University in East Lansing. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show>

MI 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program

The Michigan 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program recognizes youth who actively participate in trail riding/driving as part of their 4-H horse project. Eligible participants must log trail riding/driving hours at https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY by July 31st. Participation is open to all enrolled Michigan 4-H horse project members. Top Junior and Senior participants will be recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show.



CALENDARS 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

Macomb County 4-H Events

May 3

Macomb County 4-H Cavy Clinic
11 a.m., Armada Fair Grange Hall, Armada

May 17

4-H Leather Project
12:30-1:30 p.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Barn 3, Armada
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAAAC29A6FDC34-63778793-leather>

May 17

4-H Senior Signing Day
1:30-2:30 p.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Barn 3, Armada
<https://forms.gle/gZkPPMT4FBY8G2ho8>

May 23, 30 & June 6

Macomb County 4-H Horse Show (Lights)
Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

May 24, 31 & June 7

Macomb County 4-H Horse Show (Mini/Pony/Draft)
Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

May 25

Macomb County offices, including MSU Extension, closed

June 1

4-H Exploration Days Orientation
6:30 p.m., MSU Extension Rms. A & B, Clinton Twp.

June 27

4-H Sheep & Goat Clinic
9 a.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

June 27

4-H Cattle Fitting Clinic
Armada Fairgrounds, Armada
(following the 4-H Sheep & Goat Clinic)

June 28

4-H Swine Clinic
9 a.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

June 30

Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er applications due

July 7

4-H Culinary "Chopped" Workshop
10 a.m.-1 p.m., MSU Extension, Clinton Township

July 28-30

Reel into Fishing
Lake Saint Clair Metropark, sign up for details
<https://forms.office.com/r/t4BBhh96KG>

Other Local Events

May 1-31

Armada Fair 4-H/Youth Organizations entry forms accepted online or in person at the Armada Fair Office.

May 1-June 30

Armada Fair camping applications available. Contact the Armada Fair Office at 586-784-5488 or office@armadafair.org for information.

May 7

Preserving MI Harvest – Preserving Toppings:
Jam, Jelly, Syrup, Sauce
1 p.m. or 6 p.m., online

June 14

Armada Fair Clean-Up #1
Armada Fairgrounds, Armada (Details TBA)

June 14

[Armada Fair Swine Tagging](#)
8-10:30 a.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

June 14

[Armada Fair Goat, Sheep, Prospect Beef Tagging](#)
10:30 a.m.-Noon, Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

June 22-26

Junior Leadership Macomb
Multiple Macomb County locations

July 19

[Armada Fair Poultry & Rabbit Tagging](#)
10 a.m.-Noon, Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

August 9

Armada Fair Clean-Up #2
Armada Fairgrounds, Armada (Details TBA)

Have a Question? Ask Extension!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>

MSU Extension – Macomb Program Guide

Read the current MSU Extension-Macomb Program Guide [here](#). Subscribe to find out what MSU Extension is offering each month in Macomb County!

<https://forms.office.com/r/Pde7XzQpai>



CALENDARS OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Statewide & National 4-H Events

Through May 3

Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Stores everywhere

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

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 6

4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest

9 a.m.-2 p.m., MSU Meat Lab, East Lansing

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-meats-judging-state-contest-2026>

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 1

Michigan 4-H Foundation grant applications due

<http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>

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

June 16-17

Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp

Michigan State University, East Lansing

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-youth-livestock-judging-camp-2026>

June 24-26

4-H Exploration Days

Michigan State University, East Lansing

www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days

July 1

4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest

MSU Farm Bureau Pavilion, East Lansing

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026>

July 26-August 1

4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

Camp Chickagami, Presque Isle

http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/

July 31

Last day to log trail miles for the Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program

https://msu.co1.Qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY