



4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

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Macomb County youth receives MSU pre-college scholarship



Congratulations to Jackson W. of Chesterfield Township for receiving a \$2,000 pre-college scholarship from Michigan State University. Participants in four MSU Extension pre-college programs offered by MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development ([4-H Capitol Experience](#), [4-H Exploration Days](#), [4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp](#), [4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp](#) and [World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute](#).) are eligible to apply. Jackson participated in

World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute. Learn more about the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute [here](#) and World Food Prize [here](#). Details about the MSU Pre-College Scholarship can be found [here](#).

Macomb County 4-H Youth Council hosts Wreaths for Veterans event

On Sunday, December 7th, the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council hosted a Wreaths for Veterans event at the Armada Fair Office. Youth from several different clubs participated. Volunteers decorated wreaths to be placed on Veterans' graves and families could even sponsor a wreath to place themselves.

The event was a huge success with over 45 participants, including some from military families, helping to decorate 50 wreaths. Wreaths were placed on gravesites for grandparents, great-grandparents, and other Veterans from the Korean War, World War II, World War I, and even the Civil War. The event was a great opportunity for 4-H youth to honor the brave men and women who served our country.

The Youth Council would like to thank [Jusko's Greenhouse](#) for assembling the wreaths and providing decorating supplies. We would also like to thank Michelle Short, Rob Tibbits, and the Armada Fair Office for helping us host this great event at the Armada Fairgrounds.



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

Diane Wisnewski, Supervising 4-H Educator

Kea Norrell-Aitch, 4-H Educator

Nikki Knight, 4-H Program Coordinator

Roberta Busquaert, Office Assistant – Senior

CONTACT US

VerKuilen Building
21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12
Clinton Township, MI 48036
Telephone: 586-469-6431

Email: macomb.4h@macombgov.org

Max Thompson Family Resource Center
11370 Hupp Avenue
Warren, MI 48089
Telephone: 586-469-7614

WEBSITE

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

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Farming 101: Animals & Agriculture sessions focus on poultry & rabbits

Upcoming 4-H Meets Wolcott – Farming 101: Animals and Agriculture sessions will focus on poultry (January 11) and rabbits (January 25). Sessions will take place at 1 p.m. at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, 65775 Wolcott Road, Ray Township. Attend one or both days. Sessions are free and open to youth who are ages 5-19 as of January 1. For more information and to register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HatWolcott2025/> or contact 4-H Program Coordinator Nikki Knight at 586-469-5979 or knightn9@msu.edu.

Adulthood 101: Life skills for young adults

Michigan State University Extension offers free, one-hour **Adulthood 101** Zoom workshops to help teens and young adults navigate adulthood. The next session, **Fraud Fighters**, is January 21 at 6:30 p.m. Learn how to spot scams and protect your personal information.

Other upcoming topics include Informed Renter (February 19 / 5 p.m.), Sleep Wellness (March 4 / 5:30 p.m.), Eat Smart: Healthy Meals on a Budget (April 13 / 5 p.m.), Cooking with Confidence (May 18 / 6:30 p.m.), AI and You: Smart, Safe & Savvy (June 11 / 6 p.m.), Think Before You Click (July 8 / 6 p.m.), Roadmap to a Smart Used Car Purchase (August 12 / 5 p.m.), Are you Ready? (September 23 / 5 p.m.), Mental Health Toolkit (October 7 / 6 p.m.), and Realities of Animal Care (November 12 / 7 p.m.).

Register online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-2026>. Questions? Contact Kathy Jamieson (jamies13@msu.edu), Laurie Rivetto (rivettol@msu.edu), or Janice Zerbe (rajzerj@msu.edu).

Reminders for livestock youth

All 4-H youth planning to show their 4-H livestock projects at the 2026 Armada Fair need to be enrolled as 4-H members in 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com>) by **January 1**. All 4-H youth showing their *non-livestock* 4-H projects at the 2026 Armada Fair need to be enrolled as 4-H members in 4-H Online by **April 1**.

Youth planning to show 4-H livestock projects at the 2026 Armada Fair need to submit a 2026 Armada Fair Youth Livestock Sale Participation Form to the Armada Fair Office by the **fourth Monday in January**.

The 2026 Armada Fair Open & Youth Books will be available to view and download in **April**.

4-H Youth entries for the Armada Fair will be accepted online or in person at the Armada Fair Office **May 1-31**. Updated forms will be available soon at <https://www.armadafair.org/exhibitors>.

2026 Animal Tagging Dates: Steer (February 1, Noon-2 p.m.), Swine (June 7, 8-10:30 a.m.), Goats, Sheep and Prospect Beef (June 7, 10:30 a.m.-Noon), All Poultry and Rabbits (July 19, 10 a.m.-Noon)

Visit <https://www.armadafair.org/livestock-sale> or contact the Armada Fair Office at office@armadafair.org or 586-784-5488 for the most updated information.

4-H shines bright in Armada's Holly Days Parade



Macomb County 4-H clubs showed their spirit in the 2025 [Holly Days Parade](#) in Armada on December 6th. Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club (right) took second place in the parade's Fun & Youth category, while Alarro Boots & Spurs 4-H Club (left) took third. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who showed up to represent their club and Macomb County 4-H!

Photos submitted by 4-H volunteers Michelle Short (Ray's Riding Rascals), Kellie Girvin (Alarro) and Liz Brockert (Alarro).



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Register for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!



At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in, Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 15-17, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on: agriculture; civil rights and youth advocacy; crime and law enforcement; education and teacher retention; environment and natural resources; health; and jobs, the economy and infrastructure. The cost to attend is \$365, which includes

lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Earn prizes with the MI 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Did you know youth are being targeted by scams too? That's this year's theme for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! Michigan youth aged 9–19 are invited to participate through writing an essay on this year's question. Top entries receive a \$100 gift card, thanks to contest sponsor, Extra Credit Union. MSU Extension will host two webinars to help with fraud awareness and essay writing. Essays are due by March 1. For contest details and to submit your essay, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest.

Equine Connection Weekend

The registration for the Equine Connection Weekend is now open! Created in partnership with the Michigan Quarter Horse Association, Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University, and Michigan 4-H Horse Program, join us from January 30-February 1 for a weekend of fun and learning about everything horses! Participate in the riding clinic or audit from the stands, join the educational seminars, or participate in the Horse Judging and Hippology Clinic.

Register online at <https://pci.jotform.com/form/253146086083053>. Please direct any questions to Extension Educator; David Lindsay at lindsa75@msu.edu.

Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 10 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence contest (10-11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). An Achievement Award was added last year for 18–19-year-olds. Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found online at bit.ly/stateaward. Applications are due April 1.

For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.

Other Statewide MSU Extension Events

Diabetes PATH

Thursdays, January 15-February 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Diabetes PATH is a 6-week, self-management online workshop designed for people living with diabetes and their family members, friends, and caregivers. Register by January 7. <https://events.anr.msu.edu/DPATHJanFeb2026/>.

Mindfulness for Better Sleep

Tuesdays, Jan. 27- Mar. 6, 1-2:30 p.m.

This FREE program introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness. Topics include mindfulness basics, mindful breath, body awareness, thoughts, emotions, and building a personal practice. Participants will also learn techniques to improve the quality and quantity of their sleep. Register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Mindfulsleepjan25nl/>.

Michigan Cottage Food Law

Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 6 p.m.

Learn how to safely prepare and sell allowable foods to the public made in home kitchens. The Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop reviews the food safety aspects and guidelines of preparing and selling cottage foods. The MSU Product Center joins us to cover the business aspects of the Cottage Food Law. A Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Inspector will be available for the Q&A portion of this workshop. Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CLF26/>

Moving Beyond Cottage Food

Wednesday Jan. 21st, 12 p.m. EST

Entrepreneurs and cottage food operators can learn basic knowledge to guide them in the right direction for becoming a licensed food operator and Moving Beyond Cottage Foods.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/MBCF26/>

Safe Food = Healthy Kids

Thursday Jan. 22nd, 12 p.m. EST

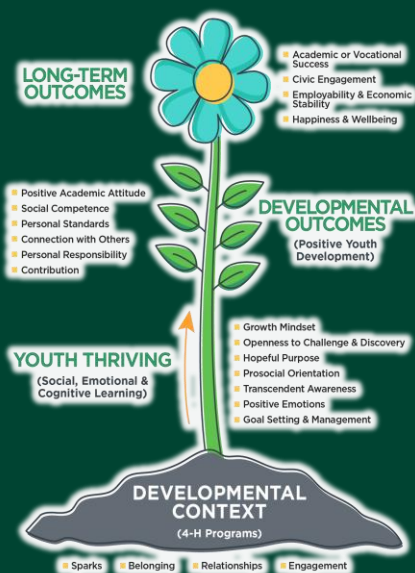
Safe Food = Healthy Kids is an interactive workshop designed for childcare providers. Learn what the best practices are for food safety to help keep kids safe.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SFHK26/>



CALENDARS OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Relationships are the foundation of a successful 4-H program! These relationships include building friendships with other members and leaders, building great working relationships and trust between program leaders and members, and adult leaders working together to organize great opportunities for youth.

We hope you can find others in the 4-H program in which you can build positive friendships and/or mentorships. Join us for any events and meetings to get to know everyone in the program.

Youth thriving is the first step in building youth who are #BeyondReady! Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

Macomb County 4-H Events

January 1

Macomb County offices, including MSU Extension, are closed. Happy New Year!

January 1

Last day for new and returning 4-H youth who plan to show their 4-H livestock projects at the 2026 Armada Fair to enroll or re-enroll as members in 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com>).

January 11

[Farming 101: Animals in Agriculture \(Poultry\)](#)
1 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

January 21

[Adulting 101: Fraud Fighters](#)
6:30 p.m., online

January 25

[Farming 101: Animals in Agriculture \(Rabbits\)](#)
1 p.m., Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Township

February 19

[Adulting 101: Informed Renter](#)
5 p.m., online

Other Local Events

January 26 (4th Monday in January)

Deadline to submit [Armada Fair Youth Livestock Sale](#) Permission Forms to the Armada Fair Office.

February 1

[Armada Fair Steer Tagging](#)
Noon-2 p.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

Statewide & National 4-H Events

January 13

[Wild Spartans](#)
Online

This month's session is "Nature's Detectives: How Insects Help Solve Crimes Against People, Animals and the Environment through Forensic Entomology." Tiny creatures can tell BIG stories about the world around us: explore creepy-crawly clues and learn how science and nature work together to solve puzzles. Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

January 13

[Avoiding Money Mishaps](#)
Online

In today's digital world, young people are increasingly targeted by fraudsters, scammers and predatory lenders. This interactive webinar will empower youth with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and their personal information.

January 21

[Adulting 101 – Fraud Fighters: How to Stay Scam-Free](#)
Online

From fake jobs offers to phishing texts, scammers are everywhere. This workshop breaks down the latest tricks and shows you how to guard your info, your credit, and your peace of mind.

January 24

[2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo](#)
Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing
4-H'ers exhibit rabbit and cavy projects and participate in educational knowledge contests: showmanship, skillathon, breed identification and rabbit hopping. Register by January 14.

January 26

[Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Beyond Ready Basics](#)
Online

Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. Explore the four vital elements that help youth thrive: discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

January 30-February 1

[Equine Connection Weekend](#)
MSU

February 7

[4-H Winterfest](#)
Eagle Village Retreat Center, Hersey
4-H Winterfest is a hand-on learning camp for youth ages 8-12. Youth pick workshops and participate in team building activities. Come and have fun this winter! Register by January 23.

May 3

[Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers](#)
1:10-5 p.m., Comerica Park, Detroit

May 7

[World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute](#)
7:30 a.m.-2 p.m., East Lansing or Zoom

Subscribe to MSU Extension-Macomb's Program Guide to find out what MSU Extension is offering this month in Macomb County!

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