

4-H Family News

Montcalm County



As of April 1st, registration for this year's 4-H program is now officially closed. If you happened to miss the deadline, please reach out to the office by email so we can assist you in completing your enrollment. For those who are new to 4-H, welcome! We're so glad to have you here. If you have any questions about the upcoming fair, how our county program works, or where to get started, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to help guide you every step of the way.

This month's newsletter is packed with important information to keep you on track and informed. Be sure to review the included event flyers, learn more about our 4-H committees, and familiarize yourself with the Fair Association details. You'll also find information about YQCA training requirements, along with important reminders about upcoming fair deadlines and key dates. Taking a few moments to read through this newsletter will help ensure a smooth and successful 4-H season for you and your family!

Sunni Haglund
4-H Program Coordinator

Montcalm County Committee Meeting times & locations

- Fairboard Association | 1st Monday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | Ash Building – Fairgrounds & via Zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99873313958> (passcode: MCFA)
- 4-H Dog Committee | 1st Thursday of the month | 6:30 p.m. | Ash Building – Fairgrounds & via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93418977992> passcode: 4Hdog
- 4-H Horse Leaders | 2nd Tuesday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | Ash Building – Fairgrounds & via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96502762151> passcode: Horse
- 4-H Council | 3rd Monday of the month | 6:30 p.m. | via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95340301576> passcode: Council
- 4-H Community Connection Committee (CCC) | 3rd Monday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95542684298> passcode: 4HCCC
- 4-H Small Animal Committee | 4th Monday of the month | 6:00 p.m. | Ash Building - Fairgrounds & via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93871161694> (passcode: small)
- 4-H Youth Livestock Committee | 4th Monday of the month | 6:30 p.m. | Ash Building - Fairgrounds & via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95230983610> (passcode: youth)
- MCFA Livestock Committee | 4th Monday of the Month | 7:00 PM | Ash Building – Fairgrounds & via zoom
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/94798506516> (passcode: MCFAAC)

Contact Us:

Sunni Haglund (4-H Program Coordinator)

haglund10@msu.edu

Vicki Newcomb (Office Manager)

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Stanton, Michigan
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msue.montcalm@county.msu.edu



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dog Committee Date: 4/2/26
- Fairboard Date: 4/6/26
- Horse Leaders Date: 4/14/26
- Shooting Sports Committee Date: 4/16/26
- **Twig Furniture Sale** Dates: 4/17-18
- Advisory Council Date: 4/20/26
- Community Connections Date: 4/20/26
- **County-Wide Dog Practice** Date: 4/21/26
- **Weigh-in/Tagging event** Date: 4/25/26
- Small Animal / Youth Livestock / MCFAAC Date: 4/27/26
- F4HEC (Millage meeting - Friends of 4-H, Extension, and Conservation) Date: 4/28/26

Times and locations for each 4-H committee meeting can be found on the front page of this newsletter!

Don't forget to visit the Montcalm County Fairgrounds webpage <https://montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com/>.

MCFAFairboard@gmail.com



4-H'ers are...

2x

more likely to have the goal of being a leader

3x

more likely to participate in community service

2x

more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose





4-H Committee Information

Advisory Council – 3rd Monday 6:30 pm – Zoom

Dairy Committee – typically held just before/during/right after fair

Dog Committee – 1st Thursday 6:30 pm – Ash Building

Community Connections – 3rd Monday following Advisory – Zoom

Horse Committee – 2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm – Ash Building

Small Animal Committee – 4th Monday 6:00 pm – Ash Building

Shooting Sports Committee – TBD

Youth Livestock – 4th Monday 6:30 pm – Ash Building

Advisory Council – [Bylaws](#)

Community Connections – [Bylaws](#)

Shooting Sports – TBP

Dog Committee – [Bylaws](#)

Horse Committee – [Bylaws](#)

Small Animal Committee – [Bylaws](#)

Youth Livestock – [Bylaws](#)

If you are curious about what each committee is responsible for, feel free to look at their bylaws for more information.

Blessings Pantry Update:

We just want to say how thankful we are for everyone's support in keeping the pantry stocked. We have been helping roughly 1-3 families per week since opening!



EXHIBITORS WORKSHOP / YQCA TRAINING



Join us for an informational pre-fair workshop followed by YQCA training. This workshop should be attended by all Montcalm County Fair exhibitors or a representative from each club

When: May 2 | 10 am - 12 pm
May 3 | 4 pm - 6 pm

Exhibitors Workshop is mandatory for all exhibitors or a representative from each club. The YQCA class will be the 2nd hour for each session.

Where: Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Ash Building

How to Register: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Cost: \$3 per person for in-person (or \$12 online per person)

Any questions, please email Sunni at haglun10@msu.edu

*****All Montcalm County market exhibitors MUST take the YQCA training prior to the 2026 fair | SEND CERTIFICATES TO MCFLIVESTOCK@GMAIL.COM*****

MSU Extension programs and material are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or Veteran status.



4-H Committee Information

Advisory Council:

4-H'er of the Year applications are due the first Friday in May. The next meeting is April 20th at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Community Connections Committee: Facebook Page

April's challenge is Do Something for Someone in Need. The committee is asking all 4-H members to think of something they can do for someone else (spring clean-up, carry groceries, wave, etc), and submit a summary/photos via Facebook or to Sunni at haglun10@msu.edu.

Shooting Sports: Kim Fouts-Stebbins is our County's Shooting Sports Coordinator. All questions and requests pertaining to the shooting sports program, should go through her first. Her contact is 4hfoutsstebbins@gmail.com

Kim has also started a Shooting Sports Committee. She asks that all clubs who have shooting sports as a project area, attend the meetings and join the committee. The next Committee meeting will be on April 16th at 6:30 PM at the Flat River Conservation Club, and via Zoom.



4-H Committee Information

Dog Committee:

We are offering county-wide dog practices throughout the year on a rotating schedule for each practice (see page 15). If your youth is planning to show dog this year, please check out and follow the [4-H Dog Committee Facebook page](#), or stay tuned for future updates via email. Each youth exhibitor will have to participate in at least 2 of the County-Wide dog practices.

Horse Leaders Committee: [Facebook Page](#)

New this year for fair: Authorized horse haul in on Saturday, June 20 from 3-6 PM; stay tuned for more information! The committee has been planning a series of upcoming shows and workshops, so stay tuned for more information: Buckle Series show begins May 8th ; Pleasure show is May 23rd; Tentative clinic scheduled for May 16th;

Small Animal Committee: [Facebook Page](#)

Save the Date!!! The 2026 Small Animal Showmanship Workshop will be held at the Small Animal Barn on May 16th. The Poultry area received a very generous donation and will be putting up their NEW PENS this year!

Youth Livestock Committee:

The next meeting, we'll cover properly tagging your livestock animals, and going through the magnetic market/wholesale meat cut diagrams.

We hope to see as many kids as possible there that can make it. We may even have some snacks! 😊



Helpful Links

Resources

https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/4-h-resources

County Awards and Scholarships

https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/4-h-scholarships

4-H Youth Thriving Model

<https://helping-youth-thrive.extension.org/home/>

4-H.org – Activity Guides

<https://4-h.org/clover/activity-guides/download-4h-activity-guides/>

MSU 4-H Resources

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

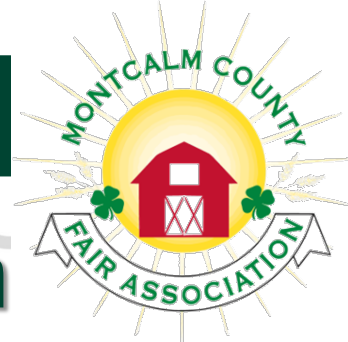
MSU-Extension Montcalm County 4-H Page:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h

Club and Volunteer Information: https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/4-h-club-volunteer-information

Montcalm County 4-H Welcome Packet:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/uploads/files/Welcome%20Packet.pdf>



MCFA Committee Information

Fairboard – 1st Monday 7:00 pm – Ash Building

MCFA Livestock – 4th Monday 7:00 pm – Ash Building

Marketing Committee – Jackie Nadeau

Buildings and Grounds – Todd Hetherington

Bylaws/Policy & Procedure – Sunni Haglund

Budget and Audit – Tammy Hancock

Rental – Katie Johnson / Brad Heft

Judges – Sunni Haglund / Amanda Ives

Concessions/Exhibits/Grandstand Events

– Lisa Johnson

Fairbook / Showworks – Michelle Nitengale

Awards – Tammy Hancock

Kids Day / Special Needs Day – Brad Heft

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/fair information](https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county/montcalm_county_4_h/fair_information)

Committees that could really benefit with more members:

***Bylaws/Policy and Procedures**

***Budget and Audit**

***Judges**

***Awards**

***Kids Day/Special Needs Day**

***Pee Wee Program**

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please reach out to the individuals next to the committee. If you need contact information, please email Sunni at haglund10@msu.edu or the MCFA Fairboard at MCFAFairboard@gmail.com

Fairboard:

Meets 1st Monday of each month at 7 PM

Zoom Info:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99873313958>
(passcode: MCFA)

Superintendent Positions:

Swine – MCFA Livestock

Beef – MCFA Livestock

Sheep – MCFA Livestock

Zoom Info:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/94798506516>
(passcode: MCFAAC)



MCFA Committee Updates:

Your 2026 MCFA Board of Directors:

Todd Hetherington	Brad Heft
Lisa Johnson	Jason Nadeau
Tammi Jahnke	Joe Minkel
Jamie Goodrich	Amanda Ives
Tammy Hancock	Shawn Hyde
Tommy Aldridge	Melissa Williams
Dan Humphrey	Jamison German
Eric Christensen	

2026 MCFA Fair Information:

[Montcalm County 4-H](#)



[Fair Association](#)

Questions can be e-mailed to MCFlivestock@gmail.com

Montcalm County Fair information will be disseminated via email, Facebook, the fair website, and in the 4-H newsletter, as it is known.

<https://montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com/exhibitor-info>



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.

Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html. For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Building awareness in 4-H experiences



Beyond Ready

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Online (Goosechase App)

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions

April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Comerica Park, Detroit

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers

April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

Online

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart

April 17 – 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

April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

Online

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21

April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let's Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease

Online

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease

April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk

Online

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28





2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse

4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay

4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order

4-H Dairy Educator
vanorde4@msu.edu

Jermo Reese

4-H Animal Science Program Instructor
reesejer@msu.edu

Jacob Stieg

4-H Poultry Point of Contact
stieg@msu.edu

Kat VanDouser

4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glenda Weiss

4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

January 24	4-H State Rabbit Show
Feb. 27- March 1	4-H Dairy Conference
March 7	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
March 14	4-H Horse Communications Contest
March 21-22	Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show
March 21	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop
March 22	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl
April 11	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
April 12	4-H Hippology State Contest
May 6	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
June 10-11	Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp
June 27	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
July 1	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
July 6-7 & 8-9	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
July 13-16	4-H Youth Dairy Days
August 13-16	4-H State Horse Show
September 19	4-H State Dog Show

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Scan me for more information about these programs!

State Animal Science Events / Updates

Upcoming Events & Programs

- 4-H Dairy Conference - February 27-March 1
 - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026michigan4hdairyconference/>
 - Registration closes February 5th
- 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop - March 7
 - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2026>
 - Registration closes February 16th
- 4-H Equine Communications Contest - March 14
 - Registration coming soon
- 4-H Outdoor Education Workshop - April 25-26
 - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HOutdoorEd2026/>

Available resources and curriculum

- [Animal Science Anywhere](#) grab-and-go lessons
- [4-H Nature Connections](#) grab-and-go-lessons
- [Outdoor Recreation Risk Mgmt. Checklists](#)

Programs with more details to come (*not* an exhaustive list!)

- Rabbit and Cavy Workshop - MSU - March 21, 2026
- Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl - MSU - March 22, 2026
- Spring 2026 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop: May 2nd and 3rd, location TBD.
- Spring 2026 4-H Dog Workshop: TBD
- [4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp](#): July 2-August 1 at [Camp Chickagami](#)
- [2026 State Shooting Sports Tournament](#): August 15, 2026 at [Centerline of Calhoun](#).
- Fall 2026 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop: Details TBD
- State 4-H Dog Show - September 19th, 2026



MONTCALM COUNTY 4-H DOG COMMITTEE



COUNTY-WIDE DOG PRACTICE SCHEDULE

New rule for those showing dogs at the 2026 Fair:

Everybody showing dogs at Fair must attend at least two County Wide Dog practices between now and Fair to show your dogs. You must attend at least one showmanship/ agility practice and at least one obedience/ rally practice.



**Tuesday, November 18th | 6:30 PM | Obedience / Rally
December | No Practice**

Thursday, January 22nd | 6:30 PM | Showmanship / Agility

Tuesday, February 17th | 6:30 PM | Obedience / Rally

Thursday, March 19th | 6:30 PM | Obedience / Rally

Tuesday, April 21st | 6:30 PM | Showmanship / Agility

Tuesday, May 12th | 6:30 PM | Showmanship / Agility

Thursday, May 28th | 6:30 PM | Obedience / Rally

Friday, June 12th | 6 PM | ALL 4 Disciplines



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NEW STATEWIDE 4-H TRAIL RIDING RECOGNITION PROGRAM



Michigan 4-H is launching a **new Statewide** 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program to celebrate youth who participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project.

Trail riding helps youth build:

- ✓ Rider Safety
- ✓ Horse and Rider Bond
- ✓ Rider Confidence

Now those miles earn statewide recognition!



✓ **Open to all enrolled Michigan 4-H** horse project members

 **Top 5 Junior & Top 5 Senior** riders recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension

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 Michigan 4-H Horse Members — Saddle Up and Join the Fun!

We're excited to launch the **Michigan Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program**. If you're enrolled in a Michigan 4-H horse project, you can participate by logging your trail rides completed between August 1 and July 31.

Whether you enjoy quiet wooded paths or group trail adventures, every mile counts. The top five Junior and top five Senior riders will be recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show.

Start logging your rides today and be part of this statewide celebration of trail riding:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY

Questions? Contact Jordan at hewittj8@msu.edu or David at lindsa75@msu.edu.

Grab a friend, hit the trail, and show us where your 4-H journey takes you!

2026 ADULTING 101



- FRAUD FIGHTERS - JANUARY 21 AT 6:30 PM
- INFORMED RENTER - FEBRUARY 19 AT 5:00 PM
- SLEEP WELLNESS - MARCH 4 AT 5:30 PM
- EAT SMART: HEALTHY MEALS ON A BUDGET - APRIL 13 AT 5:00 PM
- COOKING WITH CONFIDENCE - MAY 18 AT 6:30 PM
- AI AND YOU: SMART, SAFE & SAVVY - JUNE 11 AT 6:00 PM
- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK - JULY 8 AT 6:00 PM
- ROADMAP TO A SMART USED CAR PURCHASE - AUGUST 12 AT 5:00 PM
- ARE YOU READY? - SEPTEMBER 23 AT 5:00 PM
- MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT - OCTOBER 7 AT 6:00 PM
- REALITIES OF ANIMAL CARE - NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM

***ALL TIMES LISTED ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME**



FREE ON ZOOM



MSU Extension is excited to announce the Adulting 101 program will be back in 2026! New classes and some past favorites are included in this FREE monthly online program. We are thrilled to share the registration is now live for all classes

here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>

NEW CLUB



Shooting Sports



4-H PRECISION ARCHERS

🎯 New to archery - or are you an expert?

🎯 Want to shoot some arrows for fun
- or are you working on your skills to attend
state/national championships?



All are welcome! Chance to win prizes!!

1st Meeting: February 1st | 4:40pm | Central Michigan
Sportsman's Club | Stanton Rd, Stanton

Q's? Contact: Kimberly Fouts | 4hfoutsstebbins@gmail.com



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CURIOUS CLOVERS 4-H 

Bake Sale & Petting ZOO

**April 4
10am-2pm
Family Farm & Home
Cedar Springs, MI**

***Proceeds to be used for club activities
and expenses for fair needs and decorations.**

*Michigan State University (MSU) is committed to affirmative action and equal opportunity. The university prohibits discrimination based on various factors and actively works to ensure all individuals, including underrepresented groups, are considered for opportunities. MSU's commitment is guided by applicable laws and regulations, with the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion overseeing its compliance



You are invited to the

Rustic Twig Furniture Sale

Montcalm County Fairgrounds
8784 West Peck Rd., Greenville

April 17 and 18, 2026

Concessions available on-site.

Montcalm County Fair Association Agricultural Committee (MCFAAC)

The Livestock Committee has been working to raise money for the addition to the barn since 2021, after losing a life in a farming accident the committee decided to remember the passion for the livestock program to proceed with the building fund in memory of Brian Plank.

The current barn has exceeded its capacity. Original drawings had the barn double in size. In order to have enough room for the exhibitors and their projects, we need to finalize this barn to its intended size.

We never want to limit youth in our program, but proper housing must be the first concern for animals comfort, reducing stress and overheating. Completing this barn addition will double our capacity, allowing us space for the youth to more comfortably showcase their animals in the years to come.

Ultimately, these youth livestock projects serve to teach the surrounding community about its agricultural heritage while preserving farming for future generations. Over 200 youth learn skills in raising, judging and marketing livestock, as well as responsibility, caring and teamwork - life skills which last a lifetime.

Financial donations may also be made for the building directly to:

Greenville Area Community Foundation Brian Plank Building Fund,
225 N. Lafayette Street, Greenville, MI 48838

Thank you and our sincere gratitude to our sponsors and friends of 4-H.

Montcalm County Fair Association Agriculture Committee

The History

In 2002 design and construction began on Rustic Twig Furniture in a wood working shop in Gowen, Michigan. Every item is created as a one-of-kind, handcrafted piece built sturdy for years of service. To date 3,000 pieces of furniture have been made with some given to friends, but the majority of the items donated to non-profit local fundraisers and charities.

Thank you to the volunteer woodworkers: Mike McNeil, Rob Smith, Aaron Arnidon, Ed Kulak, Kenny, Jeanne, Patrick, Tom and others.

KJ Lehman

He doubles his gift who gives in time. Around 125+ pieces of this rustic twig furniture have been donated to benefit the Montcalm County Fair Livestock Committee.

PIECES TO BE SOLD—All items for indoor use.

Pieces range from children's furniture to benches, stools, coffee tables, high back chairs, kitchen table with bench seats, unique card table and hall trees/coat racks. Below are samples of the available furniture.



RUSTIC TWIG FURNITURE SALE

Montcalm County Fairgrounds

April 17 and 18, 2026 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Supported by

Fair Association Agricultural Committee

Plank Farms

Story's Fresh Meats & Deli

Nitengale Farms

Trent C. Hilding, PLC, Attorney at Law

Cash, Check or Credit Card will be accepted

cash and carry sales



Make the Most of your Market Animal Project Webinar Series



FREE on Zoom at 6:30pm ET



Goal- Getters	April 21
Talk the Talk	April 28
Marketing Mastery	May 5
Records to Riches	May 12
From Pitch to Payment	May 19



Registration Link: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4293/>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

  Ready to take your market livestock project from your 4-H best to better? The 2026 *Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project* webinar series is packed with tips to help 4-H'ers (ages 8-19) build confidence, sharpen marketing skills, and boost auction success!

Each week features a new skill:

- ★ SMART goals
- ★ Effective communication
- ★ Marketing strategies
- ★ Record keeping & break-even points
- ★ Social media promotion & buyer outreach

 **April 21–May 19, 2026**
 **6:30–7:30 PM EST**

 **Zoom (Attend one or more!)**

For more info or to register, go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/make-the-most-of-your-market-livestock-project>

Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Beyond
Ready

tickets
available

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Michigan4H26>

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April 12



← reversible bucket hat
with purchase

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12! Receive a co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers bucket hat and make a donation to 4-H with your ticket. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Michigan4H26>.

2026



4-H OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Workshop

April 25-26, 2026
at Camp Newaygo



This workshop is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation

Dates: April 25-26, 2026 (optional early arrival April 24th after 4:00pm)

Location: [Camp Newaygo](#) (5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337).

Details: We are offering two course tracks again this year. Choose from a Project Wild Certification course (taught by 4-H staff) or an outdoor skills course covering how to engage youth through orienteering, fire-building, shelter building, campfire cooking, and more (taught by Camp Newaygo staff). See the registration link for full course details. There will also be opportunities for participants of both courses to learn from each other, share ideas, and practice skills.

Audience: 4-H Volunteers and staff (with permission from their supervisor and Institute Director)


Cost: \$150 includes 1-2 nights lodging, meals, and all course materials.

Registration: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HOutdoorEd2026/>

SPRING 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP



May 2-3, 2026

 John A. Halter Shooting Sports
Education Center
4390 Bankers Road
Hillsdale, MI

Offering all Disciplines:

- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Rifle
- ✓ Shotgun
- ✓ Pistol
- ✓ Muzzle Loader
- ✓ Hunting and Wildlife
- ✓ Coordinator

REGISTER NOW ! 



Questions? Email 4H.ShootingSports@msu.edu

This workshop is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation

Registration is now open for the Spring 2026 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop in Hillsdale! Join us for 2 days of classes at the John A. Halter Shooting Sports Education Center. Classes will focus on everything you need to know to teach Shooting Sports fundamentals as part of a 4-H Youth Development Program. Follow this link to learn more and register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026SpringWorkshop/>



GROWING TOGETHER:



a Family Connection

COMMUNITY EVENT

A DAY OF MOVEMENT, CREATIVITY, AND TIME WELL SPENT TOGETHER.

Saturday, May 9th

Family Flow Yoga - 11 AM

Queens Tea / Brunch - 12 PM

Crafts - 1-3 PM

Felt Hat Burning

Resin Jewelry

Leathercraft

Hand Rolled Candles

Plus other free crafts/4-H resources!

In partnership with the Montcalm County Fair Association and MC 4-H Community Connections Committee. Proceeds benefit Kids Day activities at the Montcalm County Fair.

*Cost will
vary by
activity*

*Registration
information
coming soon!*



18 U.S.C. 707

MONTCALM COUNTY 4-H



Spring Gift Workshop

Perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day, or celebrating anyone special in your life!



For youth and families!



Spa Crafts



Wood/Leather Crafts



Personalized Keepsakes

Thursday, May 14 2026 | 6-8 PM

Join us as we create a variety of handmade gifts - from relaxing spa items, to custom wood and leather crafts!

**Tamarack District Library
832 S. Lincoln, Lakeview**

RSVP <https://www.tamaracklibrary.org/event>



MSU Extension programs and material are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or Veteran status.



PIERSON PATRIOTIC PACER

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

May 25th ★ **5K BIKE / RUN / WALK FOR ALL AGES**

At the Pierson Township Hall
and Cemetery

★ **T-Shirt for participants registered in advance!** ★

★ **\$ Monetary Prizes (with sufficient registrations) \$** ★

Memorial Day Ceremony & Awards

★ **Immediately Following Races!** ★

★ ★ **More details to come...** ★ ★





April 11, 2026

2026 Ionia County Youth Bake-Off

5-7 year olds	Easy baking
8-11 year olds	Quick breads, 6 muffins or 6 baked cookies unfrosted cake squares (no box mixes)
12-14 year olds	Yeast products (rolls, bread, etc.), frosted cake, pastry pie
15-19 year olds	Baked fancy dessert, fancy pastry, tarts, tortes, or cheesecakes
9-19 year olds	Ethnic or International dish
9-19 year olds	Item made with real maple syrup

Contest rules as follows:

1. Open to ALL youth between the ages of 5-19.
2. You **MUST** pre-register your entry before April 6th at:
https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026_ionia_county_4h_bake_off/
3. Food entries **MUST** be prepared and baked exclusively by the youth. Youth should be supervised by an adult for safety reasons while preparing and baking their entry.
4. Bake your entry at home and bring it to the Ionia MSU Extension office, 50 E Sprague Rd. Ionia and drop off between 11 a.m. and Noon. on Saturday, April 11th.
5. Be prepared to talk to the judge and have a written copy of your recipe with you.
6. Return between 1:00-1:30 p.m. to pick up your entry. The winning entry in each category (except the 5-7 year olds) will receive an award. The 5-7 year olds – Easy baking will be awarded a participation certification only.
7. To register go on-line to https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026_ionia_county_4h_bake_off/ if you have any questions contact Shawn at the the Ionia MSU Extension office at 616-330-4453 or email at heintze8@msu.edu.

The event is sponsored by the Ionia County 4-H Still Exhibit Committee.
You **do NOT** need to be a 4-H member to participate in this event.



Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.



Open your Home and Heart to a Japanese Youth this Summer 2026!

Contact: Jan Brinn
brinn@msu.edu



Host a Japanese youth in Summer 2026 through the States' 4-H International!

Invite an international youth into your home for three and a half weeks and share an American experience. Expand your family's cultural understanding, learn about new foods and customs, and possibly learn a new language while sharing your own. Your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new perspectives on their country, too!

2026 Online Applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janis Brinn at brinn@msu.edu or visit the States 4-H International Exchange Programs website: <http://www.states4hexchange.org> or Email: exchange@states4h.org

As the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Coordinator, I will do my best to answer any questions or concerns you may have. With 30 years of international experience and a passion for global education, please feel free to contact me, Jan Brinn, brinn@msu.edu, with any questions or concerns. This program is supported by the MSU Extension Children & Youth Institute Leadership, Civic and Cultural Engagement (LCCE)

Team 4H.LCCE.team@msu.edu.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



4-H GREAT LAKES & NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP

July 26-August 1, 2026 - Camp Chickagami - Presque Isle, MI



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



Beyond
Ready

We are excited to announce that [registration](#) is now open for [4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp!](#) Here are some camp details for this year:

Dates and location:

•July 26- August 1, 2026 at [Camp Chickagami](#) in Presque Isle, MI

What is GLNR Camp?

•A week-long residential summer camp experience **for youth ages 13-15**. Camp is full of experiential learning opportunities focused on natural resources and the Great Lakes and taught by MSUE CYI and Sea Grant staff, MSU Fisheries and Wildlife faculty, and their partners. Additional recreation sessions include swimming, sailing, fishing, snorkeling, archery, campfires, and more!

Cost to attend:

- Early Bird Registration: \$525 until 3/31/26
- Normal Registration: \$550 beginning 4/1/26
- Cost includes 6 nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt, and all sessions!

Counselors:

•Counselors are ages 16-20. If you have individuals interested in applying to be a counselor, please direct them to the registration link.

How to register:

- The Camper Registration and Counselor Application can be found at this link:
- In addition to registration through Events Management, campers must enroll in 4-H Online.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE WITH



1

FIND YOUR INTERESTS

Coding/Tech

ROBOTICS

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Baking

BEE KEEPING

Agriculture

ANIMAL SCIENCE

SHOOTING SPORTS

&

Gardening

SO MUCH MORE!!!

2

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP

27 Project Led Clubs

7 Advisory Groups

MONTCALM COUNTY

3

GROW WITH 4-H

Positive youth development through hands-on, project-based learning, in order to build real-world skills and confidence.



SUNNI HAGLUND
MONTCALM CO. 4-H PC
HAGLUN10@MSU.EDU
989-831-7500

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/montcalm-county>



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