



MAY 2026

4-H Family News

Shiawassee County Clover Connection



Spring into May with Shiawassee County 4-H

Hello Shiawassee County 4-H Families,

Happy May! As the weather warms up, we're gearing up for a fun and busy summer with all the great things we have planned for 4-H. Congratulations to our Shiawassee County 4-H members who participated in the **State 4-H Horse Judging Contest**--be sure to check out how they did below.

This edition of the Clover Connection also includes information on **upcoming statewide 4-H events and announcements**. At the county level, we're excited to share the **theme for this year's 4-H camp**. Registration is not quite live yet, but it's coming soon, and we'll share details on Facebook once it's open.

You'll also find information about **volunteering in the 4-H Foodstand** and **senior scholarship applications**. Be sure to take a few minutes to check it all out!

Sincerely,

Alexis Wheeler

Shiawassee County 4-H Program Coordinator

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State 4-H Horse Judging Highlights

Senior Team

- Placed 5th Overall Senior Team
- Members: Shelby T. Brooklyn M, and Karly S.

Junior Team B

- Members: Gracie M. and Kate L.
- Claire M. -- 6th Overall Junior in Reasons and 7th Overall Junior

Junior Team A

- Placed 2nd Overall in Junior Reasons
- Placed 3rd Overall Junior Team
- Members: Claire M., Lilly H., and Ingrid C.

- Lilly H. -- 5th Overall Junior in Reasons
- Gracie M. -- 5th Overall Junior

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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.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Oh, The Places You'll Grow! 4-H Camp Registration Coming Soon



Mark your calendars! Shiawassee 4-H Camp will take place **June 13-15 at Camp Neyati**, and we can't wait to see you there! **This year's camp will feature a Dr. Suess-inspired theme**, adding an extra dose of creativity and fun. Campers can look forward to three days of excitement, including archery, crafts, team-building games, and outdoor adventures—plus lots of chances to make new friends.

Our camp counselors and camp volunteers are already hard at work planning a great experience. Registration will be opening soon, and a link will be shared as soon as it's available. Paper copies will also be available by contacting the MSU Extension office.

Camp is open to **youth ages 7-12 as of January 1**—don't miss one of the best parts of the summer!

Planning to Help in the 4-H Food Stand? Volunteer Steps to Know

Are you an adult who might be helping out in the 4-H Food Stand this summer? All adults working in the food stand need to complete the **MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process** and become, at minimum, a **Silver Level volunteer**—and some responsibilities may require you to be a **Gold Level volunteer**, depending on your role.

Summer may seem far off, but it'll be here before you know it—so don't wait to start the process! If you haven't already gone through the selection steps and think you'll need to, you can apply here:

https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home

If you have any questions or need help figuring out what level of volunteer status is required for your role, feel free to reach out to Alexis Wheeler at wheel297@msu.edu. We're looking forward to another great fair season and appreciate your support!

Attention 4-H Seniors: Scholarship Applications Available



Attention 4-H seniors! Scholarship applications are now available on the **Shiawassee County 4-H website**:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/shiawassee/shiawassee_county_4_h/awards-and-scholarships

Scholarship applications from the **Junior Livestock Association**, **Dairy Committee**, and **Small Animal Association** are due to the **MSU Extension office by May 1, 2026**. **4-H Council** and **Horse Leaders** scholarship applications are due to the **MSU Extension office by June 1, 2026**.

Be sure to get your applications completed and submitted by the appropriate deadlines. If you have any questions, please reach out to the MSU Extension office—we're happy to help!