



MAY 2026

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show FairEntry Registration Opening May 29th

The Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show is quickly approaching, and we want to remind families of the upcoming deadlines to participate in the 4-H Youth Show.

FairEntry registration will then open on Friday, May 29th and close on June 12th at 11:59 pm.

There will be a late fee of \$50 per exhibitor for 4-H Youth Show entries not submitted or requested changes after the June 12th FairEntry deadline. Changes must be submitted by June 22nd.

The [4-H Youth Show Book for 2026](#) is now available online and changes are marked in gray. Books are available for purchase at the MSU Extension Office for a cost of \$7 cash or check (exact change please). Our office hours are 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, closed for lunch from 12-1 pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Advisory Council Meeting

May 14th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Association Meeting

May 26th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee

May 28th at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

FairEntry Registration for 4-H Youth Show

May 29th – June 12th at 11:59 pm

Still Projects Orientation & Mock Judging Workshop

May 31st from 2-4 pm at the MSU Extension Office

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Sign up Now for the 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program!



Do you know a 8-12 year old who loves to get their hands dirty in the garden? Sign up now for the 4-H Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program!

The JMG program is designed for youth ages 8 to 12 and provides an interactive, hands-on educational experience in gardening enabling them to achieve a Junior Master Gardener certificate. Classroom topics include: Soil, Introduction to Plants, Flowers, Vegetables, Yard and Garden Pests, and Lawns, and Woody Plants. The youth will also have hands on experience in Gardening (planting, tending, and harvesting) in a garden plot. JMG is taught by adult volunteers who are both MSU Extension Master Gardeners and 4-H volunteers.

Thursday classes and work sessions run from May 21-August 20th at the Farm at Trinity Health, 5557 McAuley Dr., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Cost: \$60, includes a 4-H JMG Student Guide, class supplies, name tag, and JMG t-shirt. If you are interested in financial aid to cover the cost of participation, please indicate this in your registration and we will contact you for more information.

[Sign up here!](#) Questions? Contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu.

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Camping with Washtenaw Farm Council

If you are interested in camping at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show the week of July 19th through July 25th, please contact the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds Staff as soon as possible via email at wfc5500@gmail.com with the following information:

- Your Name
- Your 4-H Club
- Your Requested Amperage (30 or 50)
- Your Stay Duration .



There are a limited number of camping spots so act quickly to secure your spot. The 4-H Office does not coordinate camping so do not reach out to our office with questions.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congratulations to Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology Team

The 2026 State Hippology contest took place at the MSU Pavilion on April 12th, with 92 participants from 16 counties. Washtenaw County had the largest team participating with 15 members (ages 8-18). The participants tested their horse knowledge with a picture slide test, exam, video horse judging, individual station tests, and a team problem solving section. We represented Washtenaw County with pride, took home several ribbons, and our senior team qualified for nationals!



Senior Results - Top 8

- Overall High Point: Alison Oakman (6th), Katie Ashman (7th)
- Judging: Annikah Stalhandske (1st), Dallis Rasthabanh (2nd), Alex White (4th)
- Slide Test: Alison Oakman (1st), Bethany Pyle (5th)
- Exam: Kate Bayliss (2nd), Alex White (3rd), Bethany Pyle (6th)
- Stations: Katie Ashman (5th), Alison Oakman (6th), Kate Bayliss (8th)
- Team: 3rd place and National qualifier to our Blue Team - Alex White, Katie Ashman, Bethany Pyle, Maria Perrier!

Junior Results - Top 8

- Judging: Caroline Cesarz (4th), Gigi Mouhajer (7th)
- Exam: Gigi Mouhajer (6th)
- Team: 4th place to our 9 year old team: Gigi Mouhajer, Leah May, Caroline Cesarz

The Washtenaw County Hippology team was coached by Angela Oakman, with lots of parent support. Teams form in early January and get together for multiple (optional) study sessions for all county participants. We'd love to see more 4H'ers join in the fun next year! If interested, please contact Angela Oakman at angela_oakman@yahoo.com.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Don't Forget to Complete YQCA Training for Beef and Swine Projects



All market beef and swine exhibitors are required to have an updated YQCA certification before marketing animals at the 4-H Youth Show auction. This certification can be obtained by participating in an online or in-person training.

Thanks to a grant from Bayer, this training is provided free of charge to Washtenaw 4-H exhibitors. Please follow the steps below to complete a certification.

1. Contact the MSU Extension Office (734-997-1678 or email cousin40@msu.edu) to obtain a coupon code (optional) to receive the training for free- you will need to specify if you need an online or in-person code.
2. Register through www.yqcaprogram.org – this step is required whether you attend in-person or online!
3. Sign up for your in-person training on the site and/or complete the online training. The March and April dates will be listed in the YQCA system for in-person training options.
4. Be sure to complete the pre-test before you attend an in-person training.
5. **If you want to complete an online YQCA training, you MUST wait until a year has lapsed on your previous training. If it is too close to the Youth Show, we recommend taking an in-person training. You do NOT have to wait a year to take an in-person training.**

The last in person Washtenaw County training is May 6th.

Once you have completed the YQCA trainings, please send you YQCA certificate to

Need help registering? Check out the [YQCA Help Page](#) to help walk you through the registration process.

Washtenaw County 4-H Ambassadors Works on Projects to Promote 4-H

Ambassadors are working hard to get the word out about 4-H! The youth have been putting their project management skills to work creating a clear, workable plan to collaborate with local schools that will allow some time to present in a fun way all that 4-H has to offer. Ambassadors are using their creativity to plan a fun and interactive introduction of the program to kids!

The Ambassador program is run by youth!! Have a great idea to promote 4-H or just want to help out with the program and build leadership skills? Join the Ambassadors the second Wednesday of every month! Their next meeting is Wednesday May 13th at 6:30 pm.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Thank you to all our Project RED Volunteers, Sponsors, and Supporters!

Thank you to all the Project RED Volunteers, sponsors, and supporters for once again making it possible to educate 1,900 students, 86 teachers, and 480 chaperones.

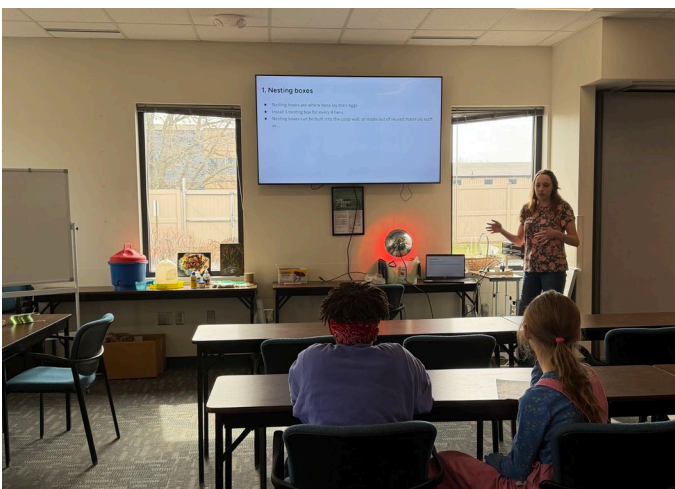
This year, we had 3rd graders from every school district in the county attend including 25 schools, 9 from public school districts and 5 from private schools.

We had 279 volunteers helping over the 4 days and that includes volunteers at stations, folks supplying equipment and animals, sponsors, lunch preparers, presenters, and more!

Thank you for all you do to education 3rd graders across our county about agriculture and natural resources in Michigan.



Two Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Lead Successful Small Animal Workshops



We want to congratulate 4-H'ers Sophia Turri of Science, Animals, and Arts 4-H Club and Genevieve Peale of All Around 4-H Club for leading successful small animal workshops this spring.

Sophia led a workshop on Raising Chickens in March that had 10 attendees (including some folks new to 4-H!). Sophia showed youth the equipment needed to start raising chickens and also helped youth create a chicken first aid kit.

Genevieve led her second Rabbit Showmanship Clinic with the help of 4-H volunteer Corinne Rafalski. She had 9 participants, many who are new to showing rabbits. Participants got to practice and then participants had the opportunity to make a first aid kit.

We are excited to see youth taking the initiative to lead their own clinics and workshops in our 4-H program. If you know a youth interested in leading a workshop, please reach out to Amy (harr1976@msu.edu) or Jenny (speyerje@msu.edu).



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H Archery Begins at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds



Washtenaw County 4-H Target Archery began last week at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. This program is for youth 4-H ages 8-19 years old and builds skills as youth attend each week.



Featured are 4-H members Mikel Saries (red flannel), Elan Saries (blue flannel) and Anthony Cabrejos (red spider man hoodie).

Silver Level Volunteer Screening for 4-H Kitchen Volunteers and Clerks!



Are you planning to volunteer this July at the 4-H Kitchen or as Clerk? 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 as clerks 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 **Washtenaw** 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 Amy or Jenny.

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! We are always looking for folks interested in volunteering for our 4-H programs.



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.