



FEBRUARY 2026

# 4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



## Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association Tack Sale Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm

Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association is hosting their annual Tack Sale on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. This is a great chance to get new & used tack and so much more! A 3\$ donation at the door along with vendor fees will be used to support the Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association programs and events. [Check out the full flyer here.](#)

First table is \$25 and additional tables are \$15 each. 4-H members get a \$5 discount on tables. The deadline to register and send in payment is February 2<sup>nd</sup> and a late fee of \$10 per table will be charged for all registrations received after February 2<sup>nd</sup>. No registrations will be accepted after February 18<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in selling, [please complete our online form](#). If you need assistance completing the online form, please contact Aylssa Couch at [aylssacouch@gmail.com](mailto:aylssacouch@gmail.com) or via text at 734-767-4470.



### UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

#### 4-H Ambassadors Meeting

February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

#### Livestock & Dairy/ Small Animal Committee Meeting

February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

#### Ace the Interview Workshop

February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at the MSU Extension Office

#### Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association Tack Sale

February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm at Wash. Farm Council Grounds

#### Horse Board & Association Meeting

February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

#### Still Projects Committee Meeting

February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm on Zoom

## CONTACT US

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<https://www.canr.msu.edu/washtenaw/>

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Making the Best Better: 4-H Volunteer Series Across Southeast Michigan



Washtenaw County 4-H is teaming up with our surrounding District 12 counties (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, and Monroe) to host a 4-H Volunteer Learning series in person or virtual January – March. Each of the 5 sessions will focus on a different theme and many sessions will include seasoned volunteers who can share their tips, tricks, and perspective.

- Cha-ching Making Cents of 4-H Finances: February 12th at 6:30 pm in Our Livingston County MSU Extension Office
- Join the Conversation: Engaging Parents & 4-H Alums in 4-H Experiences and Implementing Shared Leadership in 4-H Clubs: February 26th at 6:30 pm in Washtenaw

- Youth Engagement & Engaging Youth Voice: March 12th at 6:30 pm in Lenawee
- From Clash to Collaboration: Practicing the Art of Conflict Resolution: March 26th at 6:30 pm in Jackson

This series is for all volunteers, whether your brand new to 4-H or have been volunteering for decades.

Learn alongside and with your fellow 4-H volunteers. Register here: <https://bit.ly/d12volunteer>

## Practice Your Skills at Our Interview Workshop on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm

It's back again by popular demand! Join us for a chance to ace the interview! This workshop, led by MSU Extension Educator Laurie Rivetto, equips teens with the tools to confidently navigate job, internship, or college interviews. Participants will learn key strategies for answering common questions, showcasing their strengths, and making a great first impression.

The session includes a hands-on practice opportunity with peer and instructor feedback. We will have mock interviews for practice. This workshop will be held at the MSU Extension Office at 705 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. All youth ages 12-19 years old are welcome.

You do not need to be a previous 4-H member, but must sign up in 4-H before attending.

Register here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens>





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Future Ready: Exploring College & Career Paths on March 5<sup>th</sup>

Calling all youth **ages 12–19**! Not sure what comes after high school? Want to learn about **college**, the **trades**, and other exciting opportunities? Join us for an **interactive panel discussion** designed to help you explore your options and plan your future with confidence! This panel will be held at the Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8 pm and feature 4-H Alumni.

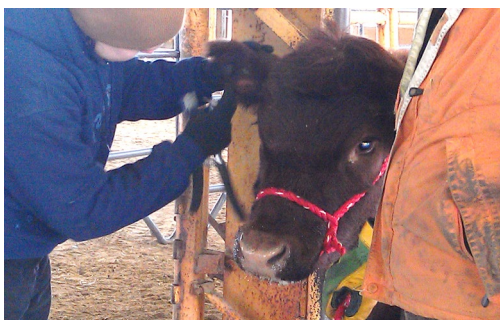
### What you'll learn:

- Different paths after graduation
- How to choose what fits *your* goals
- Scholarships and tips for being ready for the next step



Register at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop>

## Beef Weigh-In & Tagging: March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds



It's that time of year again! Youth planning to show beef at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show, must attend the Beef Weigh In and Tagging on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds at 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. This year we will be in Barn F (Dirt Barn). RFID tags should be in ears, or at minimum, bring your tag and tagger; RFID is required for the 4-H Youth Show.

We also strongly encourage youth to be enrolled in [4-H Online](#) before weigh in dates as only currently enrolled 4-H youth are covered under 4-H liability policy. The next tagging date is April 25<sup>th</sup> for sheep, goats, feeders and swine.

Questions? Contact Amy Harris at [harr1976@msu.edu](mailto:harr1976@msu.edu) or 734-222-3936 if you have questions.

## Last Chance to Register for Spark and Share Summit on March 7<sup>th</sup>

The deadline to register for the 4-H Spark and Share Summit at Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth is February 9<sup>th</sup>! 4-H Volunteers and teens can register for this 1-day conference where they can learn new projects and information that they can take back to teach and share in their local 4-H program at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026/>. We still have some spots available if you are interested in attending. Washtenaw County 4-H also has funds for scholarships. If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact Jenny Speyer at [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu).







# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Save the Date for Livestock & Dairy and Small Animal Mentor Night: March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office



Join us for Livestock, Dairy, and Small Animal Mentor Night when we will match mentors and mentees for the Mentorship Program! This program is a great way for teens to gain leadership skills and provides our Cloverbud age participants and Mentees that are new in a project area with experience and skills in a livestock project area. We will also have a fun ice cream social for all that come!

New to the program? We will share a short presentation about the program and provide mentors and mentees with time to get to know each other!

Questions? Please contact Kathy Grau, [kgrau3437@aol.com](mailto:kgrau3437@aol.com) or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, [hammerfarm89@aol.com](mailto:hammerfarm89@aol.com) or 734-216-7048.

## Save the Date: Rabbit Showmanship Clinic on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm

Come join us on Saturday, April 11th, from 1:00-3:00 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds for a rabbit showmanship clinic hosted by 4-H Teen Leader Genevieve Peale of All Around 4-H Club. We will have a group demonstration showing all the steps of 4-H rabbit showmanship and handling. The idea is to help new and old exhibitors who would like extra practice and support with their showmanship skills. All ages, cloverbuds, and up are welcome. After the showmanship practice, there is a chance for kids to assemble their own rabbit first aid kit. An explanation of what materials are needed and why will be discussed.



[Sign up here!](#)

## Washtenaw County 4-H Ambassadors is Back!



4-H Ambassadors represent and promote 4-H, as well as assist with county-wide activities. A 4-H Ambassador is a motivated individual who seeks to become a leader, mentor and teacher, inspiring positive change in their community.

If you or someone you know between the ages of 12-19 years old would like to participate, please encourage them to come to **our next meeting on Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office**

This is open to all 4-H members no matter your project, previous experiences, or leadership roles.

If you have questions, please contact Jessica Kipfmiller by email or phone at [thekipfmillers@aol.com](mailto:thekipfmillers@aol.com) or 734-323-6217.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Poultry Service Project: Opportunity for all 4-H Poultry Exhibitors

Attention all poultry exhibitors for the 2026 4-H Youth Show! If you are interested in participating in either the chicken or turkey community service project, please send Poultry Superintendent, Mandy Rogers, an email at [rogers3mandy@yahoo.com](mailto:rogers3mandy@yahoo.com) by February 15th.

4-H Youth Show Book 2026: (Single chickens or turkey projects will be accepted for food bank donations. If you raise any market project for the youth show you have the option to enter them into a market class or donate them to the food bank, but you do not have to have a market project entered in the youth show to participate in the community service project. There is no limit on how many birds can be donated.)



Youth and families will be responsible for paying for your own turkey or chickens. The Washtenaw County 4-H Small Animal Committee will pay for the processing of the birds that are donated.

All Community Service Chickens and Turkeys are donated a week before the fair to: Saline Area Social Services

Ordering Deadline: February 15th. We will contact you when the birds arrive for you to pick them up. Turkeys will be arriving sooner than chickens according to the fair book rules. Turkeys will be arriving around March 1st and chickens will be arriving around 8 weeks before the fair. All money for community service birds will be paid at that time to the superintendent.

If you are interested but not sure how to get started, please contact Mandy for more information (email [rogers3mandy@yahoo.com](mailto:rogers3mandy@yahoo.com) or call her at 517-403-1072). This is a great way to give back to the community and we would love to see more 4-H members participating.

## 4-H Mini Horse Program Interest Survey



Washtenaw County 4-H would like to know if there is interest in expanding our Miniature Horse Program! We have the opportunity to offer workshops in county this winter and next spring for youth and their miniature horses and donkeys. Get that little buddy out and learn to get ready for showing at the 4-H Youth Show next year! Showmanship, Liberty, Jumping and Trail will all be addressed! Come join the fun!

Please complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/SjKHWtveYzBP2Y479>





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Washtenaw County 4-H Member Audra Ambrozaitis Travels to South Korea with the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program



Did you know that Michigan 4-H has a 4-H International Exchange Program? The [Michigan 4-H International Exchange program](#) brings inbound youth to Michigan to stay with host families and also send outbound youth to other countries. Through this program, Audra Ambrozaitis, a 4-H member from S & L Bauernhof, had the opportunity to travel to South Korea and stay with a host family for one month last summer.

Audra said the following about her experience:

*"I had the opportunity to immerse myself in a different culture, which gave me new experiences, and I was able to meet new people...Overall, this trip showed me that stepping out of your comfort zone and doing things that you have never done before can be one of the best things to ever happen."*

You can [read the full article](#) about Audra's experience and another 4-H member who visited South Korea.

## Interested in Joining our Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology and/or Horse Judging Teams?

Washtenaw County 4-H is looking for registered 4-H members (ages 5-19) to join our Hippology Team and/or Horse Judging Team! The Michigan 4-H/FFA State Horse Judging Contest will be on April 11<sup>th</sup> and the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> in 2026.

Hippology is the study of all horse-related knowledge, including judging, anatomy, breeds, colors, care, equipment, tack, health and welfare, and riding disciplines. Horse Judging is your opportunity to become the judge and place horses based on conformation (halter) and performance (riding).



Both teams compete against other Michigan counties and senior divisions can qualify for the national contest. Cost is roughly \$23 per member, per team. Optional study sessions will start in early February.

If you are interested in participating on both/either teams, please contact Angela Oakman by January 31, 2026 - email: [angela\\_oakman@yahoo.com](mailto:angela_oakman@yahoo.com) cell: 734-395-9714 (call or text).

The Practice Horse Judging Workshop (TBD on the date of this event but it is usually in early February) is highly recommend for anyone participating on the Horse Judging team. [Check out the MSUE website for more information.](#)



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Washtenaw 4-H Leader Spotlight: Angela Oakman of Hooves & Paws 4-H Club

We are lucky to have many tremendous leaders in Washtenaw County 4-H. One of these leaders, Angela Oakman of Hooves and Paws 4-H Club, was honored Angel Award for 2025. Even though Angela has only been a volunteer in 4-H since 2020, she has made a huge impact on the horse program.

**Angela Oakman** was the 4-H leader of Hooves and Paws 4-H Club since 2021 and the coach for the Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology and Horse Judging Teams since 2022. Angela served as an adult mentor to the 4-H youth on horse board and filled this role in 2025. Angela also received the Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award for the 2024-2025 program year.



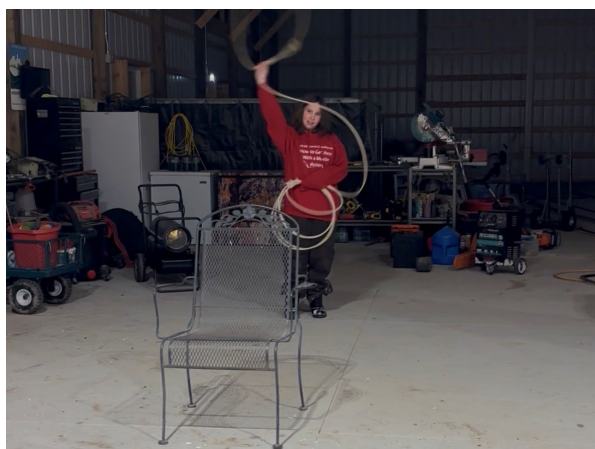
Leading up to and during the 2025 4-H Youth Show she was an indispensable member of the Horse Board who created a new horse dashboard to help families and youth navigate the 4-H Youth Show and deal with issues during the Youth Show. She also went out of her way to provide mentorship to a group of 4-H members looking to start a horse club.

Even now, as she has stepped down from her club leader role, she is still helping provide assistance and guidance to the 4-H youth on the horse board and also other 4-H horse leaders. She also continues to coach the Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology Team.

Thank you Angela for all you do for the youth of Washtenaw County 4-H!

If you have a 4-H leader or volunteers you would like to spotlight, please send in your information to Jenny Speyer, [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu) for the next newsletter.

## Club Happenings: S & L Bauernhof 4-H Club












A small group of S&L Bauernhof 4-H Club members went to one of our members farm, Gracious and Plenty farms to work with some animals. Club member Bella Burger also taught the kids how to lasso. What a great time! We may have to recruit Bella to teach this at the 4-H Youth Show!

Don't forget to send in your club happenings along with photos to be included in our Washtenaw County 4-H Newsletter. Submissions can be sent to Jenny Speyer at [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu).



# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11  6:30 pm - 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	12  6:30 pm - Livestock & Dairy/Small Animal Committee Meeting at WFC Grounds	13	14 
15	16  PRESIDENT'S DAY	17	18	19  6-8pm - Interview Skills Workshop	20	21
22  10 am - 2pm: Horse Asst'n Tack Sale at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds	23	24  6:30/7pm - Horse Association Meeting 6:30 pm - Still Projects Meeting	25	26	27	28 

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Jenny and we will try our best to add it here!





# March 2026



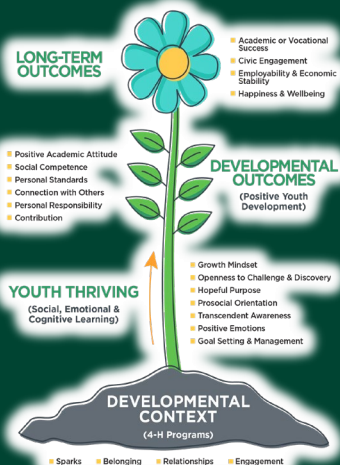
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1  MSRBA Convention Rabbit Show - MSU Pavillion	2	3	4	5  6:30 pm - College & Career Panel	6	7  8-11 am - Beef Tagging Weigh In  4-H Spark & Share in Frankenmuth
8 	9	10	11  6:30 pm - 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	12  7 pm - Advisory Council Meeting	13	14 
15	16	17 	18  6:30 pm - L&D and Small Animal Mentor Night	19  6:30 pm - Washtenaw Dairy and Livestock Banquet @ Chelsea High School	20 	21
22	23	24  6:30/7 pm - Horse Board & Committee Meeting	25	26  6 pm - Small Animal Committee Meeting	27	28 
29	30	31				

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Jenny and we will try our best to add it here!



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a “roll call” or “ice breaker” at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of “What’s your favorite cheese?”, know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.  
#BeyondReady

### February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month’s session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with “Walking a Path of Conservation.” Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february)

### February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn’t just an activity—it’s a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences)

### February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11)

### February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats)

### February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026)

### February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



## Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 7 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

## Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin! This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



## Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.



Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).