



Clare County

4-H Family News

MARCH 2021

4-H Program Coordinator's Message

I would like to officially welcome Sherry Landon as the Office Assistant for the Clare County MSU Extension Office! Sherry has been in this position as a temporary staff for a couple of years, however, with the passing of the millage in 2020, she is now with us permanently! Her office hours are Monday through Thursday 9am to 3:30pm. Along with myself, she is also here to help support 4-H families, youth and volunteers.

I am planning to take time off of work from March 26 through 30. If you need anything during this time, please call the office number at 989-539-7805, otherwise, I will be returning all emails and phone calls when I am back on March 31.

I will miss seeing many of you on our float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade! Fingers crossed that we'll be able to get back to many of the fun things we know and love soon!

Alex Schunk

4-H Program Coordinator

4-H Kindness Project

Supporting residents in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities

The 4-H Youth Leadership Council has helped organize this community service project which clubs are encouraged to take part in from now until April 30. Leaders should work with their club members and their families to decide how they would like to support residents of a local facility.

Here are some ideas on how clubs may support residents through a no contact program:

- Families create cards or letters for residents and get them to the facility through the mail or contactless drop off.
- Leader works with families/households to schedule times to go to the facility and build snowmen outside resident's windows and or decorate trees with homemade bird seed décor.
- Club zooms or video chat in with residents to do things like show them their animals or read a book to them. I can set up a zoom for you!

An email was sent to all club leaders on March 1, with full details about this project. Clubs that plan to participate need to have a leader submit their club's project proposal to Alex for approval by March 31.



Contact Us



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4-H Program Coordinator
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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Michigan 4-H presents
American Ninja
Warrior Daniel Gil**



Join Michigan 4-H on March 24 for a special presentation by 2020 American Ninja Warrior winner Daniel Gil!

During the free virtual event, Gil will discuss overcoming obstacles. This unique opportunity is open to all Michigan youth and their families.

The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. EST. Preregistration is required. To register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/daniel-gil-presentation.

4-H Events and Workshops

March 4— April 8: 4-H Trail Cameras 101 SPIN Club

Zoom Webinar

Explore ecosystems, Michigan wildlife, and citizen science by examining trail camera footage. The club will meet each Thursday from 5-6 p.m. EST through April 8.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-trail-cameras-101-spin-club

March 9: Wild Spartans Series - Searching for Vernal Pools

Zoom Webinar

Join each month to meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In March, dive into the springtime ephemeral pools in the woods to discover the treasures within!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-march

March 10: Officer Training - Virtual Edition!

Zoom Webinar

This training is open to all 4-Hers in Berrien, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Montcalm, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. The youth-focused training will offer instruction on running club meetings virtually and tips for voting in a virtual meeting, as well as provide an opportunity to try out various features.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/officer-training-virtual-edition-march-10

March 18: MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Virtual Winter Series 2021

Zoom Webinar

This youth-led series, occurring monthly, is a safe place for past, present, and future MSU Tollgate Farm stewards and stewards-in-training to connect or reunite as a community and to explore resiliency and growth as youth leaders.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-march-18

March 16: 4-H Give Green Day

Everywhere

Michigan 4-H is once again joining MSU's #GiveGreenDay. Help reach the goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period to support Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 23: The Roots and Branches of Your Family Tree

Zoom Webinar

Ever wondered about the traditions in your family, where they came from or how they settled where they are now? Join this webinar to learn how to start researching your family tree.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-roots-and-branches-of-your-family-tree>

April 1: 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest Deadline

4-H youth have the opportunity to develop writing and research skills, earn cash and become published through 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-beekeeping-essay-contest-deadline

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

Apply for a 2021 4-H State Award!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H 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.



2019 State Award winners with their plaques

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years old), junior state award (13-15 years old), senior state award (16-19 years old) and group awards (13-19 years old). The application process and selection is determined by the age of the 4-H member.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found online at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>. Applications are due April 1, 2021. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.



Join the Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance leadership team!

Youth ages 15-19 are invited to apply for the new Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance leadership team to help create a friendly, positive environment for Michigan youth and communities. The Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance is the brainchild of two Michigan 4-H teens who attended the [2020 National 4-H True Leaders in Equity Institute](#) and were inspired to create positive change in their 4-H community.

Applications are being accepted for the teen leadership team that will serve as advisors for the state-level Alliance. These leaders will develop leadership skills and help to create opportunities for LGBTQIA+ youth and allies to come together in fun, positive, and supportive ways. While this group is being established through Michigan 4-H, youth do NOT need to be 4-H'ers to apply; this opportunity is open to all teens interested in supporting the inclusion and participation of LGBTQIA+ youth and allies in Michigan 4-H.

Teen leaders will meet two to three times per month and should plan on committing about three hours of their time each month. The first meeting will be in April. This teen leadership team is just the beginning; additional opportunities will be available for youth who wish to serve on regional or local Alliance leadership teams, as well as join and participate as members.

Applications from prospective youth leadership members will be accepted from February 15 – March 15 at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4hlgbtqia/>. Youth interested in learning more about the Michigan 4-H LGBTQIA+ Alliance are encouraged to attend an optional Zoom open house on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Preregistration is required to participate in the open house, and can be completed at <https://bit.ly/3q6v1D8>. For more information, please contact MSU Extension Educator Brian Wibby at wibby@msu.edu.

4-H Youth in Action Awards Applications Now Open



Apply now for the 2022 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives in the pillar areas of agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.

Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth age 15-19. The deadline to apply is March 29. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/>.

CLARE COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Youth:

Breanna Stillion
Ashlie Baker
Gabriel Steele
Jordan McPhall
Rosslyn Evans
Charlie Murphy
Mia Fetzer
Gage Pratt
Sage Parsons
Jordan Gariglio
Lilly McGuire
Evan Thayer
Jonathan Jehnzen
Jayce Greenman
Randall hall
Zachary Hall
Clay Rogers
Bailey Taylor
Lena Renner
Serenity Baldrige
Garett Cingano
Seth Baldrige
Addison Wittig

Volunteers:
Christine Ogg
Jeffrey Smith
Shelly Haggart
Melissa Green



Welcome to our newest volunteer!

Ken Brown:

Denim & Dust Club

MARCH

10: Youth Leadership Council, 6:30pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97679102498>

Passcode: youth

12: 4-H Council Higher Education Scholarships due

15: Teddy Bears turned in for R.I.S.E. Community Service Sewing Project

24: 4-H Council, 6:30pm, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/98008030853> Passcode: council

31: Kindness Project community service proposals due

APRIL

14: Youth Leadership Council, 6:30pm, location TBD

28: 4-H Council, 6:30pm, location TBD

CLARE COUNTY NEWS

Winter Outdoor Family Adventure a Success

Nearly 70 families from across Michigan, Canada and Norway participated in the Winter Outdoor Family Adventure which was organized and sponsored by MSU Extension & 4-H, Jay's Sporting Goods and Mid Michigan College. Families spent the weekend doing winter activities indoors and outdoors and documented their experiences and learnings on the GooseChase app. Over 3,000 missions were completed by the families which included things like making a snowman, sledding, learning about winter animals and winter safety for being on the ice and outdoors in the cold. Pictured is Clare County 4-H family, the Young's. The Young family not only found the 4-H Geocache at Mid Michigan College, but were also the winners of the Jay's Sporting Goods gift card that was in the cache! Many families won prizes and gift cards from Jay's and Mid for participating in this program.



Record Books

All 4-H members are encouraged to enter a record book for their projects in home arts, horse or pony, rabbit, cavy, poultry, goat, swine, lamb, beef, dairy feeder, dairy female and beef. This is an educational and progressive project that will help youth gain a better understanding of their projects. First place prizes (engraved metal tumblers!) will be given for each age category in each project area/specie. Each Cloverbud that enters a record book will be awarded a prize for each project area. Record books are always available on our website at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/clare/clare_county_4_h/record-books

Clare County Fair News

- Fair Dates: July 26-31, Theme: Beach
- Youth Exhibitors will now be required to do work at the fairgrounds in order to get their premium check. First workday is May 22. More details to come soon.
- Fair books will not be printed and handed out this year. The Fair Book will be on the Fair website hopefully by late April. Anyone that needs help filling fair forms out or needs printed copies, contact Donna in the Fair Office.

Do you have questions about the Fair information above? Contact the Fair Office at 989-539-9011.



2021 Michigan 4-H Skillathon

Region 1: March 6, 2021

Upper Peninsula & Northern Michigan

Region 2: March 13, 2021

Southwestern Michigan

Region 3: March 20, 2021

Southeastern Michigan

Competitions will take place via Zoom

REGISTER:

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

MORE INFO:

www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2021-michigan-4-h-skillathon

CONTACT:

Geep Charlebois,
4-H Program Coordinator:
Antrim & Otsego Counties
charleb7@msu.edu

Test your knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management in 10 different categories.

Contestants who place in the top 20th percentile of each age division will qualify for the Michigan 4-H Skillathon State Championship held on April 10, 2021!

AGE DIVISIONS:

- ◆ Novice (8-11 years)
- ◆ Junior (12-14 years)
- ◆ Senior (15-19 years)
- ◆ Adult (open to current adult volunteers)

GET A 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON SHIRT!



CLARE COUNTY 4-H

**HIGHER EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS DUE
MARCH 12, 2021**

The application for the Clare County 4-H Higher Education Scholarship is now available! All 2021 graduating senior 4-H members are encouraged to apply for this scholarship that can be used for any higher education (college, trade school, etc.). Applications are due March 12 and are online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../Higher%20Ed%20App%202021.pdf>



Youth 4-H State Award Trainings

★ January, February and March 2021

Visit the Youth Recognition website for list
of dates:

<http://bit.ly/stateaward>



4-H GROWS HERE

Have you ever thought about applying for a 4-H State Award but you just do not know where to start or maybe you have submitted an application in the past but you need suggestions on your cover letter or resume? Consider joining a virtual training. Each training will start at the stated time, there will be a short video played around that topic and then staff will stay on to answer specific questions. Open office hours is a time that staff will be available to answer any questions that you have regarding your 4-H State Award application. Open office hours are designed to pop in, ask a question and get an answer, you do not need to stay the whole time. Registration is required, registration will stay open through each event. You must register for each session you plan to attend, click the date below to register. For more information about 4-H State Awards visit <http://bit.ly/stateaward>.



MARK OF EXCELLENCE

BECAUSE OF 4-H
I CAN...

APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



4-H GROWS HERE

It's that time of year, for the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award, please note there are few changes for this year! The 4-H Mark of Excellence Award is a division of the 4-H State Awards Program specifically for 11 and 12-year-old 4-H members.

To enter, a 4-H member writes an essay on the theme, "Because of 4-H I can ...". Essays are submitted to the local county MSU Extension office no later than April 1. County 4-H programs then select up to two youths' essays as their representatives and submit those names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. For more additional information and instructions, view the [2021 Overview and Instructions for Michigan 4-H State Awards Program and Mark of Excellence Award](#).