

Berrien County 4-H Spotlight

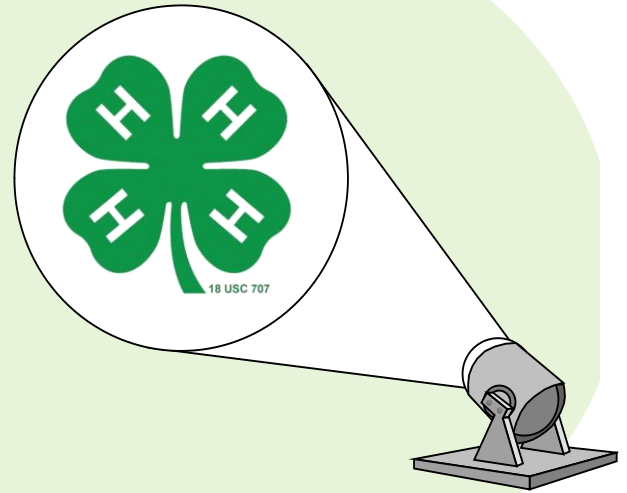
Upcoming MSU Extension Office Closures

The Berrien County MSU Extension Office will be closed on the following days. Please arrange for any pickup or drop offs prior to these dates.

May 25, 2026

July 3, 2026

Closed on Fridays



Volume 27 Issue 9

April – May 2026

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CONTACT US

**Berrien County
MSU Extension Office**
1737 Hillandale Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. – Noon
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone:
269-927-5674

Fax:
269-944-4128

Email:
msue.berrien@county.msu.edu

Website:
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h

COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



DATE CHANGE!!! → Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take place on April 12!

This event will be held on Sunday, April 12, at 1:40 p.m. when the Tigers take on Miami Marlins. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game and members of the 4-H and MSU Extension community will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game. Tickets purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will include:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity for youth (a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game).
- A portion of each ticket sale donated to Michigan 4-H.

Additionally, ticket holders can purchase a co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers bucket hat with each ticket purchase through the link, while supplies last. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Michigan4H26>. Tickets already purchased have automatically been transferred from the May 3 date to the new April 12th.

4-H Yearly Enrollment – Now Open!

4-H Online is now open for 4-H new year enrollments! Login today to submit your annual enrollment.



2025 – 2026 deadlines are as follows:

- January 1 – Returning Member Re-enrollment deadline
- June 1 – New Member deadline

Paper accommodations available upon request to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or can be found online at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/enrollment

Enrollment forms must be on file by the deadline dates listed above to be eligible for project complete, awards, scholarships, etc.

Berrien County 4-H Scholarship Program

Application submission is now available for the 2026 Berrien County 4-H Scholarship program. The program includes the Joseph & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship, Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship and the Berrien County 4-H Equine Educational Scholarship. Open to youth

For application, requirements and submission details can be found online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarshipsawards/scholarships

Deadline to submit is May 15, 2026. No late submissions accepted.

Interviews are scheduled for June 11, 2026.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



4-H Countywide Projects & Kits to Go!

Registration is now open for countywide projects and project exploration kits. Pre-registration is required, and workshops are limited on a first come, first serve basis until full regardless of participation via self paced or in-person. All supplies are included unless noted during the registration process. Club Leaders may request Kit to Go's for their membership by directly contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Kit to Go! – Win the Bid!

This kit is designed to assist you with preparing for your fair/exhibition auction. Grow the potential profit of your 4-H projects through a variety of marketing and communication strategies that will give you a leg up on your competition.

- **Date:** Registration is open, but limited to 100 kits on a first come, first serve basis until gone.
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2026, as well as Clubs, Fair Groups, & 4-H Leaders
- **Register online at:** <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4875/>

4-H Countywide Project – Fiber Fusion

- **Date:** April 12, 2026
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2026
- **Location:** Berrien County MSU Extension Office
- **Register online at:** <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>
- Registration set to open on March 17, 2026
- Limited to 20 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Kit to Go! – Barn Quilt Adventure

Explore the history of barn quilts in this at home self paced kit. Participants will create their own barn quilt coasters.

- **Date:** May Kit to Go!
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2026
- **Register online at:** <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>
- Registration set to open on April 1, 2026
- Limited to 25 individual kits on a first come, first serve basis until full. Clubs may order based on membership needs.

4-H Countywide Project – Emerging Florist

- **Date:** April 19, 2026
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2026
- **Location:** TBA
- **Register online at:** <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>
- Limited to 20 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.

Upcoming Countywide Projects:

- May – Project Area: Floriculture
- June – Project Area: Cake Decorating
- July – Project Area: Quilting
- August – Project Area: Recognition Application Forms
- January – Project Area: Recycled Arts & Crafts
- February – Project Area: Sculpting with Clay



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



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/>

For more information on 4-H International Exchange Programs go to: www.states4hexchange.org

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/>

**County scholarships available, reach out to the Berrien County MSU Extension to learn more.

SPRING 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP

MICHIGAN SHOOTING SPORTS May 2-3, 2026
LEARN BY DOING

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

Berrien County 4-H Foundation Golf Outing and Lunch is June 1, 2026 at Orchard Hills Country Club in Buchanan

Registration at 8:00am, Tee Off at 9:00 am.

Lunch at approximately 2:00 pm.

\$150 per golfer or \$560 per foursome

\$150 Hole Sponsor

\$30 Lunch only

To pre-register or sponsor a hole, please contact Chairperson – Elaine McKee at 269-414-6319 or temckee55@gmail.com

**The Berrien County 4-H Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation created to provide a regular income to finance 4-H programs and activities throughout Berrien County.*



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Fall into 4-H at Jollay Orchards

Berrien County 4-H Families and Leaders are invited to join us for a day of family friendly activities.

Activities include U-Pick Apples, Haunted House, Hayrides, Corn Maze, Craft Projects, Cider & Donuts AND MORE!!!

WHO: Berrien County 4-H Families, Leaders & Members

WHEN: Sunday, October 11, 2026

WHERE: Jollay Orchards 1850 Friday Rd, Coloma, MI 49038

TIME: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST

COST: Free

REGISTRATION: Registration is open and set to close on October 1, 2026. Register online at: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4666/> or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.



4-H Versatility Scholarship Event

Date: Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM at the Berrien County Youth Fair

Eligibility: Open to any Berrien County 4-H member who has completed the 8th grade by July 15, 2026. Maximum years of participating in the event is not to exceed five. Exhibitors must be enrolled in Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project by July 1, 2026.

Purpose: The Purpose of the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event is to identify and recognize the most versatile 4-H teen member and horse team in the Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project. The scholarship recognizes the outstanding 4-H horse and rider versatility combination at the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event.

2026 Cloverleaf Barrels

Amount of Scholarship: \$500.00 to Champion, \$250.00 to Reserve Champion and \$250.00 to the Sportsmanship Award Recipient

Member and horse must be pre-registered or post marked for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event by Monday, July 15, 2026.

Registration is completed via 4-H Online in the event section at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

For eligibility, rules, requirements and application can be found by calling the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674. or online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h



It's that time of year again. Teen/Service 4-H Club will be hosting its annual 4-H Lemonade stand during the Berrien County Youth Fair.

They need club help, both youth and adults to assist during the week of the BCYF. Clubs may sign up for just one or multiple two (2) hours shifts. Clubs will earn a portion of the profits for that day.

If interested, reach out to Bobbi Lawson at bobbilawson85@gmail.com or Freida Keefer at freida.keeper@yahoo.com for questions and shift sign up.

Shifts are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Each shift is required to have at least one (1) Gold Level volunteer always present in the booth.



4-H Mark of Excellence

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program

Grab your pen! Spark your imagination!
Dive into the world of 4-H! Twist and turn your way through your 4-H memories, as you capture your adventure and discoveries!



Beyond Ready

Eligibility:

- Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 10 and 11 as of January 1, 2026. Enrollment in previous years not required.
- Individuals may only be selected for this award once.
- Each county can select up to two (2) winners to receive the Mark of Excellence Award each year.

Submission Details:

- Contestants are asked to create either a video or a journal reflection focusing around the theme of “4-H Beyond Ready”
- Entries should be legible, readable or easily viewable.
- Video submissions must be no more than 2 minutes in length. Videos should be in mp4 format or provide a YouTube Channel link.
- Journal reflections must be 500 words or less and can be hand-written or typed.
- Submission can be either video OR a journal reflection.
- Must include first name and county.

Award:

- Selected winners will receive a certificate and medal.

Learn more at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition

Submissions may be posted on the Michigan 4-H section of the MSU Extension website and promoted digitally in newsletters and social media.

Deadlines:

- Submit to your local 4-H Office by May 1, 2026 for judging.
- Selected winners will be notified by May 15, 2026 of their achievement from their local 4-H Office.

Questions:

- Contact your local County 4-H Office

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4-H EXPLORATION DAYS



Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! Live like a college student and learn about future careers at 4-H Exploration Days. 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!



June 24 – 26, 2026
Michigan State University

A county delegation orientation is schedule for:

When: May 19, 2026
6:30 pm—7:30 pm
Where: Virtual via Zoom

Zoom details will be sent once registered for the event. Orientation will cover what to pack, emergency procedures, expectations, free time activities, and more!

What does 4-H Exploration Days cost?

The cost for the 2026 event is \$220, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event T-shirt and free-time activities. Berrien County 4-H Members are eligible for scholarships to go towards the event costs in the amount of \$170.00 equaling a camp fee of \$50.00 due at time of registration.

Who should attend?

All young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! You don't need to be a 4-H member to attend. Adults who would like to serve as event chaperones should contact their county 4-H program coordinator.

How do I register?

The 2026 event registration website (<https://bit.ly/2GRhuwv>) will open registrations on March 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM EST. You can also contact your county 4-H program coordinator in your local MSU Extension office for details. Registration will open in March 2026. You'll want to register early – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis!

Questions:

Kelly Stelter

4-H Program Coordinator

grandtke@msu.edu, 269-927-5674 ext. 4015



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Smart Money Missions Goosechase



Looking for a fun *and* educational activity for your

13–19-year-old this spring? Sign them up for **Smart Money Missions: Goosechase 2026**—a virtual scavenger hunt designed to help teens build real-world money management skills!

Using the Goosechase app, youth will:

- ✓ Complete creative challenges
- ✓ Solve financial trivia
- ✓ Submit photo/video missions
- ✓ Compete for a spot on the leaderboard
- ✓ Earn a chance to win a **\$50 gift card!**

Game runs: April 1, 2026 at noon – April 21, 2026 at noon

Registration deadline: April 20, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST

Cost: FREE

Open to youth ages 13–19 living in Michigan

Give your teen a fun way to boost their financial smarts—sign them up today!

Register here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions>
or <https://bit.ly/SmartMoney2026>

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. 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 ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-hyouth-in-action-program/>

State 4-H Pen Pal

Each spring, we facilitate a pen pal program between 4-H youth and our international partners in Costa Rica, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Program Dates:

- March 1: Registration opens for U.S. participants
- April 1 – June 1: Pen Pal program runs with weekly emails

Frequency: Participants will be expected to send one email/letter weekly for the duration of the program (approximately 10 emails/letters). States' 4-H will provide weekly topics to help get the conversation going, but these are only suggestions.

Regular Email Schedule Between Participants: For example, international youth send emails to their U.S. pen pals every Monday and U.S. participants reply every Friday.

Cost: \$10 USD that must be paid online at the time of registration.

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2026 or when all spots are filled. Spots are limited due to the number of international participants available. Sign up early to secure your spot!

Eligibility: All participants must be between the ages of 9-18 at the start of the program

Register online at: <https://states4h.org/pen-pal-program/>



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Michigan 4-H and FFA State Horse Judging Contest

Saturday, April 11, 2026
Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University
Contest starts at 9:00 a.m.

New Class Schedule

Class #1: Performance - Place 4-H Only
Class #2: Performance - Place 4-H Only
Class #3: Performance - Place and Questions (4-H and FFA)
Class #4: Performance - Place and Reasons (All but Jr. Novice)
Class #5: Halter - Place and Questions (All but FFA)
Class #6: Halter - Place and Questions (ALL contestants)
Class #7: Halter - Place and Reasons (ALL contestants)
Class #8: Halter - Place for all (Reasons for Sr. Regular Only)

When: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Where: Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University

Who: 4-H or FFA Youths, aged 5-19, with an interest in Horse Evaluation

Come build your animal evaluation skills and public speaking skills and join us for the 2026 Michigan 4-H and FFA State Horse Judging Contest!

Register here:

Coaches, please fill this form out to designate teams here: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1MrCMXDTaH3OGa

Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest

Where: Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University

When: Sunday, April 12, 2026

Who: Michigan 4-H Youths, aged 5-19, interested in everything horses!

Put your knowledge to the test and join us for the 2026 Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest!

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MI4HHIPPOLOGY26/>

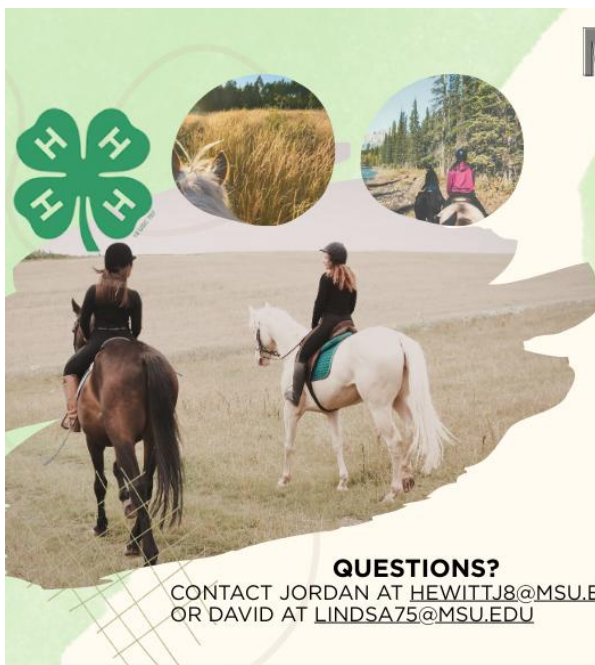
2026 Michigan 4-H
State Hippology Contest
Sunday, April 12, 2026
Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University
Contest starts at 9:00 a.m.

Contest Schedule

8:00am: Check-In for Participants and Volunteers
9:00am: Orientation
9:30am: Judging Phase Begins
10am: Slide Test Phase
10:40am: Knowledge Test
11:00am: INSTRUCTIONS for next phase
11:20am: Begin Stations and Team Problem
3:00pm: Contest should conclude
Awards approximately 2 hours after contest concludes

Register now at:
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/MI4HHIPPOLOGY26/>

Questions? Email David at lindsa75@msu.edu



MICHIGAN STATEWIDE 4-H TRAIL RIDING PROGRAM

Questions and Answers

- What is this program:**
 - Recognize youth who participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project.
- Who Can Participate:**
 - Any youth enrolled in a 4-H horse project member in Michigan.
- What are the requirements to log my hours:**
 - Trail location, date, hours ridden, miles, type of ride
 - Trail type classes or arena riding do not count towards these hours
 - Miles will accrue from August 1st thru the following July 31st.
- Recognition:**
 - Top five Junior and Senior participants awarded at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show.
- How do I Record my Rides:**
 - Use this link to record your rides:
https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bQyn5zWO RdTsyfY

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STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



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/. A limited number of county scholarships are available to assist in supporting the registration cost. Reach out to the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674 to learn more.

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.

Drive for 4-H
Buy a Michigan 4-H license plate and support 4-H youth!

Purchase yours at the Michigan Secretary of State!

Learn more: extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

MICHIGAN 4-H FOUNDATION

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.



STATE NEWS AND 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



Berrien County MSU Extension
1737 Hillandale Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



4-H Spotlight

Berrien County 4-H Youth Development



Facebook – “Berrien County 4-H Youth Development”

Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

