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 dop offs prior to these dates.

January 20, 2025

The office continues to be closed on Fridays



Volume 28 Issue 3

January – February 2025

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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

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msue.berrien@county.msu.edu

Website: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/ berrien/berrien county 4 h



Club Bank Statements Deadline

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit Club Bank Statements for December 31 statements are due on **January 10, 2025**. All Clubs must submit their bank statement or be subject to an audit. Statements can be:

- Mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
- · Dropped off at the afterhours drop mailbox out front
- Faxed to 269-944-4128

Please note, clubs that already have their statements mailed directly to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office on monthly/bi-monthly basis may disregard.



4-H Early Enrollment Swag Drawing #2 Results



The first 4-H enrollment drawing for 4-H swag has been completed. Winners were selected at random and are listed below. Winners will be notified for prize distribution.

Brinna D. - On the Rail 4-H Club

Parker L. - Backyard Renegades

Logan E. - On the Rail 4-H Club Addison P. - Tumbleweeds 4-H Club

Alice L. - Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club

Kaytlin L. - Blue Ribbon Bandits 4-H

Club Addison L. - Blue Ribbon Bandits William C. - Galien Chanters 4-H Club

Ali ili Oli Oli Ali Oli

Abigail K. - Galien Chanters 4-H Club

Taylor T. - Outsiders 4-H Club

Clyde B. - Redbud Country Goat

Brooklyn W. - Fuzzy Friends Dayton S. - Galien Chanters Alexa C. - We Can Ride

Ellery E. - General 4-H Experience

Prizes can be picked up at the Berrien County
MSU Extension Office.

Animal Science Career Quest



Are you interested in a career working with animals? Join us for 4-H Animal Science Career Quest!

During this program, you can learn about career paths in animal science and the MSU programs that can get you there! This program is a joint effort between Michigan 4-H and the MSU Department of Animal Science, and its focus is introducing youth to the wide variety of career options available to them within these fields. This event will be on February 15th on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is open to youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1, 2025) and 4-H volunteers. Cost is \$35.00 per a participant. Space is limited, so don't delay! Register now: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-career-quest-2025

County scholarships are available for Berrien County 4-H Leaders and Members for half the cost of the event registration fee. Contact the Berrien County MSU Extension office to learn more.







4-H Day at the Tigers



Join Michigan 4-H and Michigan State University Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday, April 27. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff, and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game. A portion of every ticket sold on this link will be donated back to Michigan 4-H. Make sure to wear your favorite 4-H gear and support 4-H while enjoying a fun day with the 4-H community.

New this year, Michigan 4-H guests will receive:

- An optional dual-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers item. Items will be redeemed on gameday.
- An exclusive pregame on-field opportunity. Timing and logistics of this opportunity will be released within a month of the game date.

Only tickets purchased through the Michigan 4-H link are eligible for these exclusive opportunities. This year, tickets will be available in three price tiers, with prices ranging from \$28 - \$46. office. Tickets go on sale in the spring online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers

Leader Update – Save the Date



The Berrien County 4-H Annual Leader Update Training dates have been set. Don't waste time and mark those calendars now. Club Coordinators, project, and resource leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. It is important that each 4-H club/group is represented. Volunteers that are working on becoming new club leaders are also welcome. This is a valuable opportunity. Leaders only need to attend one time. Dates are as follows:

- September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Buchanan Westerners
- September 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Berrien County MSU Extension

Each club is required to send at least one 4-H Leader to remain in good standing.

Michigan 4-H Pen Pal Program



Exciting news from the State's 4-H International Exchange Program! Through collaboration with Korea 4-H, Taiwan 4-H and Costa Rica 4-H (tentatively), Michigan 4-H will be offering a pen pal program this spring. A limited number spots are available on a first come, first serve basis until full.

Program Dates: February 4th through April 30th, 2025. (*The Lunar New Year may delay communications during this first week*)

Age: Participants must be between the ages of 9 – 18 as of February 4, 2025

Frequency: participants will be expected to send one email/letter weekly for the duration (approximately 12 emails/letters). There will be weekly discussion topics to help get the conversation going, but these are only suggestions. Regular Email Schedule Between Participants for example, international students send emails to their U.S. partners every Monday, and U.S. students reply every Friday.

Cost: \$10 USD that can be paid online only. (County scholarships available upon request)

Registration deadline: Friday, January 24, 2025, or when all spots are filled. Register online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/penpal25







lindsa75@msu.edu

MI 4-H Horse Program Winter Webinar Series

The Michigan 4-H Horse Program is hosting a six-part winter webinar series. The series will focus on an array of topics centered around Youth who are just getting started with horses and the Horse and Pony Project.

For information regarding the webinar reach out to David Lindsay for the webinar link!

New Year Enrollment



The 2024 – 2025 4-H Year has begun! Don't waste time to enroll. Enrollment must be submitted following the deadlines below for eligibility for scholarships, event/activities, etc.

- January 1 Returning Member Re-enrollment deadline (PASSED)
- 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

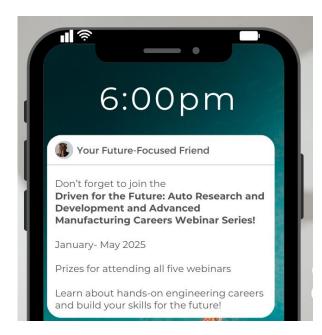
Individuals not enrolled will not be listed on the liability insurance nor considered a 4-H member for the year.

Driven for the Future – Webinar Series

Are you passionate about vehicles and ready to jump-start your career in the automotive industry? Enjoy technology, robotics, and hands-on problem solving? Join us for an engaging webinar designed to provide valuable insight into the skills and certifications you need to excel in today's fast-evolving automotive industry. Hear success stories from current automotive evaluation technician apprentices who are gaining hands-on experience through the FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) program to turn their passion into a thriving career in the skilled trades.

This webinar series will be presented January- May of 2025 with a small incentive for anyone who attends all five sessions, either live or by watching the recording, by May 27. Held on Thursdays at 6:00 PM EST.

This series is sponsored by Toyota Research & Development with a special incentive for those who attend all five webinars! Find out more about the series and register at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/driven-for-the-future/index









Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference



The MI 4-H Dairy Conference is back for 2025! The event will focus on providing a hands on opportunity for youth to gain in depth dairy knowledge including topic areas of nutrition, artificial insemination, reproduction, udder dissection, and a tour of the MSU Dairy Processing Plant.

Who: The Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference is designed for 12- to 19-year-old youth (by Jan. 1, 2025) enrolled in the 4-H Dairy Program and those interested in dairy cattle.

Date: March 1 – 2, 2025

Where: Michigan State University

Cost: \$130.00 per a person

**County scholarships are available on a first come first serve basis until gone in the amount of \$100.00. Contact the extension office to learn more.

Register: Deadline to register is February 6, 2025 via online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/mi-4-h-dairy-conference or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office.

4-H Wild Spartan Series

Join 4-H staff as we take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will plunge into the world of Great Lakes fisheries.

Join us on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025 at 6:30pm EST for "The Relationship Between Tribes and Fish." You will meet Jason Smith, Great Lakes Fisheries Assessment Biologist for the Bay Mills Indian Community. You'll learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Monthly sessions will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm EST. Pre-registration is required: https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25/



4-H State Awards Now Open

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills 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. State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (10 - 11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the age of the 4-H member.

Additional details about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/







4-H Exploration Days – Save the Date!



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!

4-H Exploration Days will be held on June 18 – 20, 2025 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. 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 the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

The cost for the 2025 event is \$250.00, 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 offered a scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 to apply to the registration fee on first come, first serve basis until gone. A deposit of \$50.00 is due at registration and prior to scholarship being applied. The 2025 event registration is set to open at the end of March with sessions filling on a first come, first serve basis until full. For information on sessions and to register go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information.

Additionally, Bus transportation from and to the event is arranged through the Kalamazoo County 4H program. Its cost is \$10.00 per a youth. Payment can be submitted to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office and must be received to reserve spot on the bus.

Resolve to have a great 4-H year

Adapted from: www.canr.msu.edu/news/resolve to have a great 4 h year.

As we start the New Year, how can 4-H clubs resolve to improve in the year ahead? Here are ten suggestions to make the upcoming year a successful one.

Resolve that:

- 1. Club meetings will start and end on time.
- 2. Business meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order and that all club paperwork, such as minutes, club inventory and financial statements, will be completed in a timely manner.
- 3. All members will take part in discussions and have a say in decisions that are made. Keep a chart with each members' name and when they speak at business meetings.
- 4. The club meeting place will be a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for all club members.
- 5. Fun will be included in each meeting.
- 6. A learning activity will be included in each club meeting. Ideas include exploring a new 4-H curriculum, having members volunteer to do a demonstration, doing a show and tell about each members' favorite project, or bringing in a guest speaker.
- 7. The club will pursue at least one community service project chosen, planned and celebrated by the club.
- 8. New members will have a buddy they may talk with about any 4-H questions.
- 9. The 4-H pledge will be said at every meeting.
- 10. Every club member will be recognized in some way to let them know they are cared about.









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!



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 April 1, 2025 for
 judging.
- Selected winners will be notified by April 14, 2025 of their achievement from their local 4-H Office.

Questions:

 Contact your local County 4-H Office

Eligibility:

- Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 10 and 11 as of January 1, 2025. 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

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Breslin Center



March 1, 2025

What: Celebrate MSU Extension's 4-H youth with the MSU Women's Basketball team as they take on the Minnesota Women's Basketball team.

When: March 1, 2025. Gates for the event will open at **12:30 p.m.** with a game tip-off scheduled for **2:00 p.m.**

Why: To celebrate Michigan 4-H youth, 4-H volunteers and 4-H programs!

Who: The Michigan 4-H community including MSU Extension and 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families!

Cost: Tickets are FREE for the guests listed above.

Transportation & parking: FREE for school buses, all other buses are \$20. Cars are \$5.

Attire: Show your pride by wearing your green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

Extras:

- Hear fellow 4-H'ers lead the 4-H pledge.
- Explore the wide range of 4-H programming with games and activities on the concourse before the game and at half-time.

Get in the game! Order your tickets at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin.

Contact your county Extension office to confirm if transportation may be coordinated or any other county-specific arrangements exist.





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MICHIGAN STATE

Berrien County, MI – Canine 4-H Junior Showmanship Course

A five-week 4-H Canine Junior Showmanship Course is NOW OPEN for registration and will close on Monday, February 24, 2025!

shannollet@sbcglobal.net stating you wish to register for the course by giving the name of the person and the dog attending, name of your 4-H club, coordinator of Registration: To register, please email Linda Shannon-Chaillet at the club, and the county your 4-H club is in.

Cost of Classes:

- The cost is FREE to 4-H registered members and leaders.
- The cost is \$50.00 for non-4-H members.

Place of Classes: Mutterly Love (200 Kerth, St. Joseph, MI 49085) Time of Class: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Dates of Class:

- Monday, March 3, 2025
- Monday, March 10, 2025
- Monday, March 17, 2025
- Monday, March 24, 2025
- Monday, March 31, 2025 DRESS REHERSAL!!!! 4 10

DOG TOOLS YOU WILL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU:

- Dog (cleaned and groomed)
- Proper showmanship leash (Don't worry if you do not have on the beginning. You can borrow one of ours.)
- Dog Brush
- Dog Comb
- Dog Treats
- Water bowl

6

- Water (for yourself and the dog)
 - Poop bags ∞ oi
- Paper towel



JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP COURSE GOALS:

- Know the breed standards for your dog.
- How to dress properly for the dog show ring.
 - Tools of the trade.
- Standard grooming for your breed. 4
- History of your breed.
- Learn the proper gait for your breed. 6.
- Table and floor presentation for your breed.
 - Judging procedures.





Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 16-18, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on:

agriculture; civil rights; crime, law enforcement and corrections; education; energy, environment and natural resources; health and human services; and jobs and the economy.

The cost to register in 2025 is \$365, which includes most meals, materials, and lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4 h capitol experience/. County scholarships are available for Berrien County 4-H'ers in the amount of \$300.00 to go towards the registration cost. County scholarship requests can be made by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

Cash Composition Contest

In support of Financial Literacy Month (April), Michigan State University Extension and 4-H are coordinating the Cash Composition Contest. Youth residing in Michigan, age 9-19 as of (January 1, 2025) are encouraged to answer this year's essay question (see below) with an essay of 300 words or less. We have 2 age brackets for the contest; 9-13 and 14-19. The top 3 scoring essays in each age bracket will win \$100 gift card.

Timeline: February 28, 2025: Essay Submission due by 11:59 p.m.

April 1, 2025: Winners Announced

Cash Composition Topic:

Credit is borrowing money to obtain goods or services based on the trust that it will be paid back. Credit can be considered good and bad. How can borrowing money (or using credit such as taking a loan or having a credit card) end up being a good decision and when might it not? How and when will you decide if it is a good choice for you to borrow money? What are some tips you would give someone who needs to borrow money?

Guidelines:

Participants must:

- Be between 9-19 years of age (as of Jan 1, 2025) living in the state of Michigan.
- Have knowledge of money management pillars of saving, spending, borrowing, and planning appropriate for age and grade level.

To Apply:

- Youth under 18 must have parent or guardian permission to apply and participate.
- The application form must be completed by a parent/guardian unless over 18.
- Youth must write an essay (300 words or less) on the assigned topic above.
- Essays must be submitted on the contest registration page.
- Submission are to be submitted online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest

All submissions must be received by 11:59 pm (EST) on February 28, 2025.







Attend the State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show & Expo



Join us for the 2025 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo at the MSU Pavilion! Youth may choose to exhibit their rabbit and/or cavy as well as to compete in other contests such as breed identification, photography, educational display, showmanship, and new this year - skillathon.

Showmanship exhibitors are required to preregister by January 17. All other contest registrations are done onsite at the show.

Educational sessions will also be scheduled throughout the day with the support of The Rabbit School and Rabbit Tutor.

Learn more at: www.canr.msu.edu/event s/2025 showmanship ra bbit_and_cavy_show.

Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop

Join Michigan 4-H for the 2025 Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop. This one-day workshop will be on Saturday, March 8, 2025, on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is designed for 4-H youth and volunteers in beef, sheep, goats, and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of breakout sessions. Session topics include intro to your species project, animal evaluation, marketing your livestock project, reproduction, nutrition, and more!

The 2025 Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop is open to youth ages 12-19 (as of Jan. 1, 2025) and active Gold-Level 4-H volunteers. Space will be limited to 100 people: 85 youth and 15 volunteers.

Activities will take place in Anthony Hall (474 South Shaw Ln East Lansing, MI 48824). Free parking will be available all-day Saturday in lots 40 and 41. Please see the MSU campus map for parking locations.

COST: \$35 per participant (includes lunch and a t-shirt). County Scholarship are available in the amount of \$15.00, contact the extension office to learn more.

REGISTRATION: Registration closes on February 19 or when all spots are full, whichever comes first. Register online at:

For more information go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2025

MI 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series

January 30: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Building a Culture of Appreciation by Recognizing 4-H Volunteers and Youth

Online

Discover simple, impactful ways to celebrate and recognize volunteers and youth involved in your club.

Register for the webinar online at:

- www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-building-a-culture-of-appreciation-recognizing-4-h-volunteers-youth-noon
- www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-building-a-culture-ofappreciation-recognizing-4-h-volunteers-youth-7pm



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





Facebook – "Berrien County 4-H Youth Development"
Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

