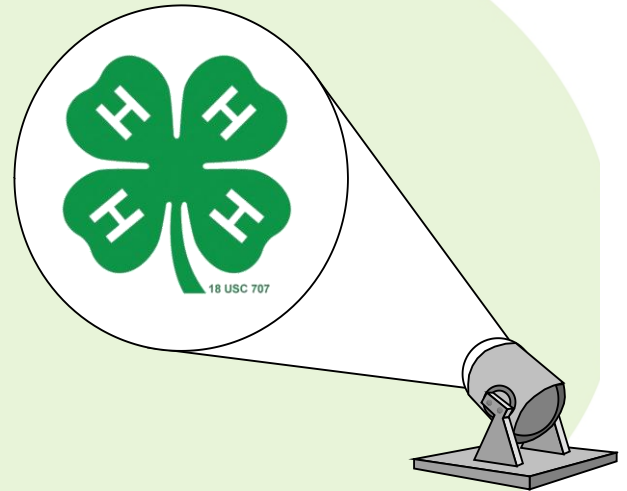


Berrien County 4-H Spotlight

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.

Closed on Fridays



Volume 27 Issue 10

June – July 2026

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msue.berrien@county.msu.edu

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

COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



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.



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.



The State 4-H Horse Show is an annual, three-day event that brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event.

Date: August 13 – August 16, 2026

Where: MSU Pavilion – East Lansing, MI

Who: Open to youth ages 13 and Up as of January 1, 2025.

For more show schedule, eligibility, etc. go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/registration-information

Berrien County Application: Berrien County Application can be submitted via 4-H Online in the events section. Deadline for application is July 1, 2026 – No late submission accepted.

****Selected delegates will receive a registration packet that is due by July 15, 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 Kit to Go! – Paper Quilling

- **Date:** Registration is set to open on June 7, 2026.
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2026, as well as 4-H Clubs
- Register online through 4-H Online using the QR code.
- Limited number of kits available on first come, first serve basis until gone.



Upcoming Countywide Projects:

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

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.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



National 4-H GIS



NATIONAL 4-H GEOSPATIAL LEADERSHIP TEAM SINCE 2003
GIS • GPS • REMOTE SENSING • AI

High school students using geospatial tools to explore real-world issues and build data-driven solutions.

national4hgeospatialteam.us
contact@national4hgeospatialteam.us
202.556.0635

Put your county on our National 4-H History map!



Help put Berrien County 4-H Clubs on the Map for the 125th Anniversary of 4-H! The National 4-H GIS Team is collecting information from 4-H Clubs all over the country, to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of 4-H! Follow the link or QR code below:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/dffd83fe7fc2405995ee7b7bc59e203b>

4-H Activity Station During Berrien County Youth Fair Sign Up

Join us as we take part hosting a variety of 4-H activity stations during the Berrien County Youth Fair. This year, we will be in the Wonders of Birth Barn. We will be offering interactive hands-on activities on the following dates from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- **Monday, August 17**
- **Tuesday, August 18**
- **Wednesday, August 19**
- **Thursday, August 20**
- **Friday, August 21**
- **Saturday, August 22**

Shift Sign Up:

With that said, we are looking for 4-H members and volunteers to assist in participating our shifts throughout the week. Shifts are in increments of an hour to allow flexibility with family's schedule. 4-H members who volunteer and assist with 3 or more hours will receive a voucher to obtain a one (1) day ride wristband.

Ride wristband vouchers are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis until gone. Youth must complete their hours prior to receiving wrist band voucher. Up to 2 vouchers can be received. Vouchers can be utilized for any rides are open but must be used by the completion of the fair of August 22.

Each shift is limited to the number of individuals assisting. Youth between the ages of 5 - 7 years old must be accompanied by a Teen Leader or Adult volunteer.

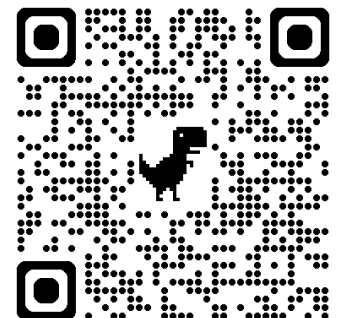
Shift registration can be done by:

- Calling the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674
- Online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ADA92EA3FE3-63737728-4hactivity>

Volunteer Screening Requirement:

Adults assisting must be either a silver or gold level screened approved volunteer. This can be done by submitting a volunteer application online at: https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_login

For questions reach out to the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.





Win the Bid! – Make the Most at the Auction

Win the Bid kit is designed to assist youth with getting ready for their local exhibition auction.



Grow the potential profit of your 4-H Livestock projects through a variety of marketing and communication strategies that will give you a leg up on your competition.

In this kit, youth will gain knowledge related to methods of marketing and advertising their products. Participants will explore and practice production, management, and distribution skills. In addition, this kit provides a venue to explore what it takes to be successful in business and view the world of animal science and agribusiness as a career option. Market animal projects have the potential to teach you valuable life skills in addition to basic animal science, care and management.

Activities included are as follows:

- 7 Steps to a Great Thank You Note
- How to avoid a communication catastrophe
- The "Write" Stuff
- DIY Buyer's Thank You Gift
- Buyer's Thank You Poster

Each kit includes customization to a project area. Youth can select up to three (3) project areas to customize when registering. Customization selections are as follows:

- Beef
- Sheep
- Swine
- Goat
- Rabbit
- Chicken
- Turkey
- Expressive Arts

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years, 4-H Clubs & Independent Fair Groups. Individual & group kits can be requested through the same registration link.

Cost: Free

Registration: Pre-registration is required prior to June 2, 2026 through online at: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4875/> or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

Kits are limited on a first come, first serve basis until gone. Kits are scheduled to be distributed throughout June & July.

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269-927-5674

Kelly Stelter
4-H Program Coordinator
grandtke@msu.edu
269-927-5674 ext. 4015



Adult assistance is required for the kit.

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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.keefer@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.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Top Honor to Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Team

Congratulations and a round of applause to the members and coaches of the Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Team. Recently, the team competed at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Judging Contest. The senior horse judging team members and the senior hippology team members, both earned a spot to represent Michigan 4-H at a National contest in the fall!

MI 4-H/FFA STATE HORSE HIPPOLOGY CONTEST RESULTS

Senior Regular Individual:
7th Place - Overall - Avery M.

Senior Novice Individual:
3rd Place - Judging - Katie L.
3rd Place - Stations - Katie L.
3rd Place - Slides - Katie L.
3rd Place - Exam - Katie L.
3rd Place - Overall - Katie L.

Junior Novice Individual:
4th Place - Judging - Vivian M.
1st Place - Judging - Sophia M.
3rd Place - Slides - Vivian M.
4th Place - Stations - Sophia M.
1st Place - Exam - Vivian M.
5th Place - Overall - Sophia M.
6th Place - Overall - Vivian M.

Senior Team Division:
2nd Place - Overall - Berrien County
Team members include
Avery M., Aberdeen P., Ella M. & Ginger H.

Team Coaches:
Tom R.
Kaitlynn M.



MI 4-H/FFA STATE HORSE JUDGING CONTEST RESULTS

Senior Regular Individual: Reasons
5th Place - Avery M.
3rd Place - Ginger H.

Senior Regular Individual: Overall
5th Place - Avery M.
7th Place - Ella M.

Senior Novice Individual: Overall
2nd Place - Aberdeen P.

Senior Novice Individual: Reasons
2nd Place - Aberdeen P.

Junior Regular Individual: Overall
2nd Place - Vivian M.

Junior Novice Individual: Reasons
2nd Place - Sophia W.

Senior Regular Team: Overall & Reasons
1st Place - Berrien County
Team Members include Ginger H., Avery M., Ella M. & Katie L.

Team Coaches:
Tom R.
Kaitlynn M.



Mark of Excellence Award Winner



Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 10 and 11, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The reflection is "4-H Beyond Ready..." and the youth referred to a variety of memorable experiences in their time as 4-H'ers and how it makes them beyond ready to take on challenges in the future. As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners.

For 2026 the following youth was selected from Berrien County:

Michael S. – Galien Chanters 4-H Club

Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning reflections will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winner!

SPIN Club Survey



Interested in participating in a 4-H SPIN (SP=Special IN=interest) Club or Workshop this summer? Please fill out a short survey by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mvniXyhGfDIXmS





2026 Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

ENTER PHOTO AND VIDEO PROJECTS IN SHOWCASE

Michigan youth ages 5-19 as of Jan 1, 2026 are eligible to enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase and share their projects online. There is no fee to enter and 4-H membership is not required.

There are classes in livestock and animal showmanship, still exhibits, contests, educational and leadership, and more! Youth can enter multiple classes and receive positive and constructive feedback from evaluators. Youth can enter the same project in a local or county fair but cannot enter the same project in the in-person Michigan State Fair.

The registration deadline is August 7, 2026.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Participants in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase also can apply for up to \$1,000 in post-secondary education scholarships.

Michigan youth, ages 8-19 years old as of Jan. 1, 2026, who submit a project in the virtual showcase are eligible to apply in their age bracket (8-11, 12-15 and 16-19). The deadline to apply for scholarships is Monday, August 10, 2026 at 4 p.m. EST.

The Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase Scholarship is provided by the Michigan State Fair Foundation and supported by the Bowman family.



For more information:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>

Questions, please contact Janelle Stewart at stewa191@msu.edu or Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu.

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Register for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive

Michigan 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest



While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award. Registration is due by June 15. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026.

MSU Extension honors 11 Michigan 4-H volunteers for 50 years of service in 2026

For the sixth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

“We give thanks for every volunteer in our program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “Michigan 4-H would not exist as it does today without the dedication of volunteers who generously share their gifts, and these 11 remarkable individuals in particular have been sharing their gifts for a half-century. We offer them our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all they’ve done for our organization and Michigan 4-H’ers.”

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2026 are:

- Kay Booth, Barry County
- Joyce Goerge, Clinton County
- Betty Groth, Cass County
- Beverly Koppelman, Monroe County
- Gary Koppelman, Monroe County
- Michael Lee, Osceola County

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at: <https://mi4hfdn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



National 4-H Congress

National 4-H Congress is a five-day event that engages high school aged 4-H members in leadership, citizenship, global awareness, and inclusion. Youth will hear from nationally renowned speakers, which in the past have included a wide range of individuals, including Holocaust survivors, social entrepreneurs, Miss America, and civil rights leaders. Additionally, participants take part in breakout sessions on a wide range of topics, including communications, leadership, and STEM. Participants not only can participate in state-of-the-art educational workshops and hear from world-renowned speakers, but they also can network with other 4-H members from across the United States.

Beyond the conference, National Congress delegates attend educational tours, including the Georgia History Center, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park, Georgia Aquarium, and Coca-Cola Headquarters. Youth carry out community service projects throughout the Atlanta area which has included in the past programs in parks, community schools, and other community organizations.

- **When:** November 27, 2026 – December 1, 2026.
- **Where:** Atlanta, GA
- **Who:** Youth aged 14-19
- **Cost:** Cost is approximately \$1800.00 - \$2000.00 with adjustments based on airfare.

County Scholarship: The Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program offers Berrien County 4-H'ers to receive a county level scholarship to apply towards registration fee approximately \$1650.00 - \$1850.00 making the registration cost after scholarship application of \$150.00. Scholarships are limited and filled based on an application process.

Registration: Application for the trip is due with a \$50.00 deposit to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office no later than August 1, 2026. Checks can be made payable to MSU. Notification of scholarship and trip selection will be done prior to August 10, 2026.

Application for trip can be found online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships or can be requested by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

To learn more, visit the National 4-H Congress website at: <https://national4-hcongress.com/>

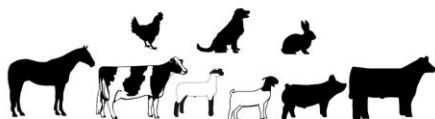
MI 4-H Showmanship Guides Now Available



Are you new to showing animals? Did you earn a spot in your county's showmanship sweepstakes contest? Perhaps you'd simply like to sharpen your showmanship skills for a project you've been taking for a few years now... Michigan 4-H now has showmanship guides available for every species that were designed with you in mind!

With county fair season approaching, there is no better time than now to start building your showmanship skills.

You can find all the guides under the "Publications" tab on this webpage: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/4-h-showmanship-guides>



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Preparing Youth to Be Beyond Ready Through 4-H Livestock Projects



Beyond Ready

4-H livestock projects provide powerful, real-world learning that helps youth become Beyond Ready for life, work and leadership. Caring for animals teaches responsibility, time management and problem solving, all of which are essential skills for future success. Through chores, recordkeeping and making informed decisions, youth practice accountability and perseverance.

Livestock projects also build confidence as members explain their work to judges, interact with buyers and demonstrate professionalism in the show ring. When volunteers encourage reflection, support goal setting, and help youth connect these experiences to life beyond the barn, young people begin to see how their efforts today prepare them for tomorrow. Are your project activities helping youth become Beyond Ready?

#BeyondReady

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. Find new caches, trade travel bugs, explore the gardens and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache

June 9: Online Extension Extras for Parents: Internet Safety

Online

Screens are everywhere, and children are spending more and more time in front of them. This session will discuss topics including steps to take to keep kids safe online, apps youth use and their safety, Michigan laws, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-internet-safety-6-9-26

June 11: Adulting 101 – AI and You: Smart, Safe and Savvy

Online

As part of the Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar series, this session will explore the basics of how artificial intelligence works, ways it can support you, and how to make smart decisions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you

June 18: Pirate and Pixie Garden Party

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Argh me mateys. Join a morning of swashbuckling fun! Go on a treasure hunt, making pixie dust, decorate an eye patch and more!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pirate-and-pixie-garden-party

June 23: Digger Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, East Lansing

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in communities.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/digger-day

July 1: 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging State Contest

Farm Bureau Pavilion, East Lansing

Participants will demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve communication and decision-making skills. Register by June 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026



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

