



AUGUST 2026

# 4-H Family News



## Clare County

The Clare County Fair runs August 3-8, and we can't wait to see all our 4-H families, volunteers, and supporters there! Be sure to check out the fair schedule on pages 4-5 of this newsletter so you don't miss any of the fun.

As you make plans for the Clare County Fair, please remember that the MSU Extension millage renewal will be on the August 4 ballot.

The millage supports local 4-H Youth Development programs and helps MSU Extension continue providing valuable educational programs and resources throughout Clare County.

Early voting is available July 25–August 1, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. daily at the Clare County Courthouse.

Club leaders can stop by the MSU Extension Booth during fair week to pick up award nominations and year-end paperwork.

Sincerely,

Renee Sanders 4-H Program Coordinator

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## Announcements and Save the Dates

Clare County 4-H Ranch

Award Nominations Due | August 31, 2026 | MSU Extension Office

Year End Paperwork Due | September 1, 2026 | MSU Extension Office

### Leaders:

I will have your year end packets and award nominations at the MSU Extension building at the fair.

### Save the Date:

4-H Volunteer Annual Leader Meeting September 23 at 6 pm. Pere Marquette District Library, Clare.

4-H Awards Banquet November 4 at the Event Center, Clare County Fair

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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Building work  
readiness skills  
through 4-H**



## Beyond Ready

4-H programs create intentional opportunities for youth to build essential work readiness skills that prepare them for future success. Through structured, hands-on activities, young people practice communication, collaboration, problem solving and time management. Volunteers play a key role by guiding youth through meaningful tasks, helping them set goals, and encouraging personal responsibility and follow through.

As youth take on leadership roles, complete project work, and participate in real-world or simulated experiences, they begin to demonstrate growth in professionalism, work ethic and organizational skills. Every activity can help youth connect what they are learning in 4-H to what will be expected of them in the workplace.

How is your club helping youth build the skills they need to be work ready?

#BeyondReady

### July 1 - August 7: Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

*Online*

As part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase, youth ages 8-19 are invited to create a video or non-video promotional piece encouraging others to purchase the 4-H license plate. [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-license-plate-promotion-contest](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-license-plate-promotion-contest)

### July 1 - August 7: Michigan 4-H Business Pitch Contest

*Online*

Participants may present a business they already own, currently operate or hope to start in the future, including product, service or community impact ideas. Youth will create a two-minute video pitch introducing themselves, explaining their business idea, identifying the problem they are solving, and sharing why their product or service stands out.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan4-hbusinesspitchcontest](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan4-hbusinesspitchcontest)

### August 12: Adulthood 101 – Roadmap to a Smart Used Car Purchase

*Online*

Are you wanting to purchase a used car, but have no idea where to start? Learn tips, resources and strategies to help you make an informed decision with confidence.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-roadmap-to-a-smart-used-car-purchase](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-roadmap-to-a-smart-used-car-purchase)

### August 13-16: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

*MSU Pavilion, East Lansing, Mich.*

This annual event brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate; spectators are welcome.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show)

### August 17-20: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp 2026

*Traverse City, Mich.*

Join us for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity. This camp is designed to encourage sustainability and growth from the inside out through a fun and engaging hands-on approach. Register by August 17.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026-session-2](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026-session-2)

### September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing, Mich.*

Join MSU Extension for the ninth annual Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception. If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Michigan 4-H alumni & supporters invited to get connected by the clover!

As a valuable member of the Michigan 4-H community, you already know the importance of the 4-H connection. We invite those age 18 and older to take that 4-H connection one step further by joining a new statewide community of 4-H supporters: Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends.

The Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends database will connect 4-H families, alumni, volunteers, supporters and others across Michigan with one another – connecting them by the clover! We hope you will take a few moments to sign-up for this free community and grow your connection.

As a member of Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends, you will receive information about opportunities to support 4-H youth and programs; 4-H programming and participants; upcoming events for the Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends community and more!.

Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends is open to anyone age 18+ who cares about Michigan 4-H: 4-H parents, staff members, volunteers, grandparents, supporters, partner organization representatives, donors and more. Learn more about Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends and find the link to join by visiting [extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F](https://extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F).



## Going home: Biosecurity tips for animals that travel off the farm

Adapted from: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/biosecurity\\_tips\\_for\\_animals\\_that\\_went\\_to\\_the\\_county\\_fair](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/biosecurity_tips_for_animals_that_went_to_the_county_fair).

Animals that are exhibited at the county fair, jackpot shows, and other exhibitions are likely near and dear to their exhibitor's hearts. [Michigan State University Extension](#) offers these biosecurity steps exhibitors can take to protect their show animals and those that were left at home once the event has ended.

- Keep animals that left home separate from animals that did not for a minimum of 14 days. If at all possible, do not allow nose-to-nose contact and provide as much distance between animals.
- Disinfect all buckets, feeders, tools and footwear that left home.
- Throw away any feed or hay that left home.
- Always wear clean clothes and footwear. Boot coverings may be helpful when caring for isolated animals.
- Take care of animals that stayed home from the show first, and animals that were at the show second. Do not go back and forth between animals as this increases the risk of cross-contamination.
- Do not eat or drink in the barn.
- Observe animals daily for signs and symptoms of illness, such as:
  - Obvious pain or discomfort
  - Decrease in appetite and water intake
  - Fever
  - Lethargy
  - Diarrhea or changes in consistency in manure
  - Discharge from nasal cavity or eyes
  - Overall weakness

Care of animals after traveling is just as critical as their pre-show care. Exhibited animals were exposed to new animal populations and fair-goers, and will typically experience a lot of stress during their time away from home. By practicing these biosecurity steps, you can help keep all of your animals safe and healthy.





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Clare County Fair Schedule

### **Saturday, August 1st**

10:00 am Home Arts Still Exhibit Auction

### **SUNDAY, August 2nd**

4:00 pm Dog Show

6:00 pm Surrounded Gospel sing

### **MONDAY, August 3rd**

9:00 am Judging Youth & Open Rabbit & Cavy Classes & Showmanship

9:00 am Judging Youth Swine Market Classes

10:00 am Judging Draft Horse Halter Classes – Horse Arena

1:00 pm Judging Youth Sheep Market Classes

7:00 pm Dad's of Thunder

### **TUESDAY, August 4th WITBECK'S KID'S DAY**

9:00 am Judging Youth & Open Poultry Classes & Showmanship

10:00 am Judging Youth Beef Market Classes

11:00 am Judging Youth Beef Showmanship Classes

1:00 pm Judging Youth Dairy Feeder Market Classes

2:00 pm Judging Youth Dairy Feeder Showmanship Classes

2:00 pm Judging Youth Saddle Horses

3:00 pm Judging Youth & Open Dairy Classes & Showmanship

1:00 pm Midway Opens

Free Shows Daily -Loyal Horses, Agri-Puppets, Hot Glass Academy--Glass Blowing

5:00 pm Bicycle Drawing - Sign up 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Drawing held at 5:00 pm.

Bicycle's are given through the courtesy of Witbeck's - MUST BE PRESENT at drawing to win.

7:30 TNT Demolition Derby Bump & Run

### **WEDNESDAY, August 5th**

9:00 am Judging Youth Swine Showmanship

9:00 am Judging Youth & Open Dairy & Meat Goat Classes & Showmanship

12:00 pm Harness Racing

1:00 pm Midway Opens – Ride Specials

1:00 pm Judging Youth Sheep Showmanship & Youth Sheep Lead Class

2:00 pm Judging Youth Saddle Horses

Free Shows Daily -Loyal Horses, Agri-Puppets, Hot Glass Academy--Glass Blowing

7:30 pm TNT Demolition Derby Figure 8 & Demo Derby





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Clare County Fair Schedule Continued

### THURSDAY, August 6th

9:00 am Judging Open Class Swine, Sheep, Beef & Dairy Feeders  
10:00 am Presentation of Horse Trophies & Prizes – Horse Arena  
11:00 am Cat Show  
12:00 pm Harness Racing  
1:00 pm Large Animal Overall Showmanship  
1:00 pm Midway Opens  
Free Shows Daily -Loyal Horses, Agri-Puppets, Hot Glass Academy--Glass Blowing  
3:00 pm Draft Horse Hitch Classes – All Breeds  
3:00 pm Cloverbud Show  
5:00 pm Bicycle Drawing - Sign up 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Bicycles - courtesy of Stephenson Wyman Funeral Home -- MUST BE PRESENT at drawing to win.  
7:00 pm Mud Mitten Mud Bog

### FRIDAY, August 7th

9:00 am Overall Small Animal Showmanship Contest  
1:00 pm Midway Opens,  
Free Shows Daily -Loyal Horses, Agri-Puppets, Hot Glass Academy--Glass Blowing  
2:00 pm Small Animal Auction  
5:00 pm Large Animal Auction  
7:00 pm SUPER KICKER RODEO W/ DEWAYNE SPAW

### SATURDAY, August 8th

12:00 pm Midway Opens  
Free Shows Daily -Loyal Horses, Agri-Puppets, Hot Glass Academy--Glass Blowing  
7:00 pm SUPER KICKER RODEO W/DEWAYNE SPAW  
8:00 pm Release of Livestock Exhibits

\*Harness racing may be reduced or eliminated depending upon available funding

Follow us on Facebook for other daily events that pop up.

<https://www.facebook.com/clarecounty4H>



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Clare County MSU Extension

For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has been serving Clare County through educational programs, youth development, health and wellness initiatives, and community engagement.

As Michelle Neff shares, the impact of MSU Extension can be seen in the lives of local families, farms, businesses, and communities.

**On August 4, Clare County voters will have the opportunity to vote on the MSU Extension millage renewal.** Learn more about the programs and services MSU Extension provides and the impact they have throughout the county: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/osceola/millage>

*“As a publicly funded organization, it is important that voters understand all the MSU Extension offers and the impact that we are making in our communities. It is also important to understand the 100 year history of quality MSU Extension programs that have been in Clare County. Over the past 100 years, many families, farms, businesses and communities have been impacted by the programs that we offer.”*

**MICHELLE NEFF**

*Child & Family Development Educator  
Clare County*



**Beyond  
Ready**





# Clare County Happenings

## Become an Ambassador!



We invite you to become a Clare County 4-H Ambassador! The application window is now open year-round, allowing you the flexibility to apply at your convenience.

As a Clare County 4-H Ambassador, you'll have the opportunity to be a shining example of the positive impact 4-H has on our community. This is your chance to shine and make a real difference!

Ambassadors engage in exciting activities and experiences, including representing 4-H at various community events. You'll get to be the face of 4-H at local gatherings, fairs, and more. Share your love for 4-H and connect with fellow community members.

As Ambassadors you must attend at least three community events throughout the year, whether they're 4-H related or general community gatherings. However, the more events you participate in, the more you'll grow as a leader and advocate for positive change.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/clare/clare\\_county\\_4\\_h/4-h-ambassadors](https://www.canr.msu.edu/clare/clare_county_4_h/4-h-ambassadors)

## Clare County 4-H Council Elections Coming in September

Are you looking for a way to make an even greater impact in Clare County 4-H? At our September Clare County 4-H Council meeting, we will be holding elections for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President Teen Leader
- Secretary

Throw your name into the hat! This is a great opportunity to help guide the future of Clare County 4-H, support our programs, and mentor youth on a new level.

Not interested in an officer position? Consider joining a committee. Committees are a great way to get involved, share your ideas, and help make our events and programs successful.

### Why Join a Committee?

#### Make a Difference

Your involvement has a real impact on local youth, families, and the community.

Discover Your Passion With a variety of committees to choose from, there is an opportunity for everyone to contribute their talents and interests.

#### Embrace Community Spirit

Be part of a team that helps strengthen Clare County 4-H and builds connections throughout the community.

The more people who get involved, the stronger our 4-H program becomes. We hope you'll consider stepping into a leadership role or joining a committee this fall.

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# 4-H Family News

Clare County



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