

Clare County 4-H Family News

Dear 4-H Families and Friends,

As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and bright future of Clare County 4-H. Your passion, hard work, and commitment to our youth and community continue to inspire me. From setting goals to embracing new opportunities, let's make 2025 a year of growth, learning, and connection.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and fulfilling New Year!

Miranda Warmuskerken

Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin Center - March 1, 2025

For nearly two decades, this has been exciting event attended by Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers and families. We look forward to continuing this event in 2025 as 4-H'ers from across the state come together for a day of fun, comradery and basketball at MSU.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin

4-H Holiday Craft Day Brings Cheer to the Community

On the afternoon of December 7th, the Clare County 4-H Council hosted a delightful Holiday Craft Day at Jay's Sporting Goods. The event brought together youth, families, and community members to celebrate the holiday season through creativity and connection.

Participants enjoyed a variety of hands-on craft activities, creating festive decorations and gifts to take home. From ornament-making to holiday sugar scrub crafting, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The event showcased the talents and enthusiasm of the 4-H members and volunteers, who helped ensure a fun and engaging atmosphere for all.

The Clare County 4-H Council extends its heartfelt gratitude to Jay's Sporting Goods for their support and to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event a success. The Holiday Craft Day not only spread holiday cheer but also highlighted the spirit of community that defines Clare County 4-H.



CONTACT US

Miranda Warmuskerken
4-H Program Coordinator

MSU Extension Office
225 W Main St.
Harrison, MI 48625

PHONE:
(989) 539 - 7805

EMAIL:
warmusk3@msu.edu

WEBSITE:
canr.msu.edu/clare/clare_
county_4_h/

Stay Up-to-Date!

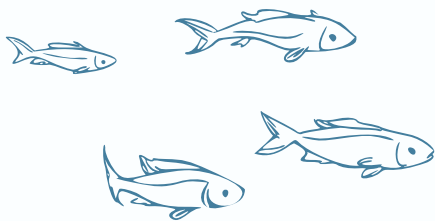
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for the latest news!
facebook.com/clarecounty4H



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PROJECT F.I.S.H.

**FISHING INSTRUCTOR
TWO DAY TRAINING**

MARCH 4 & 5, 2025

MSU CAMPUS

Natural Resources Building

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Register by Feb. 24, 2025

Space is limited. Register Early!

Registration Info:

projectfish.org/pfworkshopanrweek2025.pdf

Contact Instructor Mark Stephens for questions:
(517) 432-2700 or steph143@msu.edu

COST \$75

**CLARE COUNTY 4-H OFFERS
TO COVER THE COST OF
TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

**Contact the Clare County 4-H
Program Coordinator to request
the workshop fee to be covered**

*Miranda Warmuskerken
Clare County 4-H
Program Coordinator
warmusk3@msu.edu*

Michigan 4-H

Spark and Share Summit

FRANKENMUTH, MI

BAVARIAN INN LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER
MARCH 8, 2025
9AM - 5:30PM

\$50 includes Lunch

- Animal Science
- Science of Gardening
- Paper Art
- Engaging Meetings
- Mindfulness
- Rocketry
- Marketing your Project
- Youth-Adult Partnerships
- Teaching Science
- Vermicomposting
- Spa Day




Reignite Your Passion for 4-H at the Spark and Share Summit!

Register by February 8th

Join fellow 4-H volunteers and teen leaders for an exciting day of workshops, networking, and hands-on learning! Choose up to three breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics, such as animal science, mindfulness, rocket science, gardening, and much more. Take this opportunity to bring fresh ideas back to your local 4-H programs.

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SELeaderMeet2025>

Adulting 101 - Decreasing Stress with Mindfulness

January 14th - 6 PM EST



Are you ready to leave for college or be out on your own? Are you prepared to do adult tasks related to finances, home, health or finding a career? Adulting 101 can help you learn real life skills to successfully transition to living independently. In this session, learn how stressors can affect physical and mental health and practice mindfulness techniques to use in everyday life.



REGISTER TODAY!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2025

MSU Pavilion to be renamed Michigan Farm Bureau Pavilion at MSU

CANR has entered into a gift agreement with the Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies. In recognition of this gift, the MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education will be renamed the Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University. This gift will support a planned expansion at the facility, which serves the MSU community, the general public and agricultural groups from across the Great Lakes region.



Read More:

<https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2024/msu-pavilion-to-be-renamed-michigan-farm-bureau-pavilion-at-msu>

Participate in the 2025 World Food Prize! Register by March 15th

The Michigan Youth Institute is a life-changing experience coordinated by Michigan State University where students in grades 7-12 engage with local leaders and experts on critical global challenges, participate in hands-on activities, and explore exciting ways to make a difference in Michigan and around the world.

To participate in the Michigan Youth Institute, students research a global issue and write a paper under the supervision of a teacher or mentor.

https://worldfoodprize.org/en/youth_programs



Hearts & Crafts




CLARE COUNTY 4-H

Saturday, February 1

Pere Marquette District Library
185 E 4th St. Clare, MI

12 PM - 4:00 PM

Check in starts at 11:45 AM

Crafts & Activities Include:

- Magical Love Potion Bottle Décor
- Glistening Scented Wax Melts
- Sparkle Unicorn Ornament
- Heart-Healthy Charcuterie Board
- Professional Valentine Shaker Card
- Valentine Themed BINGO & Prizes

Open to ages 8 - 19
Non 4-H youth welcome!

\$15
Per participant to help cover supplies

Register by Sunday, January 19

20 spots available



forms.office.com/r/fKYCk7Y6ua

MARCH 16-18, 2025

4-H CAPITOL EXPERIENCE

COST \$365



Explore Leadership and Government at the Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

Register by March 1st

High school students passionate about leadership and civic engagement are invited to attend this immersive experience.

Location: Okemos Conference Center and the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing

REGISTER TODAY!

https://canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/

Participants will:

- Meet elected officials and learn how policies are created.
- Join issue groups on topics like agriculture, civil rights, and education.
- Engage in hands-on activities like legislative simulations and bill drafting.

Country Neighbors 4-H Club Spreads Holiday Cheer to Local Nursing Homes

The holiday season is all about spreading joy and connecting with others, and the Country Neighbors 4-H Club did just that! On Friday, December 5th, the club came together for a heartwarming project, creating 130 handmade Christmas cards to bring smiles to residents of two local nursing homes.



The club members, filled with excitement and creativity, worked together to design festive and thoughtful cards. From colorful decorations to heartfelt messages, each card was crafted with love and care. The activity not only showcased the creativity of the youth but also reflected the spirit of giving that the holiday season inspires.

On Wednesday, December 11th, the beautifully made cards were delivered to the nursing homes, where they were warmly received by residents. It was a small but meaningful gesture that brightened the day for many.

"It was a lot of fun, and the kids really enjoyed it," shared Ashley Eberhart, the Country Neighbors 4-H Club Leader.

This project highlights the positive impact that youth can have on their community and serves as a reminder of the power of kindness. The Country Neighbors 4-H Club is proud to continue making a difference through activities like this and looks forward to more opportunities to give back.



Share Your

4-H

Stories with Us!



AGRICULTURE



ARTS



CAREER PREP



STEM



COMMUNITY SERVICE



HORTICULTURE





Clare County 4-H Council

MONTHLY MEETING

Every 4th Wednesday
Starts at 6.00 pm

Pere Marquette Dist. Library
Basement Meeting Room

January 22nd - February 26

March 26 - April 23

May 28 - June 25

We hope you can make it. If you have any questions,
please don't hesitate to reach out.

Miranda Warmuskerken
Clare County 4-H
Program Coordinator
warmusk3@msu.edu

Become a 4-H Volunteer: Gold and Silver Status Explained

Have you ever thought about becoming a 4-H volunteer? Volunteering with 4-H is a fulfilling way to make a difference in the lives of young people in your community. Whether you want to play a small role or lead a club, there's a place for everyone in the 4-H family. Let's explore the two types of 4-H volunteers—Gold and Silver—and how you can join this impactful program.

What's the Difference Between Gold and Silver Volunteers?

Gold Status Volunteers: Gold status is for those who want to take an active leadership role. These volunteers:

- Lead 4-H clubs and programs
- Frequently assist with youth activities.
- Oversee projects or workshops that involve direct interaction with youth.

Gold volunteers must complete the official 4-H Volunteer Screening Process, which includes an application, background check, interview with a 4-H staff and an orientation to the program. This screening ensures that youth participants have a safe and enriching environment to thrive in. If you're planning to lead a club or frequently assist with the 4-H programs, Gold Status is the right choice for you. Your commitment not only helps youth grow but also upholds 4-H's high safety standards.

Silver Status Volunteers: Silver Status is ideal for those who want to support 4-H in a more limited capacity. These volunteers:

- Assist occasionally at 4-H events or activities.
- Do not take on leadership roles or require extensive screening.

Silver volunteers are perfect for parents, guardians, or community members who want to lend a helping hand during special events but aren't ready to commit to a leadership role.

Why is Gold Status So Important?

Gold Status volunteers are vital to the safety and success of the 4-H programs. By completing the screening process, these volunteers create a secure environment for youth to explore, learn, and grow. Whether you're organizing activities, mentoring youth, or guiding a club, your role as a Gold Status volunteer has a lasting impact on both the program and the participants.

How to Become a 4-H Volunteer:

1. Visit msu.samaritan.com for more details and to apply.
2. Choose your volunteer status—Gold or Silver—based on your desired level of involvement.
3. Complete the application process, which will include a screening and orientation for Gold Status volunteers.

Your Invitation to Make a Difference

The Clare County 4-H community is always looking for passionate and dedicated adults to join our team. If you're 21 years or older and want to play a role in inspiring the next generation of leaders, we encourage you to consider becoming a Gold Status volunteer. Your time and talents will not only make a difference but will also create meaningful experiences for the youth in our community.

Join a Clare County 4-H Committee

Clare County 4-H is looking for **passionate youth participants and adult volunteers to join our committees.** These groups plan, organize, and bring 4-H programs to life. We are always eager to welcome new members to the team! Whether you're a creative thinker, an organizer, or someone with a passion for helping others, there is a committee that is perfect for you.

Consider starting with one of these committees:

- **Craft Days Committee:** Let your creativity shine by helping to organize fun craft events for the community.
- **Camps Committee:** Plan local camps around the county or utilize the 4-H lake property to create memorable experiences for youth.
- **Awards Banquet Committee:** Assist with the Annual 4-H Awards Ceremony.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Get involved in meaningful activities that raise funds to support our local 4-H program.
- **Cloverbuds Committee:** Help create experiences for our youngest members.
- **Gardening Committee:** Help beautify the Clare County Fair gardens and work alongside other plant-passionate volunteers on other projects.
- **4-H Ranch Committee:** Dive into projects and activities at the 4-H lake property in Harrison, supporting the growth of this incredible resource.

**CONTACT THE CLARE COUNTY
4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR
TODAY**

MSU Extension Mi 4-H Youth Equine

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program



4-H Hippology Contest

March 15, 2025

View Contest Rules at:

www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/uploads/files/Hippology%20Rules%202025.pdf

Registration coming soon!



4-H/FFA Horse Judging Contest

March 29, 2025

View Contest Rules at:

www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/uploads/files/Horse%20Judging%20Rules&Class%20List%202025.pdf

Registration coming soon!

4-H Members Can Apply Until April 1st

The commitment you put into “**Making Your Best Better**” is significant. Through your 4-H experiences you are molding your future by growing your skills, becoming a leader, and serving your community. Your 4-H journey has required curiosity, determination, accountability, and dedication to learning and growth. Your efforts are commendable and deserve to be recognized with a Michigan 4-H State Award, the highest honor bestowed on a 4-H member.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is a hands-on learning experience that allows 4-H members to develop and practice “adulting” skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing. Applications and interviews are based on communicating your 4-H participation and learning experiences. Applicants are eligible to compete for cash prizes and be recognized for their 4-H involvement. 4-H members who meet the minimum application score are eligible for a \$50 scholarship toward their 4-H Exploration Days registration. The 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards will be presented during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18 at MSU.

Who: 4-H members 12-19 years old (on January 1)

Submit an application:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateAwards25>

Application deadline: April 1

Find complete information on the website:

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

Want to Attend an Event but Need Help Paying for Registration?

Clare County 4-H is here to help! There are some scholarships available. Regardless if you have been in 4-H a long time or are signing up for the first time to try out a new experience, we want to make sure every youth has an opportunity!

Don't hesitate! Reach out to the 4-H Program Coordinator to learn more about scholarships.

Educational comics on horsemanship!

A New Educational Resource for 4-H:

The Mind of a Horse. Science Meets Comics

Thoroughly fact-checked, up-to-date knowledge on horse behavior and health, rider safety, and more. Delivered as a captivating story with high-quality, realistic cartoon art.

Learn more: www.amazon.com/Mind-Horse-Science-Meets-Comics/dp/952652991X



MICHIGAN 4-H HORSE PROGRAM WINTER WEBINAR SERIES



January 15th at 6pm: How to buy a horse with Paula Hitzler
January 29th at 6pm: The basics of Equine Management with David Lindsay
February 5th at 6pm: Equine Nutrition basics with Dr. Christine Skelly
February 18th at 6pm: Being a better boarder and Running a boarding facility with Taylor Fabus
March 12th at 6pm: From the judges' perspective: Showmanship with Dr. Karen Waite
March 26th at 6pm: From the judges' perspective: Ranch Riding with Dr. Alyssa Logan

[Any further questions email David Lindsay, Extension Educator at lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu)



MSU Extension Mi 4-H Winterfest

February 8-9, 2025

Eagle Village - Hersey, MI

COST: \$120 for 4-H Members



Who Should Attend? 4-H Youth Ages 8 to 12

Youth and adults who attend 4-H Winterfest will spend 2 days learning about exciting project areas while meeting youth from around the state. This event offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Eagle Ville in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands-on sessions.

Cost includes: food, lodging, Winterfest swag, project supplies, and eagle village adventures.

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://4hwinterfest2025.4honline.com>

WORKSHOP #1 - Saturday

Crafts Around the World - Africa/Asia

Leather Stamping

Sandpaper T-Shirt

All about Turkeys

Disc Golf

WORKSHOPS - Sunday

#2

Crafts Around the World - Europe

String It Together

I am AWESOME!

Racing Rubber Band Cars

#3

Crafts Around the World - Europe

String It Together

I am AWESOME!

Racing Rubber Band Cars

Workshop 1

Crafts Around the World – Africa and Asia: Enjoy learning how to make simple, traditional cultural crafts worldwide. Journey around the continents, learn how to make simple crafts and have fun creating.

Leather Stamping – Explore leather stamping and make some fun items that you can keep or give as gifts. Also great to show at your local fair!!

Sandpaper T-Shirt - Make a fun designed t-shirt with crayon and sandpaper! Come explore a new way to be creative.

All about Turkeys - Learn about turkeys, both wild and domestic, habitats, sounds they make, what they eat and make a turkey feather necklace.

Disc Golf - Learn about the history and game of Disc Golf. Practice making some throughs and seeing if you can get a hole in one!!

Workshop 2 and 3

Crafts Around the World – Europe: Enjoy learning how to make simple, traditional cultural crafts worldwide. Journey around the continents, learn how to make simple crafts and have fun creating

String it Together - Learn how to create your own piece of string art!

Curiosity Clenched the Cat - Did you know you can show your cat at the local fair? Many counties in Michigan have a cat class at their fair! Your county could be one of them, and the furry friend that you already have at home and care for daily could be your ticket to clenching the cat title! Take this 1 hour workshop to learn how to perform showmanship for the cat class. You will also learn basic cat anatomy, grooming, vet check information, and care.

I am AWESOME! - Join us to learn more about positive affirmations and being your own bucket filler. In this workshop we will explore creative mindfulness activities and create an interactive tool to bring home to continue spreading positivity in ourselves and others.

Racing Rubber Band Race Cars - Have you ever played with one of those toy cars that you rolled backwards and then booms forward on its own? In this activity you will engineer and race your own version of that toy car and explore physics in the process.

CASH COMPOSITION CONTEST

Answer the following prompt in 300 words or less for a chance to win a \$100 gift card!

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?

Open to ages 9-19

Essays due Feb 28, 2025



Extra Credit  UNION
A GREATER INTEREST IN SCHOOLS

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

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2025 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse
4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay
4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order
4-H Dairy Educator
vanorde4@msu.edu

Jacob Stieg
4-H Poultry Point of Contact
stieg@msu.edu

Kat VanDouser
4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glenda Weiss
4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

January 25	State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show & Expo
February 15	4-H Animal Science Career Quest
March 1-2	4-H Dairy Conference
March 8	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
March 15	4-H Hippology State Contest
March 29	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
May 8	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
June 11-12	Youth Livestock Judging Camp
June 25	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
June 28	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
July 7-8 & 9-10	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
July 15-17	4-H Youth Dairy Days
August 14-17	4-H State Horse Show

Other programs could include the State 4-H Dog Show, species workshops, and more!



Scan me for more information about these programs!

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Join 4-H staff for the "Wild Spartans" series for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife!

Follow along as we climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet researchers, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will delve into the freshwaters and skies that surround us. Join us on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 6:30pm EST for "Flying to New Heights, Swimming to New Depths: Working my Dream Job with Michigan Sea Grant " You will meet Elliot Nelson with Michigan Sea Grant. 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.

Join Us Online
WILD SPARTANS

SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

**"FLYING TO NEW HEIGHTS, SWIMMING TO NEW DEPTHS:
WORKING MY DREAM JOB WITH MICHIGAN SEA GRANT"**

WITH ELLIOT NELSON
MICHIGAN SEA GRANT EDUCATOR

January 14 | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:

https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Pre-registration is required:

events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25/



Discover the Wild Spartans Series!

Dive into the wonders of environmental and outdoor education with the Wild Spartans Series! These engaging recorded sessions feature experts from across Michigan sharing their experiences, research, and adventures in the natural world. From wildlife conservation to outdoor recreation, there's something for everyone to explore.

Don't miss this chance to learn, connect, and get inspired—watch the sessions anytime at Wild Spartans Series!

Available on Video!

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

Recorded For Future Viewing On Your Own Time!



Watched recorded sessions:

canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series



2025 Winter/Spring 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series

This webinar series will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer

All webinars take place at 12pm (noon) and at 7pm. Registration is required for each individual webinar- registration is free! Recordings will be posted on the website for later viewing.

Sessions include:

January 30, 2025: Building a Culture of Appreciation: Recognizing 4-H Volunteers & Youth-Discover simple, impactful ways to celebrate and recognize the volunteers and youth that are involved in your club. Learn strategies to build a culture of appreciation that fosters belonging and inspires continued service!

February 25, 2025: Engaging Every Voice: Facilitation Skills for Dynamic 4-H Clubs-Gain essential facilitation skills to engage every voice and increase efficiency in your 4-H club. This session offers tools to create inclusive, dynamic discussions, making sure all members feel heard while streamlining club activities.

March 18, 2025: The Heart of 4-H: Cultivating Developmental Relationships with Youth - Explore how to build impactful connections with youth through developmental relationships. This session will equip 4-H volunteers with practical tools to foster trust, spark growth, and support young people in meaningful ways.

April 16, 2025: 4-H Club Fundraising 101- Explore creative and effective fundraising strategies for your club. This webinar will provide an overview of Michigan 4-H fundraising policies, ensuring that your efforts align with guidelines and best practices for success.

May 15, 2025: Fueling or Squashing the Rumor Mill- We'll focus on supporting youth who face rumors about their projects and how to prevent the spread of misinformation. This webinar will provide strategies for volunteers to help youth handle rumors with confidence, address concerns constructively, and foster a respectful, supportive environment where positive communication thrives.

May 19, 2025: Engaging Parents in 4-H Experiences and Implement Shared Leadership in 4-H Clubs- Discover strategies to engage parents and implement shared leadership in your 4-H club. Learn ways to build a collaborative culture and empower adults to strengthen your club community.

CONTACT US:

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>



For questions, please contact:

Christine Heverly

sisungch@msu.edu

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