



AUGUST 2025

4-H Family News

Eaton County



I hope you all have been able to rest up after Fair week! Congratulations to all of our youth that showed their projects this year. It was so fun to meet some of your animals, watch your hard work be showcased, and cheer you on! We are so proud of you and looking forward to next year already!

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, parents, and club leaders that supported our kids! Whether you were assisting with the 4-H Food Shack, helping your kids get their animals into costume, or just being on-call for your club members, we appreciate your dedication and support for our 4-Hers!

Keep in mind, our programming goes all year round, so the fun doesn't stop now, we are gearing up for our next program year beginning this September!

As we look forward to our upcoming program year, I have a notable update for you all regarding JLA and SAA. After some discussion with our sub-committee, we are planning to combine the two groups into one 4-H Animal Committee. If you are interested in learning more or receiving a copy of the proposed bylaws for this group, please let me know. We will review them together in our next meeting, when we also elect officers for the group.

Thank you all for everything you do to support 4-H!

Upcoming Meetings:

4-H Animal Committee | September 8th | 7:00pm | PMR

4-H HDC Meeting | September 10th | 6:30pm | PMR

(PMR is the Conference room on the lower level of the MSU Extension Office building)

4-H Online Re-Enrollment:

September 8th is the FIRST day that 4-H Online will be open for families to enroll for the 2025-2026 4-H program year. Please do NOT attempt to re-enroll before then, as your enrollment attempt will not be processed.

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Eaton County 4-H:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EatonCounty4H/>

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception



Join MSU Extension for the eighth annual MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception on Wednesday, September 3.

All current or former 4-H'ers attending MSU this fall are invited to stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

Members of the MSU Extension staff will be on site to interact with 4-H alums and free pizza and pop will be provided. Come to meet fellow 4-H'ers, network with staff and students and have fun.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception.

Want to learn more about collegiate 4-H at MSU? Plan to stop by this event and stay for the club's first meeting of the fall semester, to start at the conclusion of the event.

August 2: Breakfast on the Farm

MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center, Lansing

Live in or around Ingham County? Stop by Breakfast on the Farm at the MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center. The event will include tours of the farm and great food.

www.canr.msu.edu/breakfast_on_the_farm/find_a_breakfast

August 14-17: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

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; spectators are welcome.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show

August 14: Beach Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Celebrate the end of summer at the garden with a day at the beach! Make sand castles, paint shells, play beach games and more. Bring your beach towel and suit and come ready to get wet.

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

August 18: Adulting 101 - Navigating Life: Addressing and Handling Peer Pressure

Online

This interactive presentation will explore the reality of peer pressure and ways to identify, process, and overcome it, to ensure healthy decision making and positive self-confidence.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-navigating-life

September 17: Adulting 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress and Deliver with Confidence

Online

Learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

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

September 20: Michigan State 4-H Dog Show

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna, MI

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-H'ers from counties across Michigan. Registration is due by August 31 and spectators are welcome!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Safe food for 4-H events

Food safety is important when hosting food events or fundraisers. A new fact sheet, **Safe Food for 4-H Events**, was created to provide education and resources for 4-H staff, volunteers and youth who are coordinating and participating in 4-H food fundraisers or events. View the factsheet at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/safe-food-for-4-h-events.

In addition, MSU Extension held a training on food safety best practice guidelines for those who are planning for, preparing and implementing food fundraisers or events. 4-H families are encouraged to watch the training online at https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Safe+Food+for+4-H+Events/1_krsqfes3.

As 4-H families plan fundraisers and other activities throughout the year, remember to review these important resources as a reminder of food safety best practice recommendations.



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.

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.





EATON COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS NAMED MICHIGAN 4-H STATE AWARD WINNERS



Two 4-H members, Verina Duncan and Lyla LaPaugh from Eaton County 4-H, were selected as winners of 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards. Lyla was selected as the winner of the 2025 Michigan 4-H State Award in Jr Rabbit & Cavy Science, and Verina was selected as the winner of the 2025 Michigan 4-H State Award in Sr Visual, Performing, and Expressive Arts. The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program took place June 18, 2025 during 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University.

The Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members. The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is an opportunity for 4-H members to receive recognition while developing their leadership skills and personal portfolio. The program features a Junior and Senior division in 21 project areas as well as a group award category. To enter the competition, 4-H members submitted an application that includes a cover letter, resume, 4-H story, and questions that highlight the life skills, project content knowledge, leadership development, and civic engagement experiences 4-H members have gained through their 4-H projects. Applications were scored, and up to twelve finalists in the Junior, Senior, and Group divisions for each project area were invited to represent their county in the statewide competition.

Senior finalists advanced to further competition where they completed a video conference interview with the selection committee. This year, 38 youth representing 15 counties applied for a 4-H State Award.

Lyla LaPaugh has been a 4-H member for 6 years. In addition to Rabbits and Cavies, Lyla also has participated in the 2023 and 2024 Michigan State 4-H Animal Science Skillathons.

Verina Duncan, a 4-H Member in We-R-A-4-H Club has been in the program for 11 years. In addition to Visual, Performing, and Expressive Arts, Verina also has participated in Birds and Poultry, and the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to all 4-H members ages 12-19. For more information, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition.



Verina Duncan

Pictured with our co-directors of the MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute Lisa Bottomley (right) and Jodi Schulz (left)



Lyla LaPaugh

Pictured with our co-directors of the MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute Lisa Bottomley (right) and Jodi Schulz (left)



PFCU Supports Eaton County 4-H

On Monday, July 7th, the Eaton County 4-H Advisory Council received a generous \$5,000 donation from PFCU, continuing their ongoing support of 4-H's mission to make a lasting difference in the lives of young people in the program.

The PFCU representatives arrived at the Eaton County Fairgrounds that Monday morning, and were guided through the fair, where they had an opportunity to meet youth members involved in the program, and learn about kids' projects they were showing at fair. They also stopped by the 4-H Food Shack, where the FIRST 4-H Club (Forever In Reach Show Team 4-H Club) worked their food shack shift, and 4-H youth members Ty Conklin and Allison Cords got to take a photo with the PFCU representatives.

PFCU's continued generosity not only provides critical funding for the Eaton County 4-H program through scholarship opportunities, program planning, workshops, and more, but this donation also strengthens community ties, reinforcing the value and positive impacts of 4-H in our community.

A HUGE thank you to PFCU for supporting our mission to make the best better, and if any 4-H youth or volunteers have ideas for future programming they'd like to see supported by this donation, please join us for our next 4-H Council meeting on October 6th at 7:00pm





4-H Youth Spotlight: Emily Palmer

Eaton County 4-H welcomes youth with many areas of interest from arts and crafts to livestock and agriculture, and in many cases, youth form new interests along the way.

Emily Palmer, age 17, shared that when she joined 4-H, she came from a non-agricultural background and was simply looking to learn more about what the program had to offer. What she found was more than just knowledge—she found a community, fostering leadership, activism, and personal growth. “One of my favorite things about being in 4-H is how we’re like a family,” she shared. “We are always there to help each other when it’s needed!”

Eager to grow as a leader, Emily joined the 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) to step outside of her comfort zone and further develop the skills she began building through the last few years. Through SYLC, Michigan’s highest youth leadership opportunity, members receive training in public speaking, advocacy, communication and leadership skills. SYLC members serve as representatives of the Michigan 4-H program, promoting 4-H through state and local activities, and can provide youth voice and perspective on the development of 4-H programs and curricula.

Thanks to her involvement in 4-H, she’s gained more than just leadership experience. She’s learned time management, effective communication with both peers and adults, and how to be open-minded and adaptable. “Before, I was very shy and wouldn’t speak to anyone I didn’t know,” she said. “Now, I’ve gained confidence and a better understanding of how to communicate in a mature way.”

Her hard work and dedication have paid off, with her have earned her several impressive accomplishments outside of 4-H as well, including a Varsity Standing in both Cheerleading and Bowling, as well as FFA Involvement, holding the Chapter Historian title. We are proud of her accomplishments and excited to see how she continues to lead and inspire others through her 4-H journey.

Applications for the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) are currently open for 4-H participants that will be in the age range of 15-19 by January 1, 2026.

Applications are due September 2, 2025, so please reach out to the Eaton County MSU Extension office if you are interested in learning more or click the link below to apply:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwqRThFKP3uL4xhQoLZaLItFwzFXLu7-pebiqO_U3Ymy6Eow/viewform





Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council

ADVISORS:

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Roxanne Turner
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Applications are due:
September 2, 2025

Click [here](#) for the application

For more information about
the Michigan 4-H Youth
Leadership Council, click
[here](#).



TARGET AUDIENCE:

Applications for the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) are open to any 4-H participant, between the ages of 15-19 by January 1, 2026. They must be currently enrolled in a 4-H program, in good standing in their local 4-H club or unit, and have completed at least the previous year as a 4-H participant. Youth are selected for the council by an application and an interview with a committee. SYLC members serve two-year terms with an optional third year.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Michigan 4-H SYLC members serve as representatives of the Michigan 4-H program, promoting 4-H through state and local activities, and provide youth voice and perspective to inform statewide programs and goals.

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.



Michigan State Fair

4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

ENTER PROJECTS IN SHOWCASE

Michigan State University Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2025 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and receive feedback. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate in the virtual showcase; 4-H membership is not required.

The diverse array of [classes](#) celebrate all the projects and programs in which youth have developed skill and mastery. This includes livestock and animal showmanship classes, as well as still exhibits, educational projects and more. There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by submitting [project photos and videos](#).

Registration for the event closes at 5 p.m. EST on Friday, August 8, 2025.

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, 2025, who submit a project in the virtual showcase are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply for scholarships is Monday, August 11, 2025 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.

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



Upcoming Webinars

Adulthood 101 Upcoming Webinar



Feeling pressured to fit in? You're not alone!

Let's talk about it at Navigating Life: Peer Pressure Edition – a free Michigan 4-H Adulthood 101 webinar on Monday, August 18 @ 6 p.m. EST. Learn how to handle tough moments, speak up for yourself (and your friends!), and walk away with real tools for real situations.

Real talk

Back-to-school ready

Confidence boost included

Save your spot: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-2025>

Volunteer Webinar Series: This Fall

Michigan 4-H Volunteers: Fall Webinar Series is Here!

Looking for new ideas, support, and inspiration as a 4-H volunteer? Join us this fall for the Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series! Each session is designed to help you grow as a mentor, leader, and champion for youth. 🙌

Free & easy to join

Relevant, real-world topics

Connect with fellow volunteers

Whether you're brand new or have years of experience, there's something for you!

Check out the full lineup and register today:

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



Beyond Ready



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



Bonus News!!

WELCOME...

Newest Eaton County 4-H Gold Level Volunteers!

- Alexis Wilbur
- Jennifer Dunavant
- Courtney Dow
- Katie James
- Luke Wymer



Resource Shout-Out! 4-H Council Scholarship

Did you know that the Eaton County 4-H Advisory Council has scholarship opportunities for youth and volunteers?

There are many exciting state-wide 4-H opportunities available to attend every year, so we hope that this scholarship makes it easier to attend some of these events, without breaking the bank!

The Eaton County 4-H Council can reimburse youth and adult volunteers for registration fees up to \$220 for educational workshops for youth and volunteers who attend educational opportunities at state 4-H events. This opportunity is available for folks that follow the instructions on the 4-H Council Scholarship form.

You can access this form on our website under 4-H Council, or by using this link:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/uploads/images/UPDATED%204-H%20Event%20Scholarship%20Instructions%20and%20Form>

Looking To Become a 4-H Volunteer?

Are you looking to get more involved in 4-H? Consider applying to become a silver or gold level 4-H Volunteer to give back to our program!

Please contact our office to learn how you can apply to become a 4-H Volunteer in Eaton County! We would love to assist you in this process.

