



April 2026

4-H Family News

Jackson County Connections



We're excited to share a new change for this year's fair! Instead of Cloverbuds showing on individual species show days, all Cloverbud beef, dairy, swine, poultry, rabbit, sheep, horse & goat exhibitors will now show together on Tuesday, following the swine show.

This new schedule is designed to create a more fun, inclusive experience for our youngest 4-H'er's giving them the opportunity to show more than one species.

Be sure to watch for the full details in the 4-H Fair Book, which will be available in May!

And don't forget—our Cloverbud workshops are just for you, filled with hands-on fun, learning, and plenty of chances to explore and try new things!

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<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/>

Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April Meetings

Monday 6th 6:30pm
Foundation
MSU Extension Office

Tuesday 21st 6:00pm
Cloverbuds
See Flyer For Details

Wednesday 22nd 6:30pm
Fair Entry Training
See Flyer For Details

Saturday April 25th
Welding Workshop
See Flyer For Details

FAIR ENTRY TRAINING

For superintendents, check-in helpers, and volunteers/youth who may want to support:

- Managing entries
- Check-In procedures
- Entering results
- Standard and custom reports

Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30 p.m.
Jackson MSU Extension Office

Admin Leaders are also welcome to attend, and we can discuss supporting club member enrollments

PRE FAIR CHECK- IN APRIL 27th – May 1st

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 8-5pm

Wednesday 7:30am – 5:30pm *swine flu vaccine pick up*

Thursday & Friday 8-5pm

- All DNA is turned into the office

REFER TO PAGE 3 FOR PER SPECIE INSTRUCTIONS
(these can also be found in expectation packets)



Pre Fair Check-In Per Specie

Pre Fair Check -In is REQUIRED to be able to show at Fair ALONG with Fair Entry. Fair Entry is a separate deadline that opens in May and is due at the end of June. All the following information can be found in specie expectations packets on the MSU Extension Jackson website under the Fair tab. DNA collection “how to” can also be found there.

<p>Beef Feeder Calf</p> <p><u>Items Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Forms w/RFID # and pictures are due by the FIRST Friday of June at 5pm (June 5th). All Cattle MUST have a RFID tag in ear. beefdna24@gmail.com <p>Steer Pre Fair Check In was due Feb 6th</p>	<p>Poultry Pre Fair Check In Poultry Registration Form Due by May 1st Email to gottking@hotmail.com</p> <p>Can be found at the end of the poultry expectations packet- Link</p> <p>Production Trio paperwork was due by February 28th</p>	<p>Sheep Pre Fair Check In Google Form and other items will be due by 5:00pm Friday, May 1st, 2026.</p> <p>Paperwork Link</p> <p><u>Items Due (market/breed stock):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrapie Tag Numbers, Sex of Lamb, and if Homegrown (google form) Exhibitor Information (google form) 1 photo of market lamb (tags visible) DNA sample (hair) YQCA Certificate (all sheep exhibitors) <p>Certificates and pictures can be dropped off with DNA or emailed to jacksonco4hsheep@gmail.com</p>
<p>Swine Pre Fair Check In required items due by 5:00 pm Friday, May 1st, 2026</p> <p>Paperwork Link</p>	<p>Rabbit Pre Fair Check In Google Form Due May 4th Link (also found on small animal association page)</p> <p><u>Items Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitor Info Type of project Sex of rabbit, age, tattoo 	<p>Goat Pre Fair Check In Goat Registration Forms must be submitted in person to the Jackson MSU Extension Office by 5:00pm Friday, May 1st</p> <p>Registration form is page 7 of the goat expectation packet- Link</p> <p><u>Items Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrapie tag Animal date of birth Class/breed Sex of goat Exhibitor info
<p><u>Items Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed paperwork DNA sample (hair) YQCA Certificate H1N1 (Swine Flu) vaccine verification RFID Tag Numbers <p>Paperwork, certificate, verification of vaccine can also be e-mailed to: jacksoncountylivestockassoc@gmail.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pictures not required (can submit as back up) 	<p>Horse Following Due May 1st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsorships Horse Certificate State Show Application—Coggins Test 	
<p><u>Items Due:</u></p> <p>Paperwork, certificate, verification of vaccine can also be e-mailed to: jacksoncountylivestockassoc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Dairy No Pre Fair Check In paperwork due</p>	
<p><u>Items Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pictures not required (can submit as back up) 	<p>Dog No Pre Fair Check In paperwork due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of your project by May 1st 	



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Association Meetings Are A Great Opportunity To Meet With Superintendents To Discuss Fair Related Questions, Species Specific Info, & Expectations Packets. Hope To See You There!!

May Meetings

Monday 11th 6:30pm
Horse Council
MSU Extension Office

Tuesday 12th 6:30pm
Small Animal Association
MSU Extension Office

Thursday 14th 6 pm
Pocket Pets

Tuesday 19th 6 pm
Cloverbuds
See Flyer For Details

Wednesday 20th 6:30pm
Livestock Association
MSU Extension Office

Champions Choice Camp Sheep & Goat Clinic

Join us for Champion's Choice Camp, a hands-on clinic focused on building confidence and skills in goat and sheep showmanship! Participants will learn proper handling techniques, ring presence, and tips to stand out to the judge. Whether you're new to showing or looking to improve, this camp is a great opportunity to learn, practice, and have fun with others who share your interest.

May 23rd at the Jackson County
Fairgrounds

www.championchoicecamps.com

For More Information & To Register



JACKSON COUNTY 4-H WELDING CLASS AT THE WORKSHOP

APRIL 25TH
10AM-12PM

\$45

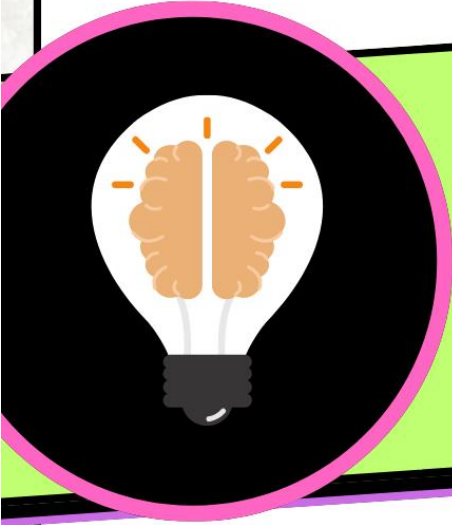
Includes all materials to
create a custom made
garden themed project

REGISTER AT

Jackson County 4-H
Welding Workshop | The
Workshop - Early
Vocational Center



**JACKSON COUNTY 4-H
SMALL ANIMAL ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS**



DJ TRIVIA

TEASE YOUR BRAIN & WIN CASH PRIZES

APRIL 25TH

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 6:30PM**

AMERICAN LEGION ROSE CITY POST #324

**1190 FALAHEE RD
JACKSON, MI 49203**

**PASTA BAR \$8.00
KIDS EAT FOR FREE!**

**SILENT AUCTION &
BAKE SALE**

**ADMISSION
ADULT \$10
KIDS \$8
(10 & UNDER)**

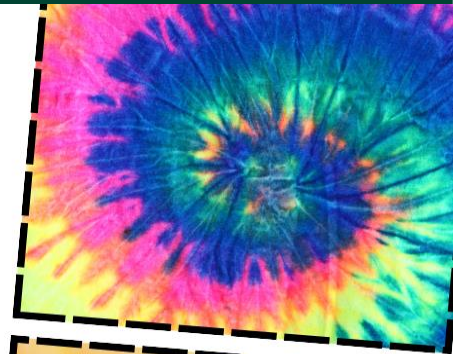
**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO
SUPPORT JACKSON COUNTY
4-H SMALL ANIMAL YOUTH**



JACKSON COUNTY 4-H CLOVERBUDS

JOIN THE FUN!!

- * January 20th - Tie Dye Time
- * February 17th - Chef Cloverbud
- * March 17th - Canvas Painting
- * April 21st- Rock Lab: Explore, Sort, & Create
- * May 19th - Buzz Builders: Inside The World of Bees
- * June 16th- 4-H Council Night (activities the youth council)



ALL ACTIVIES ARE
FROM 6-7:30PM
COST \$5 PER ACTIVITY
MSU EXTENSION
OFFICE
1715 LANSING AVE
STE 257
JACKSON, MI 49202

OPEN TO ALL JACKSON
CO. 4-H MEMBERS
5-7 YRS OLD.
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE
CONTACT JESSICA
WALDRON AT
517-788-4292 OR
WALDRO45@MSU.EDU



**REGISTER AT:
WALDRO45@MSU.EDU
BY THE FRIDAY
BEFORE EACH CLASS**



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Building awareness in 4-H experiences



Beyond Ready

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Online (Goosechase App)

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions

April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Comerica Park, Detroit

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers

April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

Online

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart

April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Stores everywhere

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

Online

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21

April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let’s Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease

Online

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease

April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk

Online

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Jackson County 4-H 2026 Expectation Packets

[Poultry Expectation Packet](#)

[Rabbit Expectation Packet](#)

[Goat Expectation Packet](#)

[Dog Expectation Packet](#)

[Beef Expectation Packet](#)

[Sheep Expectation Packet](#)

[Dairy Expectation Packet](#)

[Swine Expectation Packet](#)



Jackson County 4-H Exhibitors:
Please take time to review your project expectations packet, where you'll find important details for each species.

These can all be found on our MSU Extension website under 4-H [Jackson County Fair](#)



• Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

• Jackson Co. 4-H Small Animal Assoc. Facebook Page:

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

• Jackson County 4-H Livestock Assoc. Facebook Page:

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

• Jackson County Horse Council Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232601997473213>



Fair Prep BECAUSE IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PREPARING

How To Market Your 4-H Livestock Project



Want to Rock Your 4-H Auction Experience?

Learn how to market your project like a pro, attract potential buyers to the auction, and write a thank you card that really stands out (because it should be more than just "thanks for supporting me")!

Check out these helpful links for tips, ideas, and inspiration to make the most of your 4-H journey!



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/BEEF](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/bef)

[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SHEEP-GOATS](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/sheep-goats)



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SMALL-ANIMAL](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/small-animal)

https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/general-marketing-resources

- [SHOWMANSHIP/ SWEEPSTAKES PACKETS](#)
- [POULTRY](#)
- [DAIRY GOATS](#)
- [MEAT GOATS](#)
- [RABBITS](#)
- [DOG OBEDIENCE](#)
- [HORSE](#)
- [SHEEP](#)
- [MARKET BEEF](#)
- [SWINE](#)
- [DAIRY](#)



JACKSON COUNTY FAIR 2026 DATES AUGUST 9TH – 15TH



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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/.



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! 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 June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.

Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html. For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families.