



4-H Family News

August
2025

Kalamazoo County



Kalamazoo County 4-H Showcase



**Beyond
Ready**

Important Dates to Remember:

Thursday July 31-

Pre-Fair Mandatory Meeting- *Please stay on schedule!*

6 PM- Horses and Poultry **6:15-** Beef/Dairy Steer

6:30- Rabbits **6:45-** Sheep **7 PM-** Dairy/Dairy Feeders

7:15- Swine **7:30-** Goats

Here is a link to the schedule online with a link to a Printable Schedule!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information

Gate Schedule-

Lake Street Gate is open days from 8am-8pm

Lamont Street Gate is open evenings from 8pm-8am

Handicap parking will be posted near the
horse arenas and livestock mall

If you need livestock supplies delivered (hay, bedding...) during the week- please deliver before **8 am** and use caution. There is no driving between the livestock barns or horse arenas after **noon Monday** or after **8am Tuesday-Saturday**

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WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>

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SPREAD THE
WORD

We Need Your Help!!

SPREAD THE
WORD

Below are sign ups for Information and Food Booth and Still Project Monitoring, Showcase, Games and Misc Help through out the week.

Still Project/Information Booth Volunteers, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-50273231-2024#/>

Showcase, Games, Setup etc. Volunteers, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-4hinformation1#/>

Food Booth Volunteers, please sign up here:

[Kalamazoo County 4-H Food Booth: 2025 4-H Food Booth](#)

Remember

Those who will be helping **in any way during the showcase** need to be, at **minimum** a screened and approved, **silver level volunteer**. If you are **working directly with youth** you will need to be a screened, and approved, **gold level volunteer**.

YOUR 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved.

We currently have youth enrolled in the following projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to work with the youth !

- Arts & Craft
- Calligraphy
- Cloverbud (variety of activities to introduce Cloverbuds to projects and pique their interest)
- Communication & Expressive Arts
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Drawing
- Engines/transportation/tractors/field equipment
- Fishing/Hunting
- Performing art
- Public speaking
- Sewing/Quilting
- Wood Crafts
- Food & Nutrition
 - Cake decorating
 - Candy Making
 - Food Preparation
- Hunting
- Horticulture
 - Flowers/house plants
 - Fruits/vegetables
- Jewelry making
- Knitting/cross-stitch/embroidery
- Music – vocal/instrumental
- Painting



The Dog Project would like to thank the following people and organizations for their gracious donations:

Our wonderful judges who donated their time and expertise. Without you we could not put on such a wonderful show!

The Setters Company - Four 64oz insulated engraved water bowls for 2025 High Point awards!

And we want to thank all our Time, Trophy, Award, and Toy Contributors!



Vineyard Chicks to play at the 4-H Showcase Thursday night August 7th

Three sisters, Kayla, Trie & Bunkie, are each gifted musicians who take turns singing lead vocals with their amazing sisterly harmonies creating musical experience you don't want to miss!

This talented band will provide music Thursday night August 7 during our 4-H Showcase. Leaders Council is finalizing the location for the concert & tentative time is 7-10pm

The band recently played at the VanBuren County Youth Fair and the Ottawa County Youth Fair. They are also scheduled to play at the NSRA Street Rod Nationals North on September 20, 2025

Do you want to know more about the Vineyard Chicks? Go to <https://vineyardchicks.com/>

They also have a facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=vineyard%20chicks>





Hello Kalamazoo County 4-H community!

My name is **Will Barnwell**, and I'm thrilled to step into the role of **4-H Program Instructor** with MSU Extension. I am deeply honored to be part of a program that has such a rich tradition of positive youth development and lifelong learning. I have spent my career working alongside youth in both classroom and camp settings.

Before joining the Kalamazoo 4-H team, I worked as an educator in traditional and non-traditional learning spaces. In classroom settings, I've had the joy of working with learners from early elementary age through college aged students, adapting my teaching to support diverse learning styles and helping young people discover their unique strengths. My experience also includes many summers spent at Camp Bil-O-Wood in Canada, where I served in roles ranging from canoe trip leader, counselor, and program director. Whether it was designing outdoor adventure activities, leading STEM challenges, or mentoring campers in leadership roles, these experiences taught me the value of community, creativity, and resilience.

As the new 4-H Program Instructor, I am eager to bring that same energy and dedication to Kalamazoo County. I look forward to supporting our clubs, developing innovative programs, and building strong partnerships that reflect the diversity and vibrancy of our community. I believe every young person should have access to opportunities that help them grow in confidence, compassion, and capability.

I'm excited to meet our 4-H members, volunteers, families, and partners. Whether you are new to 4-H or a longtime participant, I hope to be a resource and ally in your 4-H journey. Let's work together to help Kalamazoo County youth thrive with Head, Heart, Hands, and Health!

Will Barnwell

4H Program Instructor



**Beyond
Ready**





Auction – Start To Finish

We presented this topic at the All-Species meeting in February but thought it might be helpful to summarize the key takeaways to get ready for the livestock auction at the fair.

1. Fair Week:

- a. Hang up a thank you sign over your pen for the previous year's auction buyers
- b. Reach out to your buyers to remind them of the auction and tell them how you did in the show

2. Auction Day (August 7, 2025):

- a. Wear show clothes – the same kind of outfit you wore on show day!
- b. Greet your buyers, thank them for coming, shake hands
- c. Get lunch with them, show them your animals
- d. After you sell in the auction:
 - i. Find out who bought your animal
 - ii. Go find them in the stands (ask others if you don't know who they are)
 - iii. Shake their hand, say thank you, and give them a small gift of appreciation (not required but many do provide gifts)
 1. Examples of gifts:
 - a. Purchased gifts or gift baskets such as popcorn, candy, BBQ kit, candles, etc.
 - b. Homemade goods such as jam, cookies, honey
 - c. Other: customized cutting boards, tumblers, ornaments, etc.
- e. Other things to do ASAP after the auction:
 - i. Print out list of buyers with addresses after the auction at the check-out station or find the list posted in your species barn later that night Hang up new thank you signs for this year's buyers
 - ii. Write thank you notes – due Saturday of fair week by 12noon.

Come Join The Hickory Corners Community Club With These Showcase Spirit Days!

Monday - Support your Favorite 4-Her

Tuesday – Red, White and Blue Day

Wednesday – Derby Days

Thursday – Superhero Days

Friday – Show Off Your Club Pride!





Goat Updates



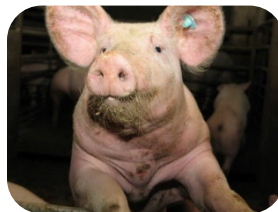
Thank you to Motycka Farms for hosting our fit and show with judging!

As a reminder you must attend at least 2 of the 4 county-wide swine meetings offered to show at fair. If you attended the all-species meeting in February, this counts toward one of your goat meetings.

Make sure you are completing all project requirements!

- Attend 2 project meetings (all species meeting counts)
- Goat educational exhibit (project or notebook) – required for Cloverbuds and first- and second-year goat project 4-Hers, judged on Saturday before fair.
- **If you are showing a market animal (registered in a market class), regardless of year in project, you must complete a market notebook.**
- **Champion and Reserve MARKET animals *must* sell at the auction.**

Swine Updates



We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, July 31st at our mandatory meeting night at the fairgrounds, in the swine barn for our meeting at 7:15 pm.

Reminder that exhibitors can each bring 2 pigs, the minimum hog weight is 200 lbs, all pigs will be vet checked when unloading, we need **CLEAN EAR TAGS** when unloading, and this is a terminal show, so once unloaded at the fair pigs can't return home. We will have sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the barn for Cloverbud Showmanship, and also for parent volunteers to help during the swine show and auction.

We are looking forward to a great fair week. Please let us know if you have any questions, and please go clean those ear tags! Pam and TJ

Cavies and Critters show

4-Hers will show their guinea pigs, snakes, bearded dragons, hamsters and more!

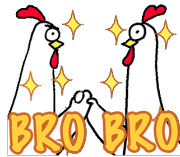
They will be starting at 3:30pm Monday afternoon under a tent next to the Rabbit Barn.

Come one come all to support our 4-Hers in this project and join the fun!



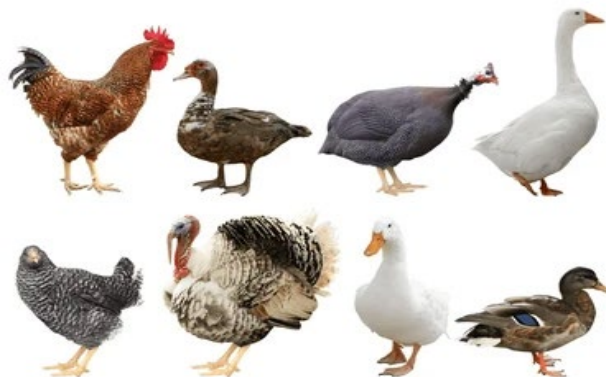
Poultry Project News

It's Here!



Hopefully , all of your hard work and poultry education has paid off and resulted in a great experience at the fair!

Make a note of things that we could do to make it even better and bring your ideas to our **September Poultry Potluck Meeting!** on **Thursday. Sept.18th** starting at 6pm - details later.





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Community Service/Volunteering at the Growing Community Garden this summer

The following dates are set for individuals or groups to volunteer (and harvest) at the Growing Community Garden, 2800 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048.

Aug 19 (Tues. 4-7:30); Aug 23 (Sat. 10-2); Sept 9 (Tues. 4-7:30); Sept 13 (Sat. 10-2); Sept 23 (Tues. 4-7:30); Sept 27 (Sat. 10-2).

Volunteer/community service arrangements for other times can be arranged by contact with David Newhouse at gcg.kzoo@gmail.com. Learn more about Growing Community Garden at www.growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com.





Thank You Notes Guidelines:

- Hand-written, addressed, return-addressed, stamped, not sealed
- Submitted to superintendents by Saturday of fair week by 12noon
- Superintendents will review and mail the following week
- Must write thank you notes for any awards/trophies received in addition to buyer thank you's.
- Notes should be sincere, best handwriting, at least 3 sentences each



What does a good buyer thank you note consist of?

- A greeting with the buyer's name or company.
- An acknowledgment of the specific reason for thanks (i.e., the purchase of your project).
- The reason why you appreciate the buyer. For instance, they supported you and your 4-H project, have been generous to 4-H, or took time to benefit youth.
- How you plan to use the money from the sale (i.e., savings or to purchase next year's project, etc.)
- A comment or details about yourself or an update on your life. For example, you can explain how you enjoy 4-H or something you learned in your project.
- A repeat of your thank you.
- A closing and your signature (e.g., With thanks, name or Sincerely, name)



Calling all Cloverbuds!



We will have crafts at the Showcase on the 4-H Mall during fair week from 2-3 pm

Bring any supply donations to the 4-H office or Leaders Council meeting.

Monday: Kindness Rocks

Tuesday: Horse-shoe Wind Chimes

Wednesday: Bee Happy Pollinator Display

Thursday: Tye Dye, (Bring Your Own Shirt)

Friday: Bubble Wands





Dairy Club Update

The dairy show will be held Friday, August 1 at 7pm at Vlietstra Dairy Farm.

Dairy club members: Join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Dairy 4-H club Facebook page for more education/ announcements pertaining to the project. Contact Sara if you have questions



Feeder Calf Info

YQCA is needed by fair for all members that are selling livestock at the fair. Please send Veronica your certificate. Only option at this time is to obtain the certificate by doing an online class- here is the link: <https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>

August 2- Still Exhibit check in:

Bring your required educational exhibit to the fairgrounds to be judged. Here is the link for the required record book - choose the record book for your 4-H age: Michigan 4-H Animal Market Project Record Books

It is considered the minimum- be creative! A profit and loss statement must be filled out and included in your educational exhibit for your calf to be sold in the auction.

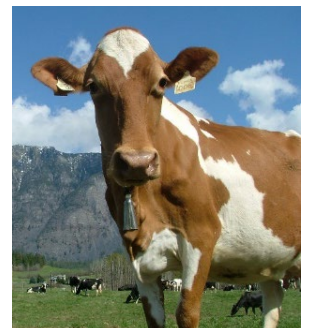
August 3- 4p-7p & August 4- 8a-12p: Calf check in

You can check in your steers/calves into the Beef/Feeder Calf barn.

Kyle, Greg or Sara must look at your calf before the calf comes off of the trailer.

August 4: 2ish p: Feeder calf weigh in will take place after the beef are weighed in.

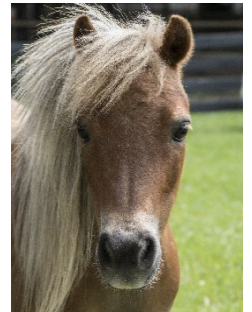
We will have a showmanship clinic- time TBD





What do I need for my mini at the fair??

Feed and the containers for feed (hay bag, grain pan, water bucket)
 Water bucket hook if not setting it in the corner
 Box Fan and something to put it up with (the nylon hay bags work, baler twine, bungee cord.....)
 Grooming tools
 Small Salt Block
 fly spray
 first aid meds and bandages, banamine etc.
 bathing supplies for your mini
 costume if doing that class
 practice gear (halter and lead) and then show halter and lead (with chain). It doesn't have to be leather.
 Cleaning stalls supplies- rake, fork, muck bucket or wheelbarrow etc.
 2 or 3 bags of shavings (estimate for the week)
 If showing Western for minis: Western long sleeve shirt, pants over the boots, belt, hat.
 If you are showing English, then you should be in English attire. You may wear a helmet for jumping and speed classes.
 Smiles and positive attitudes. We work with volunteers. No drama allowed.
 New this year- Create your own stall sign. Our theme is a country wedding barn, but you can make your own sign to fit.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Mini name and just your first name is fine. Photos or just decorations.

Thank you again to all of our volunteers. This program and 4H can't exist without them!

Thank you to Tasha for hosting a county fun practice for us.

Thank you to our volunteer judge (VB County) and ringmaster (Calhoun County) for this year.

Practice basic showmanship questions!

Being able to answer questions is part of having a 4H project and showmanship in ALL species.

Be sure to spend some time creating your project for this year!

It is going to be amazing!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/uploads/2024%20Mini%20Horse%20Project%20-%20final.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawLrdHBleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETF2aTZCaGwwNFR2aDNHOFBBAR5X8G9TN6u-3eJFFqc1yeWFySu3KBn8RuTeGgN2Y6sFCJt3sk4wLLfmH0qISQ_aem_IORDoz7VVCeR7oIQlvfuiw





We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County

2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>

3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/index

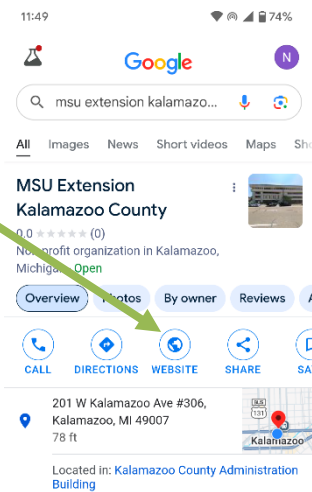
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

5 – Click on project guidelines

6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



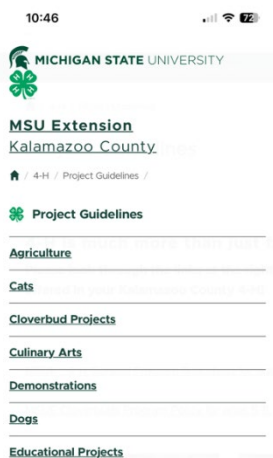
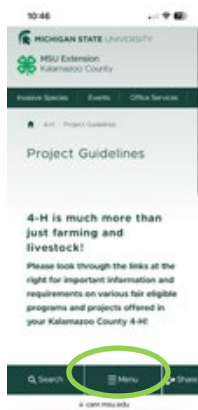
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



Share the Clover—

Give one lucky child the experience of a lifetime this summer

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2025 for interested families opening their homes and hearts by hosting!

They are scheduled to arrive in

**Grand Rapids, MI, on July 23rd (Matching Ceremonies July 24th)
and depart on August 18th (Departure program August 16th)**

to meet host families for a 3.5-week stay. We have 7 of the 10 Japanese already matched for 2025!!

A host family must:

- complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application,
- have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within 3 years of age),
- be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, and
- participate in an interview and home visit process.

2025 Online Applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

Applications to host can also be found at www.states4hexchange.org





Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group’s decisions.
7. **Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
8. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

Have fun!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Are you a current or former 4-H'er?

Join us for the MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception

Sept. 3

5:30 - 7 p.m.



Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension * 4-H GROWS HERE

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.

