



4-H Family News

Aug 2026

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond
Ready**

**Kalamazoo
COUNTY FAIR**
August 4-8, 2026

Important dates and times to remember :

August 1 9-noon Still Project Judging
 1 pm Cat Show
 Campers may be dropped off

August 2 Overnight camping begins

More fair information can be found here:

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

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Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>

Program-122047197873078

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Tax Form Requirements for 4-H Auction Participants (W-9 and 1099-MISC Information)

What do you need to know?

Beginning with the 2026 fair season, MSU Extension must follow Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations requiring livestock and still exhibit auctions to issue a 1099-MISC to any youth who receives \$2,000 or more in total payments from the sale of animals, still exhibits, or related activities within a calendar year. This handout explains what families need to know and how to prepare.

Why is this happening?

We recently identified a gap in our reporting process and are taking steps to address it moving forward. To avoid placing an unnecessary burden on youth who participate in 4-H auctions, we will not apply the requirement retroactively.

Under federal tax regulations, auctions are required to issue a 1099-MISC form to any youth who receives \$2,000 or more in payments during the calendar year from livestock sales or related activities. To comply, we must collect a W-9 form from youth who meet or may meet this threshold. **This is a federal reporting requirement, not a new MSU policy.**

What counts toward the \$2,000 threshold?

The IRS requires us to include all payments made directly to the youth when calculating this amount. This includes animal auction proceeds, add-ons, and still-exhibit auction proceeds. If the total payments made to a youth reach \$2,000 or more within a calendar year, a 1099-MISC form will be issued by the MSU Controller's Office (more information below).

Does my child need to complete a W-9?

Counties conducting 4-H Auctions will require all 4-H youth to submit a W-9 before they are eligible to market their animals or still exhibits, ensuring timely processing. Requirements for completing W-9 forms and issuing 1099-MISC documents for auctions run by fairs or other organizations will be determined by those entities.

How will W-9s be collected?

W-9 forms will be collected prior to the youth livestock auction through a secure system. The platform ensures that each submitted Social Security Number is digitally encrypted and accessible to an authorized state-level administrator for processing a 1099-MISC.

Who sends the 1099-MISC?

The MSU Controller's Office will mail 1099-MISC forms directly to families by February 1, 2027, for income earned in 2026. Requirements for completing W-9 forms and issuing 1099-MISC documents for auctions run by fairs or other organizations will be determined by those entities.

Will my child need to file taxes?

Tax filing requirements vary. **MSU and MSU Extension cannot provide tax advice, but families may consult a tax professional or IRS resources.** Receiving a 1099-MISC does not automatically mean your child owes taxes.

What should families do now?

Be aware of the new reporting requirements for 2026, plan to complete a W-9 if your child participates in 4-H [auctions](#), and ask questions early.



2026 4-H Fair Schedule



Off site

- **Monday, July 27**, 6:00pm Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation - Pease Packing, Scotts, MI (Animals must arrive before 5:30pm)
- **Wednesday, July 29**, 10:00am Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements - Pease Packing, Scotts, MI
- **Friday, July 31**, 7:00pm Dairy Show - Vlietstra Dairy Farm, Kalamazoo, MI

At the Fairgrounds

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00 am – noon	Still Project Judging and Display Set Up	Main Expo Center and 4-H Barn
1:00 pm	Cat Show	Main Expo Center

Monday, August 3, 2026

9:00am	Horse Showmanship & English Performance Classes	Horse Arena
2:00-4:00pm	Livestock Practice	Livestock Arena
4:00 pm	Livestock Arena set up	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Rabbit Showmanship	Livestock Arena

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

9:00 am	Horse Dressage and Jumping Classes	Horse Arena
8:00 am	Poultry Show	Livestock Arena
1:00 pm	Market Rabbit Show	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Sheep Show	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Fashion Review	Demonstration and Performances Stage

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

9:00 am	Horse Western Classes	Horse Arena
9:00 am	Swine Show	Livestock Arena
4:00 pm	Feeder Calf Show	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Beef Show	Livestock Arena

Thursday, August 6, 2026

9:00 am	Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes	Horse Arena
9:00 am	Goat Show	Livestock Arena
1:00 pm	All Species Showmanship clinic	Livestock Arena
2:00 pm	Enduro- All Species Showmanship	Livestock Arena
4:00 pm	Miniature Horse Showmanship	Horse Arena
5:30 pm	Livestock Family Pizza Party and Auction Set Up	Livestock Arena

Friday, August 7, 2026

9:00 am	Livestock Auction	Livestock Arena
10:00 am	Horse Costume Class	Horse Arena
1:00 pm	Horse Fun and Games	Horse Arena
1:00 pm	Miniature Horse Show	Horse Arena
TBD	Horse Awards program	Horse Arena
7-10 pm	4-H Dance	Livestock Show Arena

Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:00 am	Dog Show	Main Expo
9:00 am	Rabbit Agility	TBD
10:00 am	Livestock Judging Contest	Livestock Arena
12:00 pm	Horse Drill Team Demonstration	Horse Arena
12:00 pm	THANK YOU NOTES TURNED IN DEADLINE	Project Superintendents
2:00 pm	Milk Drinking Contest	Livestock Arena
3:00 pm	Master Showmanship	Livestock Arena



SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BANK & TRUST

www.smb-t.com | 800.379.7628 | Member FDIC | 

Portage Branch
531 W Kilgore Road

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust is proud to support 4-H!

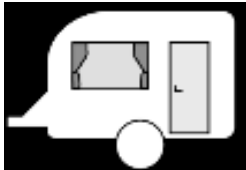
4-H participants who visit the SMBT Portage Branch with an animal sponsorship request letter will be given a free feed bucket and a set of playing cards.*

*While supplies last.





Kalamazoo County Parks Department is looking for local groups and organizations to get involved in the 2026 Fair!



Fair Camping (details on next page)

Beginning May 1, you can call and make your camping reservations for the 2026 fair. Cost is \$189 plus \$5 reservation fee for the week (8/2-8/9). Septic pump-outs will be available on Wednesday 8/5 for \$45. Camping units may be dropped off on Saturday, August 1, but no overnight camping is permitted on Saturday night. All campers must be removed from the grounds by Sunday 8/9 at 12pm. **To make reservations call 269-383-8778**



GET YOUR 2026 FAMILY FAIR PASSES NOW!

The fillable Family Pass form can be found on the Fair Page here:

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

Completed forms can be submitted to the Kalamazoo County Parks Department at the Expo center
2900 Lake Street
Kalamazoo MI 49048

or Emailed to Mandy at:

mandy.eldred@kalcounty.gov



shutterstock.com · 2488038141

Passes will be available to pick up July 30 at Mandatory Meeting.



Each Kalamazoo County 4-H youth member that participates in barn clean-up day on **Saturday, July 25** will receive 1 free Rodeo ticket. Rodeo will be held on **Saturday, August 8 at 7pm.**

To earn the coupon, the 4-H youth member must volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours.

Each 4-H youth member must sign the attendance sheet provided by 4-H on clean-up day with ***both*** arrival and departure times.



Kalamazoo COUNTY FAIR

August 4-8, 2026



We are continuing to round out the schedule for this year's Fair! We will have lots of new and exciting activities this year on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday! Enjoy daily attractions like Kiddie Land, classic carnival games, rock wall, mechanical bull, R/C truck rock course, mini golf, petting farm, and pony rides for all ages. And of course, we'll have all your favorite fair foods like elephant ears, french fries, & corn dogs! Our featured entertainment includes The Stone Age Show, The Steamers Thrill Show, and the Foam Fun Zone. The Community Stage will showcase local talent, princess sing-a-longs, and magic shows, while the Main Stage will feature karaoke during the day and a live band in the evenings. Wrapping up the week will be the Flying Star Rodeo on Saturday at 7pm.

For the complete
event schedule visit:
www.kalamazooountyfair.com



We are also partnering with the Best Damn Sport & Social Club of Kalamazoo to host a kickball tournament on Saturday. If you know anyone that wants to get a team together here's the registration link - bit.ly/4e9eb1S. There will also be a family open play time from 1-3pm on Saturday if you want to join a less competitive game of kickball!



Reservations for camping are now open, you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center. Weekly rate is \$189.00 per week plus \$5.00 reservation fee (8/2-8/9).

You can also purchase your 4-H Family Fair admission pass when you reserve your camping. Fair admission will be \$40 per vehicle for the week and includes access to our featured entertainment and many of the activities. Please note that some attractions and the Rodeo will require separate tickets.

Call 269-383-8778 for reservations! Deadline for camping registration is July 24, 2026



2026 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Camping Fees & Information

Beginning on May 1, 2026 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.

Camping Fees:	Weekly Rate - \$189.00 per week (8/2-8/9) Reservations made after July 24 are \$224 per week
Advance Reservation Fee:	One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all reservations
Septic Service:	A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 5.

Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!

Deadline for Camping Registration

July 24, 2026

Camping units may be dropped off from 9am-3pm on Saturday, August 1.

Overnight camping is NOT permitted on Saturday, August 1.

Overnight camping begins on Sunday, August 2.

All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 12:00 pm on Sunday, August 9

CAMPING POLICIES:

- Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.
- Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.
- Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.
- Cancellations will be accepted until July 24, 2026. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 24, 2026 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 24, 2026.
- Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.

AS A REMINDER: Golf Carts, Gators, ATV's (4-wheelers), UTV's (side-by-sides), ORV's, mini-bikes, go-carts and similar motorized devices are prohibited. Bicycles and Class 1 E-bikes (pedal assisted, up to 20mph) are permitted in the campground area only. Class 2 and 3 E-bikes and other electric motor devices are prohibited.



2026 Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

ENTER PHOTO AND VIDEO PROJECTS IN SHOWCASE

Michigan youth ages 5-19 as of Jan 1, 2026 are eligible to enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase and share their projects online. There is no fee to enter and 4-H membership is not required.

There are classes in livestock and animal showmanship, still exhibits, contests, educational and leadership, and more! Youth can enter multiple classes and receive positive and constructive feedback from evaluators. Youth can enter the same project in a local or county fair but cannot enter the same project in the in-person Michigan State Fair.

The registration deadline is August 7, 2026.

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, 2026, who submit a project in the virtual showcase are eligible to apply in their age bracket (8-11, 12-15 and 16-19). The deadline to apply for scholarships is Monday, August 10, 2026 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 4-H Adulting 101



**Roadmap to a
Smart Used Car Purchase**
Michigan 4-H Adulting 101

Wednesday, August 12th | 5pm EST
FREE on Zoom

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Roadmap to a Smart Used Car Purchase – Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m. ET

Are you hoping to buy a reliable used car on a budget? Are you nervous that you may spend good money on a car that is a “lemon”? Are you wanting to purchase a used car, but have no idea where to start? Whether you are new to the used car buying process or it has been a while since you made this type of purchase, this workshop will provide tips, resources and strategies to help you make an informed decision with confidence.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-roadmap-to-a-smart-used-car-purchase>



Your Kalamazoo 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

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

It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn

what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects,

please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*.

(https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/)

Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at

https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home

prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in several projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to lead them!



ALONE
WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE.
TOGETHER
WE CAN
DO SO MUCH.
-HELEN KELLER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Our Amazing Volunteers and Our Coordinator!



Rhonda E	Leslie L
Jamie M	Eric L
Andrew C	Theresa D
Amber L	Veronica B
Sawyer M	John H
Beth V	Brad E
Justin F	

Poultry Project News

Happy Spring!

You need to attend 3 meetings to bring your birds to the fair .

We only have 1 more meetings scheduled - July 23rd.

If you are in the market project, be sure to print out your market journal and fill in the appropriate details as your birds grow. Those can be found on the 4-H website (link below).

You also should be working on recruiting buyers. The auction will be on Friday, August 7 at 10 AM.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock



SAVE THE DATE
MICHIGAN
APPLE
CRUNCH

October 15, 2026

Mark your calendar! The 2026 Michigan Apple Crunch will be celebrated on Thursday, October 15!

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

Look for the Crunch registration to be released in August along with an *updated* Crunch Guide and *new* Michigan Apple Crunch resources. Please make sure to follow the Michigan Apple Crunch Facebook page for the latest updates and to post pictures of your Crunch when you celebrate on October 15th.

We're grateful to [Michigan Apples](#) for partnering with [Michigan State University Extension](#) and the [Michigan Farm to Institution Network](#) for support of the Crunch this year!



Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h_name.htm.

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an "H" on each leaf.
- The numeral "4" separated from a capital "H" with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover's stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement "18 USC 707" **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The "18 USC 707" should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H's reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H's can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H's can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H's can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H's can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1



Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Inappropriate Use

And Remember-

It is ALWAYS

4 - dash - capital H

Never 4H or 4h

Always 4-H



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

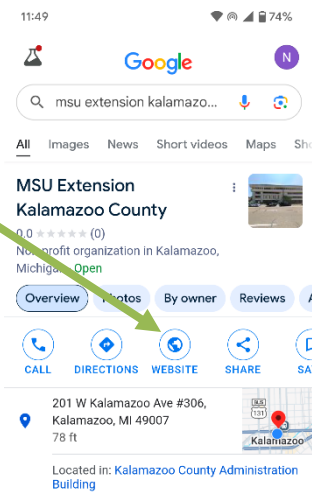
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

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



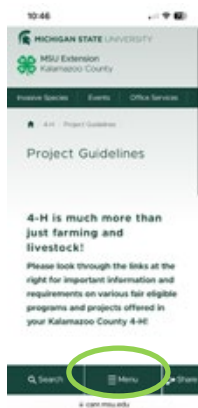
3 & 4



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!



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

**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

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

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

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

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

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





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.

Join
Michigan
4-H
Alumni &
Friends



Stay informed. Support youth.
Strengthen communities.
Get connected by the clover today!

Join for free at:
extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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](https://extension.msu.edu) 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.

