



4-H Family News

December
2025

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond
Ready**

Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

The Michigan 4-H license plate is a simple way to support youth programs while celebrating your connection to 4-H. A portion of every plate purchase benefits Michigan 4-H for young people to learn, lead, and grow through 4-H. Learn more at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/Support_Michigan_4_H/michigan-4-h-license-plate

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Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>
Program-122047197873078

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MICHIGAN 4-H LICENSE PLATE

**PURCHASE YOURS AT THE
MICHIGAN SOS**



Support 4-H and show
your 4-H pride!





NEW PROJECT GUIDELINES

We are working hard to add some new projects to our guidelines and the 4-H fair book. When we add new guidelines, we will post them both in the newsletter and on the Kalamazoo County 4-H Facebook page.

This month we will be updating or adding the following guidelines:

- Social recreation guidelines
- Languages/passport
- Beekeeping

In January we will be adding the following guidelines:

- Backyard BBQ/Grilling





Help Us Tell the 4-H Story

Are you a current or former 4-H member? We want to hear from YOU! 4-H youth and alumni — help us share the amazing impact of 4-H by telling your story:

- **Who are you?**
- **What kinds of projects** have you done or are you working on now?
- **Where** has the 4-H program taken you — or where is it leading you?
- **Why** was 4-H important in shaping your goals, your life, or who you are today?
- **When** were you (or are you) part of the program?

We're still collecting and sharing the incredible stories of Kalamazoo County 4-H youth and alumni! Your story helps show how 4-H builds skills, confidence, and leadership — helping you be **Beyond Ready** for anything.

Share your 4-H story here:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DsEDclMZ3PZ3lY



Spread The Word!

Tack sale registration is now open!

Volunteers are needed and adults must be at least a Silver Level Volunteer.

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

The sale will be :
Monday March 23, 2025
5-9 pm
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI

Email inquiries to
kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com

KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H TACK SALE

Monday, March 23 2026
5pm - 9pm





SHOPPERS

Come shop private sellers and vendors in a 24,000 square foot indoor venue!

Concessions available for purchase

\$2/person donation to the Kalamazoo County 4-H Horse Project at entry

SELLERS

Reserve by March 1st:

Table space (table included) \$20 (\$25 if received after March 1)

Vendor cube (table included) \$35 (\$40 if received after March 1)

Contact kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com to reserve your space today!

Kalamazoo County Expo Center 2900 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign November 28 - December 14, 2025

To embrace the holiday spirit, the Paper Clover campaign will officially launch on Black Friday! Support 4-H youth from Nov. 28 - Dec. 14, 2025 by purchasing a paper clover both online or in Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) stores for just \$1





Mini Horses



Please reach out to people you know and invite them to join our page and to reach out with questions! Contact Julie Sheppard at jsheppard@shps.org or 269-569-1705. We will start county meetings after Holiday breaks. Volunteers to host meetings are welcome!



We will be updating our food booth in this year!

Helping on the food booth committee would be a great resume builder for teens who are interested in culinary arts.

Help us compare cost, choose the menu items, plan an inventory for this year's fair.

Meet with adults who currently run concessions and cafeterias.

Meetings will be via zoom.....Learn by being involved.....

Reach out to Chris Chase Myrichland4h@gmail.com if Interested.





Everyone is invited to join Portage Partners International Dinner

YOU'RE INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE
PORTAGE PARTNER'S 4-H CLUBS'

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER

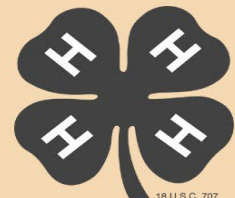
YOUTH WILL BRING A FAVORITE DISH FROM THEIR
HERITAGE OR THEIR FAVORITE INTERNATIONAL DISH.
YOUTH WILL THEN EXPLAIN TO THE GROUP WHAT THE
DISH IS AND WHICH NATIONALITY IT COMES FROM.
THE DINNER WILL BE POTLUCK STYLE!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD 2026
FROM 1 PM TO 4 PM

JAN
3RD

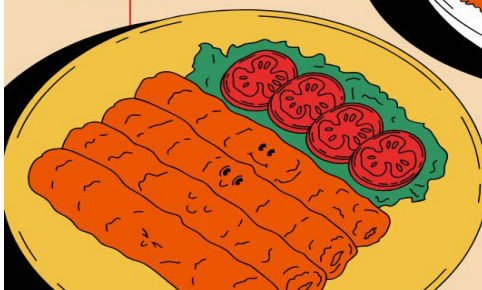
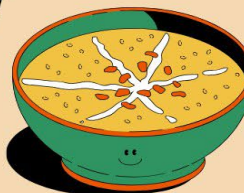
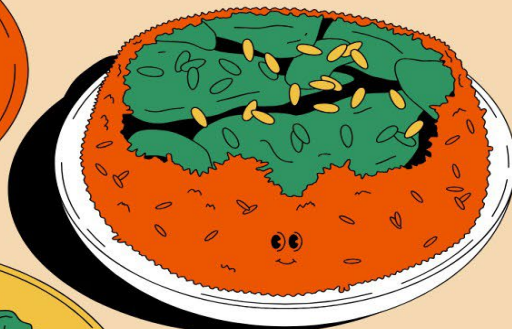
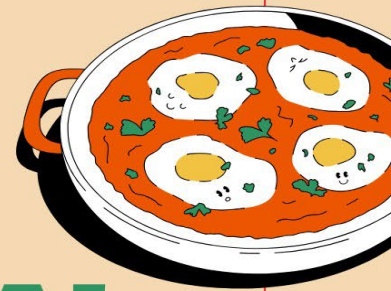
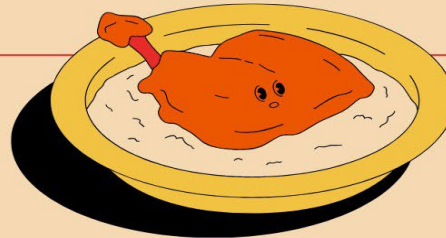
ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL
7211 OAKLAND DR, PORTAGE, MI 49024

EMAIL JOHN HECHT
WITH QUESTIONS
MASTERJOHN_99@HOTMAIL.COM



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RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION, AGE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, DISABILITY,
POLITICAL BELIEFS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILY STATUS OR VETERAN STATUS.



Kalamazoo County 4-H participated in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade



The parade was a great hit!

Thank you to C.C. riders for putting together a float.

There was a line dance, carols, and general fun that day.

500 flyer were given out to promote 4-H!





Poultry Project News



It's time to start thinking about market birds for 2026!

The market project is making a big change this year. The Feed Bag in Richland is closing and will no longer be handling our bird ordering and distribution. This will change how you order and pick up birds. The biggest change is that you will now pay for your birds when you order them. Birds will still be picked up in Richland but at Cherie's house, instead of a store.

Things to know:

Birds typically arrive on **Tuesdays**. Occasionally they don't arrive until **Wednesday**. You must be available the date of pickup to get your birds. The exception to this is the roaster chickens. The earliest they will arrive is Wednesday, May 27 due to the holiday weekend. If you order **roasters**, you may need to be available on **Thursday, May 28** as well in case the shipment is delayed.

Order forms will be available at poultry meetings, on the poultry Facebook page, and will be emailed out to those in the project. It is also available here :

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

There will also be a table at the all-species meeting in January

where you can order your birds. **February 16 will be the last day that you can order your birds for the 2026 fair.**

Please reach out to Cherie if you have any questions!

cheriegilfillan@gmail.com

Bird type	How birds are sold	Recommended number of birds to order	Estimated pick up date	Cost per bird
Turkey - white broad breasted	1 male and 1 female	At least 6 if you want one of each gender to sell	March 24	\$9.98
Turkey - bronze broad breasted	1 male and 1 female	At least 6 if you want one of each gender to sell	March 24	\$10.68
Cornish Cross Chicken	Pen of 3	5-6	Roasters: May 27 Broilers: June 16 Cornish: June 23	Male: \$4.78 Female: \$4.63
Duck - Rouen	Pen of 3	4-5	May 12	\$8.15
Duck - Pekin	Pen of 3	4-5	June 9	\$8.15



4-H WINTERFEST FEBUARY 7-8 2026



LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE - HERSEY, MI

COST: \$120 FOR 4-H MEMBERS

REGISTER TODAY: [HTTPS://4HWINTERFEST2026.4HONLINE.COM](https://4hwinterfest2026.4honline.com)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Youth who attend 4-H Winterfest will spend two days learning about team building and different project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Winterfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Eagle Village in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands-on sessions.

Workshop 1 - Saturday

Amaze Your Friends With Magic

Launch into Science

Broom Ball

Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts

Crafts Around the World: North America

Ice Dyeing

Workshops- Sunday

Workshop #2

Workshop #3

Cat Curiosity

Cat Curiosity

Lego Science

Lego Science

Paper to Pulp

Paper to Pulp

Stop Motion Animation

Stop Motion Animation

It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping

It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping

WORKSHOP 1 DESCRIPTION:

Amaze Your Friends With Magic- Come and learn several easy magic tricks that will amaze your friends and family.

Launch into Science- Get ready to build, launch & learn! Participants will dive into hands-on STEM challenges - including designing & testing their very own marshmallow catapult. From creative problem solving to engineering fun, this session will spark curiosity & teamwork while showing how science & innovation come to life!

Broom Ball- Learn the skill and techniques to broom ball. Have fun outdoors on the ice challenge your coordination and teamwork to score the most goals!

Crafts Around the World: North America -Enjoy and be introduced to a simple cultural traditional craft from North America. We will learn how to make the simple craft of "Guatemalan Worry Dolls" and having fun creating as we learn about the culture and the country.

Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts- A hands-on session using basic tools to create and personalize leather goods like bracelets, book markers, and coasters and craft a dazzling suncatcher using pony beads and crystals for an instant touch of sparkle wherever it hangs.

Ice Dyeing- Discover the science behind stunning, and surprising, designs when colors split. You'll explore how melting ice and dye interact, creating vibrant patterns while learning about chemistry and color theory in action. This session blends art and science for a colorful experiment you can wear or share!

WORKSHOP 2& 3 DESCRIPTION:

Cat Curiosity- Ever wanted to learn about cat showmanship? Fun facts about our fancy furry friends? Want to pet one up close and personal? Well, here's your chance! Join us for 4-H related activities and information regarding cat showmanship at the county fair level. We will have hands-on demonstrations and even have a live cat to examine. Please be allergy aware!!

Lego Science- Use Legos to answer science questions such as: Can you building a hurricane-proof building? How do wrecking balls work? and How many Lego can you balance off one brick?

Paper to Pulp- Get creative from start to finish! In this session you will make your own paper, design a custom journal & learn simple journaling techniques. Have fun, reflect, create & express yourself one page at a time!

Stop Motion Animation- Bring your ideas to life by transforming everyday objects into exciting stories. You'll design, snap, and edit your own stop motion mini movies using creativity and digital tools. This session combines science, technology, and creativity to show how innovation moves—literally—frame by frame!

It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping- Enjoy and be introduced to the art of jewelry wire wrapping. You will learn the basics and wrap special stones of Michigan, creating necklaces, keychains, or whatever your creative minds discover and make.



Ready to Join?

Scan the QR code below to view the 4-H Future Squad Website and Interest Form



For program support, questions, or assistance with registration, please contact Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu

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4-H Future Squad

A Virtual 4-H Club to Grow YOUR Future

Youth aged 12-19 are invited to join 4-H Future Squad, designed for youth to build skills, confidence, and connections for a successful future.

The club will meet virtually October 2025 – May 2026.

Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail and on the Upcoming Programs webpage.

Why Join 4-H Future Squad?

- **Adulthood is a big job — we'll help you get ready!**
Learn essential skills alongside new friends and mentors who can guide you toward your goals.
- **Gain access to all 4-H benefits and statewide events**
A variety of events will be shared with the group often, and youth are encouraged to participate!
- **Attend as you can!**
Join 4-H Future Squad as your primary or secondary club – attend as many sessions as you wish.



Beyond Ready



MICHIGAN 4-H HORSE PROGRAM



COMMUNICATIONS
CONTEST WEBINAR



REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR NOW!



JOIN US TO DISCUSS CONTEST
BASICS AND WHY YOU SHOULD
PARTICIPATE!!!



REGISTER FOR WEBINAR AT:
[HTTPS://MSU.ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/
WN_Q6FCEKJFRPS5IDIQXD0AUW](https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q6FCEKJFRPS5IDIQXD0AUW)

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3,
2025 AT 6:30PM**

any questions? Email
lindsa75@msu.edu



STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

2026 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

COSTA RICA • JAPAN • TAIWAN • SOUTH KOREA • ARGENTINA



OUR MISSION: Enhancing world understanding and global citizenship through high-quality 4-H international cultural immersion and exchange programs for 4-H aged youth.

Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruits host families and plans enrichment activities.

2026 PROGRAM DATES *

Costa Rica: June 26-July 23

Japan 8-Week: June 11-August 6

Japan 4-Week: July 9-August 6

Taiwan: July 9-August 6

South Korea: July 16-August 13

Argentina: July 12-August 2

*All dates are approximate; final dates will be announced when applications open in the fall.

4-H YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

- ➡ 12-18 years old for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan
- ➡ 12-18 years old for South Korea
- ➡ 15-18 years old for Costa Rica, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

Applicant must not be in college

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Contact your State Coordinator and/or reach out to States' 4-H to learn more
- Applications open in Fall 2025

www.states4hexchange.com
exchange@states4h.org • (206) 462-2200



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!



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

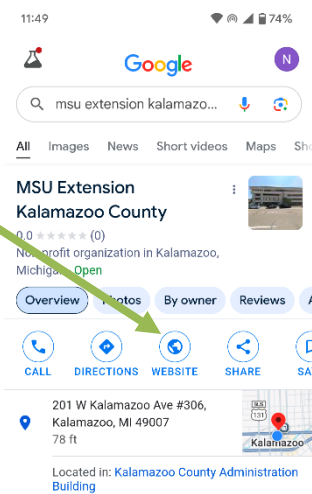
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

5 – Click on project guidelines

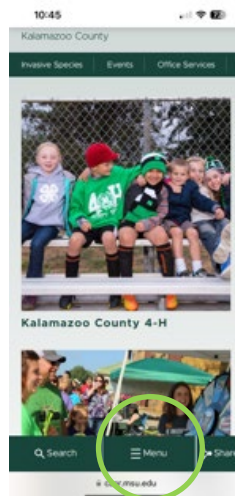
6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

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

1 & 2



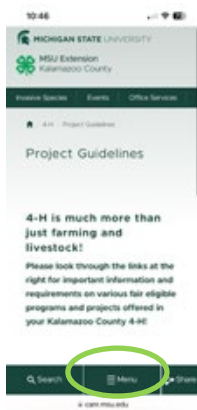
3 & 4



5



6



10:46



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!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Thriving Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 28 – December 14: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Local Tractor Supply Co.

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased.

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

December 2: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/

December 9: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-december

December 13: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8.!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah

December 20: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory [reporting guidelines](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) (www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.
2. Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file [DHS-3200](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) (available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) within 72 hours.
3. All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at ocr.isr@msu.edu.
4. Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.

Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!

Michigan Shop 4-H Store: Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store! Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>.



My Pottery Place: Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/.

Mickman Brothers: Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at 4hwreaths.com will benefit 4-H.

Twisted X: Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection.

Georgia Boot: Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at georgiaboot.com.

Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos.

View the updated manual at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual.