



# 4-H Family News

June 2026

Kalamazoo County

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

## Fair Enrollment is open until June 15!

Enrollment is through Fair Entry, it's Easy!

Fair Entry

1. <https://faireentry.com>
2. Click "Find Your Fair" at the top
3. Search "Kalamazoo" on the keyword search or look where sorted by state.
4. "Sign in with 4-H online"  
Follow the prompts to register for our Fair!!

Find more Fair Entry registration tips here:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/fair-information](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information)

Or go to page 2.



Remember-

YQCA Certification is required to show animals at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

See page 4 for detail on becoming certified.

## CONTACT US

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[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)**WEBSITE-**<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>**Facebook Page**<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>

Program-122047197873078

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# Hooked on Clean Water

HOSTED BY KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H  
AND KALAMAZOO COUNTY DRAIN OFFICE

**Come Learn the art of baiting, casting and reeling in a new hobby!** Fishing rods, tackle and bait will be provided!

**This event and entry into the park is free. Bring your own picnic lunch.**

All ages are welcome. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Scan the QR code to register for the SPIN club Hooked on Water. Registration is required and limited to 35 youth.



## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

Youth under 17 don't need a fishing license but must follow all fishing rules. Adults helping them must have a valid fishing license.



**KALAMAZOO**  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
Office of the Drain Commissioner

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**June  
13th**

**10:30 AM  
to  
2:30 PM**

**Markin Glen Park  
J. Tyler Family Pavilion**

5300 N. Westnedge Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004



**Contact:** Sam Lawrence at  
Samuel.Lawrence@kalcounty.com  
or Will Barnwell at  
barnwe18@msu.edu



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY | **Extension**



# Kalamazoo COUNTY FAIR

August 4-8, 2026

## Enrollment for the Kalamazoo County Fair will be open through June 15!

Kalamazoo County 4-H is again using a system called *FairEntry* for 2026 Fair registration.

It's easy to sign in to FairEntry!

- Go to <https://fairentry.com/Public/FindYourFair>
- search by state to find your fair
- sign in with your 4-H Online credentials!



If you would like help with Registration:

**Online and in person help is available  
See schedule at the bottom of this page.**

When signing in to Fair Entry:

**Always use the 4-H Online Option. (green check)**  
**Do not use the FairEntry sign up option. (red x)**



**If you need assistance signing in with your 4-H Online username or password,  
Please contact us at 269-383-8830**

**For Step-by-Step FairEntry registration, please visit the links below:**

- [How to log in to Fair Entry](#)
- [FairEntry Help Video](#)
- [FairEntry tip sheet](#)
- [FairEntry important reminders](#)

**Meet with 4-H staff online on one of the following dates for open office hours for help with Fair Entry.**

**June 2- 6:30 -8 pm**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97079871519>

Meeting ID: 970 7987 1519

Passcode: 379846

**June 11- 7-8 pm**

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97141745141>

Meeting ID: 971 4174 5141

Passcode: 977385



The final in person YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) session in 2025-2026 program year will be held June 4th. At 6:30. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair 2026. There are two options- take the face-to-face sessions or take the online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. *19 yr old and above will need to take the online version.* The online version is \$12.00 and the curriculum is *age specific*. This certification is good for one year. **All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2026**

Youth who would like to take **the face-to-face session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child Showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

REGISTER/SIGN IN

Youth who would like to take **the online session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child Showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

**Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to [msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu) by July 1, 2025.**

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:

[https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources\\_for\\_youth\\_parents.php](https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



## 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.



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



### Exhibit at the 2026 Kalamazoo County Fair

The Fair is looking for vendors and community organizations to exhibit at the fair. It's a great opportunity to connect with families across Kalamazoo County!

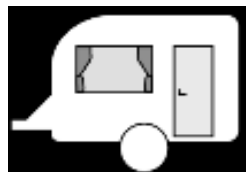
**Commercial Vendors:** Businesses and organizations looking to sell products or promote their services at the fair.

**Makers Market:** Selling or promoting a handcrafted or handmade item? The Maker's Market is the place for you.

If you or someone you know fits into one of these categories, visit [www.kalamazooountyfair.com](http://www.kalamazooountyfair.com) for more information and registration forms.

### Sponsor the Kalamazoo County Fair

We are expanding the fair to bring our community together in exciting new ways by building on cherished traditions while introducing fresh entertainment, interactive attractions, and enhanced family-friendly activities. We need sponsors to help with financial support to assist with event costs including all the new entertainment and activities. If you know of a business or organization that might be interested in sponsoring the Fair, please reach out to Mandy Eldred at 269-383-8778. Or visit [www.kalamazooountyfair.com](http://www.kalamazooountyfair.com) to see the 2026 sponsorship packages.



### **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**



## 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.**



## **Congratulations Class of 2026!**

**Grant S.  
Leah N.  
Shelby G.  
Carissa M.  
Kaylee P.  
Aidan R.  
Isobel N.  
Ashlin A.  
Paola V.  
Amari M.  
Zimari M.  
Yaritza C.  
Keely W.  
Huck R.  
Aleksander L.  
Isaac H.  
Lukas K.  
Isabel S.  
Anna W.**

**Vicksburg High School  
Norton Academy  
Reformed Heritage Christian School  
Kalamazoo Central High School  
Climax-Scotts High School  
Plainwell High School  
Vicksburg High School  
Loy Norrix High School  
Loy Norrix High School  
Loy Norrix High School  
Phoenix High School  
KILP  
Bridge Mount Christian Academy  
Richardson University  
Fairfield Academy  
Hoekstra Home School  
Howardsville Christian School  
Mattawan High School  
Legacy Academy**



## Kalamazoo Freedom School of Design: Applications Now Open!



Families are invited to apply for the ***Kalamazoo Freedom School of Design***, a summer program for youth Kindergarten (5 yr old as of Jan 2026) – 12<sup>th</sup> grade that focuses on learning, creativity, and confidence-building in a fun and supportive environment.

Freedom School gives young people a safe space to learn, express themselves, and build strong relationships with peers and caring adults. Through reading, art, design, and hands-on activities, students are encouraged to explore who they are, share their ideas, and grow as leaders.

This program is offered in partnership with Children's Defense Fund, Zoo City Farm & Food Network, and Kalamazoo County 4-H.

### What Is Freedom School?

Freedom School is a summer enrichment program that helps youth build a love of learning, strengthen reading skills and creativity, and discover interests in various post-secondary career pathways.

### How 4-H Is Part of the Program

Youth who participate will also be enrolled in 4-H as part of a short-term club. This allows students to take part in hands-on activities that build life skills like cooperation, communication, and confidence while still enjoying the Freedom School experience.

### How to Sign Up

Families must complete both steps below for their child to participate:

#### Step 1: Contact the Program Partner

Reach out to **Remi LaFary** at Zoo City Farm & Food Network to begin the Freedom School application process. Her email is [remi@zoocityfood.com](mailto:remi@zoocityfood.com).

#### Step 2: Enroll in 4-H Online

Youth must also be enrolled through **4-H Online** <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>.

1. Log in to **4-H Online** (or create a family account if needed).
2. Select your child's name.
3. Choose a **SPIN / Short-Term Club** to join.
4. Select **"2026 Kalamazoo Freedom School of Design."**
5. Submit your enrollment.



For general questions, families may contact Will Barnwell, the Program Instructor for Kalamazoo County at [barnwe18@msu.edu](mailto:barnwe18@msu.edu).

Thank you for your continued support of 4-H programs in Kalamazoo County for youth!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
FREE ADMISSION

# 2026 ANNUAL POW WOW

Pine Creek Indian Reservation  
Pow Wow Grounds

## GRAND ENTRY

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 • 1PM & 7PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 • Noon

DRUMS

### HOST DRUM

Meskwaki Nation  
*Tama, Iowa*

### CO-HOST DRUM

Little Soldier  
*Mayetta, Kansas*

### INVITED DRUMS

Sharp Feather  
*Gun Lake, Michigan*

Ghost Town  
*Sarnia, Ontario*

Fire Nation  
*Wabeno, Wisconsin*

*Drum Split for Show-Up Drums | MUST HAVE TRIBAL ID*

INVITED DIGNITARIES

Miss Potawatomi  
Nation 2025  
Cypress "Jojo"  
Kewayosh-Deleary  
Potawatomi Nation  
Wshkabéwes 2025  
Gabe Loonsfoot

HEAD STAFF

Dale Anderson  
*Head Veteran*  
Mike Medawis  
*Announcer*  
Paul Syrette  
*Arena Director*

### SATURDAY

Kwake Hale  
*Head Male*  
Shay Hale  
*Head Female*  
Dazer Pitawanakwat  
*Jr. Head Male*  
Shakyla Wesaw  
*Jr. Head Female*

### SUNDAY

Skyler Alsup  
*Head Male*  
Dajia Shinos  
*Head Female*  
Bryson Medawis  
*Jr. Head Male*  
Marley Alsup  
*Jr. Head Female*

*Day Pay for Registered Dancers  
MUST HAVE TRIBAL ID*

SPECIALS

Girl's Jingle Special  
*Sponsored by The Hale Family*  
18+ Men's Grass Memorial Special  
*Sponsored by The Family of Terry Chivis-Bén*  
Potato Dance  
*Sponsored by The Thompson/Zapata Families*  
Adult Women's Appliqué  
*Sponsored by Committee*  
Adult Men's Woodland  
*Sponsored by Committee*  
Hand Drum Contest  
*Sponsored by Committee*  
65+ Elders' Special  
*Sponsored by Committee*

Hotel Reservations can be made by  
scanning the QR Code:



*If you prefer to make your  
reservation by phone,  
please call at  
877-352-8777 and  
mention group code  
POWOW2026. Please  
note, reservations must be  
made by 10:00pm on June  
10, 2026 to receive the  
discounted group rate.*



NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI

A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT



## 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](mailto:stewa191@msu.edu) or Laurie Rivetto at [rivettoL@msu.edu](mailto:rivettoL@msu.edu).

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H ADULTING 101

AI AND YOU: \_\_\_\_\_



SMART, SAFE,  
AND SAVVY

THURSDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

6:00 PM ET

FREE ON ZOOM

Curious about AI and how it's changing the world around you?

Join Michigan State University Extension 4-H for an *Adulting 101* session: **AI and You: Smart, Safe, and Savvy** on **Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m. EST!**

Learn how AI works, how it can support you, and how it's shaping industries like agriculture-plus explore how to use it responsibly and make smart choices in a tech-driven world.

Don't miss this chance to get ahead of the curve!

Register for free at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai\\_and\\_you](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you)



# 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/](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](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!



## [Kalamazoo County 4-H Fair Volunteers](#)

Those who will be helping with 4-H activities during the fair 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.

**All applications need to be submitted no later than June 20, 2026, for screening to be completed prior to the events.**

Those completing the application after June 20th may not be able to complete the process and will not be eligible to help during the 4-H portion of the Kalamazoo County Fair. The definitions of silver and gold level volunteers can be found at FAQ ([https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_faq](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_faq)). The application to apply to become an MSU Extension Volunteer can be found at Volunteer Home ([https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_home](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home)). For those who are currently approved silver level volunteers please read over the definition. If you would like to change your status to gold level, please reach out to Veronica and she will work with you to make those additions to your profile.



# 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
5:00 pm	Rabbit Agility	TBD
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
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



# 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](http://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](http://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



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## to Our Amazing Volunteers!



Annelise H  
Fredrick O  
Amanda T  
Hannah W  
Nicole S  
Kevin T  
Anna W  
Kyle V

Nichole N  
Sara V  
Sarah D  
Fritz A  
Chris S  
Ann H  
Lisa B

Welcome Lindsay Hardham  
Your New Mini Project Coordinator!

Lindsay's email :

[nelsonx3@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonx3@gmail.com)

Please sign your Mini up for Fair!

2026 Mini Horse Registration form:

<https://forms.gle/cdMgBQQBs6eZvXbw5>





# DAIRY CLUB



Meetings will be weekly starting the week of June 8- night *tbd* by club members. All meetings are at 6:30 - dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for being around animals- no sandals . Join the Kalamazoo county 4-H Dairy Club on Facebook for up-to-date information.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Quick Guide to Sheep Fair Entry Classes

### Department 6 – Sheep

All 4-H youth ages 8-19 should sign up for the following:

#### **Showmanship: Required!**

Dept 6, Section R, Class 4251 – Junior (ages 8-11)

Dept 6, Section R, Class 4252 – Intermediate (ages 12-15)

Dept 6, Section R, Class 4253 – Senior (ages 16-19)

#### **Educational Exhibit: Required!**

Dept 6, Section T, Class 4265 – all youth (except cloverbuds)

If you are bringing market lambs to the fair, please sign up for the

on the number of animals you are bringing and whether you have ewes or wethers:

Dept 6, Section Q, Class 4242 – Market Ewe

Dept 6, Section Q, Class 4245 – Market Wether

Dept 6, Section Q, Class 4248 – Owner Bred & Raised Pair of Lambs

If you are bringing breeding stock to the fair, please review sections B-P in the fair book.

If you are bringing fleece to the fair, please review section S in the fair book.

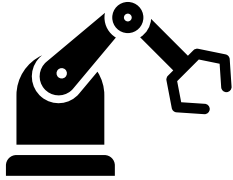
Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) should sign up under Department 90. The sheep specific classes are:

Dept 90, Section B, Class 7130, Sheep

Dept 90, Section B, Class 7131 Sheep Showmanship

Dept 90, Section B, Class 7132, Sheep Science (optional)



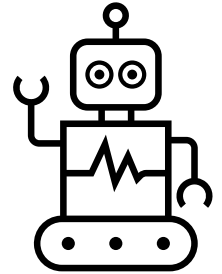


### Stryke Force Open House:

Monday, June 1st from  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

3710 Gembrit Circle, Kalamazoo, MI.

Information will be available about the  
5th-6th grade program, 7th-8th grade program and  
the high school program.



## Poultry Project News

### Happy Spring!

**\*With the arrival of spring, birds are migrating again. This means that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is something to be aware of. Take the appropriate precautions to protect your flock!\***

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

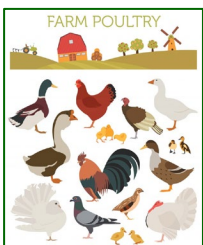
**We only have 2 more meetings scheduled - June 18th and July 23rd.**

Be there or be square(or let the superintendents know if you have a scheduling problem).

**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](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock)



### Upcoming Pick up dates:

Pekin Duck - 6/10

Broiler - 6/17

Cornish - 6/24



## Soil Testing

<https://homesoiltest.msu.edu/>



Lawn and garden plants require 18 nutrients for healthy growth and productivity. The soil is a reservoir of these nutrients. Plants utilize these nutrients, but they need to be replenished from time to time. By having your soil tested you can learn which nutrients are present and which ones need to be added depending on the plant(s) you are trying to grow. You can avoid over-application of fertilizers which can waste money, reduce plant quality and pollute streams, lakes and groundwater. Based on your soil test results, you will receive a custom fertilization program to meet the needs of your plants and safeguard the environment.

\* \* \*  
— —

## The Online Home Food Preservation Course

is a self paced, online course that can help people who food preserve food at home avoid dangerous errors when preserving foods. Individuals can feel confident in processing their produce and feeding their families safe, healthy *Home-Made* foods!

### Advantages of home food preservation:

- cuts down on food waste
- encourages gardening to stay active
- allows control over the ingredients
- preparation of your own food
- stimulates the local economy by supporting locally grown foods for individuals and families.
- Learn more here:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../food\\_preservation\\_online\\_course](https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../food_preservation_online_course)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

**Home Food Preservation Online Course**

- Water Bath Canning High-Acid Foods
- Pressure Canning Low-Acid Foods
- Blanching & Freezing Produce
- Canning Jam & Jelly
- Pickling
- Dehydrating Foods



## Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the\\_clover\\_the\\_4\\_h\\_emblem\\_and\\_how\\_to\\_use\\_correctly\\_part\\_1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1)

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





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

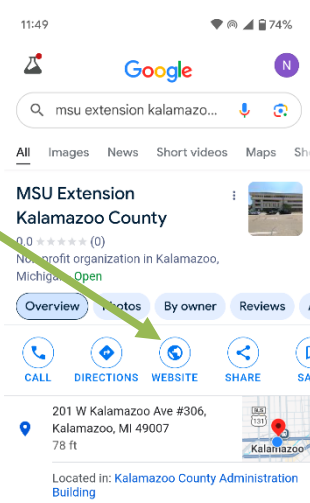
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

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](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



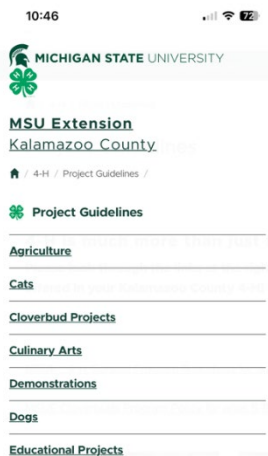
3 & 4



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

## Preparing Youth to Be Beyond Ready Through 4-H Livestock Projects



## Beyond Ready

4-H livestock projects provide powerful, real-world learning that helps youth become Beyond Ready for life, work and leadership. Caring for animals teaches responsibility, time management and problem solving, all of which are essential skills for future success. Through chores, recordkeeping and making informed decisions, youth practice accountability and perseverance.

Livestock projects also build confidence as members explain their work to judges, interact with buyers and demonstrate professionalism in the show ring. When volunteers encourage reflection, support goal setting, and help youth connect these experiences to life beyond the barn, young people begin to see how their efforts today prepare them for tomorrow. Are your project activities helping youth become Beyond Ready?

#BeyondReady

### June 6: Garden Geocache Event

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens. Find new caches, trade travel bugs, explore the gardens and much more.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache)

### June 9: Online Extension Extras for Parents: Internet Safety

*Online*

Screens are everywhere, and children are spending more and more time in front of them. This session will discuss topics including steps to take to keep kids safe online, apps youth use and their safety, Michigan laws, and more.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-internet-safety-6-9-26](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-internet-safety-6-9-26)

### June 11: Adulting 101 – AI and You: Smart, Safe and Savvy

*Online*

As part of the Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar series, this session will explore the basics of how artificial intelligence works, ways it can support you, and how to make smart decisions.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai\\_and\\_you](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you)

### June 18: Pirate and Pixie Garden Party

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Argh me mateys. Join a morning of swashbuckling fun! Go on a treasure hunt, making pixie dust, decorate an eye patch and more!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/pirate-and-pixie-garden-party](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/pirate-and-pixie-garden-party)

### June 23: Digger Day

*Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, East Lansing*

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in communities.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/digger-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/digger-day)

### July 1: 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging State Contest

*Farm Bureau Pavilion, East Lansing*

Participants will demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve communication and decision-making skills. Register by June 15.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Register for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive

While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award. Registration is due by June 15. Find registration information at [www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026).

### Michigan 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest



## MSU Extension honors 11 Michigan 4-H volunteers for 50 years of service in 2026

For the sixth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

“We give thanks for every volunteer in our program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “Michigan 4-H would not exist as it does today without the dedication of volunteers who generously share their gifts, and these 11 remarkable individuals in particular have been sharing their gifts for a half-century. We offer them our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all they’ve done for our organization and Michigan 4-H’ers.”

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2026 are:

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kay Booth, Barry County          | • Deb Pincumbe, Ingham County      |
| • Joyce Goerge, Clinton County     | • Linda Preston, Cass County       |
| • Betty Groth, Cass County,        | • Peter Preston, Cass County       |
| • Beverly Koppelman, Monroe County | • Kathy Williams, St. Clair County |
| • Gary Koppelman, Monroe County    | • Mary Yeomans, Midland County     |
| • Michael Lee, Osceola County      |                                    |

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at:

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.