



April 2026

4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Hands That Help, Hearts That Lead

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our 4-H volunteers. Your time, energy, and dedication make a lasting impact on the lives of our youth and the strength of our community. Whether you're leading a club, helping at events, mentoring members, or supporting behind the scenes, your efforts do not go unnoticed. We are truly grateful for all that you do. Thank you for being such an important part of the 4-H family!

Strong communities are built by people who show up, lend a hand, and share their time and talents and that's exactly what makes 4-H so special. There are so many ways to get involved, whether it's volunteering to lead a workshop, stepping in to fill a vacancy on an advisory committee, starting a new club, sharing upcoming events with friends and neighbors, or joining us for the 40th Annual Fundraiser Auction on April 18th. Every little bit helps, and it all adds up to big opportunities for our youth. In this month's newsletter, we're highlighting some of our most important current needs along with simple ways you can jump in and make a difference. Whether you have a little time to give or a big idea to share, your support matters. We truly appreciate the passion and dedication you bring to helping our 4-H program continue to grow, connect, and thrive.

Looking Ahead! Save the Dates:

Fundraiser Auction | April 17 and 18 | Bells Event Center

Camp Bake Sale Fundraiser | April 25 | Imlay City TSC

Small Animal Clinic | June 13 | EMSF

Thumb Area 4-H Overnight Camp | June 15 – 17 | Lexington

Exploration Days | June 24 - 26 | MSU Campus

Lapeer County 4-H Day Camp | July 8 - 10 | Camp Lael

Eastern Michigan State Fair | July 28 – August 1 | EMSF

CONTACT US

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<https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer>

Facebook: LapeerCounty4h

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HANDS THAT HELP, HEARTS THAT LEAD

Volunteers Wanted!

We Need YOU!

Regardless of your availability, there is a 4-H volunteer opportunity waiting for you. We have volunteer jobs of all sizes, including small tasks that can be completed at home. At the heart of the 4-H youth experience are caring adult volunteers just like you.

Ways to Volunteer

-  Help Plan and Organize Events
-  Judge 4-H Contests
-  Serve on Advisory Committees
-  Help with office tasks
-  Assist with Fundraising
-  Share Your Experience
-  Lead a Club
-  Become a Mentor
-  Teach Short Term Programs

Essential Volunteer Roles Currently Open

- Council Adult Representative
- Council Youth Representative
- Auction Committee Treasurer
- Livestock Committee Treasurer
- Livestock Committee Members
- Horse Committee Members
- Ambassador Advisor
- Camp Volunteers and Overnight Chaperones
- Expo Days Overnight Chaperones
- Club Leaders (Short and Long Term)
- Workshop Presenters



Start your own Club!

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED

- A group of 5 or more youth (Ages 5-19)
- 2 or more adult volunteer leaders
- A safe place for meetings
- A plan for regular meetings and activities (at least 6 a year)

MSU Extension is firmly committed to ensuring the safety of those who take part in our programming by providing a thorough screening and selection process for volunteers. This ensures those who work directly with youth and the people we serve are safe and have positive experiences that enrich their lives.

Ready to learn more? Contact:
Sarah Griffin, 4-H Program Coordinator
graversa@msu.edu
(810)667-0341

Ready to start your application? Visit:
<https://msu.samaritan.com/>



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Lapeer County 4-H

40th Annual **FUNDRAISER AUCTION**

April 17 & 18



**The Bells Event Center
401A Church Street
Almont, MI 48003**

CELEBRITY AUTOGRAPHED ITEMS

SPORTS, ACTORS, AUTHORS, MUSIC ARTISTS, POLITICIANS, AND MORE!

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

BUSINESS MERCHANDISE/SERVICES

**RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS, HOTEL STAYS, GOLF PACKAGES, SERVICES,
EVENT TICKETS, AUTOMOTIVE CARE, HEALTH & BEAUTY ITEMS,
PET PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, COLLECTIBLES AND MORE !**

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 8:00AM

SILENT AUCTION 8-11:00AM

GRADUATED CLOSINGS STARTING AT 9:05AM

LIVE AUCTION 11:00AM

**Bake Sale to Benefit Lapeer County 4-H Camp
Phat Rob's Food Love Food Truck**

For More Information:



Call (810)667-0341 or

Email msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu

Find us on Facebook:

Lapeer County 4-H Fundraiser Auction

Fundraiser Auction Benefits
Lapeer County 4-H



**APRIL
17 & 18
2026**

**FREE
ADMISSION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



COUNTY 4-H NEWS



People Only! Leave your dogs at home

DynaMutts First Meeting

- ✓ Wednesday, April 22, 2026
- ✓ Meeting takes place at Lapeer County MSU Extension Office
- ✓ Meeting time is 6 - 7 pm
- ✓ 1800 Imlay City Road, Lapeer, MI 48446



CONTACT US

"Janene Wackler"
jwackler27@gmail.com

Call Debbie Studebaker
@ 248-982-5133 with questions

Polly Ann Pioneers

Outdoor Recreation Club



Please complete an interest form at <https://bit.ly/PollyAnnRecClub>
Open to youth ages 12-19

- Camping and Hiking Equipment and Packing Skills
- Outdoor Cooking, Basic Nutrition and Menu Planning
- Reading Topographic Maps and Orienteering Skills
- Environmental Awareness and Appreciation
- Discover a variety of local trails
- Complete an Overnight Hike of the 20 Mile Stretch of the Polly Ann Trail in Lapeer County



Adult Volunteers needed! Help at a meeting or two, Lead a day hike, Chaperone the overnight hike, or help at them all! You decide! Contact Sarah if your are interested.

Info. Meeting
June 4th
6:00 pm

@ MSU Extension



COUNTY 4-H NEWS



Campfires and Clovers! 4-H Family Camp Weekend

Join us August 7–9 for a relaxed 4-H family camping experience at Groveland Oaks Campground. Families will reserve their own campsites and enjoy camping on their own terms, with the added fun of being surrounded by other 4-H families. Optional group activities will offer opportunities to gather, connect, and enjoy campfire moments together.

This weekend is all about camping your way while enjoying the added bonus of having your 4-H community nearby. Whether you join for one night or the entire weekend, we hope you'll come relax, explore, and make memories together. More details about optional activities will be shared as the date gets closer.

Reserve your site now online at: <https://mioaklandctyweb.myvscloud.com/>

Be sure to book your site in Areas D or E to stay close to the group!

4-H Bake Sale



Saturday, April 25th

9am - 1pm

at

Imlay City Tractor Supply

Profits benefit Lapeer County 4-H Camp and Flying Hooves 4-H Club



LAPEER COUNTY 4-H



Dino Discovery



SUMMER DAY CAMP

JULY 8-10TH

8:30AM -5:00PM

CAMP LAEL IN LAPEER

\$120 per camper

Includes all 3 days at camp with lunch and snack
Scholarships are available.



For Ages
5-12

Join Lapeer County 4-H for a dino-mite 3-day summer camp adventure!

🎵 Songs & Games

🎨 Creative Crafts

🔍 Hands-on Explorations

🌿 Nature Hikes & Outdoor Adventures

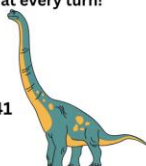
🦴 Fossil Fun and More!

Get ready to dig into fun, make new friends, and uncover prehistoric excitement at every turn!

Registration Opens April 27th

For more information call Lapeer County 4-H at (810)667-0341
or email graversa@msu.edu.

MSU Programs are open to all.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Almont District Library
213 W St Clair St., Almont, MI 48003

Lets Learn About Backyard Bugs

APRIL 11, 2026
GARDEN GLOVE
11 AM-12PM

APRIL 25, 2026
CREATE YOUR OWN LADYBUGS
11AM-12PM

EGG CARTON CATERpillARS
MAY 9, 2026
11 AM-12 PM

FOR MORE INFO GO TO
DESIRAE SALSWEDEL
810-798-3100
DSALSWEDEL@ADLMI.ORG

SPOTS ARE LIMITED
SIGN UP
REQUIRED
FOR EACH PROGRAM



SAVE THE DATE!

THUMB 4-H CAMP

2026

WAGONS WEST: A FRONTIER CAMP ADVENTURE

JUNE 15-17, 2026
AT CAMP
STAPELTON
LEXINGTON, MI

Overnight Camp for youth
ages 9-14, as of Jan. 1, 2026

Contact your local MSU Extension office
Huron, Tuscola,
Sanilac, St. Clair



REGISTRATION
OPENS IN
APRIL

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Small Animal Showmanship Clinic



FREE Event

Hosted By: Lapeer County 4-H Livestock Committee



Join us for a fun-filled day designed to help you excel in showmanship!

- 9-10:50 am – Rabbits & Cavies
- 11-11:50 am – Poultry*
- 12-12:50 pm – Dairy Goats
- 1-1:50 pm – Market Goats

* Poultry clinics are open only to Eastern Michigan State Fair participants and your bird **MUST** be tested to enter the fairgrounds.

9-11 am – Poultry Testing



Saturday, June 13, 2026



9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds

Pre-Register by June 8, 2026 at:
<https://pears.io/events/msuext/5863/>

For more information call Lapeer County 4-H at 810-667-0341 or email studebad@msu.edu

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.

CALLING ALL 4-H MARKET ANIMAL PROJECT YOUTH!

Goal- Getters	April 21
Talk the Talk	April 28
Marketing Mastery	May 5
Records to Riches	May 12
From Pitch to Payment	May 19

FREE on Zoom at 6:30pm ET
Registration Link: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4293/>

Want to boost your marketing skills and make the most of your market project this year? Join our *Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project* webinar series! From goal setting and communication to marketing, records, and buyer outreach—you'll gain the skills to shine in the show ring *and* the sale ring. Attend one or attend them all! 🌟 Open to youth ages 8–19. Let's level up those market skills!

📅 April 21 – May 19, 2026 ~ 🕒 6:30–7:30 PM EST ~ 💻 On Zoom

For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/make-the-most-of-your-market-livestock-project>

Purple up for military families!

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

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



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



County Calendar of Events

April

- EMSF Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....4/1: 7:00pm
- Regional Camp Counselor Training.....4/11
- Fundraiser Auctions.....4/17 & 4/18
- Council Meeting.....4/20: 7:00pm
- 4-H Presentation to County Commissioners.....4/23: 9:00am
- TSC Bake Sale.....4/25: 9:00am-1:00pm
- Horse Committee Meeting.....4/26: 1:30pm
- Office Closed for Staff Training.....4/29

* No Auction, Camp, Ambassador, or Agriquest Meetings in April.

May

- Expo Days Orientation.....5/5: 6:00pm
- EMSF Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....5/6: 7:00pm
- Camp Committee Meeting.....5/12: 6:00pm
- Camp Counselor Training.....5/17: 10:00am
- Ambassador Meeting.....5/18: 6:00pm
- Council Meeting.....5/18: 7:00pm
- 4-H AgriQuest Homeschool Club.....5/20: 10:00am

Get Involved in Shaping the Lapeer County 4-H Program!

We're looking for passionate people (parents, adult volunteers, and youth members) to join our committees and help plan and organize 4-H events. More committee members = more amazing opportunities for our youth! If you're ready to make an impact and keep our program thriving, reach out to Sarah or Debbie, or stop by at one of the committee meetings listed above. **Let's make great things happen together!**



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Building awareness in 4-H experiences



Beyond Ready

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

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

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

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

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

#BeyondReady

April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Online (Goosechase App)

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

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

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

Comerica Park, Detroit

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

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

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

Online

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

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

April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Stores everywhere

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

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

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

Online

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

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

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

Online

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

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

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

Online

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

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





Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day 2026 is Wednesday, April 22. Each year, Earth Day is assigned a theme to focus the celebrations. In 2026, the theme is “[Planet vs. Plastics.](#)” Visit [The Old Farmer’s Almanac](#) website for 10 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day activities and ideas to discover, enjoy, and respect our beautiful planet!

1. Support Our Pollinators!

Bring native bees and other pollinating creatures to your garden.



2. Clean Up Plastic in Your Neighborhood

One of the best ways to connect with the Earth is through cleanups. Go on a walk with a trash bag and help to clean up any plastic that you find. Perhaps you know of a nearby ditch or drainage area around the corner that is polluted with trash! [See a Plastics Recycling Chart.](#)

3. Go to a Park Today!

Find a green space today. Savor the physical and psychological benefits of spending time outdoors! [Read why getting outside is good for your body and your mind.](#)



4. Plant a Tree!

We love our trees! They capture carbon, cool overheated places, benefit agriculture, support pollinators, reduce the risk of disease transmission, and boost local economies.

5. Use Wildflowers and Native Plants

Wildflowers and indigenous species are not only beautiful but also attract native and beneficial insects that improve both pest control and pollination—meaning bigger flowers and better harvests. Try to simply add a couple of native plants to your garden each year, and you’ll be amazed at the difference—they’ll bring in pollinators as well as birds!

6. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in the Garden

Caring about yourself and nature means being less wasteful and saving money, too. Who could argue with this?

7. Stop Using Chemicals in the Garden

Most of the beginner gardeners we meet want to start growing without chemicals or pesticides—in a way that works and even saves money. Much of this is simply about focusing less on the plant and more on the health of the soil that supports it. If the soil is nutrient-rich with organic matter, plants thrive.

8. Conserve Water!

We waste a lot of water. Knowing how much your garden really needs can help you avoid overwatering your plants and improve their health. Avoid watering your garden vegetables and plants from overhead, which invites fungal disease. Water at the soil level.

9. Think About Your Diet!

About one-third of the food that we produce every year goes to waste! Usually, this happens after we buy the food. How do we avoid waste in our lives (and save money)? Also, how can we improve our diet to be healthier for ourselves (and the planet)?

10. Get Kids Involved!

Pass down a love of nature and plants to kids. There are lots of opportunities for hands-on learning experiences outside.



Credit: [Rawpixel.com](#)



Spring is Here!

How to Fly a Kite: A Beginners Guide to Kite Flying for All Ages

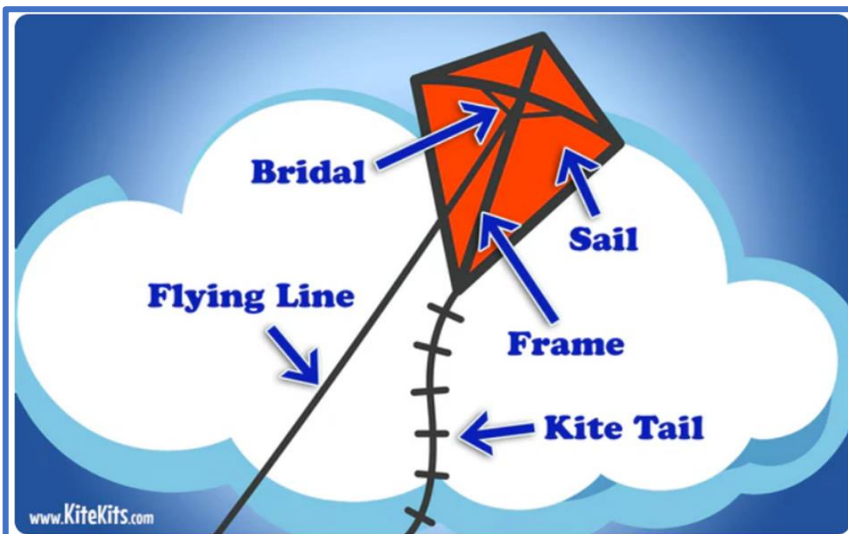
Kite flying is a delightful activity that has captivated people for generations. There's something magical about watching a colorful kite dance in the sky, tugging gently on its string. This timeless hobby is simple yet engaging, offering a perfect way to bring families together.

From toddlers to grandparents, everyone can participate, making it an ideal activity for gatherings of all sizes. Imagine the joy on a child's face when their kite takes flight, or the sense of accomplishment felt by teens and adults as they master making a new kite. Kite flying creates shared moments that foster stronger family bonds.

Educational opportunities abound with kite flying. It's a hands-on way to introduce kids to basic principles of physics and aerodynamics. They can learn about lift, drag, and wind dynamics while having a blast. For adults, understanding these principles can make the experience even more enjoyable and satisfying.

Our beginner's guide will walk you through everything you need to know about kite flying, from the basics to creative customization.

Visit [Kites In The Sky](http://www.KiteKits.com) to find everything you need to know about flying a kite.



Rainbow Easter Peeps Fruit Kabobs

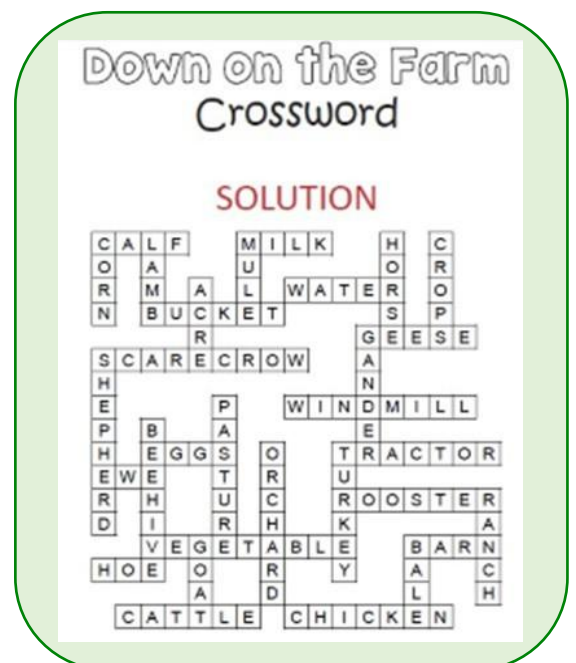
Ingredients

- Easter Bunny Peeps
- Strawberries, cut in half
- Cantaloupe, cut in 1" chunks
- Pineapple, cut in 1" chunks
- Green and Red grapes
- Blueberries
- Wooden skewer



Instructions

- Wash and dry the fruit thoroughly.
- Skewer a red grape, two blueberries, a green grape, a chunk of pineapple, a chunk of cantaloupe, and a strawberry piece onto the skewer, leaving about 2.5" of space on the end of the skewer.
- Dip the tip of the skewer into a glass of water, and then gently add the Easter Bunny Peep to the end of the skewer. As long as the skewer is wet, it should go through the Peep easily.
- Arrange the skewers on a plate in a slight arch to get the full rainbow effect!



Lapeer County 4-H
MSU Extension
1800 Imlay City Road
Lapeer, MI 48446

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4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Learn more about how you can grow with Lapeer County 4-H!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer/lapeer_county_4_h/

Facebook: @LapeerCounty4H



**Beyond
Ready**