



March 2026

4-H Family News

Leelanau County



Hello Leelanau 4-H!

I hope you are all enjoying the warm spring weather.

This spring, Leelanau 4-H is already looking ahead to summer. Cherry season is just around the corner, so be sure to sign up for the Tractor Safety Course if you are hoping to work this summer. We are also excited to return to Myles Kimberly Park this year with two 4-H Livestock Achievement Shows. It will be great to have a strong 4-H presence back at the 4-H park.

On July 14, Leelanau 4-H youth will have the opportunity to participate in a 3-hour morning educational sail aboard the Inland Seas schooner, where youth will explore Great Lakes science through hands-on learning about water quality and lake ecology. If you are interested, be sure to get on the list by contacting the office.

On April 24, 4-H will be at the Suttons Bay Library. Elementary-aged youth are invited to come learn about a variety of topics covered in 4-H through hands-on activities.

Exploration Days registration opens March 12 at 7:00 PM. Scholarships and bussing to and from the event are available! Bring your friends!

Registration is open for still exhibits at the fair. Be sure to sign up before the June 30 registration deadline. Enter your project in the auction and earn money for doing what you love. Whether it is paintings, educational posters, vegetables, or more, show it off at the fair.

We will also be hosting an Animal Nutrition Workshop. It is a great opportunity to learn how to feed your project and help it reach its full potential.

I hope you are able to join in on some of these great opportunities.

Best,
Danny

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https://www.canr.msu.edu/leelanau/leelanau_county_4_h/index/

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Monthly Education Moment: Gold Level Volunteers

Did you know that any adult interacting with youth (other than their own children) or handling money on behalf of 4-H during 4-H activities must be an approved **Gold Level Volunteer**?

Gold Level Volunteers are fully screened through MSU Extension and approved to work directly with youth in 4-H programs, events, and activities. This means that if an adult is **teaching, mentoring, supervising, chaperoning, or otherwise working with youth** during 4-H activities (other than their own children), they **must complete the Gold Level Volunteer application and approval process**.

This process helps ensure that 4-H remains a safe and positive environment for all youth participants.

If you are currently helping or interested in helping with programs, workshops, or events and expect to interact with youth, you must be an approved Gold Level Volunteer. If you are not currently approved, please contact Danny about becoming a Gold Level Volunteer..

To learn more, visit:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/volunteer_management/MSU%20Extension%20Volunteer%20Definitions.pdf



4-H Still Exhibit Projects



using your family email and password that is listed in 4-H online:

Registration is Open Here:
<http://NWMIFair4HStillProjects.fairentry.com>

How to Sign up on Fair Entry

Register on 4-H online.

<https://www.4honline.com/>

Once youth is approved by county 4-H staff in 4-H online sign in using registration link and 4-H online credentials:

<http://NWMIFair4HStillProjects.fairentry.com>

If you are not approved yet in 4-H online, it will not let you sign up.

(Please give staff time to approve.)

Look at Policy and Procedures here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/leelanau/leelanau_county_4_h/northwestern-michigan-fair-still-exhibits

4-H staff will approve fair entry registration.

Look out for emails!



4-H TRACTOR SAFETY PROGRAM

For 14 and 15 Year Old Youth



Teens can improve their chances of employment this summer by completing a tractor safety training course!

Successful completion of a tractor operation safety course is required for all youth under the age of 16 who perform farm jobs classified as hazardous, under the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupation Order.

To become certified, participants must attend all three course meetings, & pass an in-person written test and tractor driving test.

Who: Leelanau 4-H will host this training for 14 & 15 Year Old Youth. Youth must be age 14 by May 31st, 2026
Space is limited! (16 - 19 year olds are encouraged to participate, but priority is given to 14-15 year olds). Class curriculum follows *Gearing Up for Safety: Production Agriculture Safety Training for Youth*

Where: NW MI Horticulture Research Center, 6686 S. Center Hwy., Traverse City. (County Road 633 between Suttons Bay & Traverse City)

When: April 26, May 3, and May 17 from 4 to 6 p.m.
An in-person written and driving test will be given on **Sunday, May 31** by appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (using SignUp Genius)

(*Rain date will be Sunday, June 7.)

Cost: \$60 per person - includes: classes, manual, certificate, and snack on test day. Some scholarships are available if finances are an issue.

*The registration deadline is April 22, 2026.
Contact the Leelanau MSU Extension office with any questions - 231.256.9888 or schaubda@msu.edu.*

4-H Tractor Safety Registration is a TWO step process...

1. Register and payonline at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4Htractorsafety2026/>
2. Become a 4-H member and create a profile online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/>

4-H Animal Nutrition Workshop

March 22nd 12:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Build a Better Nutrition Program!

**What do the numbers on my feed tag mean?
How do I formulate diets?
How can I change diets to meet project goals?
And more!**



Open to all youth Ages 8+!

Must become enrolled into 4-H: www.4honline.com

Registration link:

**[https://events.anr.msu.edu/
leelanau4Hnutritionworkshop/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/leelanau4Hnutritionworkshop/)**

Questions? Contact Danny at schaubda@msu.edu

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Leelanau 4-H Livestock Achievement Pre-Fair Shows

At Myles Kimberly 4-H Park



Registration deadline: May 5th!

Show Dates:

June 13: Sheep and Goat

June 20: Jr. and Large Beef

Rain dates: June 14 for Sheep and Goat and June 21 for Beef.

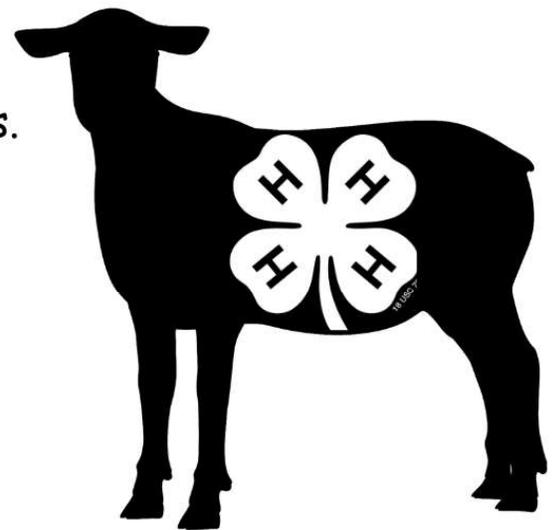
4-H showmanship & Market feedback classes

Weigh in 7:30 a.m.

Showmanship classes will start at 10:00 a.m.

Show Information

- Animals will be shown directly out of trailers.
- Shaded tents and water access available.
- Please bring your own water buckets.
- Limited electricity.
- **Please come show ready.**
- Lemonade and water coolers provided.



Register here: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4908/>

For questions please contact schaubda@msu.edu or 231-256-9888

2026

4-H Exploration Days



June 24-26th, 2026

Michigan State University Campus
East Lansing, Michigan



Who?

All young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! You don't need to be a 4-H member to attend. Adults interested in chaperoning should contact their county 4-H program coordinator.

What?

Live like a college student while exploring careers, building skills, and envisioning your future. This three-day pre-college program offers over 100 fun learning sessions across MSU campus led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff, and experts.

Scholarships and Bussing Available!

How much? 2026 cost is \$250 for youth, which includes two nights' lodging, meals, sessions, free-time activities, and an event T-shirt,

Contact Information:
schaubda@msu.edu
231-256-9888

Need more info?
Scan here:



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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

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

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.

Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.



Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch 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. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

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

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.