



APRIL 2026

4-H Family News



Livingston County

4-H Exploration Days Male Chaperone Needed

4-H Exploration Days is a pre-college program that welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime.

We need a male chaperone (21+ years old) for this event! We have at least one male youth who wants to attend and we cannot have him go without a male chaperone.

There will be no cost to attend but volunteers will need to arrive on campus on the morning of June 24th and stay until the afternoon of the 26th. Chaperones are responsible for supervising youth and helping with other assigned tasks at the event. All meals are provided and there is usually some free Dairy Store Ice Cream!

If you are interested, contact Jenny Speyer, speyerje@msu.edu

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Animal Project Committee General Meeting

April 21st at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Committee General Meeting

April 22nd at 6 pm at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds

Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar

April 21st – May 19th, Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30 pm on Zoom

Deadline to Enroll in 4-H Online for Fowlerville YS

April 30th

Fowlerville Youth Show Tagging

May 2nd from 8 am – 2 pm at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Upcoming Livingston County 4-H General Meetings for Animal Project & Horse



We have two upcoming Livingston County 4-H General Meetings! These meetings serve as a way to get plugged into your county wide 4-H program, shape upcoming workshops, learn from guest speakers, and connect with other 4-H members and volunteers across the county.

ALL Livingston County 4-H Youth, Volunteers, and Families are invited.

- **Animal Project:** April 21st at 6pm, at the MSU Extension Office. Hear from some of our livestock judging team and learn more about how to get involved with our upcoming clinics and workshops!

- **Horse Committee:**

April 22nd, 6pm, at the 4-H Building on the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds, 8800 West Grand River, Fowlerville, MI. Join us for presentations from some of our youth, fair preparations with superintendent Michelle C., and more! Optional: Bring a snack to pass! *Horse Program youth - watch for another email with Levels of Achievement information!*

Fowlerville Youth Show News & Deadlines

We also want to remind families who want to participate in the Fowlerville Youth Show, that April 30th is the deadline to be enrolled in [4-H Online](#) to participate as a 4-H member. It's always good to check you are enrolled now so you don't miss any important communications from the 4-H office.

May 1st is when Fowlerville YS Exhibitors forms are due for exhibitors showing cat, swine, dog, horse & pony, and camelids.



Exhibitors showing these must include the appropriate veterinary forms with their paperwork. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Late forms will not be accepted so make sure you have all your appointments booked and forms ready! This is all through the Fowlerville Family Fair so please do not contact the 4-H Office with questions about forms.

Also, the Fowlerville Family Fair has recently created a new Facebook group for the Youth Show. This is the best place (other than their website) to get up to date information on the Fowlerville Youth Show. You can find the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fowlervilleyouthshow>

Finally, check out their [Youth Show newsletters](#) for any volunteer opportunities available!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee 2026 Night Run Series & Leaders Day

Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee is excited to announce the upcoming dates for their 2026 Night Run Series and the 2026 Leaders Day Open Youth Horse Show!

The Night Run Series will be on Wednesdays at 6 pm on May 27th, June 3rd, June 10th, and July 8th at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds. Rain date is July 12th. Prizes for each division are 1st Belt Buckle, 2nd Lawn Chair, 3rd Picture Frame, and Open Payback. This is an open show for Adults (+20), Seniors (15-19), Intermediate (12-14), Juniors (9-11), and walk/trot (8+).

Events include barrels, poles, and other speed games. For more information and to enter, check out the full Showbill: <https://bit.ly/4HNightRun26>

The 2026 Leaders Day Open Youth Horse Show will be on July 11th at Cohoctah Park, 1000 W Allen Rd., Howell, MI 48855. Highpoints for English, Western, Gymkhana. Rosette Ribbons for 1st-8th place. There are four divisions: 8-13, 14-19, Pony 8-19, and Walk/Trot 8-19. Also there are Cloverbud and PEP/TRP classes.

For more information, check out the full Showbill: <https://bit.ly/4HLeadersDay26>



One Time 4-H Volunteer Opportunities for Teens and Volunteers



Do you want to help out Livingston County 4-H but don't have a lot of time? Check out one of these upcoming one-time opportunities for 4-H teen leaders and 4-H volunteers. Not a volunteer yet? Contact Jenny or Kat for more information on the process. We can also sign off on volunteer hours for teens that need them for school, NHS, or other organizations.

Here are some upcoming events we need help with:

- Thursday April 9th from 5-7 pm at Fowlerville Elementary Science Night: 4-H Staff need assistance with insect activities
- Saturday April 25th from 11 am – 1 pm in Brighton (Near Library) for SELCRA Earth Day: 4-H Staff need assistance with insect/pollinator activities
- Thursday May 7th from 5-7 pm at Navigator School in Pinckney for a STEAM Night helping 4-H staff with hands-on sink or float activities

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Jenny at speyerje@msu.edu or call 734-436-1362.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat.” George Santayana



Thank you to Barb Parker for submitting this article and volunteering your time to help our clubs and members.

Keeping accurate records on your 4-H personal and club projects will lead to cost and time efficiencies, improved animal health and welfare, and fun and educational club meetings. How? Documentation of what was done in the past, through charts, pictures, notes and meeting

minutes versus relying on varying memories will help you see what was done before and how it might be improved.

There are [formal 4-H record books available](#), or you can design your own. These record books can be entered in the Fowlerville Family Fair under the Leadership Skills Department.

I am the Superintendent of Leadership Skills, and I am available to speak at a 4-H club meeting or to individuals about record keeping. We are trialing a new record book for Still Auction Projects that will aid you in making and marketing your project.

Contact: Barb Parker (810)957-0390 or joeparker@fnwusers.com

We Need Youth Feedback on the Awards Survey



We want youth feedback on our County Awards! We are working on restructuring our county awards program and, but this will not impact Cloverbud, Special Service, Leader Service, or Key Club awards. Junior Achievement, Incentive, and county medals (including specialty medals) will be impacted by these changes, but we need your input to help shape what changes we make.

Any 4-H youth in our program can participate and you do not have to be a prior awards winner to provide feedback. Parents are welcome to type in the responses for their child, but we do want their opinions. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. [Take the survey](#)

Reminder for Market Rabbit Exhibitors at Fowlerville Family Fair

Are you planning to bring market rabbits to the Fowlerville Youth Show this year? It's almost time to start breeding your litters for Fair! To ensure your meat pens and fryers are within the Fair age limits, all breedings should take place between April 9th and April 25th. All market rabbits must be raised from birth by exhibitor. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Fowlerville Family Fair Rabbit Superintendent, Donna Carpenter at havanadonna@yahoo.com.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Fowlerville Family Fair Tagging Saturday May 2nd 8 am – 2 pm

If you plan to exhibit market livestock at the Fowlerville Family Fair, make sure you mark your calendars for the Saturday, May 2nd tagging date. This is for market animals- Sheep, Goats, Beef (Market Beef & Market Dairy), and Feeder Calves. Animals must be tagged at this tagging to be shown in the market class and sold in the auction.

Animals need to have proper government ID tags in order to be tagged for fair. (Two different types of tags) Goats and Sheep need to have a Scrapie tag. Cattle need to have an RFID tag.

These tags are supplied by the breeder of the animal and should be in the ear prior to taking the animal off of the farm. If you do not have the proper government ID tag, Fowlerville Fair will not be able to tag your animal for fair.

Contact the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds Staff if you have questions about tagging, at fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com or 517-223-8186.



Silver Level Volunteer Screening for 4-H Kitchen Volunteers



Are you planning to volunteer this July at the 4-H Kitchen? Get started now on your volunteer screening. 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 MSU Extension volunteers. This ensures those who work alongside us or directly with youth and the people we serve are safe and have positive experiences that enrich their lives.

Adults who work in the 4-H Kitchen or at one time events need to complete the **silver** level volunteer screening. This DOES NOT require an interview, references, or trainings. If you completed this screening last year, you do NOT need to redo the screening. You can start the [application here](#).

Make sure to choose **Silver** level, **4-H Youth Development** as the program and **Livingston** as your county. You will only need to complete an application and consent to a background check. If you have questions about the process, please email Kat at krollkat@msu.edu.

This level of volunteer is only for one-time events like the 4-H Kitchen. If you are interested in volunteering more than for 4-H Kitchen, please reach out to Kat about the process. We are always looking for folks interested in volunteering for our 4-H programs.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program Needs Volunteers!



Also, Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program needs more volunteers for their Tuesday and Thursday evening programs June-July! This program assists children with special needs through therapeutic equine activities. There are many volunteer opportunities available for adults and youth (teens).

Tasks include:

- Grooming horses
- Tacking horses
- Assisting with check-in and class preparations
- Supporting wranglers during their class

Do you have a passion for both horses and teaching? We are also looking to add an additional paid instructor to our program. Contact us at the email below for information on any of the opportunities above and more!

Email grandequestrians@gmail.com to sign up or for further information!

Belts-N-Buckles 4-H Club Update

Belts-N-Buckles had a very exciting meeting. We got together to discuss, and plan for, fair and get items made for displaying our club and we were lucky enough to see baby lambs be born. A great learning experience for our youth regarding animal care after birth!!!

Trisha Roeske, one of our leaders, was great at teaching the kiddos all the things when a baby lamb comes into the world.

Thank you to Dawn Lucier for this information.

The club is open to new members and you can contact Dawn Lucier at dawnalucier@gmail.com.

Show Feed Clinic at Webberville Feed on April 22nd at 6 pm












Webberville Feed is hosting a Show Feed Clinic from Formula Champions Show Feed on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6 pm at Webberville Feed, 421 S Summit St., Webberville, MI 48892. Dinner is provided and participants must RSVP to 517-521-3082 or webbervillefeed@gmail.com.

This is not a 4-H event, so please contact Webberville Feed if you have questions.



April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 	4
5 	6	7	8 	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18  **Tentative** 4-H Building painting/workday
19	20	21 6pm - Animal Project committee GENERAL meeting 	22 6pm: Horse Committee General Meeting 	23	24	25 11 am - 1 pm SELCRA Earth Day in Brighton **Tentative** 4-H Building painting/workday
26 	27	28 	29	30 4-H ONLINE Registration DEADLINE!!! 		



May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1  MAY 1 FORMS DUE!!	2 8:00-2:00pm Tagging for Market Cattle, Feeders, Goats, and Sheep
3	4 	5  7pm - Animal Project Committee Meeting	6	7 	8	9
10	11	12  7pm - Horse committee meeting	13	14	15 	16
17 	18	19 7pm - Council Meeting	20	21	22	23 
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 Night Run Series Horse Show 	28	29 	30
31						



ARBA Rabbit show at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds - For more information, see: <https://msrba.net/>





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





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/.



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.

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.