



JANUARY 2026

4-H Family News

Livingston County



Happy New Year! It's a Great Time to Check your 4-H Online Enrollment



We are excited to kick off another year in Livingston County 4-H!

As we begin the new year, we want to remind you to double check your 4-H Online enrollment. Being an active member of 4-H is important not only for being able to attend 4-H events and programs, but also for important deadlines and insurance coverage.

Starting this month, we will no longer be sending 4-H communications to folks who are not enrolled in 4-H online for 2025-26.

Not sure if you enrolled? You can log into your family account at [4-H Online](#).

If you are having trouble with your account or need assistance, please reach out to Kat or Jenny for help.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Livestock Judging Team Program

January 5th and 19th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

4-H Council Meeting

January 20th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Making the Best Better: 4-H Volunteer Series

January 29th in Monroe and February 12th in Livingston

Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack & Craft Sale

February 14th from 10 am – 2 pm at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center, 9525 E Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Program

February 18th from 6:30-7:30 pm at LESA, 1425 W Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Join us for the Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack and Craft Sale on Feb 14th



The Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee will be hosting their annual Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack and Craft Sale on Saturday, February 14th from 10 am – 2 pm at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center Gymnasium at 9525 E Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843. Entry is free! There will also be a silent auction fundraiser with bidding ending at 1 pm.

Vendors can sign up now and reserve a space. Single spaces are \$25 and double spaces are \$40. Tables are \$10 each. Check out the registration for details on tables sizes.

Registration closes on February 6th and there is a late fee for registrations made about January 31st. 4-H Members, volunteers, and clubs get a \$5 discount.

General and silent auction proceeds will be used for Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee programming, scholarships, and general funds. [Check out the Tack and Craft Sale Flyer here.](#)

Vendors register for a table here: <http://bit.ly/4HTackSale26>

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Program on February 18th at 6:30 pm

This Winter we will be partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for this fun, interactive program on Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes. At this hands-on workshop, youth will learn amazing rattlesnake secrets, practice safe and respectful handling techniques and learn how to use technology to "track" snakes. This program is targeted for youth 8 – 14 years old but older teens can attend. This program is at Livingston County 4-H at the Livingston Educational Service Agency. Preregistration is required to attend.



Register here: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2gdVbbQz5MbL9TE

Silent Auction Items Needed for Hartland Tack and Craft Sale



The Horse Committee is requesting that all 4-H members consider donating an item for the Silent Auction fundraiser to be held in conjunction with the Hartland Tack and Craft Sale on February 14. Farm-based items are especially welcome, such as honey, maple syrup, goat-milk soaps, etc. A tag promoting your farm/farm products can be attached. Gift baskets and crafted items are also welcome. Please contact Kat, krollkat@msu.edu, for more information.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Making the Best Better: 4-H Volunteer Series Across Southeast Michigan

Livingston County 4-H is teaming up with our surrounding District 12 counties (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, and Washtenaw) to host a 4-H Volunteer Learning series in person or virtual January – March. Each of the 5 sessions will focus on a different theme and many sessions will include seasoned volunteers who can share their tips, tricks, and perspective.

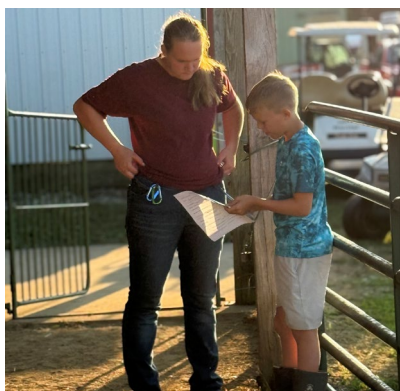
- Join the Conversation: Tips for Engagement from Seasoned 4-H Leaders: January 29th at 6:30 pm in Monroe
- Cha-ching Making Cents of 4-H Finances: February 12th at 6:30 pm in Our Livingston County MSU Extension Office
- Join the Conversation: Engaging Parents & 4-H Alums in 4-H Experiences and Implementing Shared Leadership in 4-H Clubs: February 26th at 6:30 pm in Washtenaw
- Youth Engagement & Engaging Youth Voice: March 12th at 6:30 pm in Lenawee
- From Clash to Collaboration: Practicing the Art of Conflict Resolution: March 26th at 6:30 pm in Jackson



This series is for all volunteers, whether your brand new to 4-H or have been volunteering for decades. Learn alongside and with your fellow 4-H volunteers.

Register for one or more sessions here: <https://bit.ly/d12volunteer>

January is the Last Chance to Join the Livingston County 4-H Livestock Judging Team!



The Livingston County 4-H Livestock Judging team is still looking for members for the 2025-2026 program year! Participants will learn about livestock conformation, selection, evaluation, and how to judge a class of livestock! Primary species of focus are Beef Cattle, Swine, Market Lambs, and Market Goats - we will also cover basics on dairy animals, rabbits, poultry, and dogs as time permits!

4-H members age 8-19 are encouraged to join us for the next meeting on January 5th at 6:30pm. We will be meeting at the MSU Extension Office conference room at 2300 E Grand River Ave, Howell MI 48843. **We especially need more members for a senior team (ages 14-19 years old).**

There is no cost for participation in the team. No animals or experience necessary!

No pre-registration required, but RSVP's are always appreciated. For additional information, or to RSVP, please contact Kat at Krollkat@msu.edu



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Programming at Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority



Livingston County 4-H is excited to partner with the Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority to host a Learning by Doing with 4-H program on February 21st from 2-4 pm at their location at 7540 Whitmore Lake Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

This program is for families interested in 4-H to learn about 4-H, engage in some hands-on activities, and to find out more about Livingston County 4-H. Youth 8-14 years old are welcome to attend. If you know any families interested, please pass along this information.

You can find the registration on their website at: <https://www.selcra.com/>

Fowlerville Family Fair is Looking for Volunteers

The Fowlerville Youth Show & other Fair Committees are looking for volunteers! This is your chance to help shape the fair, share your ideas, and give back to the community. The Youth Show Committee Application can be found here: [Youth Show Committee Application](#). If you enjoy planning, organizing, being part of the bigger picture, or simply want to support the fairgrounds, please contact them at: fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com. Use the email subject line: FAS COMMITTEE.



Livingston County 4-H Member Rachel Pollok-Newsom Participates in NAILE



Livingston County 4-H Member Rachel Pollok-Newsom of Gusty Acres 2.0 4-H Club participated in the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville Kentucky this November. She had a great first time and is pictured with her wether, Jason.

We love to see our Livingston County 4-H youth taking advantage of opportunities to expand their skills in showmanship at other shows and programs. To find out more about opportunities like this to show livestock outside of 4-H, you can check out their website: [North American International Livestock Exposition](#)



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Leader Spotlight: Jessie Myers of Little Barn 4-H Club

We are always impressed by the amazing 4-H volunteers in Livingston County and one of these leaders that was recognized this year is Jessie Myers!

Jessy is the leader of Little Barn 4-H Club and one of two winners of the Leader Service Award for 2025. Jessy has been a volunteer for three years and founded Little Barn in January 2023. Since that time, she has been a passionate leader helping her members make their ideas a reality. This includes helping lead the club in floating building for the Fowlerville Christmas in the Ville Parade, being a part of the Fowlerville Farms Market, creating a time capsule quilt, and designing club t-shirts. Jessy sets the standard for Little Barn, ensuring that they will work hard, have exceptional care of their livestock, and most importantly work together as a team to ensure everyone is supported!



Thank you, Jessy, for all you do for your 4-H club and Livingston County 4-H! Next month, we will feature our second Leader Service Award Winner, Melissa Labadie of Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club.

Register for Spark and Share Summit in Frankenmuth on Saturday March 7th



The Southeast Region of Michigan Association of Extension 4-H Youth Staff invites you to the **2026 Spark and Share Summit** March 7th at Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center.

This 1-day workshop that brings together volunteers and teen leaders to learn new projects and information that they can take back to teach and share in their local 4-H program. Participants can network with other 4-H members and volunteers throughout the day to gain new ideas and reenergize their passion for 4-H. The conference will include selection of up to 4 breakout sessions, lunch, and an opening and closing session. The conference is scheduled for 1-day, but participants have the option to individually make reservations to spend the weekend.

Registration is \$75 and includes lunch. If you are interested in funding to help with the cost, please contact Kat VanDouser at krollkat@msu.edu or Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu before you register. To find out more or register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026/>

COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Gusty Acres 2.0 4-H Club Update

Gusty Acres 2.0 4-H Club got together to make and decorate cookies to take with us when we deliver our Christmas cards for our "Cookies and Cocoa with our Seniors" day! We voted for our club representatives with our youngest even getting up and giving their speeches in front of the club! 2026 is going to be a big year for our club and members with new adventures! Merry Christmas and happy new year from our club to yours!

Thank you to 4-H Club Reporter Amelia Orr for submitting this newsletter article



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 horseback riding. There are many volunteer opportunities available for adults and youth (teens).

Tasks include:

- Grooming horses
- Tacking horses
- Helping children get ready to ride
- Supporting riders during lessons

We also show at the Fowlerville fairgrounds!

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!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congratulations to Our Grand Equestrian Wrangler Award Winners



This year, four of our Grand Equestrians participants were awarded the Grand Equestrian Wrangler award. This award is presented to youth who demonstrate notable growth or achievement through the Grand Equestrians Programming. This is a new award for 2025, and award winners were nominated by their out of the saddle program instructor, Kat Black, and Grand Equestrians President, Natalie Strauss.

In 2025, all four youth were the first Michigan 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program participants to compete in an Out of the Saddle show class in the state and were among the original participants in the 2023 trial run of the Out of the Saddle program. Participants exhibited at the Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee's Leaders Day Show, and Natalie, Juliana, and Emily competed in the 2025 Fowlerville Family Fair Youth Show in the Therapeutic Riding class.

From Top to Bottom:






- Juliana Campbell has shown no fear in getting her horse to do as she asks. Juliana also showed in the Fowlerville Fair this year!
- Natalie Campbell has shown she can make a decision on her own that fits her needs working with her horse. Natalie also showed in the Fowlerville Fair this year!
- Chloe Cory has shown great improvement in learning where she wants to go and how to get there with her horse.
- Emily McLellan has shown courage to keep going when things looked impossible because of the terrain / surface leaning on her horse for support helps. Emily also showed in the Fowlerville Fair this year!

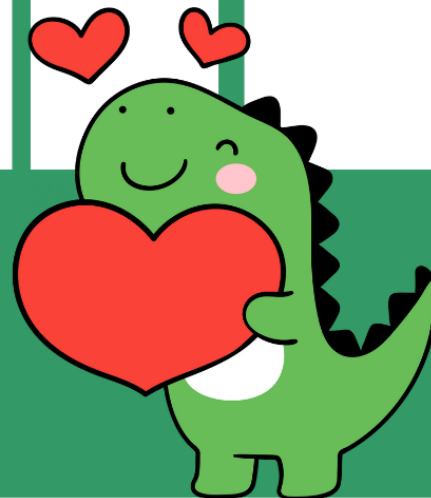
We look forward to seeing all the progress our Grand Equestrian participants make in 2026!



February



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3  7pm - Animal Project committee meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9 	10	11	12	13	14  10am-2pm- Horse Committee Tack sale at HESC
15	16 	17	18  6pm: Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Program at LESA	19	20	21
22	23	24  7pm - 4-H Grand Equestrians Meeting	25	26	27	28



Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Kat and we will try our best to add it here!



2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse

4-H Livestock and Veterinary
Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay

4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order

4-H Dairy Educator
vanorde4@msu.edu

Jermo Reese

4-H Animal Science Program
Instructor
reesejer@msu.edu

Jacob Stieg

4-H Poultry Point of Contact
stieg@msu.edu

Kat VanDouser

4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glenda Weiss

4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

January 24

4-H State Rabbit Show

Feb. 27- March 1

4-H Dairy Conference

March 7

4-H Spring Livestock Workshop

March 14

4-H Horse Communications Contest

March 21-22

Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show

March 21

4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop

March 22

4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl

April 11

4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest

April 12

4-H Hippology State Contest

May 6

4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest

June 10-11

Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp

June 27

4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

July 1

4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest

July 6-7 & 8-9

4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp

July 13-16

4-H Youth Dairy Days

August 13-16

4-H State Horse Show

September 19

4-H State Dog Show



Scan me for more
information about these
programs!

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Relationships are the foundation of a successful 4-H program! These relationships include building friendships with other members and leaders, building great working relationships and trust between program leaders and members, and adult leaders working together to organize great opportunities for youth.

We hope you can find others in the 4-H program in which you can build positive friendships and/or mentorships. Join us for any events and meetings to get to know everyone in the program.

Youth thriving is the first step in building youth who are #BeyondReady! Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

January 13: Wild Spartans

Online

This month's session is "Nature's Detectives: How Insects Help Solve Crimes Against People, Animals and the Environment through Forensic Entomology." Tiny creatures can tell BIG stories about the world around us: explore creepy-crawly clues and learn how science and nature work together to solve puzzles. Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

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

January 13: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

In today's digital world, young people are increasingly targeted by fraudsters, scammers and predatory lenders. This interactive webinar will empower youth with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and their personal information.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-jan13

January 21: Adulting 101 – Fraud Fighters: How to Stay Scam-Free

Online

From fake jobs offers to phishing texts, scammers are everywhere. This workshop breaks down the latest tricks and shows you how to guard your info, your credit, and your peace of mind.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>

January 24: 2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

4-H'ers exhibit rabbit and cavy projects and participate in educational knowledge contests: showmanship, skillathon, breed identification and rabbit hopping. **Register by January 14.**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-state-4-h-rabbit-and-cavy-show-and-expo

January 26: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Beyond Ready Basics

Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. Explore the four vital elements that help youth thrive: discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-basics-bringing-the-vital-elements-to-life-in-your-4-h-club

February 7: 4-H Winterfest

Eagle Village Retreat Center, Hersey

4-H Winterfest is a hand-on learning camp for youth ages 8-12. Youth pick workshops and participate in team building activities. Come and have fun this winter! **Register by January 23.**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-winterfest





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Register for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 15-17, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on: agriculture; civil rights and youth advocacy; crime and law enforcement; education and teacher retention; environment and natural resources; health; and jobs, the economy and infrastructure.

The cost to attend is \$365, which includes lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Earn prizes with the Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Did you know youth are being targeted by scams too? That's this year's theme for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! Michigan youth aged 9-19 are invited to participate through writing an essay on this year's question.

Top entries receive a \$100 gift card, thanks to contest sponsor, Extra Credit Union. MSU Extension will host two webinars to help with fraud awareness and essay writing. Essays are due by March 1. For contest details and essay submission information, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest.



Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 10 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence contest (10-11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). An Achievement Award was added last year for 18-19-year-olds. Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found online at bit.ly/stateaward. Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.