



MARCH 2026

# 4-H Family News

Livingston County



## Livingston County 4-H Awards Survey

Livingston County 4-H staff would like 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](#)

## CONTACT US

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

### Horse Committee Meeting

March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

### 4-H Exploration Day Registration Opens

March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

### 4-H Council Meeting

March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

### Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar

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

### Deadline to Enroll in 4-H Online for Fowlerville YS

April 30<sup>th</sup>

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Livingston County 4-H Hippology Team at Equine Connection Weekend at MSU



The Livingston County 4-H Hippology Team has been working hard practicing and got the chance to practice before the State Show at Equine Connection Weekend at MSU from January 30<sup>th</sup>-February 1<sup>st</sup> at MSU. This event was hosted by the Michigan State University Animal Science Department and Michigan Quarter Horse Association.

Six youth participated in the Hippology Practice Contest. From left to right: Kara Peters, Savannah Williams, Alyson Labadie, Hallie Wilson, Emmalyn Ringle, Penelope Harrison

We also had some of these youth participate in the Horse Judging practice: Hallie Wilson, Alyson Labadie, Emmalyn Ringle, Penelope Harrison.

They also enjoyed shopping at the tack sale during Equine Connection Weekend.

## Fowlerville Youth Show Upcoming Deadlines

We also want to remind families who want to participate in the Fowlerville Youth Show, that May 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> is also 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!

May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 am – 2 pm is then tagging for all market beef, feeders, goats, and sheep at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds. Tagging is required for market animals to be auctioned. Volunteers are needed to tagging so if you are interested, please contact the Fowlerville Fair at [fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com](mailto:fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com) or call (517) 223-8186 during business hours.

The Fowlerville Ag Society Board of Directors also made an announcement on February 13<sup>th</sup> regarding Junior Ag Society. Please read [the letter on their website](#) for more information.

We welcome all families that would like to join Livingston County 4-H! If you are interested in starting a club or being a volunteer, please contact Kat VanDouser at [krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu).





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinars: Tuesdays this Spring

Ready to take your market livestock project from your 4-H best to better? The 2026 Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project webinar series is packed with tips to help 4-H'ers (ages 8-19) build confidence, sharpen marketing skills, and boost auction success!

Webinars are on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm starting on April 21<sup>st</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>. Each week features a new skill including: SMART goals, effective communication, marketing strategies, record keeping & break-even points, social media promotion, & buyer outreach.

You can find all the [details on their website](#) or [register for these free zoom webinars](#).



## Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds: Board Vacancy, Volunteers Needed, Camping Dates



The Fowlerville Fair Board of Directors has an opening and is looking for applicants. If you are interested, please contact the Fowlerville Fair Office by 12:00 pm on March 16th. You must be an active Fowlerville Ag Society member for minimum 30 days to be applicable.

You can email them at [fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com](mailto:fair@fowlervillefamilyfair.com)

Subject Line: Board Inquiry.

There are also looking for volunteers to fill open spots on Youth Show Committee, Auction Committee, and Exhibitor Committee. If you are interested, please contact the Fair Office.

**The date for camping registration for the Fowlerville Fair has also moved and will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 11 am.** Spaces are on a first come first served basis!

This includes water and electric hookup.

Rustic camping is available until further notice

Information can be found on our website: <https://www.fowlervillefamilyfair.com/fair/fair-camping/>

Want to keep update to on Fowlerville Family Fair News? Make sure to check out the [Fowlerville Ag Society Newsletters](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#).



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 4-H Exploration Days: Registration on March 12<sup>th</sup> & Chaperones Needed



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS THROUGH 4-H  
MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

4-H Exploration Days is a precollege program 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.

Counties attend this event as a delegation and must provide their own chaperones. **Livingston County has not had a female or male chaperone attend in more than 4 years and this year we will not be able to attend unless we have chaperones willing to attend. If your 4-H'er is attending to teach a session, they will have a chaperone.**

Registration opens on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and popular sessions fill up quickly. If you plan to attend, we recommend being ready to register when it opens and having a list of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices for each session in case they are already full.

4-H Council has funds for scholarships - youth interested in a scholarship for this event can contact Jenny or Kat. If you are interested in attending, check out the [session descriptions](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/) and learn more on the website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/)

## What Does a 4-H Exploration Days Chaperone Do?

Are you interested in being a 4-H Exploration Days Chaperone but not sure what they do? Chaperones arrive on campus the morning of Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup> and stay until Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>. Chaperones must stay in the dorms and remain on campus during the event.

Your main responsibility is making sure that youth get to their sessions and checking in throughout the three days. You may be assigned some volunteer tasks like riding the bus with youth to a session or taking attendance at a session. All meals are provided and there is usually free Dairy Store Ice Cream!

Livingston County 4-H will pay for the cost of registration. It's a great time to meet other 4-H volunteers and get to know our Livingston County 4-H youth! We are looking for adults ages 21+ years old who are already 4-H volunteers or willing to become a 4-H Volunteer to attend.

If you are interested, please contact Jenny Speyer, [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu)





# 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](mailto:grandequestrians@gmail.com) to sign up or for further information!

## Livingston County 4-H Ambassadors Planning for the Howell Farmers Market!



The Livingston County 4-H Ambassadors have been hard at work this year planning to promote 4-H in their community and beyond. The Livingston County 4-H Ambassadors are a group of teen leaders who meet once a month to work on projects related to promoting and strengthening Livingston County 4-H.

This year they are working to book tables at the Howell Farmers Market to have hands-on activities to introduce youth to 4-H. They are also teaching a session called Marketing Your Best Self at 4-H Exploration Days in June.

## Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club Hosts Bake Sale at 4-H Hartland Tack & Craft Sale

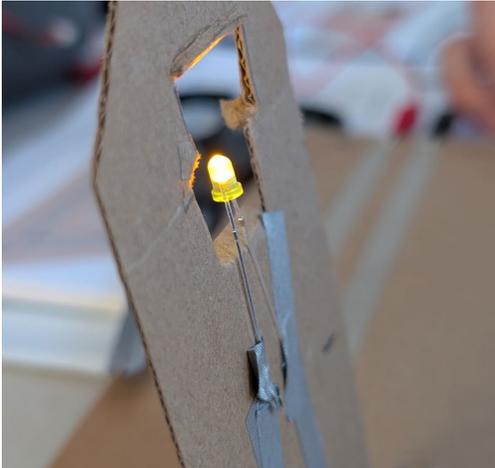
Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club came out to Livingston County 4-H Hartland Tack and Craft Sale to raise funds for their club activities. Club members made a variety of bake sale items like cupcakes, breads, cookies, and so much more. This is a great way to raise funds for your club and we love to see the youth involved. Great job Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club!





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Roots and Wings 4-H Club works on Tech and Clay



On Monday, Feb 23, 2026, Roots & Wings met for a project meeting. While some of the older club members continued working on their tech project, Lights On in the Neighborhood, the rest of the club learned how to make and use paper clay and how to work with natural clay. The tech members successfully lit their circuit and will be moving onto coding eventually, and lots of innovative clay techniques were practiced.

Thank you to Lucy Coppola, the club reporter, for sending in this information.

## Keepin It Country 4-H Club Creates Valentines for a Service Project

Keepin It Country 4-H club was busy at their January meeting creating Valentine's Day cards for a service project. The club then passed them out in February to seniors at the Woodland Assisted Living Facility in Brighton.

Thank you to Blair Fischback, secretary for the club for submitting this information.



## Barnyard Bunch 4-H Club Service Project for Fowlerville VFW



In February, the Barnyard Bunch 4-H Club decorated Kleenex Boxes to be donated to the Fowlerville VFW. Members spent time making sure each box was special, wishing whoever received it a very Happy Valentine's Day. The Fowlerville VFW used the Kleenex boxes as table decorations for an event they had, and then sent the boxes home with Veterans. The Barnyard Bunch 4-H club is very thankful to all the men and women who have served or are serving.



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

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](http://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/>.



# March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 MSRBA Convention Rabbit Show - MSU Pavillion 	2	3	4	5 	6	7  4-H Spark & Share in Frankenmuth
8 	9	10  7pm - Horse Committee Meeting	11	12	13	14 
15	16	17  7pm - 4-H Council Meeting	18	19 	20 	21
22 	23	24	25 	26 	27 	28 
29	30	31 				

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



# April 2026



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