



OCTOBER 2025

4-H Family News

Livingston County



Save the Date for County Awards!



Save the Date! We are excited to our Livingston County 4-H County Awards will be held in the 4-H Building on Saturday November 8th in the afternoon. More details are to come soon. We are looking forward to recognizing our fantastic 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, and community supporters at this program.

We also want to encourage 4-H Leaders to nominate youth or encourage youth to apply for these awards. All awards are self-nominating (youth must complete the application) except for Leader and Special Service Awards. [You can find more details and guidelines for all the awards on our website.](#)

You can find the nomination and application forms on [our website](#).

Both electronic and hard copy submissions are accepted (Key Club applications must be a hard copy). The deadline for all award applications is Friday, October 17th at 5pm.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

4-H Building Workdays

October 4th and 11th (*Tentative*) at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds

Animal Project Committee Meeting

October 7th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Pinckney Trail Ride

October 12th at 2 pm at Pinckney Recreation Area

Horse Committee Meeting (*Rescheduled*)

October 13th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Grand Equestrians Committee Meeting (*Rescheduled*)

October 21st at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

County Awards Program

November 8th Time TBA at 4-H Building at Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Re-Enroll for the 2025-26 4-H Program Year!



The new 2025-26 4-H Program year has begun and it's time to start re-enrolling your family in [4-H Online](#)! We recommend enrolling as soon as possible so you don't miss any important communications and also, so you are covered under 4-H supplemental insurance policies. Club leaders should make sure families are re-enrolled before they begin participating in 4-H activities.

If you don't want to enroll online or need a paper enrollment form, please contact 4-H staff or stop by our MSU Extension Office between 9 am – 12 pm or 1-4 pm Monday-Friday.

4-H Ambassadors Applications for 2025-26 Now Available

We are now [accepting applications](#) for the 4-H Ambassadors program 2025-26. 4-H Ambassadors meet once a month throughout the year and work on leadership skills like public speaking, problem-solving, marketing, and planning. The 4-H Ambassadors also help plan countywide events, activities for the Fowlerville Fair, and much more! Please encourage youth to apply, especially those that have shown an interest in leadership or are currently leaders in your club or committee.

The deadline for applications is November 7th, and they can be turned in at the MSU Extension Office or via email. If you have questions about the application or program, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu.



Opportunities on Livingston County 4-H Countywide Animal Science Teams



It is time for us to start forming our county wide animal science teams! We are offering three programs this year: Hippology, Horse Judging, and Livestock Judging! The Hippology team studies all things horses - from feed & nutrition, to breed identification, tack, and more! The Horse Judging team places you into the role of judge! The Livestock Judging team will focus on judging Beef, Swine, Sheep, and Market goats, but will learn important skills and knowledge for all species, as well as how to explain your reasoning.

These are great opportunities for youth to expand their knowledge and do not require youth to own or lease animals! For more information and to be added to the contact list for these programs, please complete the following survey:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6S8UIQZpApH4KR8



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Run for an Officer Position on a Livingston County 4-H Committee

We need more 4-H youth to use their voices and shape our program at our Livingston County 4-H Committee meetings! This is YOUR 4-H program, and we encourage 4-H members run for officer positions on committees relevant to their projects and interests.

Our Livingston County 4-H Committees include 4-H Animal Project, Council, Grand Equestrians, and Horse. Youth interested must be enrolled 4-H members prior to being elected. **Adults interested in serving on a committee must be Gold level volunteers prior to being elected.** If you are interested in running for an elected position on any of the following committees, please contact Kat VanDouser, krollkat@msu.edu.



The requirements for youth and adult officers for each committees are included below:

- 4-H Horse Committee will hold their elections in November, and youth must be 4-H age 9 – 19 years old to be eligible for an officer position.
- 4-H Animal Project will hold their elections in October, and youth must be 4-H age 9 – 19 years old and enrolled in an animal project to be eligible for an officer position.
- 4-H Council will hold their elections in November, and youth must be 4-H age 14-19 years old to be eligible for an officer position. 4-H Gold Level volunteers must have 2 years of volunteer service to be eligible for an officer position.
- Grand Equestrians will hold their elections in November and older 4-H teens who have volunteered with the program are eligible to sit on the committee as members.

Volunteers Needed for 4-H Building Workdays



4-H Council is looking for additional helpers on October 4th from 10 am – 2 pm and possibly 11th for several projects in the 4-H building. Below are some of the goals they hope to accomplish:

- Clearing out old fair boxes and outdated equipment (heavy and light items)
- Disposing of display racks
- Building new table racks
- Re-painting the building

Contact Kat if you want to help! Many hands make light work so we would love more helpers to accomplish this faster.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livingston County 4-H Youth Participate in Michigan State Fair



Several Livingston County youth including 4-H members showed sheep at the Michigan State Fair at the end of August and early September at the Suburban Showplace in Novi, Michigan. Former 4-H member Jaycie Brown was also there with her own lambs and helped the Livingston County crew. Pictured from left to right are Micayla Wick of Keepin It Country 4-H Club, Natalie Grover of Keepin It Country 4-H Club, Elise Myers of Little Barn 4-H Club, Rachel Pollok-Newsom of Gusty Acres 2.0, Jaycie Brown, Mabel Donovan of Keepin It Country 4-H Club, Bristol Densmore and Virginia Densmore.

Rachel Pollack-Newsom also participated in the Livestock Judging Competition and placed 3rd in Sheep in the Junior Division and also 3rd in Questions in the Junior Division.

Congratulations to all the youth who participated! It's great to see our youth taking the skills learned in Livingston County and bringing them to the Michigan State Fair.

If you have a 4-H'er interested in participating in the Michigan State Fair in 2026, make sure to check out their [website](#) with information about all the ways to enter projects. There is also the [Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase](#) that allows youth to enter virtually.



What Countywide Workshops Do 4-H'ers Want in 2025-26?



We are looking for 4-H'ers feedback to help us plan for the upcoming 2025-26 program year! We want to know what types of projects you would like to see for workshops and clinics. Your answers will help shape what types of countywide programming we offer in Livingston County 4-H. Please only complete one survey per 4-H'er. This survey is meant for youth NOT adults*

Take the survey here:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_88hPXsicsxKihgO

* However, if you are an adult who is a gold level volunteer or willing to complete the volunteer screening process and want to teach or help lead a workshop or clinic, please contact Jenny or Kat.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Spark & Share Summit 2026: Accepting Session Proposals

Session proposals are currently being sought for the second annual 4-H Spark and Share Summit. The one-day workshop is designed to bring together 4-H volunteers, teen leaders and 4-H staff from across the state to share ideas, explore interests, and ignite sparks in a variety of hands-on activities. The summit is being hosted by the Southeast Region of MAE4-HYS in Frankenmuth on March 7th, 2026 and is open to participants statewide.

Last year we had several leaders from Livingston County attend, and they all had a great time! We now want folks to consider proposals to lead a session!

Please consider teaching a session and submit your proposal by October 19th at <https://tinyurl.com/4Hleadermeet> Previous surveys indicated high interest in learning more about the following topics: Livestock and Animal Science, Marketing Your Animal, Expressive Arts, STEM, Civic Engagement, Gardening, Successful Fundraising, Club Financial Management, Club Basics, and Club Engagement.



Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee Trail Ride



The Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee will be hosting another trail ride October 12th at the Pinckney State Recreation Area. The trailhead is located at 3683 Monks Rd, Pinckney, MI 48169. Riders should be ready to ride at 2 pm. Pre-registration is not required, but youth participating **MUST** be enrolled in 4-H Online to participate. Maps can be found online . Participants must trailer in their own horse and should be comfortable trail riding in a group. If you have questions, please reach out to Kat at krollkat@msu.edu.

Scholarships for Michigan 4-H Members

Looking for scholarship opportunities relevant to 4-H members? We are here to help!

You can find information about Michigan 4-H scholarships on page 6 of our newsletter, but we also want to share some scholarships that 4-H'ers can apply for outside of MSU Extension. [Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions](#) gives away six \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding youth involved in the Michigan fair industry.

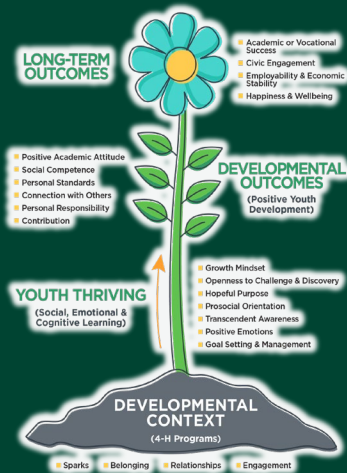


Also, [the National Society Descendants of American Farmers](#) has scholarships to higher education students majoring in an agricultural field of study. Youth can also look into livestock producer organizations to see if they have scholarships.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Why 4-H? This is a question asked many times of our youth and adults. What made you want to get involved and what keeps you coming back?

This is the SPARK of 4-H and serves as one of the four developmental context areas of the Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development. We strive to reach our members where they are and help them grow through the 4-H program.

To do this, we need to know what your spark is...

- Is there a specific project that brought you here?
- Is there a project you would like to see us add?
- Did you show up because you had friends in the program?

Reach out to your local 4-H staff to share your ideas.

October 4: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2025

October 5-11: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 6: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth With Skills for Life

Online

Life doesn't come with a manual—but 4-H comes pretty close! Join Michigan 4-H State Leader Jodi Schulz for a fun and practical look at how volunteers can help young people build the skills they need to be Beyond Ready. This session will be offered twice:

- 12 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life
- 7 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm

October 14: Wild Spartans – Helping Others Help Nature

Online

Join 4-H staff for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This session will feature Trish Brockman, and ecologist with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., who will help to explore the world of helping threatened and endangered wildlife. Open to youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026

October 23: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Officers in Action: Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles

Online

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. Learn how to support club officers in meaningful ways that promote responsibility, teamwork and real-life leadership skills. This session will be offered twice.

12-1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon

7-8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Do you know someone deserving of the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year?

Can you think of someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic, or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2025 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Hey, leaders of tomorrow - if you're age 12–19 and ready to grow skills, make friends, and become beyond ready for your future, join the 4-H Future Squad!

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club that was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the fifth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2025 through May 2026, virtually through Zoom. Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Club meetings for the 2025-2026 year will take place on a variety of days of the week. Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail. This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at:

www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.





November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Extension office closed	6	7	8 County Awards Ceremony 
9	10	11 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ VETERANS DAY <i>November 11th</i> 7pm - Horse committee meeting *ELECTIONS*	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18 7pm - 4-H Council Meeting *ELECTIONS*	19	20	21	22  ARBA Rabbit show at MSU Farm Bureau Pavilion
23 ARBA Rabbit show at MSU Farm Bureau Pavilion 	24	25	26	27  Happy Thanksgiving Extension office closed	28 	29
30						

For more information, see: <https://msrba.net/> 