



OCTOBER 2026

4-H Family News

Livingston County



Save the Date for County Awards!



We are excited to our Livingston County 4-H County Awards will be held in the 4-H Building on Saturday November 14th 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. You don't have to be receiving an award to attend this event. We would love to see more folks come celebrate our 4-H members, leaders, and supporters!

We also want to encourage 4-H Leaders to nominate youth or encourage youth to apply for these awards. All awards are self nominating. Awards have changed this year to allow more opportunities for youth to be recognized across their age spans. See page 3 of the newsletter for more details!

If you have questions about applying for awards, please contact Kat.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

National 4-H Week
October 4-10th

Horse Committee Meeting
October 13th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Deadline to Submit County Award Applications
October 15th

Grand Equestrians Meeting
October 27th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

County Awards Program
November 14th time TBA at 4-H Building at Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds

Deadline for 4-H Ambassador Applications
November 16th

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Re-Enroll for the 2026-27 4-H Program Year!



The new 2026-27 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 Accepting Applicants for the 2026-27 Program Year!

We are now [accepting applications](#) for the 4-H Ambassadors program 2026-27. 4-H Ambassadors meet once a month on the third Friday of the 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 4-H age 13-19 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 16th, 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.

Livingston County 4-H Fall Trail Ride: October 11th at Waterloo Rec. Area



The Livingston County 4-H Horse Association is once again hosting a Fall Trail Ride on October 11th at Waterloo Rec. Area. Riders should be ready to ride at 2 pm at the Maute Road Staging Area. 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. Remember to bring your helmet and water bottle.

If you have questions, please reach out to Melissa Labadie at labadiefarm2016@gmail.com.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

New Livingston County Awards Applications

Kat has been hard at work using youth feedback to modify our awards to allow more chances for recognition for our 4-H members. We now have three levels of Project Recognition that allow youth to receive recognition for introductory, advanced, and mastery medals. Youth can apply to these awards from the age of 10-19 years old. They can apply for 2 introductory awards a year and one advanced or mastery award per year. For example, if a 4-H youth thinks they did a great job in horse, they can apply for a horse introductory horse medal. If they have already received a horse medal but continue to improve and show progress in this area, they can apply for the advanced level of equine science. Older teens who have not yet earned their introductory level medals can be grandfathered in for the advanced or mastery levels.



Junior Achievement, Junior Incentive, Intermediate Incentive, Senior Incentive, Key Club, Leader Service, and Special Service Awards remain the same.

Please encourage 4-H youth to apply for these awards! We want to see more youth get recognition for their hard work and accomplishments.

If you have questions, please reach out to Kat. You can find all the [award applications on our website](#).

Grand Equestrians TRP Committee Meeting on October 27th at 7 pm



Grand Equestrians has their committee meeting on Tuesday October 27th starting at 7pm in the MSU Extension Office Conference Room. New, existing and returning members are all welcome! If you are looking for more information on this program or how to get involved this is a great way to get to know our committee, ask questions and see what we discuss during our meetings. Grand Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Program is a program that assists children with special needs through therapeutic equine activities. This is a volunteer run program and there are many volunteer opportunities available for adults and youth (teens). You can also check out their [Facebook page](#).



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Spark & Share Summit 2027: Accepting Session Proposals



Session proposals are currently being sought for the third 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 13th, 2027 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. This is a great opportunity for volunteers and 4-H teens!

Please consider teaching a session and submit your proposal by October 23rd [here](#). Previous surveys indicated high interest in learning more about the following topics: Hands-on make and take crafts/projects, Livestock and Animal Science (Marketing Your Animal, Biosecurity), Ag in the Classroom, STEM, Civic Engagement, Gardening, Successful Fundraising, Club Financial Management, Club Year planning, and Club Engagement.

Jenny is a member of the planning committee for this event so if you have questions, please reach out!

Livingston County 4-H Members Participate in Michigan State Fair

Mabel Donovan and Brenna Williams of Keepin it Country 4-H Club,, Rachel Pollok-Newsom of Gusty Acres 2.0 4-H Club, Micayla Wick and Natalie Grover made the trek to the Michigan State Fair to participate in their Livestock Judging Contest on Labor Day. We hope you all had a great time!

We know there were other Livingston County 4-H members who participated in the Michigan State Fair, so if you have photos of other Livingston County 4-H members who participated in the Michigan State Fair, please send them to Jenny at speyerje@msu.edu so we can include them in the next newsletter!





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 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 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.

Help Promote Washtenaw County 4-H During National 4-H Week Oct 4-10th



National 4-H Week is coming up quickly and we wanted to give 4-H members and 4-H Clubs ideas to help promote the 4-H program in their local communities. Here are some ideas of ways you can promote 4-H:

- Write an op-ed for your local paper to tell your story of how 4-H helped make you beyond ready. National 4-H Council has provided [templates](#) for both youth and alumni to help you.

- Post flyers in public locations in your community.
- Host a community service event in your county
- Set up a store-front display or informational booth in a business, library, or school.
- Thank your 4-H club leader and other 4-H county volunteers with thank you notes.
- Ask if you can lead the pledge at a local township meeting.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H



Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

October 3: 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-2026

October 4-10: 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 including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

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

October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

Online

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club

Online

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know 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 2026 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!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulging 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth 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 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management,

communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: 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.





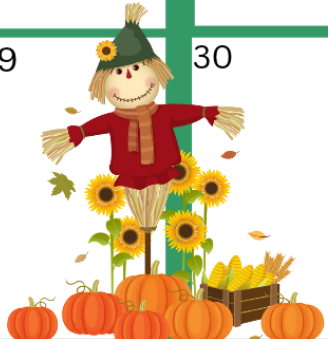
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NATIONAL 4-H WEEK						
11 2pm - Waterloo trail ride 	12	13 7pm - Horse committee meeting	14	15  5pm - County Award applications due!	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Extension office closed						
25	26	27 7pm - 4-H Grand Equestrians Meeting	28	29	30	31 

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



November 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 
8	9 	10  7pm - Horse Committee Meeting	11  VETERANS DAY	12	13	14  Livingston County Awards Time TBD
15	16	17  7pm - 4-H Council Meeting	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24  7pm - 4-H Grand Equestrians Meeting	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving  Extension office closed	27	28
29 	30	31				

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