



# 4-H Family News

JULY 2026  
Volume 10 Issue 11



## MACOMB COUNTY

### 4-H Youth Council Shred Sales sign-up

The Macomb County 4-H Youth Council needs help with its Shred Sales Fundraiser during the Armada Fair. Macomb County 4-H clubs are asked to sign up for one or more shifts at <https://tinyurl.com/3f4u3yva>. The Armada Fair is August 17-23, 2026.

Information for pre-ordering and purchasing shred/bedding at the Armada Fair will be announced in early July.

### Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er

Are **YOU** the next Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er?

Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er is a self-motivated youth who promotes the skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities that they acquired in 4-H alongside fellow members, community members, community leaders, elected officials and non-4-H youth.

Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er serves to strengthen the 4-H program through building relationships and gaining new skills through public relations. These individuals are knowledgeable about the 4-H program, and they are passionate and active in the Macomb County 4-H program.

Registered Macomb County 4-H members ages 12-19 with at least two (2) years of 4-H experience are eligible to apply. The [application](#) deadline has been extended to **July 15, 2026 by 4 p.m.** Applications are available online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h/Awards-Recognition/>. Please email completed applications to [macomb.4h@macombgov.org](mailto:macomb.4h@macombgov.org) or mail them to MSU Extension – Macomb County, Attn: 4-H, 21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12, Clinton Township, MI 48036.

For more information, please contact 4-H Program Coordinator Rebecca Konarski at 586-783-8163 or [konars13@msu.edu](mailto:konars13@msu.edu).



### MACOMB COUNTY 4-H STAFF

Kristi Evans, District 11 Director

Kathy Jamieson, 4-H Educator

Elizabeth Duran, 4-H Program Coordinator

Rebecca Konarski, 4-H Program Coordinator

Diane Wisnewski, Supervising 4-H Educator

Kea Norrell-Aitch, 4-H Educator

Nikki Knight, 4-H Program Coordinator

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### CONTACT US

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Max Thompson Family Resource Center  
11370 Hupp Avenue  
Warren, MI 48089  
Telephone: 586-469-7614

### WEBSITE

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h/>

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2026 Macomb County 4-H Fair Theme:  
"Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, America!"



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

## 4-Hers qualify for State 4-H Horse Show



Congratulations to the Macomb County 4-H members who qualified for the 2026 State 4-H Horse Show:

Grace C.	Jules W.	Paisley Z.	Adison H.	Audrey E.	Charleigh P.	Gavin T.
Avery P.	Lila T.	Hailey T.	Ashlynn R.	Emerson P.	Theodora N.	Ava J.

## 4-H Follow-Up Rabbit Clinic – July 8

Macomb County 4-H members are invited to take part in a hands-on 4-H Follow-Up Rabbit Clinic on Monday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. The clinic will take place in the Rabbit Barn at the Armada Fairgrounds, 74280 Fair Street, Armada. The clinic is **free** and open to all Macomb County 4-H youth interested in improving their rabbit showmanship skills.

**Showmanship Practice:** Whether you're new to showmanship or simply want to brush up before the fair, you are welcome to participate. Please bring your rabbit.

**Tattooing:** Rabbits needing a tattoo for fair eligibility may be brought to the workshop. Rabbits must have a tattoo in their ear to be shown at the fair.

There is no need to RSVP. Questions? Text or call 586-419-9968.



## Reel into Fishing Camp – July 28-30

Macomb County 4-H and the [International Game Fish Association \(IGFA\)](#) are sponsoring the **Reel into Fishing** program at Lake Saint Clair Metropark, 31300 Metro Parkway, Harrison Township from July 28-30, 2026. It's free and open to Macomb County 4-H'ers ages 10-14. From 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day, participants will learn how to fish, take part in a charter boat experience and enjoy additional hands-on activities. There will be a shore excursion to a local Bass Pro Shops and guest presenters from [Michigan DNR](#) and the [Lake St. Clair Walleye Association](#). Bring your own bag lunch and water.

To register:

- **4-H members currently enrolled in 4-H Online:** Access your 4-H Online record (<https://v2.4honline.com>) with your email address and 4-H Online password. Add the "Reel into Fishing 3 Day Camp" event to your record.
- **Not enrolled in 4-H Online yet?** Visit 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com>), create a family profile and add a member record to the family profile. Add the General 4-H Experience-Macomb County club to your record. Add the "Reel into Fishing 3 Day Camp" event to your record.

Questions? Contact the Macomb County 4-H office at 586-469-6431 or [macomb.4h@macombgov.org](mailto:macomb.4h@macombgov.org).

## Nikki Knight accepts new role



Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator Nikki Knight has accepted a new role with Michigan State University Extension as the Financial Homeownership Program Instructor, as of June 29.

She will work out of the VerKuijen Building in Clinton Township and the Max Thompson Family Resource Center in Warren.

While we will miss Nikki's impactful work with 4-H, we wish her all the best in her exciting new role!



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

## Good things are growing with 4-H at Lobbestael Elementary

Good things are growing at Lobbestael Elementary School in Harrison Township, Michigan! Teacher Katie Nebel—who also serves as a Macomb County 4-H club leader—has helped cultivate a thriving [school garden](#) that brings hands-on learning to life.

Each month during the school year, Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran visits the school to inspire 4th grade students to explore 4-H and the Junior Master Gardening Program. Located in the L'Anse Creuse School District, Lobbestael Elementary has embraced the power of experiential learning through gardening.

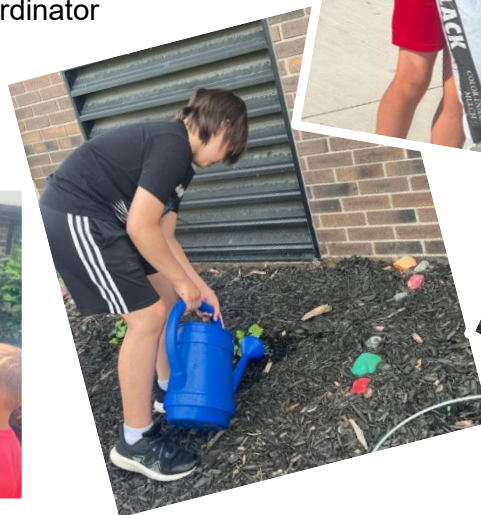
Students take the lead in planting and caring for the garden, even during the summer months. This year's crops include tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, zucchini, and watermelon—plants that not only teach responsibility but also spark curiosity and excitement about the natural world.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that 4-H has been in the classroom at Lobbestael Elementary. The program is a wonderful example of how 4-H can be integrated into classrooms to engage youth and build lifelong skills in agriculture, teamwork, and environmental stewardship.

The Lobbestael 4-H Garden Club seeks donations each year to help sustain and expand the garden. Those interested in contributing can contact Mrs. Nebel at [nebelka@lc-ps.org](mailto:nebelka@lc-ps.org).

For information on how to start a garden at your own school, reach out to 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran at **586-469-6090**.

*Information and photos compliments of Katie Nebel, Macomb County 4-H Volunteer*



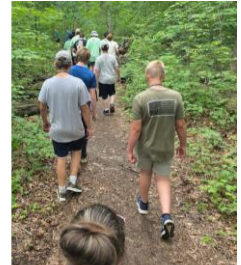


# COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS



## 4-H Exploration Days is a wrap!

MSU Extension's annual [4-H Exploration Days](#) event wrapped up on Friday, June 26th. Macomb County had more than 40 attendees. During the three-day event, youth ages 12-19 experienced dorm life, fun learning sessions, extracurricular activities, and had the opportunity to meet other young people from across the state. A good time was had by all! Special thanks to the [Romeo](#) and [Clinton Township](#) Kiwanis clubs for funding the bus, and to the chaperones, session instructors, and staff members whose time, dedication and support were instrumental in ensuring the event went smoothly.





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

## 4-H Show Me the Showmanship clinics help youth build their showmanship skills

Over the weekend of June 27th and 28th, young participants came together for the Macomb County Show Me the Showmanship clinics. The clinics focused on large livestock. The turnout was fantastic, and the youth gained valuable insights while practicing essential showmanship skills, from entering and exiting the ring, discussing their feeding programs, and working on clipping and fitting their cattle. They had valuable practice time in the show ring and are now all set for the upcoming show season! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the youth who participated, as well as their parents for bringing them and their animals to the fairgrounds. We also extend our gratitude to the Armada Fair Board for providing the space for learning and practicing. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fair!



4-H'ers Audrey M., Clara F. and MacKaylee M. honed their showmanship skills at the swine clinic.



Show Me the Showmanship Swine Clinic was held at the Armada Fairgrounds in Armada on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.



Brad McNary teaches at the Beef Fitting Clinic on June 27<sup>th</sup>.





# OTHER LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Armada Fair updates

### Armada Fair Clean-Up

The Armada Fair Clean-Up dates are July 12th and August 9, 2026. We will start at 10 a.m. each day. Come and help ready the Armada Fairgrounds (74280 Fair Street, Armada) for the 2026 Armada Fair season!

### Armada Fair Animal Tagging Dates

All Poultry & Rabbits - Sunday, July 19, 2026, 10 a.m. – Noon  
Tagging will take place in Barn 15 at the Armada Fairgrounds.

### Advertise with the Armada Fair Livestock Committee:

Advertising with the Armada Fair Livestock Committee during the Armada Fair benefits Macomb County 4-H youth by lowering their commission fees. Contact the Armada Fair Livestock Committee for more information: [armadalivestock@gmail.com](mailto:armadalivestock@gmail.com)

## MSU Extension is hiring!

MSU Extension is hiring for the following positions. Find full descriptions and apply online at <https://careers.msu.edu> by searching for the position number.

### District Support Secretary III

District 11 South, Wayne County  
Posting #1141849  
Apply by July 7, 2026

### 4-H Program Coordinator - Kent County

Posting #1141884  
Apply by July 15, 2026

## Help youth understand voting, earn \$500

Are you interested in working with youth to help them understand the importance of voting?

The League of Women Voters Macomb (LWV Macomb), a nonpartisan organization, is offering a \$500 honorarium to help with this important work. This is a good opportunity for a teen or young adult. To receive the honorarium, the individual will:

- Join LWV Macomb
- Become committee member of Youth Engagement LWV Macomb
- Attend monthly board meetings
- Present "Why Vote" presentations to high school students or youth groups

If you are interested in this opportunity or have questions, please contact Shelly Lotocki, Youth Engagement Chair, at [slotocki@ymail.com](mailto:slotocki@ymail.com) or 586.216.8386.

## Other MSU Extension programs

**Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP):** The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program is an 8-week hybrid course for adults interested in learning how to protect and restore local ecosystems. Participants explore Michigan's natural communities through online lessons, in-person classes, and field experiences, while working with local conservation partners. The 2026 fall session runs August 24–October 19, with cohorts available in several regions, including Macomb County. This program is open to adults (18+) and includes a hands-on capstone project to put your learning into action. Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/csp>

**MSU Extension Beekeeping Workshop:** Join Michigan State University Extension for a beekeeping workshop on July 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 p.m. at Tollgate Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi OR from 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. at the MSU Pollinator Performance Center, 4090 N. College Road, Building E, Lansing. These hands-on sessions will cover hive handling, colony inspection, and seasonal beekeeping management. Participants are encouraged to arrive with their own protective gear/clothing. Workshops are open to beginning and experienced beekeepers. Registration is required by July 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information and to register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/bees2026/>



# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Adulting 101: Think Before You Click

Join MSU Extension 4-H online for Adulting 101: Think Before You Click on July 8 at 6 p.m. This free workshop will focus on smart ways to stay safe online — from protecting your privacy to spotting scams and handling social media responsibly. Stay connected, confident, and cyber-smart! Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/42zz33eu>.

## Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.



There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## 2026 MI State Fair 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at [mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship](http://mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship).





# CALENDARS OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready through the fair experience*



## Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

## Macomb County 4-H Events

**July 7**

4-H Culinary Workshop  
10 a.m.-1 p.m., VerKuilen Building, Rooms A & B, Clinton Township  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E4AA4AC2FA3F49-64317844-4hculinary#/>

**July 8**

Macomb County 4-H Follow-Up Rabbit Clinic  
6:30 p.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Barn 15, Armada

**July 15**

Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er application deadline extended to July 15.  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/uploads/files/Macomb Countys Finest 4-Her Rules and regulations 2026.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/uploads/files/Macomb%20Countys%20Finest%204-Her%20Rules%20and%20regulations%202026.pdf)

## Other Local Events

**July 12**

Armada Fair Clean-Up #1  
10 a.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

**July 19**

[Armada Fair Poultry & Rabbit Tagging](#)  
10 a.m.-Noon, Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

**July 25**

MSU Extension Beekeeping Workshop  
1-2:30 p.m., Tollgate, Novi OR  
10-11:30 a.m., MSU Pollinator Performance Center, East Lansing  
Register by July 23<sup>rd</sup> at  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/bees2026/>

**August 9**

Armada Fair Clean-Up #2  
10 a.m., Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

**August 24-October 10**

Michigan Conservation Stewards Program  
Macomb County  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/csp>

**July 28-30**

4-H Reel into Fishing  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day, Lake St. Clair Metropark, Harrison Township, and Brandenburg Park, Chesterfield Township  
Add the "Reel into Fishing 3 Day Camp" event to your 4-H Online record. <https://v2.4honline.com>

**August 17-23**

Macomb County 4-H Youth Council Shred Sales Fundraiser  
Armada Fairgrounds, Armada (Pre-order details TBA).

**MSU Extension – Macomb Program Guide:** Read the current MSU Extension-Macomb Program Guide [here](#). Subscribe to find out what MSU Extension is offering each month in Macomb County!  
<https://forms.office.com/r/Pde7XzQpai>

Get connected by the clover!

### Join the Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends Network

Join for free today!  
[extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F](https://extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

## Discover Macomb County 4-H!

**Whether you want to:**

- Join an existing club or start a new one
- Start a 4-H program at your school or in your community
- Volunteer or partner with 4-H

**The Macomb County 4-H staff can help you do it!**

586-469-6431

[Macomb.4h@macombgov.org](mailto:Macomb.4h@macombgov.org)




**Macomb County offices, including MSU Extension, will be closed July 3<sup>rd</sup> in observance of Independence Day.**

*Have a safe & happy holiday!*



# CALENDARS OF EVENTS

## Statewide 4-H Events

### July 1

MI 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest

*Farm Bureau Pavilion, East Lansing*

Participants will demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve communication and decision-making skills. Register by June 15.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026)

### July 8

Adulting 101: Think Before You Click

6 p.m., online

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/adulting2026/>

### July 13-15

Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

*Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing*

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days)

### July 16

Water Day

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day)

### July 20-21

Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

*Haithco Park, Saginaw*

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp)

### July 23

Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day)

### July 27

4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

*The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City*

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026)

### July 30

Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day)

### August 7

MI State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase entry deadline (includes MI State Fair 4-H & Youth Business Pitch and MI 4-H License Plate Promotion contests). <http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>

## Answers to our June puzzle:

### 4-H Animal Projects



#### ACROSS

- 2. Man's best friend
- 4. Cousin to the alpaca: Don't be a drama \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Long-eared leapers
- 8. Equine
- 9. Cattle. Also called bovine. Breeds include Angus and Hereford.

#### DOWN

- 1. Birds on a farm
- 3. Also called Guinea Pigs
- 6. Farm squealer
- 7. Source of wool

MSU Extension – Macomb County  
4-H Youth Development  
21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12  
Clinton Township, MI 48036

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# 4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Learn more about how you can grow  
with Macomb County 4-H:  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/macomb/>



**Beyond  
Ready**