



4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2025

Volume 10 Issue 1

**Beyond
Ready**

Macomb County 4-H News & Events

Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er: Madyson Smith



Madyson Smith

Madyson Smith was presented with the 2025 Macomb County's Finest 4-H'er Award during Opening Ceremonies at the Armada Fair on August 11th.

Madyson is a member and President of K-9 & Kompany, as well as the Treasurer of the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council. Madyson has been active locally in the Armada Fair in many project areas, earning Grand Best of Show and Best of Show. She has also competed nationally in dog shows, earning #1 Cavalier Junior & #10 Toy Group Junior ranks, including 263 defeats!

4-H has made a significant impact on Madyson's life, enhancing her confidence, open-mindedness, and compassion by allowing her to work with peers; she has increased her communication skills allowing her to be more connected in her community. 4-H has inspired Madyson to pursue a career as a reproductive veterinarian, enabling her to continue to make a difference in animal welfare in her community.

Madyson submitted a portfolio as part of the application process for this award, and she completed an interview with MSUE staff and Armada Fair Board Directors. Madyson will be visiting county 4-H clubs and attending statewide 4-H programming throughout the next program year. **Congratulations to Madyson on receiving this recognition!**

Article and photo submitted by 4-H Program Coordinator Rebecca Konarski

Apply for Macomb County 4-H Awards by October 15th

Apply or nominate a deserving 4-H member or volunteer for a Macomb County 4-H Award for their efforts during the 2024-2025 4-H program year (September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025)! Updated forms are [available here](#). The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. on October 15th.

Mark your calendars for the 2024-2025 Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet. The date is November 10, 2025. Details will be announced. For more information, contact 4-H Program Coordinator Nikki Knight at 586-469-5979 or knightn9@msu.edu.

Macomb County 4-H Staff

Kristi Evans
D11 Director

Diane Wisniewski
4-H Supervising Educator

[Kathy Jamieson](#)
4-H Educator

[Kea Norrell-Aitch](#)
4-H Educator.

[Elizabeth Duran](#)
4-H Program Coordinator

[Nikki Knight](#)
4-H Program Coordinator

[Rebecca Konarski](#)
4-H Program Coordinator

[Roberta Busquaert](#)
Office Assistant - Senior

Locations

MSU Extension has two office locations in Macomb County:

VerKuilen Building
21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12
Clinton Township, MI 48036

Max Thompson Family Resource Center
11370 Hupp Avenue
Warren, MI 48089

Contact Us

Telephone: 586-469-6431

Email: Macomb.4h@macombgov.org

Subscribe

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all who volunteered tirelessly throughout the 2024-2025 4-H program year and during the Armada Fair. The difference you are making to our county and its youth is immeasurable!



Macomb County 4-H News & Events (continued)

Armada Fair 4-H Project Judging Results

Still Exhibits

Overall Grand Best in Show:

- Junior - Elissa DeBruijn
- Intermediate - Levi Allen
- Senior - Abigail Matti



Overall 4-H Club Display:

- 1st - Ray Community
- 2nd - K-9 & Kompany
- 3rd - Alarro
- 4th - Good Times



Overall Livestock Winners

Rabbit Roasters

- Grand Champion - Shelby Roosa
- Reserve Champion - Logan Jozwiak

Rabbit Fryers

- Grand Champion - Julia Ravenscroft
- Reserve Champion - Paisley Zuhlke

Rabbit Stewer

- Grand Champion - Paisley Zuhlke
- Reserve Champion - Mckenzie Biscorner

Rabbit Meat Pen of Three

- Grand Champion - Abigail Girvin
- Reserve Champion - Julia Ravenscroft

Chicken Fryers

- Grand Champion - George Fox
- Reserve Champion - Clara Fox

Chicken Roaster

- Grand Champion - Malina Ruiz
- Reserve Champion - Tucker Miller

Ducks

- Grand Champion - Oliver Lain
- Reserve Champion - Grace Bochatyn

Geese

- Grand Champion - Samuel Barnes
- Reserve Champion - Grace Bochatyn

Turkeys

- Grand Champion - Joel Bettcher
- Reserve Champion - Hunter LeFever

Grand Champion Gallon of Milk

- Colton Schwark

Grand Champion Half Gallon of Goat Milk

- Grayden Bloyd

Sheep

Grand and Reserve Champion

- Kaylee Kasperski

Goats

- Grand Champion - Colton Schwark
- Reserve Champion - Ella Schwark

Beef

- Grand Champion - Payton McNary
- Reserve Champion - Juliana Guidi

Swine

- Grand Champion - Austin Goetgeluck
- Reserve Champion - Nolan Roose

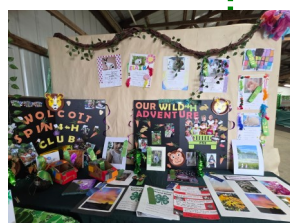
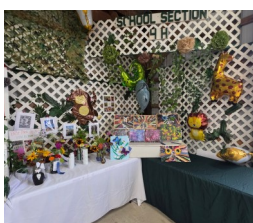
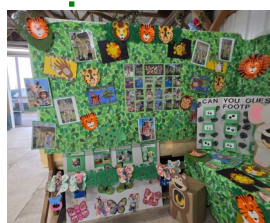
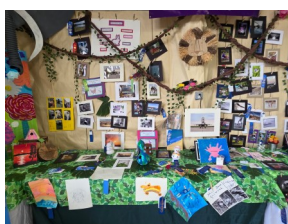
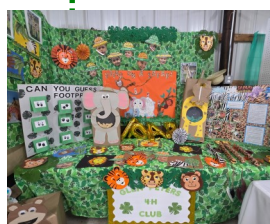
Thanks to all who supported our 4-H'ers at the 2025 Armada Fair Youth Livestock Sale!



The Macomb County 4-H Youth Council's ice cream social offered 4-H'ers a refreshing treat during the Armada Fair.

~ Club display and ice cream social photos submitted by 4-H Program Coordinator Nikki Knight.

Macomb County 4-H Club Displays





Macomb County 4-H News & Events (continued)

4-H Meets Wolcott: Farming 101 Animals and Agriculture

Learn about all aspects of the farm and how to properly care for animals in MSU Extension's FREE six-part 4-H series. This program is open to youth who are ages 5-19. Participants will meet at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, 65775 Wolcott Road in Ray Township every other Sunday between November 2 and January 15, 2025.

November 2	November 16	November 30	December 14	January 11	January 25
10 a.m.-12 p.m.	1 p.m.	1 p.m.	1 p.m.	1 p.m.	1 p.m.
Kickoff and Farm Tour	Horses	Goats	Sheep	Poultry	Rabbits



[Find more information and register here.](#) Questions? If you have any questions, please contact Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator Nikki Knight at knightn9@msu.edu or 586-469-5979.

Annual Financial Summary Reports

Each 4-H club and committee is required to submit an [Annual Financial Summary Report](#) (AFSR) at the end of each program year (Sept. 1-August 31).

There are NEW Annual Financial Summary Report forms this year — one for clubs **with funds**, and one for clubs **with no funds**. Leaders may either fill the form out electronically or use a printed copy. Leaders of SPIN clubs with funds need to submit a [4-H SPIN Club Record of Finances](#) instead of an Annual Financial Summary Report. For assistance, contact any Macomb County 4-H program coordinator (Rebecca Konarski - 586-783-8163 or konars13@msu.edu, Nikki Knight - 586-469-5979 or knightn9@msu.edu, or Lizz Duran - 586-469-6090 or duraneli@msu.edu).

Please submit forms online, by mail or in person between September 1 and October 1.

2025-2026 4-H Enrollment

Club Enrollment: Club enrollment packets not picked up at the Armada Fair for new and returning 4-H club leaders have been mailed. The information is also available on our [web page](#) and has been emailed to administrative club leaders.

Member Enrollment/Re-enrollment: The 4-H Online enrollment system will reopen on September 8th for 2025-2026 Member and Cloverbud enrollment or re-enrollment.

Volunteer Enrollment: New volunteers need to apply and complete the Volunteer Selection Process through [Volunteer Central](#) and be interviewed by a Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator, then enroll in [4-H Online](#). Returning screened volunteers should only need to re-enroll through [4-H Online](#). If other action is needed of a returning volunteer, a Macomb County 4-H Program Coordinator will contact the volunteer. Volunteers and volunteer applicants may check their status in [Volunteer Central](#) at any time, or contact the Macomb County 4-H staff.

Questions: Please direct any questions to the Macomb County 4-H staff at 586-469-6431 or Macomb.4h@macombgov.org.

Macomb County MSU Extension Program Guide

The September issue of the Macomb County MSU Extension Program Guide is now [available online!](#)

Read about [upcoming MSU Extension programs](#) in your area!
Subscribe today to receive the guide **monthly!**

JOIN 4-H FUTURE SQUAD!

✓

Youth aged 12–19

Ready to learn skills to master your future

Want to expand your network

Meet these marks?
Join us on Zoom October-May!

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

Hey, leaders of tomorrow! If you're 12–19 and ready to grow skills, make friends, and become beyond ready for your future, join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club through Michigan 4-H! Learn more and share your interest in joining at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>



Other Local News & Events

MSU Extension offers food safety and food preservation programs

Monday, Sept. 8th, 12 p.m. EDT

[Serving Up Food Safety – Squash: What to do with it all](#)

You can do more with squash than just making zucchini bread! Discover options for preserving and using zucchini and other types of squash.

Monday, Sept. 8th, 6 p.m. EDT

[Michigan Cottage Food Law](#)

Learn how to safely prepare and sell allowable foods to the public made in home kitchens. The Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop reviews the food safety aspects and guidelines of preparing and selling cottage foods. The MSU Product Center joins us to cover the business aspects of the Cottage Food Law. A Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Inspector will be available for the Q&A portion of this workshop.

Wednesday, Sept. 10th, 6 p.m. EDT

[Selling Michigan Honey & Maple Syrup Safely](#)

Food safety is key to successfully selling honey and maple syrup in Michigan. Learn how to safely handle, package and store honey and maple syrup, and understand the exemption guidelines for selling these products in Michigan. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development allows for collection and production of honey and maple syrup that can be sold without a license, and there is an expectation that this is done safely. Personal hygiene, food safe containers, storage, cleaning and sanitizing methods, and MDARD's exemption guidelines are topics covered on this workshop.

Thursday, Sept. 11th, 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. EDT

[Preserving MI Harvest – Three Sisters-Preserving Corn, Squash and Beans](#)

The three sisters include corn, beans and squash. These three crops complement each other when growing in the garden. How do they compare when preserving them? Together we will learn the different methods of safe ways to preserve them.

Dial Gauge Pressure Canner Testing

Contact your local MSU Extension Office to schedule an appointment to have your dial gauge pressure canner tested. Use the link below to find your local County MSU Extension office: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/county>

Food Safety Hotline

If you have questions about food safety or home food preservation, call MSU Extension Food Safety Hotline: 1-877-643-9882.

Statewide & National 4-H News & Events

Michigan 4-H Fall 2025 Volunteer Webinar Series

The Michigan 4-H Fall 2025 Volunteer Webinar Series is designed to provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as volunteers and support the Michigan 4-H youth. Daytime and evening options are available. Attend one or more sessions. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>.

National 4-H Week: October 5-11

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 5-11, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today. Learn more about ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week [here](#).

Wild Spartans Series returns



Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.



Monthly sessions will begin in October and be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. [Pre-registration is required](#).



Statewide & National 4-H News & Events (continued)

Adulting 101 webinars

Join MSU Extension for its Adulting 101 webinar series! Sessions meet via Zoom and are designed to impart life skills that will help you successfully transition to living independently.

September 17 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

[Professionalism: Communicate, dress and Deliver with Confidence](#)

Learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

October 23 (5-6 p.m.)

[Enjoy your Holidays on a Budget](#)

Explore the benefits of a holiday spending plan, how to prioritize needs vs. wants, and set a comfortable budget. Plus, you'll get creative money-saving tips for a joyful, affordable celebration.

November 13 (6:30-7:30p.m.)

[Navigating Tough Talks: Conflict Resolution & Civil Discourse](#)

Learn how to manage disagreements with respect and open-mindedness.

Subscribe to MSU Extension's News Digests

Did you know MSU Extension offers news digests that deliver the latest news, information and events right to your inbox? Sent once a month, these electronic newsletters feature recent articles and events published on the MSU Extension website and are available in 80+ interest areas!

If you're a new subscriber, sign up for whatever sparks your interest [here!](#)

2025 Michigan 4-H State Award winners announced

The Michigan 4-H State Awards program recognized outstanding 4-H members during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members and recognizes excellence in learning, leadership and service. In total, 38 4-H members from 15 counties submitted applications for this year's program. Recipients of the 2025 awards are:



- ♦ **Achievement:** William Rogers of Washtenaw County
- ♦ **Beef Science:** Emma Verbeek of Delta County (junior division)
- ♦ **Birds and Poultry Science:** Avery Mastej of Van Buren County (junior division)
- ♦ **Civic Engagement and Service:** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- ♦ **Companion Animal Science:** Taylor Johnson of St. Joseph County (junior division) and Makenzie Rehberg of Monroe County (senior division)
- ♦ **Dairy Science:** Adrienne Balchik of Gogebic County (junior division) and Harper Jane Adkins of Washtenaw County (senior division)
- ♦ **Equine Science:** Lillian Wasson of Oceana County (junior division)
- ♦ **Food, Nutrition, Health and Fitness:** Vivienne Turri of Washtenaw County (junior division)
- ♦ **Gardening and Horticulture:** Trent Simons of Otsego County (junior division)
- ♦ **Goat Science:** Aleah Simpson of Houghton County (junior division) and Alison Borowski of Alpena County (senior division)
- ♦ **Leadership:** Zoe Rorick of Lenawee County (senior division)
- ♦ **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Lyla Lapaugh of Eaton County (junior division)
- ♦ **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** John Jinks of Monroe County (junior division)
- ♦ **Sheep Science:** Morgen Schmidt of Monroe County (junior division) and Owen Plum of Lenawee County (senior division)
- ♦ **Swine Science:** Taylor Trattles of St. Joseph County (junior division)
- ♦ **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Verina Duncan of Eaton County (senior division)

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to 4-H members who are 12-19 years old with two or more years of 4-H experience. To qualify, 4-H'ers must submit a written application that showcases the learning experiences, knowledge and skills they've acquired through 4-H, as well as their contributions to 4-H communities. Submissions are reviewed by a selection committee. In addition to a plaque, each 4-H State Award winner in the senior division received a \$300 cash award, junior winners received \$100 cash awards, and achievement award winner received \$500. These awards are made possible by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.



Calendars of Events

Macomb County 4-H Calendar of Events

September 1

Macomb County offices closed

September ?

4-H Financial Workshop

Details TBA

October 1

[4-H Annual Financial Summary Reports \(AFSRs\)](#) due to the County MSU Extension Office

October 1

[SPIN Club Record of Finances](#) due to the County MSU Extension Office

October 15

Macomb County 4-H Awards application deadline. Updated forms are available [here](#).

October ?

Macomb County Fall 4-H Leader Update
Details TBA

November 2

Farming 101: Animals & Agriculture Kickoff & Farm Tour
10 a.m.-Noon, Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Ray Twp.

November 10

Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet
Details TBA

Other Local News & Events

September 8

[Serving Up Food Safety - Squash: What to do with it all](#)
12 p.m., online

September 8

[Michigan Cottage Food Law](#)
6 p.m., online

September 10

[Selling Michigan Honey & Maple Syrup Safely](#)
6 p.m., online

September 11

[Three Sisters: Preserving Corn, Squash & Beans](#)
1 p.m. or 6 p.m., online

Statewide and National 4-H News & Events

September 1

2026 4-H program year begins

September 8

[4-H Online](#) reopens for 2025-2026 member, volunteer enrollment

September 11

4-H Volunteer Webinar – Planning with Purpose: Designing Your Best 4-H Year Yet

[12 p.m. session](#) or [7 p.m. session](#), Online

September 17

[Adulting 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress & Deliver with Confidence](#)

Online

September 18

Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Friendly but Firm: Boundaries that Make Volunteering Better

[12 p.m. session](#) or [7 p.m. session](#), Online

Learn how to say “yes” with intention, “no” without guilt, and keep your 4-H experience fun, respectful, and drama-free. This session will be offered twice.

September 20

[2025 Michigan 4-H Dog Show](#)

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-Hers from counties across Michigan. Spectators welcome.

September 20-21

[Fall 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification for Adults and Teens](#)

Shiawassee Conservation Association, Owosso

Learn about 4-H shooting sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use, and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

October 3

[Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting](#)

Henry Center for Executive Development, Lansing

4-H donors are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting.

October 5-11

National 4-H Week

October 6

4-H Volunteer Webinar - Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth with Skills for Life
[Noon-1 p.m.](#) or [7-8 p.m.](#), online

October 23

4-H Volunteer Webinar - Officers in Action: Empowering Youth Through Leadership Roles
[Noon-1 p.m.](#) or [7-8 p.m.](#), online

October 23

[Adulting 101 - Enjoy Your Holidays on a Budget](#)

5-6 p.m., online

November 13

[Navigating Tough Talks: Conflict Resolution & Civil Discourse](#)

6:30-7:30 p.m., online

November 18

4-H Volunteer Webinar - Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles
[Noon-1 p.m.](#) or [7-8 p.m.](#)