



# 4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

JUNE 2024  
Volume 9 Issue 10



## Macomb County 4-H News & Events

### Macomb County MSUE welcomes Knight, Konarski

Please help MSU Extension welcome the two new 4-H Program Coordinators for Macomb County: Nicole (Nikki) Knight and Rebecca Konarski. Following is a little about each of them:



Nikki Knight

Nikki recently served as a Business teacher at L'Anse Creuse High School (LCPS) in Harrison Township. She enjoyed working with students daily which opened her eyes to what this generation needs to become successful adults. When not working at LCPS, you could find Nikki giving back to the community by coaching softball, volunteering at school and mentoring at-risk youth. She was also a Girl scout leader, Parent/Teacher Board President, School Marketing Committee member, Science Olympiad coach, Junior Class Sponsor and DECA Assistant.

Nikki has an MBA in International Management from Madonna University, a Bachelor of Business Administration/Management from Northwood University and an Associate Degree in Hospitality Management. She has 20+ years' experience in the hospitality and management industries with a focus on customer satisfaction and business development. Nikki partnered with her husband and built a custom woodworking company from the ground up. Most of the time you will find Nikki cheering on her daughters at their various sporting events. When she is not running for them, her favorite things to do are play softball or relax with her whole family at her grandparent's cottage.



Rebecca Konarski

Rebecca was a 4-H member in Macomb County for 10 years. During this time, she was a part of Alarro 4-H Club where she showed swine, lambs, and meat rabbits. After graduating, Rebecca stayed involved as a 4-H volunteer where she continued to work with the Armada Fair Board as well as the Youth Livestock Sale Committee. Rebecca attended Saginaw Valley State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology, Evolution of Organismal Biology with a minor in Agriculture Studies. Outside of 4-H while at SVSU, she was part of *Encore*, a student-run dance group on campus. Her work experience includes being a team leader at Family Farm and Home, receptionist at Krause Veterinary Clinic and assistant manager at Maurices.

Rebecca is excited about working for MSU Extension and giving back to the community that has given her so much. Her hobbies include being outside, gardening, knitting, reading and spending time with her family and dog Graham!

### Clovers Code 4-H SPIN Club starts June 5th

Join MSU Extension for the Clovers Code 4-H SPIN Club at the Ray Township Library, on June 5, 12 and 26 from 6-8 p.m. Participants ages 7-12 will learn how to code, capture photos and videos, and create art using iPads. It's FREE. Registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/2br7brnv>.

### Macomb County 4-H Staff

Kristi Evans  
D11 Director

Diane Wisnewski  
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

[Leanna Konarski](#)  
4-H Program Assistant

**Rebecca Konarski**  
4-H Program Coordinator

[Mackenzie Meerschaert](#)  
4-H Program Assistant

[Roberta Busquaert](#)  
Office Assistant - Senior

### Locations

MSU Extension has two office locations in Macomb County:

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



## Macomb County 4-H News & Events (continued)

### Macomb County 4-H Woodworking Project is June 14th

Macomb County 4-H youth ages 5-19 are invited to explore woodworking with the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council at the VerKuijen Building in Clinton Township on Friday, June 14th. Choose a half-hour time slot between 6 and 8 p.m. Participants will be making a whirligig bird lawn ornament. This is a beginning woodworking project that can be customized.



Register by June 3rd at <https://tinyurl.com/3rxcpkxk>. The cost is \$10 per youth. Please make checks payable to the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council and mail them to 314 Huntington Street, Mount Clemens, MI 48043.

### Show Your Money Smarts Contest results announced

Congratulations to Sarah D., Shelby R. and Shane R. of Macomb County for being among the winners of this year's Show Your Money Smarts Contest! This year's 30-question challenge was about Keeping Your Money Safe and finding a financial institution that is a good fit. Their hard work paid off and thanks to a generous sponsorship from [Michigan Credit Union League](#), five winners each won a \$50 e-gift card.

Thank you Anton A. and Maymuna C. of Macomb County for participating in our sixth annual 4-H Show Me Your Money Smarts Contest. Your engagement in this event is noteworthy! Learning about money management, finding the right financial institution, and nurturing smart banking habits early on are invaluable skills that will undoubtedly serve you well in the future. Way to go! We are proud of all of you!

### Learn valuable life skills with Adulthood 101 series

Are you ready to leave for college or be out on your own? Are you prepared to do the adult tasks of managing your finances, home, health, or finding a career? Zoom in to one or more of MSU Extension's FREE Adulthood 101 sessions to learn real life skills that will help you successfully transition to living independently. Register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Adulthood2024/> to receive the meeting link(s).

- **Traveling on a Budget (June 6 / 6:30 p.m.):** Anticipating future travel plans? Tap into strategies for traveling on a budget to ensure you reach your next destination.
- **Cooking Basics (July 16 / 4 p.m.):** Learn the language of cooking, how to read recipes and how to be creatively resourceful in the kitchen.
- **Summer Berries: Jam & Jelly (August 12 / 4 p.m.):** Enjoy the taste of summer while having fun making jams and jellies using fresh summer fruits.
- **Changing the World with Your One Vote (September 16 / 5 p.m.):** Learn to register and select your candidates.
- **Paying for Post-Secondary Education (October 16 / 5 p.m.):** Learn about student loans, facing the FAFSA and tuition free options.
- **Cracking the Code to College (November 19 / 5 p.m.):** Explore the admission and application process and get tips on writing your essay.

### City thanks 4-H member who helped beautify it

Last month, Nathanya Fonseca helped beautify the City of Warren with her 4-H tree planting project.

Below are some expressions of appreciation that she received from the city:

*"We all from the Mayor's office, in the City of Warren, are so appreciative to you for selecting Warren Michigan as a place to help us continue to grow and create the green space every city needs and deserves."*

*"Looking forward to working with you in the future. Again, thank you so much for the time, effort and resources you brought to our great and vibrant city of Warren."*

*"I am thrilled to have been a part of this project, thank you for thinking of Warren and including us! It all came together perfectly...."*

Thank you to all of the young 4-H'ers like Nathanya who make a difference in their communities every day!

Tell us about YOUR 4-H project(s): [Macomb.4h@macombgov.org](mailto:Macomb.4h@macombgov.org)



**CORRECTION:** From left to right: DPW Superintendent Scott Raedel, 4-H Program Coordinator Lizz Duran, 4-H Member Nathanya Fonseca, Warren Mayor Lori Stone, Community Outreach Director Rhonda Hawe and Community Outreach Director Olu Jabari. Jabari was misidentified in the May newsletter.



## Other Local News & Events

### Don't miss the latest MSUE Macomb Program Guide

MSU Extension has much in store for Macomb County residents during the month of May. Check out the organization's [newest program guide](#). To receive the guide monthly, subscribe at [macombmsue@macombgov.org](mailto:macombmsue@macombgov.org).

### Swine, Sheep, Goat & Prospect Beef Tagging - June 2

Swine, Sheep, Goat and Prospect Beef tagging is June 2, 2024 at the Armada Fairgrounds in Armada (Swine 8-10:30 a.m. and Sheep, Goat & Prospect Beef 10:30 a.m.-noon). The Livestock Committee has decided to offer an evening tagging due to many 4-H members showing at the Thumb Jackpot on June 2, 2024. This will only be for those attending the Thumb Jackpot and proof of participation will be needed. To take advantage of this optional time, please notify the Livestock Committee at [armadalivestock@gmail.com](mailto:armadalivestock@gmail.com) by **June 1st**.

### St. Clair Kennel Club Dog Show - Sept. 9-15

The St. Clair Kennel Club brings dog lovers the annual Fall Dog Show! Hundreds of dogs and their owners will get the chance to strut their stuff in the show ring Friday 9/13/2024, Saturday 9/14/2024, and Sunday 9/15/2024 at the Goodells County Park, 8345 County Park Road, Goodells, Mich. from 8 a.m. each day. The event is great for the whole family.

#### SPECTATORS CAN:

- Meet and greet a variety of different dog breeds. Visitors can learn about responsible dog ownership and speak with breeders, owners and handlers.
- Watch the judging of various breeds in Conformation and cheer for your favorite.
- See young owner-handlers compete against their peers in the Junior Showmanship Competition.
- Watch owner-handlers compete in a special series called the National Owner-Handled Series. These exhibitors are striving for a spot in the finals at the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin in Orlando in December.
- Obedience and rally trials will test dogs understanding of commands, as they maneuver hurdles & retrieve articles.
- Watch owners take their dogs through the AKC Temperament Test (ATT) to see how they react to a variety of stimuli.
- Fetch is a new AKC Test which tests canines on their retrieving skills while weaving thru distractions.
- Watch canine athletes show off their running skills against the clock in FAST CAT Competitions.
- See puppies getting started in the sport in the AKC Sanctioned B puppy match for dogs 4-18 months who are registered with AKC.
- See Pee Wee class for kids 5-9 and their dogs.
- Vendors will be offering various articles/items for sale, as well as a food vendor will be on site.

Find event details at [www.stclairkc.org](http://www.stclairkc.org) or contact Denise Lotan at 586-531-6536 or [lotanfarm@aol.com](mailto:lotanfarm@aol.com).

## Statewide & National 4-H News & Events

### Register now for the Michigan State 4-H Dog Show

State Dog Show is now open for registration! This year's show will take place on August 10, at the Michigan State University Pavilion. The show is open to enrolled Cloverbuds, and any Michigan 4-H'er age 8-19.

To register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024StateDogShow/>. Questions? Please reach out to Kat at [Krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:Krollkat@msu.edu).





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

### Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest moves to a new date!

The Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest is returning this year at a new date! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - Ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - Ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - Youth that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School - Youth that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Ages 8-21 as of January 1 and not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - Age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive



### 2024 Michigan 4-H Mark of Excellence Award winners

Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 11 and 12, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The essay theme is "Because of 4-H, I can..." and the youth referred to a variety of memorable experiences in their time as 4-H'ers.

As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners. In 2024, the following 14 4-H members from 12 counties were selected as the 2024 Mark of Excellence county winners.

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Heidi Barrington, St. Joseph County | ◆ Alice Long, Washtenaw County     |
| ◆ Jordan Davis, Berrien County        | ◆ Sophia Mason, Monroe County      |
| ◆ Lauren Eichhorn, Menominee County   | ◆ Ethan McLaughlin, Monroe County  |
| ◆ Brooklyn Hetrick, Oakland County    | ◆ Natalie Milford, Chippewa County |
| ◆ Ainsley Carvinen, Alger County      | ◆ Emma Rasch, Kent County          |
| ◆ Lorelai Kowalski, Oakland County    | ◆ Kylie Smith, Ionia County        |
| ◆ Molly Lake, Gratiot County          | ◆ Sydni Specht, Saginaw County     |



Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning essays will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winners!

To learn more about the Michigan 4-H State Awards, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index).



## Calendars of Events

### Macomb County 4-H Events

**June 5, 12, 26**

[Clovers Code 4-H SPIN Club](#)

6-8 p.m., Ray Township Library, Ray Township

**June 6**

[Adulting 101: Traveling on a Budget](#)

6:30 p.m., online

**June 14**

[Macomb County 4-H Woodworking Workshop](#)

6-8 p.m. VerKuilen Building, Assembly Rooms A & B, Clinton Twp.

**July 16**

[Adulting 101: Cooking Basics](#)

4 p.m., online

**August 12**

[Adulting 101: Summer Berries - Jam & Jelly](#)

4 p.m., online

**September 16**

[Adulting 101: Changing the World with Your One Vote](#)

5 p.m., online

**October 16**

[Adulting 101: Paying for Post-Secondary Education](#)

5 p.m., online

**November 19**

[Adulting 101: Cracking the Code to College](#)

5 p.m., online

### Other Local Events

**June 2**

[Armada Fair Animal Tagging](#)

8-10:30 a.m. - Swine

10:30 a.m.-Noon: Sheep, Goat & Prospect Beef (also 5-7 p.m. by appointment for Thumb Jackpot Show participants).

Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

**July 21**

[Armada Fair Poultry & Rabbit Tagging](#)

10 a.m.-Noon, Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

**August 12-18**

[Armada Fair](#)

Armada Fairgrounds, Armada

**September 9-15**

[St. Clair Kennel Club Dog Show](#)

Goodells County Park, Goodells

### Statewide & National 4-H Events

**June 17**

[4-H Beginner's Sewing Camp](#)

*Grand Rapids*

4-H Sewing Camp for beginners. American Sewing Guild Sewing Camp for school aged youth 11-15 years of age.

**June 22**

[Missaukee County Sheep Clinic](#)

*Missaukee Agricultural Youth Show, Falmouth*

Learn from Jenna Pohl Davis, an experienced sheep showman at the state and national level. Jenna will break down show day preparations, teaching advanced showmanship with tips and tricks. and giving a customized feed and nutrition plan for your lamb.

**June 25**

[Kayaking Days](#)

*Paddles & Pedals, Bellaire*

Youth participants learn water safety, paddle techniques, navigation, and receive an introduction to stewardship of inland waterways. This free event is open to youth in Antrim, Otsego, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Charlevoix counties.

**June 27**

[Digger Day](#)

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

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front- end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in our communities.

**June 27**

[Explore the Farm Through the Seasons Workshop Series: June Event](#)

*Schomaker Farms, Saginaw*

Schomaker Farms and Saginaw 4-H are teaming up to offer a 12-month farm education learning series. Each month will offer a different learning topic and hands-on activity.

**June 29**

[4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl](#)

*MSU Anthony Hall, East Lansing*

The 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl allows youth to put their dairy knowledge to the test! Please note the new date for 2024.

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