



4-H Family News

February 2026**Welcome to the Month of February**

Happy Valentines day everyone.

Hope everyone is doing well and weathering the cold snap and snow...Brrrr. Spring is right around the corner. We have some great events coming up and encourage our 4-Hers to take advantage of them!

Please take the time to read the network it is our gift to you.

Thank you to all that continue to help and support us in "Making The Best Better".

Jean A. Genaw

Monroe County Program Coordinator



This month's content highlights

- **Past Due club fund balance for 12/31/2026**
 - **Please submit immediately to Jean**
- **Dundee Craft expo**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Drop-in with Jean**
- **Club Flag making**
- **Communication expo**
- **Line Dancing**
- **YQCA training**
- **Cloverbud Expo**
- **Mini Expo registration**
- **Fundraiser events**
- **2025-2026 4-H enrollment complete NOW**

**Contribute to the
Network**
**Information or Flyers are due by the
20th of Each Month!**

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FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 4-H Council; AC 7PM	3 Terra Quest; AC 6PM	4 Raisinville Wranglers; AC 6:30PM Dog Board; ELC 6:30PM	5 Faithful Friends; AC 12-4PM	6	7 Dundee District Craft Expo; AC 2:30PM Registration required
8	9 Horse & Pony; AC 7PM	10 Hippology; AC 6:30PM	11	12	13	14 Happy Valentines Day!
15 London Fancy Farmers; AC 3:30PM	16	17 Drop-In w/Jean; ELC 5PM Entreprene- urship; AC 6PM Caprine Council 7pm ELC	18 JLA; ELC 7PM Hippology; AC 6:30PM	19 Dairy Board ELC 7pm Fair Advisory Board; 7PM Whispering Spirits; AC 7PM	20	21 Flag Wksp; 12PM TA Lock-In; AC 5PM
22 Communica- tions Day; AC 2PM Registration Required Line Dancing; AC 5-7PM	23	24 YQCA Training; AC 7PM Registration Required	25 Teen Ambassad-o rs; AC 7PM	26	27	28 Cloverbud Expo; AC 8:30am check-in Registration Required



MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Tack Sale & Dog Treat Bake Sale; FM Expo 10AM-2PM	2 4-H Council; AC 7PM	3 Terra Quest; AC 6PM	4 Dog Board; ELC 6:30PM	5 Faithful Friends; AC 12-4PM Sheep Clinic; AC 7PM	6	7 Mini Expo; AC Registration required
8	9 Horse & Pony; AC 7PM	10 Poultry Wksp; AC 7PM	11 YQCA training; AC 7pm	12 Entrepreneur ship; AC 6:30PM D-12 Volunteer Learning Series 6:30 registration required	13	14
15 Denim and Dust Photo Shoot	16 Cat Board; AC 6:30PM	17 Drop In W/Jean; ELC 5PM Caprine Council 7pm ELC	18 Hippology;AC 6:30PM JLA; ELC 7PM	19 Fair Advisory Board; ELC 7PM	20	21
22 London Fancy Farmers; AC 3PM Pony Farm Meet&Greet	23 SAA; ELC 7PM	24 E.S.I.; AC 6:30PM	25 Teen Ambassador; AC 7PM	26 RCPP Clinic; AC 7PM D-12 Volunteer Learning Series 6:30 registration required	27	28
29	30 Whispering Spirits; AC 7PM	31 Swine Clinic; AC 7PM				



Small Animal

Next Meeting March 23, 2026 @7:00pm ELC

Save the Dates:

Small animal requires youth to attend one workshop per year

Poultry Workshop 3/10/2026 7pm AC
RCPP Workshop 3/26/2026 7pm AC
Spring RCPP Show 4/18/26 Ed. Building
Broiler Workshop 4/28/2026 7pm AC

- Chicken/Duck \$4.00 orders due 4/01/2026, pick-up 4/30/2026
- Broilers 2.50 orders due 4/28/2026 pick up June 11th
- Turkey orders due 2/10/2026 \$4.00(turkey orders can be done on your own)
- Rosters on your own

Follow Us on Social Media

[Monroe County Small Animal Association](#)

[Monroe County 4-H Dog Program](#)

[Monroe County 4-H Cat Program](#)

See JLA page for YQCA Dates



SMALL ANIMAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD 25-26

President: Daisy Branham
Vice President: Journey Williams
Recording Secretary: Kathryn Dietrich
Corresponding Secretary: Angyl Bischoff
Youth Treasurer: Samantha Gibson
Historian: Mackenzie Sommers



Monroe County 4-H Cat Program



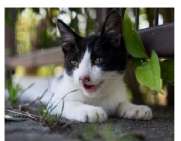
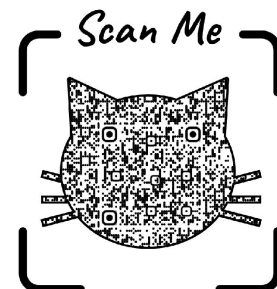
Meeting Location: 4-H Activity Center

Meeting Dates: 3rd Monday of the month
(except December, January, July and August)

Meeting Time: 6:30PM

All 4-H members and Cloverbuds who own a cat are welcome.

For more information: Contact Kim Cramer at cramergirls09@gmail.com or scan the QR Code.





4-H

MONROE COUNTY 4-H DOG PROGRAM
FUNDRAISER

DOG TREAT BAKE SALE!

A bonanza of homemade dog treats and dog toys made by
4-H members of the Monroe County Dog Program

SUNDAY MARCH 1ST
4-H TACK SALE
MONROE COUNTY EXPO CENTER
10AM - 2PM

4-H volunteers needed to make dog treats, dog
toys, and work the table.
Contact your club leader or Casey Young for
more info 419-344-3753





Junior Livestock Association News

 Next JLA 2/18/2026 meeting 6pm Auction

Committee Meeting, 7pm monthly board mtg. ELC 

Tagging:

Sheep and Swine tagging 5/2/2026 8am-10am *all**
sheep and swine must be tagged to show at the Monroe
county fair

Clinics: JLA requires 1st time showers to attend species
specific clinics. All are encouraged to attend

Sheep 3/5/2026 7pm Activity center

Swine 3/31/2026 7pm Activity Center

Beef 4/18/2026 Tom Blanchett Preview Show

Fitting and Showing 6/2/2026 6pm Fairgrounds

YQCA Instructor Lead trainings: 2/24, 3/11 & 4/23/2026
all start at 7pm in the Activity Center. Registration and
pre-test required. All market animal exhibitors need
YQCA certification.

Barn Set-up July 7th

2025-2026 JLA Officers
President: Sophie Kreps
Vice President: Kayla Pittman
Secretary: Lindsey Roof
Treasure: Clara Iott



YQCA Training



Complete YQCA no later than June 08, 2026 *PLEASE READ CAREFULLY*****

YQCA Certification

Youth ages 8-19 showing **MARKET** animals (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Rabbits) are required to complete YQCA training no later than June 08, 2026 to be eligible to show at the Monroe County Fair.

YQCA two Completion Options:

1. **\$3.00 Instructor Led/ in-person training** ages 8 to 18

Go to [YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals \(yqcaprogram.org\)](https://yqcaprogram.org). If you created an account last year, log into your account, select a child, select the age and instructor led training. Search Michigan and select the training you wish to register for (Monroe County Instructor led YQCA training). If you are new to YQCA, you will need to first create an account in YQCA. Monroe County instructor led training to be held at the 4-H Activity Center on

YQCA Training Feb. 24th 7:00 pm @ AC

YQCA Training March 11th 7:00 pm @ AC

YQCA Training April 23rd 7:00 pm @ AC

***** for instructor led training, Youth must register online at least two days prior to the training.**

Trainings are on a first come, first serve basis until full. No walk-ins will be accepted on site. All payments must be made in advance through the YQCA website. Youth must complete the pre-test prior to attending the class and then the post- test after the training.

OR

2. **\$12.00 Web based training** Go to [YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals \(yqcaprogram.org\)](https://yqcaprogram.org) and log in using the account you created last year, if you are new to YQCA you will need to create an account. After logging in, you will need to select the correct YQCA class depending on age.

Youth can complete the course online each module takes 15-20 minutes with there is a total of five (5) modules.

***19 year olds must take online course**

*****Once YQCA is Completed youth must provide a copy of certificate to the extension office! Options to submit: electronically at <https://forms.gle/5M3Ab17QPtcPtUAZ9> (preferred) or hand deliver a copy to extension office. *****

Clickable Links:

·YQCA Instructor Led training [YQCA_HelpDoc_GettingILTCertification_2024.pdf](#)

·“help video” specifically for students enrolling in instructor-led trainings

<https://youtu.be/wZHW2qtMIOc>

·YQCA Web-based [YQCA_HelpDoc_GettingWBTCertification_2024.pdf](#)



Youth Volunteer Hours

Get Involved in the Barns!

Help in the Small Animal Barn & Junior Livestock Barns!

Complete a Minimum of **8 Volunteer Hours**
January 1st - July 24th

8 HOURS VOLUNTEERED

- ✓ Rabbit Clinic
- ✓ Sheep Tagging
- ✓ Clearing Barns
- ✓ Fitting & Showing Clinic
- ✓ Rabbit Show

Turn in Your Volunteer Log!

- ✓ Submit a sheet with
- ✓ Date & Event
- ✓ Total Hours Worked
- ✓ Signature of Jean Genaw, Ron Bash, Dave, or General Superintendent
- ✓ Description of Your Tasks

Receive a Sign for Your Pen at the Fair!

Get Your Hours In By July 24th!

Volunteer Forms Due to:
Large Animal Superintendents
or Small Animal Superintendents

2026
Volunteered 8 Hours
Your Name



Dairy Board / Goat Board



Congratulations 2024 Dairy Board Officers

President: Isaac Haws

Vice President: Alex Haws

Secretary: Kylee Buchanan

Treasure: Mason Eagle

JLA rep./ Historian: Lauren Mathe

Thank you 2025 Monroe County 4-H Dairy Board Sponsors

Access & Alarm, Inc.
Agri Parts, LLC
Bass Roofing
Busen's Appliance, Inc.
Calder Dairy & Farm
Carleton Farm Supply
Charlie's Repair
Christian and Erin Stumpmier
Darling Farms, LLC
Dave and Kathy Haws
Dave and Yvonne VanBuskirk
Delker's Automotive
Dennis and Linda Jaskot
Dundee Lumber, Inc.
Family Farm & Home - Monroe
Finishers Unlimited
Fitch Family Farm
Girbach Ag LLC
Golden Harvest Seeds - Mark & Sarah Mathe
Greenstone Farm Credit Services
Haws Family Farm
Hayden's Automotive
Homrich, Inc.
Ida Veterinary Clinic
Jim and Mary Wickenheiser
John Calder
John and Sue Mathe

John and Laura Wickenheiser
Jon and Nicole Jaskot
JVB Red Hot Jerseys
Kamprath Farms LLC
Kastel Show Cattle
Ken and Marilyn Knapke
Knapke Brothers Dairy
Kraig and Carole Straub
Luckey Farmers, Inc.
Masserant's Feed & Grain - Newport
Maybee Farmers, Inc.
Miller Hoof Trimming
Mitchell Langton
Monroe County Farm Bureau
Monroe Fencing Co.
Neher Perfect Lawn Care
Omni
Ray's Septic Tank Cleaning
Sandy Barton
Salenbien Trucking & Excavating
Schafer Dairy Farms
The Carner Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance
The Tire Depot - Dundee
Thompson Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Tractor Supply Co. - Monroe
UIS Insurance & Investments
Wind in the Willows Floral Boutique

Next Dairy Meeting
February 19, 2026 6pm
at extension office
Youth elections will be
held/ please attend!



Caprine Council

2025-2026 Caprine Officers

President- Danielle Pienta

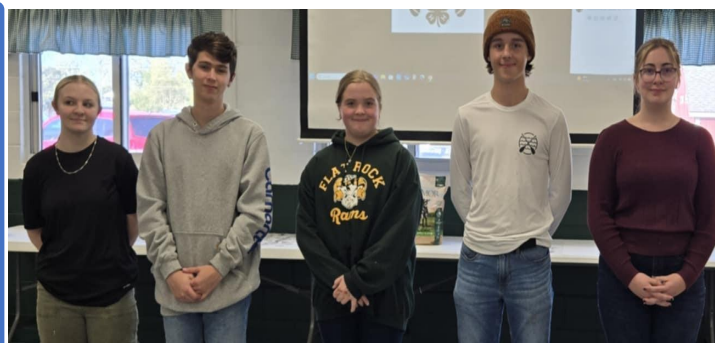
Vice President- Liam Bednarz

Treasurer- Emma Lane

Secretary- Stewart Funk

Historian- Ashlyn Weslow

JLA Goat Representatives- Stewart Funk
& Liam Bednarz



Next Caprine Meeting
2/17/2026 7pm ELC



Horse and Pony News

Save The Dates

- No Meeting in December
- 3/1/2026 Rescheduled Tack sale
- May 01, 2026 Horse paperwork due
- Leveling show - May 8-10
- Point Show 1 June 5-7
- Point Show 2 June 26-28
- All Mini Show- July 17-19
- Clinic/Meet and Greet- September 13th
- Banquet 2026 November 6th

2026 H&P Officers

President- Nora Sheets

Vice President- Mackenzie Reed

Secretary- Mia Brinson

Treasure- Maleah Wylie

Webmaster/Historian- Laynie Timmons



Horse and Pony info

Main communication is through Facebook: Monroe County 4-H Horse and Pony Members Only

and

Monthly meetings 2nd Monday of the month 7:00 pm Activity Center (Except Aug & Dec)

H&P has mandatory meetings and volunteer hours make sure you are meeting the requirements

Hippology see next page for additional details

Your Contact person: Hippology Team coach: Elizabeth Kotus schedule pick up via email: ekotus@hotmail.com or text: 734-604-4951

Study dates at Activity Center

Feb 10th Tues. @ AC 6:30-8PM

Feb 18th Thurs. @ AC 6:30-8PM

practice contests: 2/1/26 Sunday Mock Horse Judging/Hippology MQHA connection weekend at MSU pavillion Lansing, MI



Hippology and Horse Judging Team



When: Hippology and Horse Judging Meetings are usually twice a month, but competition season comes they are more often

Where: SMCC high school and 4-H activity Center. Can also be 4-H Extension Office

What we learn: In Hippology and Horse Judging we learn about diseases, conformation, and different riding styles

2026 meeting dates

January 7-SMCC
January 20-Extension Office
February 4-SMCC
February 10-Activity Center
February 18-Extension Office
March 4-SMCC
March 18-Extension Office
April 8-Activity Center



Join the facebook study group for more information Contact:
Liz Kotus via group.me





Tack Sale rescheduled to 3/1/2026





Drop-In with Jean

3rd Tuesday of the month

5:00 pm at Extension Office

Please RSVP so supplies can be purchased

~~10/21/25 Machine Knitting~~

~~11/18/25 Beads/Jewelry~~

~~12/16/25 Creative Gift Wrapping~~

~~1/20/26 Perler Beads~~

2/17/26 Seed Art

3/17/26 In- A-Jar (mixes or cookies)

4/21/26 Large Animal Science

5/19/26 Small Animal Science

6/16/26 Wonders of Water

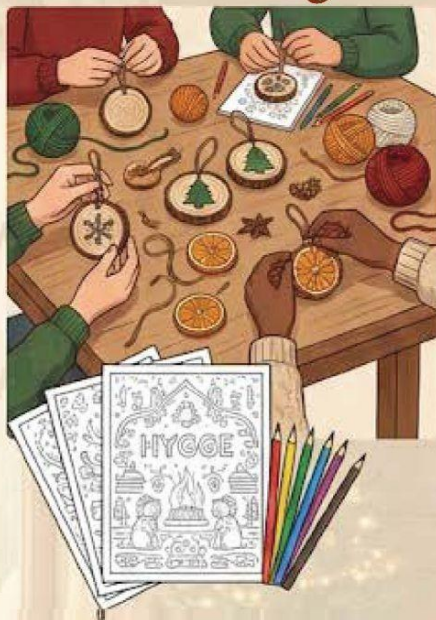
RSVP LINK: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9EKbexaljfZ2gDQ

Select all sessions you would like to attend.





Hygge Themed Ornament Crafting Event Save the Date!



Join Dundee District Leaders for a 4H event of warmth, creativity and community! Activities include: Ornament Craft stations, Relaxing Coloring Pages to make and take for fair.

A Delicious Hot Cocoa Bar, and Tasty Snacks will be available.

Date: Saturday February 7th | Time: 10:30AM - 1:00PM | Location: 4H Activity Center

RSVP by: January 23rd, 2026 to guarantee supplies

At this link-- <https://forms.gle/rDLmXmPC945ofuEh7>
or Scan QR code
\$5 to be collected at the door cash or check made to Dundee District



Any Questions-Contact either host:

Heather Turnblom Text (734)755-8599 email: turnblomhm@gmail.com
or Elizabeth Kotus Text (734)604-4951 email: ekotus@hotmail.com





Communications Day

Sessions: Extemporaneous, Storytelling, Modeling,
Listening Skills

February 22, 2026 2:00pm – 4:00pm



4-H Activity Center

*Free to attend
All 4-H ages
Participant Prizes*

Register by Feb.
1st

Sponsored by Airport District 4-H





Link: [Cloverbud Expo Registration](#)



Monroe County 4-H Clover bud Expo Registration

Registration Open: 12/19/2025- 2-16/2026

\$12 Registration: Advanced Payment can be made at the 4-H Office by cash/check or accepted at the door.
(Please make checks payable to Monroe County 4-H Council)

Cloverbuds Ages 5-7

Event Timing: Saturday February 28, 2026

Check In: 8:30am

Program Ends: 12pm

Parents are welcome and encouraged to stay but it is not required.

Event Address: 4-H Activity Center, Monroe County Fairgrounds

Contact us at (734)240-3188 or Email Genawjea@msu.edu

Classes are

Wreath making

Mixes in a Jar

Plant Science

Fishing Lures

Clover buds will rotate to each class



Link: <https://forms.gle/8W4b24eyX1UFNd3YA>



Section 1 of 2

Monroe County 4-H Mini Expo Registration

Registration Open: 2/01/26- 2/20/2026

\$15 Registration: Advanced Payment can be made at the 4-H Office by cash/check or accepted at the door.

(Please make checks payable to Monroe County 4-H Council)

4-H Ages 8-19

Event Timing: Saturday March 07, 2026

Check In: 9:00am

End Time: 3:00pm

Event Address: 4-H Activity Center, Monroe County Fairgrounds

Contact us at (734)240-3188 or Genawjea@msu.edu

[Class List](#) for review -

You must use this form to register!

4-H Mini Expo – Saturday, March 7

9:00 – 9:30 - CHECK IN

9:30 – 11:00 - **SESSION 1 – 1 ½ hours long**

1. Mosaics – Jan Maciejewski (sign up for session 1 & 3)
2. Diamond Dot – Susan Arting
3. Metal Punch – Chris & Henry Jones
4. Wall Decorations (Dream Catchers) – Toni Baker-Branham
5. Paper Mache Hearts – Jean Gibson
6. String Art Christmas Tree Ornaments – Mary Wickenheiser
7. Intermediate Glass Etching – Sue Jones

11:00 – 12:00 - **SESSION 2 – 1 hour long**

8. Beginning Glass Etching – Sue Andrews
9. Terra Cotta Pots - Mary Wickenheiser
10. Candy – Kourtney Kraftchick
11. Greeting Cards – Susan Arting and Lisa Watters
12. Photography – Scott Weisler
13. Perler Beads – Jean Genaw

14. Red, White and Blue -

12:00 – 12:45 – LUNCH

12:45 – 2:45 – **SESSION 3 – 2 hours long**

15. Mosaics – Jan Maciejewski (sign up for session 1 & 3)
16. Felted Wool – Sue Jones
17. Wreaths – Susan Arting
18. Work working Kits – Duane Alt
19. Artistic Seed Design – Carla Brown
20. Leather Craft – Mayra and Louis Lietner
21. **Christmas Ornaments -**

2:45 – 3:00 – DOOR PRIZES and CLEAN UP

3:00 – dismissal/parent pick up



MONROE COUNTY 4-H ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERIES

All classes held the the 4-H Activity Center on the Fairgrounds

Thursday, January 22nd 6:30pm

Goal Setting- putting SMART goals into practice for 2026

Tuesday, February 17th 6:30pm

Building your Brand recognition and marketing

Thursday, March 12th 6:30pm

The WHAT, WHY, and HOW of the 4-H Entrepreneurship category
dive into the project booklet

Friday, April 17th 6:30pm

“Strategic sales” Learn how the big companies catch and keep their
customers coming back

Wednesday, May 6th 6:30pm

topic: TBD

Building the **FUTURE**



Monroe County 4-H Entrepreneurship Program &
First Merchants Bank Partnering to Help Our Community Prosper



JOIN US



Line Dancing

Beginner lessons

All 4-H'ers welcome \$5 entry fee

VENUE: MONROE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, ACTIVITY
CENTER. 3775 S CUSTER RD, MONROE, MI



22 FEB 2026 | 5:00-7:00PM

per-registraistin required

[https://forms.gle/
eNJ4hHzmdpNCNAwi9](https://forms.gle/eNJ4hHzmdpNCNAwi9)

or scan





Pony Farm Meet & Greet

Sponsored by Custer 4-H District

March 22, 2026

1 PM to 3 PM

Stable Way Pony Farm

South Rockwood, MI

Scan Here to
Pre-Register



Ages 6 & Up
Wear closed
toe/heel shoes!

Questions?
Contact Amy at
thestableway@gmail.com



MICHIGAN 4-H LICENSE PLATE

Support Michigan 4-H and show your 4-H pride by purchasing a Michigan 4-H license plate! Michigan 4-H license plates cost \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H. The \$10 renewal fee will also benefit Michigan 4-H.

Order your Michigan 4-H license plate today through the Michigan Secretary of State by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office.

Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.



4-H Spring Garage Sale

MARCH 28, 2026

4-H Activity Center

Part of the Monroe County Fair Association (MCFA)
Flea Market & Garage Sale event

DONATIONS NEEDED:

BOOKS, & TOYS,
CRAFT SUPPLIES,
SPORTS STUFF,
FURNITURE,
HOLIDAY ITEMS,
HOUSEHOLD
STUFF

PLEASE NO
CLOTHING or
ELECTRONICS



Donation drop offs
accepted March 26 & 27
1000 AM - 7:00 PM
4-H Activity Center

All proceeds are donated to MCFA to help defray the cost of fair ribbons

Contact Jean at 734-240-3188 with questions





TERRA QUEST PRESENTS



Spring Tea

Come delight in an afternoon of fun with the whole family at our fourth annual Spring Tea! Enjoy different teas, finger foods, and activities for all ages! Come dressed in your Sunday best with your favorite fascinator! Prizes for the best fascinator! Space is limited, please RSVP by April 25th.

SATURDAY

**MAY
16
2026**

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Cost: \$25/Pair (1 Adult & 1 Child)

\$5 for each additional child after a pair

\$10 for each additional adult after a pair

OR

\$15/Adult Attending

4-H Activity Center

3775 N. Custer Rd, Monroe MI, 48161



For Tickets or Questions contact the Office

@ 734 - 240 - 3182



JOIN THE TERRA QUEST 4-H CLUB



Wisconsin Dells, 2025



Hocking Hills, 2022



Hershey, 2023

**THE ONLY TRAVEL CLUB
IN THE COUNTY**

**WE DO EDUCATIONAL TRIPS
WE'VE TRAVELED TO:**

Hershey, Pennsylvania
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
Hocking Hills, Ohio
Red River Gorge, Kentucky

**MUST BE 13 & OLDER TO JOIN
AND 14 & OLDER TO TRAVEL**

**MEMBERS WILL FUNDRAISE
FOR COST OF ALL TRIPS**

**TRIPS ARE THE SECOND
WEEK OF AUGUST
(AFTER FAIR)**



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION



MONROE COUNTY FAIR 2026 – 4-H

PROJECT AREA CHANGES

CRAFTS - New project areas

SECTION 824-- PULL-APART CUPCAKE CAKES (TROPHY)

RULES – READ CAREFULLY

- A. Cakes MUST be on a study board no bigger than 24"x24", with at least TWO INCHES of board showing all around the cake.
- B. Single layer only with all cupcakes touching.
- C. Must be filled standard size cupcake papers.
- D. You may use a box mix or made from "scratch" for your cupcakes.
- E. Use made from "scratch" frosting.
- F. All embellishments must be edible.
- G. Include directions on how you decorated the cake.

SECTION 890—SHOEBOX FLOAT (TROPHY)

RULES – READ CAREFULLY

- A. Make your float from ONE shoebox using a space no larger than 10"x15".
- B. Your float theme is your choice. Include your theme in your directions.
- C. No Legos or other building toys allowed.

HORTICULTURE - New Project area

FRUITS

Guideline to fruit and quantities required to enter for fair to come soon.

EDUCATIONAL – Discontinued project area

SECTION 964 – CONSUMER EDUCATION CLOTHING



Enrollment in 4-H online

- 4-H online link: <https://v2.4honline.com>

Monroe County 4-H 2025-2026

4-H online enrollment

Opened September 08, 2025

All re-enrollments should be complete

Please re-enroll NOW!!!

Deadline to Show at fair register by 4/1/2026

Do not wait enroll as soon as 4-H online

Contact the 4-H office with any questions or assistance you may need

(734) 240-3188



***UPDATE Current 4-H online enrollment numbers

*****Incompletes 74 Please log back in and complete!!!**

Reminder Adults need to be active gold or silver before enrolling in 4-H online (See page 27)

To be reviewed: 38 Volunteers & 63 youth, **If you submitted an enrollment before December and it is still in awaiting review contact Jean at the office after 2/3/2026.**

458 Volunteers Approves 1,044 youth approved **leaders please pull your rosters. Great Job, let's get the final enrollments in!!!**





Volunteer/Leader Training



MAKING THE BEST BETTER SOUTHEAST MI 4-H VOLUNTEER SERIES

Learn with and from other 4-H volunteers
In person or virtual from January-March

RSVP HERE!

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/D12VOLUNTEER](https://bit.ly/d12volunteer)

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Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Our District 12 counties (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, and Washtenaw) are teaming up to host a 4-H Volunteer Learning series **in person or virtual** January – March. Each of the 5 sessions will focus on a different theme and many sessions will include seasoned volunteers who can share their tips, tricks, and perspective.

•**Cha-ching Making Cents of 4-H Finances: February 12th at 6:30 pm in Our Livingston County MSU Extension Office**

•Join the Conversation: Engaging Parents & 4-H Alums in 4-H Experiences and Implementing Shared Leadership in 4-H Clubs: February 26th at 6:30 pm in Washtenaw

•Youth Engagement & Engaging Youth Voice: March 12th at 6:30 pm in Lenawee

•From Clash to Collaboration: Practicing the Art of Conflict Resolution: March 26th at 6:30 pm in Jackson

This series is for all volunteers, whether your brand new to 4-H or have been volunteering for decades. Learn alongside and with your fellow 4-H volunteers.

Register for one or more sessions here: <https://bit.ly/d12volunteer>



Volunteer/ leader Corner

Link to Volunteer Central become a 4-H volunteer

<https://msu.samaritan.com>



Leaders, please take the time to review updated Financial Manuals. These manuals will answer many of your club questions related to finance.

[Financial Manual for 4-H Volunteers - 4-H Volunteering & Mentoring \(msu.edu\)](#)

[Financial Manual for 4-H Treasurers - 4-H \(msu.edu\)](#)

Winter Volunteer Trainings

Volunteer Webinar Series, register for a webinar or view recordings from past topics on the [MSU Extension Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series page](#).

Did you miss a session of the volunteer training? Click the above link for all the recorded webinar trainings.

The below link will take you to the Beginning Farmer resource guide over 600 pages of information Check it out!

[Beginning Farmer Resource and Decision-Making Guide](#)

Financial Manuals to assist clubs with financial requirements.

[Financial Manual for 4-H Volunteers: Leading the Way to Financial Accountability](#)

[Managing Money Wisely: Financial Manual for 4-H Treasurers](#)

Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar
Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth with Skills for Life






October 6th
at noon or 7 pm
on Zoom

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Beyond Ready

Beginning Farmer Resource & Decision-Making Guide
DECEMBER 2025



Scan QR Code for Resource Website

Developed by:

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

USDA

Sponsored by:

GreenStone
FARM CREDIT SERVICES

**CONTACT US:**

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>



For questions, please contact:

Christine Heverly

sisungch@msu.edu

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2026 Michigan 4-H Volunteer Winter/Spring Webinars

This webinar series will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a Michigan State University and Michigan 4-H volunteer.

All webinars take place at 12pm (noon) EST. Registration is required for each individual webinar- registration is free! Recordings will be posted on the website for later viewing.

Sessions include:

January 26, 2026: Beyond Ready Basics: Bringing the Vital Elements to Life in Your 4-H Club: Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. In this session, we'll explore the four Vital Elements that help youth thrive, discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

February 11, 2026: Building Belonging: Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences: Teambuilding isn't just an activity—it's a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

March 25, 2026: From Sparks to Skills: Using AI Responsibly in 4-H: This webinar will help volunteers understand what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within the 4-H program. We'll explore practical guidance from MSU Extension resources, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth as they navigate this evolving technology.

April 22, 2026: Lets Talk It Out: Handling Conflict with Ease: Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. This laid-back session is all about learning how to handle tough conversations without the stress.

May 4, 2026: Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs: Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects: Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's curriculum *Youth Business Guide to Success*.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a "roll call" or "ice breaker" at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of "What's your favorite cheese?", know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.
#BeyondReady

February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month's session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with "Walking a Path of Conservation." Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february

February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn't just an activity—it's a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences

February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11

February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats

February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026

February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 7 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin! This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.



Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse
4-H Livestock and Veterinary
Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay
4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order
4-H Dairy Educator
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Jermo Reese
4-H Animal Science Program
Instructor
reesejer@msu.edu

Jacob Stieg
4-H Poultry Point of Contact
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Kat VanDouser
4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glenda Weiss
4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

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January 24	4-H State Rabbit Show
Feb. 27- March 1	4-H Dairy Conference
March 7	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
March 14	4-H Horse Communications Contest
March 21-22	Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show
March 21	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop
March 22	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl
April 11	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
April 12	4-H Hippology State Contest
May 6	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
June 10-11	Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp
June 27	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
July 1	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
July 6-7 & 8-9	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
July 13-16	4-H Youth Dairy Days
August 13-16	4-H State Horse Show
September 19	4-H State Dog Show



Scan me for more
information about these
programs!



2026 Schedule of Events

Jan. 25- 4-H Tack Sale & More	July 11-12- FCHA Horse Show
Jan. 31/Feb. 1- Oddities & Horror Fest	July 17-19- 4-H Horse Show
Feb. 7-8-Gun & Knife Show	July 31- Fireworks
March 8- The Vintage Market	Aug 2- Aug 8 -MONROE COUNTY FAIR
March 21- Ducks Unlimited Banquet	Aug. 22-23- Gun & Knife Show
March 28- Garage Sale & Flea Market	Aug. 22-23- FCHA Horse Show
April 4- Winter Storage Removal	Aug. 30 Auto Swap Meet
April 10- Soil Conservation Tree Sale	Sept. 11-12- Monroe Comic Con
April 12- Auto Swap Meet	Sept. 25-27- Monroe Kennel Club Dog Show
April 18- Tom Blanchette Memorial Beef Show	Oct. 3- Winter Storage begins
April 18- 4-H Spring Rabbit Show	Oct. 4 - Wicked Pickin'
April 19- FCHA Tack Sale	Oct. 10-11 - Gun & Knife Show
April 26- Monroe Bike Show	Oct. 10-11- FCHA Horse Show
May 1-Ag Awareness Day	Oct. 17-Garage Sale & Flea Market
May 1-3- Fair Food Drive-Thru	Oct. 24- Grand Day of Tournaments
May 8-10- 4-H Horse Show	Oct. 31/Nov. 1- Shishewana on the Road
May 10- Flower & Garden Show	Nov. 14- 4-H Spaghetti Dinner & Auction
May 17- Motorcycle Swap Meet	Nov. 20-22 - Michigan Tattoo Convention
May 23- Bedford Fire Explorer Training	Dec. 13- The Vintage Market
May 30-31- FCHA Horse Show	
June 5-7 -4-H Horse Show	
June 7- The Vintage Market	
June 13-14- Gun & Knife Show	
June 21- Monroe Hamfest	
June 26-28- 4-H Horse Show	
July 3-5- Ann Arbor Kennel Club Dog Show	



RECAP

MAFE CONVENTION AWARDS



Monroe County residents took home several honors from the [Michigan Fair Convention](#) in Grand Rapids.

Sophia Kreps of Temperance received a youth scholarship, while Barbara Siebarth and Phil Motylinski were recognized for their contributions to the Monroe County Fair, according to a community announcement.

Siebarth, a lifelong resident of Raisinville Township, received the Heritage Award. She has been involved in 4-H for more than 50 years, serving as a participant, leader and committee member. She has also served on the 4-H Council and contributed to committees such as the Activity Center, Spaghetti Dinner and Auction, Scholarships and Awards. She has been a member of the Small Animal Association for more than five decades.

Beef Tagging

