

4-H Family News

Oakland County



Congratulations 4-H Seniors!



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Oakland County 4-H is proud to recognize and congratulate our graduating senior members for their accomplishments, leadership, and dedication throughout their 4-H journey. We are especially proud to recognize the following seniors, pictured left to right:

Mark D., Emily S., Victoria M., Anaya K., Mea C., Camryn B., John B., and Avery J.



4-H Rocket Club Launch

On May 16, members of the 4-H Rocket Club traveled to Alkay Airport in Clio for Team 1’s high-power rocket launch. The group took part in a hands-on launch experience focused on engineering, safety, and teamwork.

Watch the launch video here: [Rocket Club Launch Video](#)

Anyone interested in joining can contact Jordan at jbschwarz@gmail.com.

Club launch-Sunday, June 14 8AM - 12PM at Seymour Lake Township Park in Oxford. In case of inclement weather, they will move to the rain date, Sunday, June 28 8AM - 12PM. Look for an email around June 12 with an update.



4-H Paddling Safety and Invasive Species Class

June 28, 2026, Noon–2:00 p.m.

Independence Oaks County Park
9501 Sashabaw Rd., Village of Clarkston, MI 48348

Join Oakland County 4-H for a hands-on outdoor learning experience **focused on paddling safety and environmental stewardship**.

Youth participants will:

- Learn essential kayak safety skills
- Practice proper paddling techniques
- Discover how invasive species impact lakes and waterways

Learn how to help protect Michigan’s natural resources

Cost: \$10

Please note: Registrations cancelled after May 29 will incur a \$5 cancellation fee. [Register Here!](#)

Oakland County 4-H Kayak Safety & Invasive Species Workshop

Sunday, June 28, 2026, 12 PM - 2 PM
Independence Oaks County Park

Paddle, Learn & Protect Our Waters!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn Kayak Safety Skills Discover how invasive species impact our lakes and waterways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice proper paddling techniques Learn how to protect Michigan's natural resources
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Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase

Registration open until:

August 7, 2026

2026 Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

Free entry for Michigan youth, ages 5-19!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Got a project to show off? We want to see it!
Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

Ages 5–19 | FREE entry | No 4-H membership needed
Submit photos or videos
Register by Aug. 7

Scholarships available for youth 8-19 as of Jan 1, 2026
Enter as many classes as you want. All exhibitors receive ratings AND feedback from judges!

Enter today at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/vir.../State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>



Attention Oakland County Fair Youth Exhibitors!

The Oakland County Farm Bureau is offering an opportunity to assist with marketing and promoting your fair project in order to broaden the reach of youth buyer letters and raise awareness of the livestock auctions in our community.

Youth exhibitors are invited to share their buyer letters with Oakland County Farm Bureau. As letters are received, they will be added to a common folder that Farm Bureau agents and members can utilize to share with local businesses, community members, and potential supporters throughout Oakland County.

To participate, please submit your buyer letters (in PDF format only) to:
oaklandcounty@ctyfb.com



**** Submit as soon as possible to maximize outreach opportunities prior to the fair!**

Also, check out this link for some helpful info: [4-H Animal Project Marketing Resources](#)

Happy Fair Season!!

4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament

Calling all 4-H Shooting Sports youth! Ready to take your skills to the state level? This annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition with other 4-H members from all over the state. Registration closes July 19, 2026.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_state_shooting_sports.../...](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_state_shooting_sports.../)



AI and You: Smart, Safe and Savvy



Curious about AI and how it's changing the world around you?

Join Michigan State University Extension 4-H for an Adulting 101 session: AI and You: Smart, Safe, and Savvy on Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m. EST!

Learn how AI works, how it can support you, and how it's shaping industries like agriculture-plus explore how to use it responsibly and make smart choices in a tech-driven world.

Don't miss this chance to get ahead of the curve!

Register for free at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you

4-H Horse Camp

June 21 – 25, 2026. **Four-day horse camp at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg, MI** for 4-H member youth ages 8-19. Four instructional classes with your horse daily include: Fitting & Showing, Western Horsemanship, English Equitation, Dressage, Jumping, Trail, Centered Riding, Bareback, Ranch Riding, In-hand Miniature Horse and Gymkhana.

Contact: Diane Tenerowicz – Camp Director, 313-410-9999
 ddkktenerowicz@aol.com



Intro to Bunnies Class

Intro to Bunnies Class

Interested in rabbits for pets, showing, or 4-H projects? **Join us for a beginner-friendly introduction to bunny care, handling, housing, and 4-H rabbit opportunities!**

June 20
 3 p.m.
 Fair Office at Springfield Oaks County Park

Come meet some bunnies and learn more!

Questions: Hewittj8@msu.edu

Register here: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/7054/>

INTRO TO BUNNIES CLASS

Thinking about rabbits for pets, showmanship, or 4-H projects? Join us for a fun one-hour introduction to bunnies!

Learn about:

- Basic Rabbit Care
- Housing and daily needs
- Health and handling
- Important considerations before getting a rabbit
- Opportunities in 4-H rabbit projects and showing

Great for beginners!

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

New 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program

NEW STATEWIDE 4-H TRAIL RIDING RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Michigan 4-H is launching a new Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program to celebrate youth who participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project.

Trail riding helps youth build:

- Rider Safety
- Horse and Rider Bond
- Rider Confidence

Now those miles earn statewide recognition!

- Open to all enrolled Michigan 4-H horse project members
- Top 5 Junior & Top 5 Senior riders recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

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We're excited to launch the **Michigan Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program**. If you're enrolled in a Michigan 4-H horse project, you can participate by logging your trail rides completed between August 1 and July 31.

Whether you enjoy quiet wooded paths or group trail adventures, every mile counts. The top five Junior and top five Senior riders will be recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show. Start logging your rides today and be part of this statewide celebration of trail riding:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY

Questions? Contact Jordan at hewittj8@msu.edu or David at lindsa75@msu.edu.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing Youth to Be Beyond Ready Through 4-H Livestock Projects



Beyond Ready

4-H livestock projects provide powerful, real-world learning that helps youth become Beyond Ready for life, work and leadership. Caring for animals teaches responsibility, time management and problem solving, all of which are essential skills for future success. Through chores, recordkeeping and making informed decisions, youth practice accountability and perseverance.

Livestock projects also build confidence as members explain their work to judges, interact with buyers and demonstrate professionalism in the show ring. When volunteers encourage reflection, support goal setting, and help youth connect these experiences to life beyond the barn, young people begin to see how their efforts today prepare them for tomorrow. Are your project activities helping youth become Beyond Ready?

#BeyondReady

June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens. Find new caches, trade travel bugs, explore the gardens and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache

June 9: Online Extension Extras for Parents: Internet Safety

Online

Screens are everywhere, and children are spending more and more time in front of them. This session will discuss topics including steps to take to keep kids safe online, apps youth use and their safety, Michigan laws, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-internet-safety-6-9-26

June 11: Adulting 101 – AI and You: Smart, Safe and Savvy

Online

As part of the Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar series, this session will explore the basics of how artificial intelligence works, ways it can support you, and how to make smart decisions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ai_and_you

June 18: Pirate and Pixie Garden Party

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Argh me mateys. Join a morning of swashbuckling fun! Go on a treasure hunt, making pixie dust, decorate an eye patch and more!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pirate-and-pixie-garden-party

June 23: 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 communities.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/digger-day

July 1: 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging State 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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Register for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! 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 - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive

While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award. Registration is due by June 15. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2026.



MSU Extension honors 11 Michigan 4-H volunteers for 50 years of service in 2026

For the sixth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

“We give thanks for every volunteer in our program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “Michigan 4-H would not exist as it does today without the dedication of volunteers who generously share their gifts, and these 11 remarkable individuals in particular have been sharing their gifts for a half-century. We offer them our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all they’ve done for our organization and Michigan 4-H’ers.”

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2026 are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kay Booth, Barry County | • Deb Pincumbe, Ingham County |
| • Joyce Goerge, Clinton County | • Linda Preston, Cass County |
| • Betty Groth, Cass County, | • Peter Preston, Cass County |
| • Beverly Koppelman, Monroe County | • Kathy Williams, St. Clair County |
| • Gary Koppelman, Monroe County | • Mary Yeomans, Midland County |
| • Michael Lee, Osceola County | |

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at:

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.