



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Mark of Excellence Winners!



Eleanor S.



Claire B.

Every year, Michigan counties invite 4-H youth (ages 11–12) to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Awards Program's "Mark of Excellence" essay contest, themed "Because of 4-H, I can...". Participants reflected on making new friends, trying new projects, exploring places, and achieving dreams.

We are thrilled to announce that Eleanor S. and Claire B. submitted essays that stood out for their exceptional writing, thoughtful reflections, and inspiring messages. Their heartfelt essays captured the true spirit of 4-H and demonstrated the powerful, positive impact that the program has on youth across Michigan.

In recognition of their outstanding achievements, both Eleanor and Claire will receive a certificate and medal from the Michigan 4-H Foundation. They will also be honored at the annual 4-H Awards Ceremony this November.

Huge congratulations to both Eleanor and Claire!

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Strawberry Preservation Workshop

🍓 ✨ Join us for a Berry Sweet Experience! ✨ 🍓

🕒 June 28 | 12–2 PM

Tollgate Farm and Education Center, Novi, MI

Ready to jam? This hands-on workshop is perfect for families and anyone who loves strawberries! You'll:

- ✅ Make your own freezer jam (and take it home!)
- ✅ Learn hot water bath canning basics
- ✅ Get into the fields and explore strawberry plant care

Open to all ages – kids 13 & under must attend with a parent.

Space is limited – [sign up here now!](#)

Strawberry Preservation Workshop

**JUNE 28, 2025
12 – 2 PM**

Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi, MI 48377

Ready to jam? This hands-on workshop is perfect for families and anyone who loves strawberries! You'll:

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Open to all ages – kids 13 & under must attend with a parent.
♥ Space is limited – sign up now and preserve the flavor of summer!

RSVP Here:

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Oakland County 4-H Horse Camp

📅 June 22-26 | 📍 Springfield Oaks County Park

Reminder: Price increases on April 14th! Register now!

Join us for a fun, hands-on horse camp perfect for riders of all levels! Enjoy activities like Western Horsemanship, Ranch Riding, Jumping, Gymkhana, Bareback, Mini Horse Driving, and more!

- ◆ Cost:
 - \$250 from April 15 - May 31
 - \$275 after June 1
- ◆ Camping: \$30 per night
- ◆ All meals included!

Make lifelong memories, learn new skills, and ride with fellow horse lovers!

Register today! Forms available [HERE](#)

🔥 Don't miss out—secure your spot now! 🔥



Oakland County 2025 Fair Entries are now Open!



Fair entries are open for the 2025 Oakland County Fair! 📌

Please visit the website for more information:

<https://www.oakfair.org/.../fair-exhibitor/on-line-entry>

Oakland County Horse Shows!

Oakland County 4-H Horse Council offers horse shows for all age exhibitors. Show weekends for 2025 are:

May 9 & 10 - Horse Council Kick-Off Show (Fuzzy Horse)

May 30 & 31 - Triple B's

June 6 & 7 - Mane 2 Tail Connection

August 8 & 9 - Paint Creek Valley Grand Finale Show

The park and shows are open to the public! Come check out the 2025 shows at Springfield Oaks County Park, 12451 Andersonville Road, Davisburg.

Visit the website for more information: [Shows – Oakland County Horse Shows](#)



Discovery Day Recap!

4-H Discovery Day on April 26, 2025, was a tremendous success, thanks to the incredible support from local 4-H clubs and community organizations. The event welcomed over 400 attendees and was powered by the dedication of 176 volunteers who helped create a memorable experience for families and youth of all ages. Participants enjoyed a wide range of hands-on activities including animal interactions, creative arts and crafts projects, and archery demonstrations. **A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to making Discovery Day such a special event.**



Cash Competition Contest



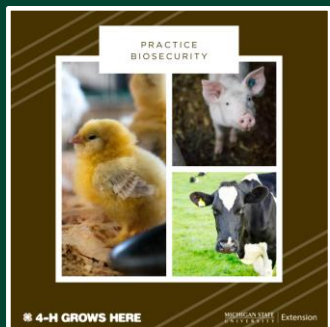
Congratulations to William A. and Lauren K. for winning this year's Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! 🌟💰

This year's essay was on credit including when credit can be a good decision and when it can be a challenge or issue for someone. They shared tips and strategies on how to wisely and safely borrow money. Their hard work paid off and, thanks to a generous sponsorship from Extra Credit Union, each of the 6 winners won a \$100 e-gift card. We are proud of you, William and Lauren!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Livestock and poultry owners encouraged remain vigilant about biosecurity



In recent years, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in cattle, cats and poultry across the country and Michigan. Livestock and poultry owners are strongly encouraged to take proactive measures to defend against additional outbreaks in Michigan. Check out the following resources helpful information on biosecurity:

- www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity
- www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms
- www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza
- www.canr.msu.edu/avian-influenza/

May 7: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Talk the Talk

Online

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. This session covers tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value, and empower youth with practical tips for impactful auctions and markets.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-may-7

May 7: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn how to keep track of what you spend and earn so you can make smart choices for your project. Discover the power of record keeping and learn how to calculate your break-even point to make smarter decisions in livestock marketing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-14

May 15: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Fueling or Squashing the Rumor Mill

Online

This webinar will focus on supporting youth who face rumors about their projects and how to prevent the spread of misinformation.

12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-noon

7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-fueling-or-squashing-the-rumor-mill-7pm

May 15: Adulting 101 Webinar – Stay Safe Out There

Online

Practical strategies to help you stay aware, prepared and confident, no matter where you go.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/staysafe

May 19: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Engaging Parents in 4-H Experiences

Online

Discover strategies to engage parents and implement shared leadership in your 4-H club.

12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-noon

7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-parents-in-4-h-experiences-and-implement-shared-leadership-in-4-h-clubs-7pm

May 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the 5 Ps of marketing and explore innovative strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales, and build valuable connections in the industry.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-21





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate now available!

Michigan drivers have a new way to show their 4-H pride while supporting 4-H youth development programming: through the purchase of the newly released Michigan 4-H license plate. Available at the Michigan Secretary of State, the plate prominently displays the signature 4-H clover and part of the proceeds from every sale and renewal will go to support Michigan 4-H youth.

"We are elated that the Michigan 4-H license plate is officially here," said Quentin Tyler, director of Michigan State University Extension, which is home to the Michigan 4-H program. "We hope the many members of our Michigan 4-H community – youth, parents, alumni and supporters – will consider supporting 4-H by purchasing a plate as they renew their licenses this year."



Similar to other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate will cost \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee will also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2024-25 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2025-2026 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs. **All applications are due June 1.**

"County 4-H programs and clubs have so many unique programs," said Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "Thanks to the support of our generous 4-H donor community, we are pleased to offer mini-grants to support these many wonderful programs."



Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$500.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.