



APRIL 2026

4-H Family News

Shiawassee County Clover Connection



Spring 4-H News and Updates

Happy Spring! This edition of the Clover Connection is jam-packed with 4-H news, events, and updates, so be sure to take a minute to check it out. As always, we've included information on upcoming statewide events, along with several local highlights.

In this issue, we recap our Youth Awards Banquet and the Small Animal Biosecurity Workshop. These events would not be possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers serving on 4-H Council and the Small Animal Association, and we are grateful for their time and commitment.

High school seniors will want to be sure to review the information on 4-H scholarship applications, and families planning to participate in the fair should check out the important updates for youth still exhibit exhibitors as well as those showing livestock.

We've also included details on upcoming programming opportunities, including one-time workshops and SPIN clubs. There are lots of great ways to stay involved this spring!

Sincerely,

Alexis Wheeler

4-H Program Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Camp Counselor Training | April 11 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM | Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center (3775 S Reese Rd, Frankenmuth, MI)

Grow Green With 4-H! | April 22 | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Community District Library – Perry (135 S Main St, Perry, MI)

Shiawassee 4-H Camp | June 13-15 | Camp Neyati

4-H Exploration Days | June 24-26 | Michigan State University

Shiawassee County Fair | August 9-15 | Shiawassee County Fairgrounds

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Building awareness in 4-H experiences



Beyond Ready

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Online (Goosechase App)

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions

April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Comerica Park, Detroit

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers

April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

Online

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart

April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Stores everywhere

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

Online

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21

April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let’s Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease

Online

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease

April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk

Online

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

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.

Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html. For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Celebrating Our Outstanding 4-H Youth



In March, we had the opportunity to recognize our outstanding youth at the **4-H Youth Awards Banquet**. Thanks to the support of the Shiawassee County 4-H Council, members were recognized with Cloverbud pins, project pins and medals, year pins, and scholarships for upcoming 4-H events.

With the help of our 4-H Council teen representative, **Shelby**, we also presented **graduation cords** to our 4-H seniors. Seniors who weren't in attendance at the banquet will receive more information soon.

It was a great celebration of our youth! Congratulations to everyone who was recognized. If you were not recognized this year, please be sure to check out the **awards application** this coming fall. We would love to recognize even more of our outstanding Shiawassee County 4-H youth. We can't wait to see what you do next in 4-H and beyond. Whatever path you choose, we know you are **BEYOND READY** for life.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Attention 4-H Seniors: Scholarship Applications Available



Attention 4-H seniors! Scholarship applications are now available on the **Shiawassee County 4-H website**:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/shiawassee/shiawassee_county_4_h/awards-and-scholarships

Scholarship applications from the **Junior Livestock Association**, **Dairy Committee**, and **Small Animal Association** are due to the **MSU Extension office by May 1, 2026**. **4-H Council** and **Horse Leaders** scholarship applications are due to the **MSU Extension office by June 1, 2026**.

Be sure to get your applications completed and submitted by the appropriate deadlines. If you have any questions, please reach out to the MSU Extension office—we're happy to help!

New This Year: Shiawassee County Fair Youth Still Exhibit Auction

This year brings an exciting new opportunity for youth exhibitors at the **Shiawassee County Fair**—the **Youth Still Exhibit Auction**! All interested youth exhibitors are encouraged to mark their calendars and plan to attend an **informational meeting** to learn more, hear all the exciting details, and get their questions answered.

Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday, April 14

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Community Room, Shiawassee County Fairgrounds

Check out the **Shiawassee County Fair Facebook Page** for more information.

Small Animal Biosecurity Workshop Recap

The **Shiawassee Small Animal Association** held a Biosecurity Workshop in March. **Nicole Ballreich**, a Field-Licensed Veterinary Technician with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), shared information on the importance of biosecurity and common diseases affecting poultry and rabbits. Participants also took part in hands-on learning activities that demonstrated how germs and diseases can spread. Youth were very engaged throughout the workshop and asked thoughtful questions.

A special thank you to Small Animal Association Youth Representative, **Haylee**, for sharing information about metabolic diseases. It was a great turnout, and we look forward to seeing everyone at future workshops!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Apply Now: 2026 Shiawassee 4-H Camp Counselors



Applications for **Shiawassee 4-H Camp Counselors** are now available! We are looking for teens **ages 13-19** as of January 1, 2026. Camp Counselors play an important role at camp—helping lead activities, supporting younger campers, and creating a fun, welcoming atmosphere.

Camp Counselor Applications can be found online on the Shiawassee County 4-H website: https://www.canr.msu.edu/shiawassee/shiawassee_county_4_h/shiawassee-4-h-camp. Completed applications can be submitted to the Shiawassee County MSU Extension office.

Additionally, the training schedule for camp counselors is available on the website and on the back page of the application. Attendance at all trainings and the overnight is highly recommended!

Important Livestock Check-In Deadlines – Shiawassee County Fair

Families planning to exhibit **market goats, swine, market sheep, or prospect animals** at the Shiawassee County Fair should review the required check-in and pre-registration information carefully. All document links can be found on the Fair website here: [Shiawassee County Fair Livestock Check-In Information](#).

Key Date:

- Animals must be owned by May 1, 2026

Species-specific requirements, tagging details, and pre-registration forms can be found on the Fair website link above. Please share this information with anyone planning to exhibit livestock at the fair.

Grow Green With 4-H: Earth Day Program

Looking for an Earth Day activity for your child? Join us at the **Community District Library – Perry** (135 S Main St, Perry MI, 48872) for Grow Green With 4-H on **April 22 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.**

This hands-on program is designed for youth **ages 7-10** and gives participants the opportunity to learn more about **Earth Day** and explore simple ways they can make a positive impact at home. Youth will take part in engaging activities focused on helping make the Earth a little greener.

Registration: Register online at mycdl.org or call the library at (517) 625-3166.

To support this program, we are collecting **approximately 20 clean and dry gallon milk or water jugs**. Jugs can be dropped off at the **Shiawassee County MSU Extension Office** (149 E Corunna Ave, Corunna, MI 48817) **by April 6th**.





Sustainable Gardening SPIN Club



Join our 4-H Spin Club and learn how to turn creativity into sustainability by crafting while exploring fun, earth-friendly gardening practices.



MEETING DATES

- APRIL 7
- APRIL 21
- MAY 5
- MAY 19
- JUNE 2
- JUNE 16
- JULY 21
- AUGUST 18



4:00 PM - 5:30 PM



HIGH SCHOOL AGED-YOUTH



2635 N M-52
Owosso, MI
48867



To register
call
(989) 743-2251



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4-H Flower Farming SPIN Club

Explore the art of flower farming, from planning and planting to harvesting and bouquet making.

Meeting Dates

- April 22
- May 13
- June 3
- June 24
- July 15
- August 7
- September 2

 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

 3491 N Durand Rd
Corunna, MI 48817



 **AGES** Middle School and High School Students

To register call
(989) 743-2251

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