



AUGUST 2026

4-H Family News

Shiawassee County Clover Connection



FAIR MONTH IS HERE!

It's August, and that means fair month has arrived! I'm sure many of you are busy getting ready for fair week, so I've kept this month's newsletter a little shorter than usual.

As always, we've included information on upcoming statewide events and opportunities, so be sure to check these out. 4-H alumni and Friends of 4-H will want to be sure to take a look at the information on page 3 about the new Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends group. This is a great opportunity to stay connected through the clover.

On the local side, you'll find updates and reminders related to 4-H and preparing for fair week. I hope everyone has a fun and safe fair week. I can't wait to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Alexis Wheeler

4-H Program Coordinator

CONTACT US

Alexis Wheeler

4-H Program Coordinator

149 E Corunna Ave

Corunna, MI 48817

PHONE & EMAIL:

(989) 743 - 2257

wheel297@msu.edu

WEBSITE:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/shiawassee/shiawassee_county_4_h/



Celebrate Fair Season 2026

FAIR TIP:

*Remember to
celebrate effort just as
much as
ribbons.*



With the fair just around the corner, I saw this post from Pennsylvania 4-H and wanted to share it with everyone. Check out the original post here:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1D1u2uKVgx/>

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Building work
readiness skills
through 4-H**



Beyond Ready

4-H programs create intentional opportunities for youth to build essential work readiness skills that prepare them for future success. Through structured, hands-on activities, young people practice communication, collaboration, problem solving and time management. Volunteers play a key role by guiding youth through meaningful tasks, helping them set goals, and encouraging personal responsibility and follow through.

As youth take on leadership roles, complete project work, and participate in real-world or simulated experiences, they begin to demonstrate growth in professionalism, work ethic and organizational skills. Every activity can help youth connect what they are learning in 4-H to what will be expected of them in the workplace.

How is your club helping youth build the skills they need to be work ready?

#BeyondReady

July 1 - August 7: Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Online

As part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase, youth ages 8-19 are invited to create a video or non-video promotional piece encouraging others to purchase the 4-H license plate.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-license-plate-promotion-contest

July 1 - August 7: Michigan 4-H Business Pitch Contest

Online

Participants may present a business they already own, currently operate or hope to start in the future, including product, service or community impact ideas. Youth will create a two-minute video pitch introducing themselves, explaining their business idea, identifying the problem they are solving, and sharing why their product or service stands out.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan4-hbusinesspitchcontest

August 12: Adulting 101 – Roadmap to a Smart Used Car Purchase

Online

Are you wanting to purchase a used car, but have no idea where to start? Learn tips, resources and strategies to help you make an informed decision with confidence.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-roadmap-to-a-smart-used-car-purchase

August 13-16: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing, Mich.

This annual event brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate; spectators are welcome.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show

August 17-20: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp 2026

Traverse City, Mich.

Join us for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity. This camp is designed to encourage sustainability and growth from the inside out through a fun and engaging hands-on approach. Register by August 17.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026-session-2

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing, Mich.

Join MSU Extension for the ninth annual Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception. If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H alumni & supporters invited to get connected by the clover!

As a valuable member of the Michigan 4-H community, you already know the importance of the 4-H connection. We invite those age 18 and older to take that 4-H connection one step further by joining a new statewide community of 4-H supporters: Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends.

The Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends database will connect 4-H families, alumni, volunteers, supporters and others across Michigan with one another – connecting them by the clover! We hope you will take a few moments to sign-up for this free community and grow your connection.

As a member of Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends, you will receive information about opportunities to support 4-H youth and programs; 4-H programming and participants; upcoming events for the Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends community and more!.

Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends is open to anyone age 18+ who cares about Michigan 4-H: 4-H parents, staff members, volunteers, grandparents, supporters, partner organization representatives, donors and more. Learn more about Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends and find the link to join by visiting extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F.

**Join
Michigan
4-H
Alumni &
Friends**



Stay informed. Support youth.
Strengthen communities.
Get connected by the clover today!

Join for free at:
extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

Going home: Biosecurity tips for animals that travel off the farm

Adapted from: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/biosecurity_tips_for_animals_that_went_to_the_county_fair.

Animals that are exhibited at the county fair, jackpot shows, and other exhibitions are likely near and dear to their exhibitor's hearts. [Michigan State University Extension](#) offers these biosecurity steps exhibitors can take to protect their show animals and those that were left at home once the event has ended.

- Keep animals that left home separate from animals that did not for a minimum of 14 days. If at all possible, do not allow nose-to-nose contact and provide as much distance between animals.
- Disinfect all buckets, feeders, tools and footwear that left home.
- Throw away any feed or hay that left home.
- Always wear clean clothes and footwear. Boot coverings may be helpful when caring for isolated animals.
- Take care of animals that stayed home from the show first, and animals that were at the show second. Do not go back and forth between animals as this increases the risk of cross-contamination.
- Do not eat or drink in the barn.
- Observe animals daily for signs and symptoms of illness, such as:
 - Obvious pain or discomfort
 - Decrease in appetite and water intake
 - Fever
 - Lethargy
 - Diarrhea or changes in consistency in manure
 - Discharge from nasal cavity or eyes
 - Overall weakness

Care of animals after traveling is just as critical as their pre-show care. Exhibited animals were exposed to new animal populations and fair-goers, and will typically experience a lot of stress during their time away from home. By practicing these biosecurity steps, you can help keep all of your animals safe and healthy.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Good Luck to All Shiawassee County 4-H Members at the Fair!



Good luck to all Shiawassee County 4-H members exhibiting at the Shiawassee County Fair! We know you've worked hard on your 4-H projects over the last year, and the fair is your opportunity to showcase that hard work and dedication.

As you participate in fair week, remember to have fun, encourage others, and make memories along the way. Don't forget to thank the people who helped you with your project(s), whether it was a sibling, parent or guardian, 4-H volunteer, mentor, or someone else in your life. One simple thank you can go a long way.

While you're at the fair, be sure to stop by the 4-H Foodstand to grab a meal or snack and support Shiawassee County 4-H. We wish all of our members the best of luck and hope you have a great fair week!

Planning to Help in the 4-H Food Stand? Volunteer Steps to Know

Are you an adult who might be helping out in the 4-H Food Stand during fair week? All adults working in the food stand need to complete the **MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process** and become, at minimum, a **Silver Level volunteer**—and some responsibilities may require you to be a **Gold Level volunteer**, depending on your role.

If you haven't already gone through the selection steps and think you'll need to, you can apply through [Volunteer Central](#).

If you have any questions or need help figuring out what level of volunteer status is required for your role, feel free to reach out to Alexis Wheeler at wheel297@msu.edu. We're looking forward to another great fair season and appreciate your support!

Share Your 4-H Fair Photos



As we near the 2026 Shiawassee County Fair, I want to encourage parents and youth to share any photos they take during fair week. Please feel free to email photos to wheel297@msu.edu, along with the names of the individuals pictured, for a chance to be featured on our Facebook page or in the monthly newsletter.

We love highlighting all the great things our members are doing during the fair. Please note that any youth in photos must be enrolled in 4-H Online and have a signed media release on file.