



AUG/SEPT/FAIR 2025

# 4-H Family News

St. Joseph County



## Dear 4-H Families and Friends,

Summer is quickly coming to a close, which means fair week is right around the corner! Are you ready? Please **carefully read** through this newsletter to ensure you don't miss any important dates or information.

We have an exciting opportunity to share our passions and hard work with our community. The county fair gives us the chance to connect with people outside of 4-H and show them how GREAT this organization is! I look forward to seeing all of you and your projects in September!

I know there's a lot of information, so please do not hesitate to contact the MSU Extension Office at (269) 467-5511 with any questions you may have.

Helping to "Make the Best Better",

Kayla Mitchell  
Program Coordinator  
4-H Youth Development

## EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS

The 4-H Fair Office is located between buildings #43 and #44. We will be open during the following hours starting Saturday, September 13, 2025.

- Saturday 9/13: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
- Sunday 9/14 - Thursday 9/18: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
- Friday 9/19 & Saturday 9/20: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Thursday staffing will be limited. If you need assistance, please go to the show arena.

**NOTE:** The MSU Extension office is now open on Wednesdays until 5:00 p.m. for your convenience.

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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[https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/)

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## NEW FOR 2025

### Electronic Passes

The St. Joseph County Grange Fair has gone to electronic ticketing. All youth exhibitors and 4-H leaders will **receive their unique QR code pass via email**. Any 4-H leader who is also a St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association member will only receive one week-long pass from the association. Donor and livestock buyer passes will be printed and mailed courtesy of St. Joseph County 4-H.

### Banner & Trophy Location

Trophies and banners will be back in barn #43. Banners will be kept until thank you cards are written and can then be hung above pens/stalls for the remainder of the week if you wish.

### Gymkhana Show Day

Gymkhana has been moved to Wednesday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m.

### Livestock Unloading Route Map

Enclosed in this packet is a new map that outlines the unloading route for each specie of livestock. Please follow it accordingly.

### Grooming/Preparation of Show Animals

Anyone is allowed to prepare animals for show. However, it is expected that the youth exhibitor will actively participate in the grooming of their project animal.

### Hog Weights

Minimum weight for hogs was raised from 225 lbs. to 230 lbs. This is for both carcass and market classes. Any underweight hogs will be sent home.

### Early Check-In for Rabbits

Rabbits can be checked in on Friday, September 12, starting at 3:00 p.m. NOTE: Rabbits have been relocated to barn #29

### Livestock Evaluations

Skill-a-thon and interview will be combined into one evaluation class. Resources to study can be found on our website

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_livestock](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_livestock).

### Dairy Cattle Interviews

Collared shirts are NOT required for evaluations.

### Sheep Exhibitor Meeting

There will be a meeting for all sheep exhibitors on Saturday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m. on the east end of the sheep barn #26.

### Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting

There will be a meeting for all horse exhibitors on Saturday, September 13, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margie Tien practice pen.

### Horse Awards Ceremony

Horse Awards will be Saturday, September 20, at 5:00 p.m. in the Henningsen Show Arena.

### Promotional & Club Displays, Dioramas, Collections, Engines, Tractors, & Other Large Projects

Large projects can be brought in and set up on Thursday, September 11, or Friday, September 12, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. to be ready for judging on Saturday. Promotional and Club Displays may also be set up during these times.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## REMINDERS

- Don't forget to **check your fair books** for all project requirements.
- Some still projects require **additional forms and leader approval**. Forms can be found at [http://canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_still\\_projects](http://canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_still_projects).
- Notebooks are all required to be in a **three-ring binder**.
- **Still Project Entry Tags**: 4-H members will not be allowed to add classes that they do not have tags for on Saturday, September 13. Only projects registered on the entry forms will have printed tags as they will be the only projects that we have in our computer system.
- **Teen leadership Leader** evaluations are due to the MSU Extension office by Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Forms can be found at [http://canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_still\\_projects](http://canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_still_projects).
- **The Still Project Auction** will be Saturday, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. in barn #44. ALL still exhibits are eligible to be sold. See "Still Project Auction" page for more details.
- **Dress appropriately** for your interviews and species show.
- Use **good sportsmanship** before, during, and after each show.
- **Load-out by 11:00 a.m.** - It is a requirement by the fair that all livestock trailers and campers be off the fairgrounds by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 21, to prevent traffic issues for Celebration Day.
- **Cattle & Swine Exercise Pens** will be available for cattle and swine to be walked during fair week. The cattle exercise round pen will be set up on the south side of the open class beef barn #29. The hog exercise pen will be between swine barn #25 and sheep barn #26.
- The **2025 4-H Cat Show** will be held in the Henningsen Show Arena on Thursday, September 11, NOT in the Community Tent.
- Anyone using **equipment** on the fairgrounds, including bobcats for cleaning stalls at the end of fair week, must sign a **waiver** with the fair office annually.
- **Volunteers** are always needed for a variety of fair prep and fair week tasks! See the volunteer page for more details.

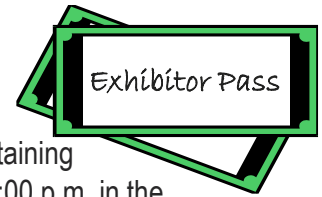
## JIM & THELMA FAIRCHILD VOLUNTEER 4-H LEADER AWARD

Just a quick reminder that applications are now being accepted for the Jim & Thelma Fairchild Volunteer 4-H Leader Award. If you know of someone who you think is deserving of this special award, contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511 for more information and guidelines. Completed forms are due to the MSU Extension office by Friday, October 4, 2024.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## STILL EXHIBIT TAGS



One of the first things 4-H members need to do when they arrive at the fair is pick up an envelope containing their still project exhibit tags on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the **"Little Red Barn" #46**. No exhibit tags will be distributed after the 4:00 p.m. deadline on Saturday, as judging has ended.

**Fair Admission Passes:** 4-H members over the age of 10 who exhibit livestock will receive electronic passes with seven (7) scans for the week; youth 10 and under get in free. One electronic pass with seven (7) scans per livestock family will be provided for parents of exhibitors who cannot drive themselves to do chores.

An electronic pass with three (3) scans will be given for 4-H members who are not eligible to receive 4-H livestock exhibitor passes but who will be participating in one or more of the following non-animal activities at fair:

- 4-H Animal Project Demonstrations scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
- 4-H Still Project Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks/Performances and Style Revue scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Youth who only have still exhibits

**4-H Leader Passes:** Active, registered 4-H leaders who attended a 2025 Leader Training will receive an electronic fair pass via email with seven (7) scans for the week. Individuals registered to serve as leaders, but who have been identified as inactive by club organizational leaders in terms of fulfilling their responsibilities as leaders, will NOT receive a fair pass. Leaders who are also St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association members will receive their pass from the fair, but will NOT receive one from 4-H. It is the responsibility of 4-H club organizational leaders to ensure that all project leaders are registered in 4-H Online with St. Joseph County 4-H.

## EXPRESS PASS

4-H members who will be exhibiting in the 4-H Dog Show, Rabbit Evaluations, Poultry Evaluations, or Cattle Evaluations on Saturday, September 13 and who also need to have still projects evaluated on that date may, if their situation meets the conditions stated in the next paragraph, pick up a special 4-H wristband in the 4-H Fair office (located between buildings #43 & #44) that will serve as an "express pass" for still project evaluations. The "express pass" will allow members to be moved to the front of the still project evaluation lines.

**Express Pass Criteria:** Express passes will be distributed only when special access to still project exhibit evaluations are absolutely necessary to ensure that the 4-H member in question can complete participation in both the 4-H Dog Show and/or Livestock Evaluations, and Still Exhibit Project Evaluations during the times allotted for these activities on Saturday.

## TSC PAPER CLOVER FALL CAMPAIGN



The fall 2025 4-H Paper Clover Campaign will take place Friday, November 28, through Sunday, December 14. Shoppers at the Sturgis and Three Rivers TSC stores will have the opportunity to support 4-H in St. Joseph County by purchasing paper clovers for just \$1 at checkout. All funds raised will be donated to 4-H and will support 4-H youth development program activities in St. Joseph County.

## PROMOTIONAL & CLUB DISPLAYS

Promotional and club displays are to be set up on Thursday, September 11, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Friday, September 12, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., and/or Saturday, September 13, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## EARLY CHECK-IN FOR CATTLE, HORSE, SHEEP, AND SWINE MEMBERS

Any cattle, horse, sheep, and/or swine member that would like to bring in their animal(s) early may do so on Friday, September 12, 2025, during the following times: sheep & swine 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., beef/dairy beef/dairy feeder steer 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., dairy cattle 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., horses by request. Superintendents will be on hand to check tag numbers. Animals should be clean and tags easy to read. If tags are not clean and easily read, the member, animal, and vehicle will be moved to the end of the unloading line. All market livestock will be weighed as they are unloaded from the trailer and there will be no re-weighing.

## MARKET LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN

The official "weight" of a given market livestock project animal (for show and sale purposes) will be determined when the animal is weighed in at the fair. The weight of your animal at this time will determine the specific market "weight class" your animal will be entered in for competition at the fair.

**Attention!** Market livestock will be weighed ONE TIME ONLY. All market livestock must be weighed before being housed.

- Rabbits = Friday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Poultry = Friday, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Lambs = Friday, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Swine = Friday, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Beef = Friday, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Goats = Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## 2025 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTOCK

The following is a summary of important animal health information for animals brought to exhibit at the 2025 St. Joseph County Grange Fair.

All cattle (market & breeding stock) must have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.

All sheep and goats must have official identification (scrapies tag) in the ear or tail of the animal prior to movement off the farm. Contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at (517) 324-5290 for ear tags.

A CL 840 tag is required to be in the ear of all swine prior to movement off the farm.

All equine, except foals under six months and nursing their dam, entered in a fair, exhibition, exposition, or show must test negative to an official Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test within the current calendar year (also known as Coggins Test). You must have the original on hand with you and a copy must be on file with the MSU Extension office.

No paperwork or vaccinations are required at this time for rabbits.

All poultry vaccinations will be given at the time of tagging.

## CARCASS CONTEST INFORMATION

All Species Carcass Contests will be held at:  
Bontrager Custom Meat Processing  
53541 Correll Rd.  
Leonidas, MI 49066  
269-496-7587

All carcass contest animals must be delivered to the fairgrounds for weigh-in on Saturday, September 6, 2025, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Hanging Evaluations on Tuesday, September 9, 2025:

- Goats - 5:30 p.m.
- Swine - 6:00 p.m.
- Sheep - 6:30 p.m.
- Beef - 7:00 p.m.







# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 2025 DAIRY FEEDER STEER VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

- Step 1 - First vaccination must be received at the June weigh-in to help protect against infectious diseases.
- Step 2 - "Booster" the calf two to four weeks later (following the Step 1 vaccination) with the same type of modified live vaccine used in Step 1.
- Step 3 - Nasalgen will need to be administered to all steers. 4-H Club leaders will be responsible to administer Nasalgen between August 14 - 28, 2025.

## WATERING LIVESTOCK REMINDER

Due to the potential for transmission of communicable livestock diseases through use of shared drinking water containers, no group watering tanks will be allowed at the fair.

In addition, all animals are to be watered either in their pen/stall or at the appropriate wash rack, and the wash rack cleaned up if necessary (i.e. any manure left behind by your animal properly disposed of). This rule is necessary due to the problems with "water holes" and mud that are created when livestock are watered next to water faucets at the ends of barns.



## STILL EXHIBIT JUDGING & CLUB BANNER CHECK-IN

All 4-H still exhibits and club banners **MUST** be checked in and evaluated on Saturday, September 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

There will be a 1-hour lunch break for judges and judging clerks from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Still project exhibit buildings will be closed during the lunch break. Member access to the exhibit building will be limited as necessary starting at 11:30 a.m. to help ensure that judges wrap things up in time for lunch.

The Still Exhibit Evaluation procedure is as follows:

1. Pick up an envelope containing your 4-H still project exhibit tags in during the noted times above in barn #46.
2. Report to the EAST end of barn #43 or barn #44. An Evaluation Traffic Controller will assist members with finding the right stations.
3. 4-H members **ONLY** will be admitted into the building during evaluation times. Each member exhibiting "still projects" will complete a one-on-one interview with a judge.
4. All projects that require handing devices or additional items such as sheets/forms, notebooks, photos, patterns, recipes, etc. **MUST** have those accompanied with the project to receive an "A" rating. **Read through all projects thoroughly for instructions.**

**Note:** Sewing, Knitting, Crocheting & Wardrobe Personalization members will not be asked to change into their garments for evaluation at fair. Sewing and Wardrobe Personalization project members are reminded to bring garments on a hanger(s) so that they are ready to be "hung" on the exhibit building wall for display purposes.

**Exhibits that require hangers:** Candlewicking/Embroidery/Needlepoint/Other Needlecraft, Counted Cross-Stitch, Plastic Canvas, Quilts, Drawings, Paintings, Ink on Glass, Latch Hook, Paint by Number, Other Crafts, Tin Punch, Wood Burning, Puzzles



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## STILL EXHIBIT BARN CLEANING AND SET-UP

Please help us in getting our Still Exhibit Barns (barns #43 and #44) cleaned and set up for fair week!

**Cleaning:** August 20 at 5:30 p.m. **Set-up:** August 27 & 28 at 5:30 p.m.

## STILL EXHIBIT UNLOADING

Unloading of still exhibits may be done next to the barns; however, your vehicle **MUST** be moved immediately after unloading is complete (do not leave your vehicle unattended). If your vehicle is left in the unloading zone, it will be towed to the back of the southeast parking lot. Please make sure you are not in an animal unloading line.

## STYLE REVUE

The 4-H Style Revue will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:45 p.m., in the barn #44. All 4-H members who will be exhibiting a completed Sewing, Knitting, Crocheting, and/or Wardrobe Personalization project at the fair are eligible to participate in the Style Revue.

Members may model a combination of project exhibits if desired. In addition, members may also use purchased accessories to complete or accentuate their outfit and/or a "prop" to help "set off" the particular type of garment(s) being modeled.

4-H Style Revue participants will be divided into three divisions according to age (8-11 years old, 12-14 years old, and 15-19 years old). Members will be judged on their modeling ability and garment fit and will receive an A, B, or C rating and premium accordingly.

## DEMONSTRATIONS & PERFORMANCES

All 4-H still project demonstrations, performances, public speaking presentations, and illustrated talks will be given on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in barn #44.

All 4-H animal project demonstrations will take place on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the 4-H Photo Wall on the north side of the Henningsen Show Arena.

Note: One table and one easel will be provided at each of the above noted locations.

Demonstration/Performance "Times": Sign-up for "times" will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis in barn #46 on Saturday, September 13, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. or in the 4-H Office between buildings #43 & #44 on Sunday, September 14, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Plan to be at your designated "presentation" location at least 15 minutes early. Be sure to bring all the equipment you need.



## VIEWING SCHEDULE FOR STILL PROJECT BARNs

The 4-H still project exhibit building (#44) and the 4-H trophy building (#46) will be open for public viewing according to the following schedule starting with the opening on Sunday, September 14, 2025.

- Sunday: 1:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Monday - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

4-H Still Exhibit Building Monitors will be on duty each day during viewing hours as a security measure to help prevent mishandling and theft of exhibits and awards. This viewing schedule will be strictly adhered to out of concern for the security of the exhibits.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## EVALUATION PROCESS FOR ANIMALS

### **Dog:**

- Wednesday, September 10, 2025
- Skill-A-Thon required, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
  - Henningsen Show Arena
- Grooming Interview required during the show
  - Saturday, September 13, 2025, 8:30 a.m.
  - Henningsen Show Arena

### **Beef/Dairy Beef/Feeder Steer:**

- Saturday, September 14, 2024
- Evaluation required, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
  - Beef Barn #31
- Notebook optional

### **Poultry:**

- Saturday, September 13, 2025
- Evaluation required, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
  - Poultry/Turkey Barn #27 & #28
- Notebook optional

### **Rabbits:**

- Saturday, September 13, 2025
- Evaluation required, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
  - Rabbit Barn #29
- Notebooks optional

### **Dairy Cattle:**

- Saturday, September 13, 2025
- Interview required, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
  - Dairy Cattle Barn
- Notebook required
  - 4"x 6" picture required on front of Notebook

### **Sheep:**

- Sunday, September 14, 2025
- Evaluation required, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
  - Sheep Barn #25
- Notebook optional

### **Goat:**

- Sunday, September 14, 2025
- Evaluation required, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
  - Goat Barn #22
- Notebook optional

### **Swine:**

- Sunday, September 14, 2025
- Evaluation required, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
  - Between Swine Barns #24 & #25
- Notebook optional



# Beyond Ready





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## STILL PROJECT AUCTION

The purpose of the still project auction:

- To entice more interest in 4-H youth participation in still project areas because of the opportunity of financial gain.
- To give the 4-H still project exhibitors the “marketing” experience like the livestock exhibitors have, such as face-to-face experience with potential buyers, writing skills in the form of buyer letters and thank-you notes, and the character-building skills of presentation in the sale ring.
- To have the means for funds specifically earmarked for Still Project area development and exhibit improvements by assessing a small commission.

### Criteria for Still Project Auction Entry:

1. Entry is completely voluntary.
2. Exhibitor must have shown in that project area at least once before.
3. Project must be entered in current year fair and receive an “A” rating.
4. 4-H member **MUST** be present and take the project through the auction.
5. Auction entry forms must be completed and turned in to the 4-H office by Friday, September 19 at noon to allow the committee enough time to verify placings and completeness of application.
6. If the project was awarded a trophy/award, the appropriate thank you note must be submitted with the Auction Entry form. The committee will record this on 4-H office records.
7. Project may be pulled from the auction with a written request by the exhibitor and parent/guardian no later than Friday, September 19 at 5:00 p.m.
8. Items entered in the auction will be moved to a designated area in barn #44 on Friday afternoon.
9. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to contact at least three potential buyers in writing and/or in person to invite them to attend the auction.
10. Auction will be held in **Still Exhibit Barn #44 at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 2025**. Thank you cards for auction items must be turned in to the 4-H office by October 1, 2025. No monies will be released to the exhibitor until a thank you note is turned in.
11. Items that are auctioned become the property of the buyer upon completion of the sale. Project item must remain on display until the designated pick-up time. **Exception:** A fresh batch of food product or living plants must be made to give to buyer(s) after the auction.
12. Items purchased may be picked up on Saturday, September 20 after 10:00 p.m. or on Sunday, September 21 between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. (same as other still projects) with Bill of Sale ONLY.
13. There will be a Sales Commission of 2% deducted from sale check. These monies will remain with the SJC 4-H Youth Council and be used for Still Project Development programs/workshops and Still Project Exhibit/Display improvements only.





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## PHOTO COVERAGE

4-H members receiving trophies or special awards in livestock and/or still projects may report to the 4-H Fair Photo Wall located on the **NORTH SIDE** of the show arena from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for "photo opportunities" with reporters from area newspapers.



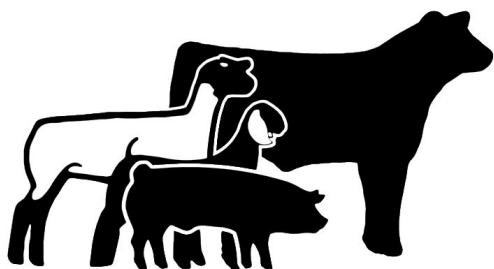
4-H Photo Information Sheets are available on the MSU Extension website. They will be also available during fair week at the 4-H Fair office and at the Photo Wall during photo times. 4-H members seeking a "photo opportunity" must complete a 4-H Photo Information Sheet prior to getting their photo taken.

"Photo trophies" have been set aside for use in photo sessions with local media. These trophies have blank engraving plates and "generic" figures on top. A volunteer "photo session coordinator" will be on hand each day

that photo sessions are scheduled to assist the reporters/photographers. The photo session coordinator will be responsible for transporting the "photo trophies" to the photo session location at the 4-H Fair Photo Wall by 4:45 p.m. and returning the trophies to the 4-H Fair office at the end of the photo session. They will also assist photographers in coordinating an orderly flow of interested members through the photo process. Your cooperation with this system of handling photo opportunities with our local newspapers and fair photographers will be greatly appreciated.

## END OF FAIR FUN EVENTS

The 4-H Dance is back! 4-H Fun Night will be held Friday night right AFTER Sweepstakes on the East end of the Henningsen Show Arena. This will be a fun night for 4-H members and Cloverbuds to celebrate a week of fun and all of their accomplishments. Come celebrate with us! \*This is only open to St. Joseph County 4-H members.



The Open Adult and Youth Livestock Judging Contest will take place on Saturday, September 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Henningsen Show Arena. Participants will judge all large animal species. It is a FREE event with quality prizes being given to those who "know their stuff". Come and test your knowledge!

What is fun to do AND fun to watch? CHICKEN RACES! Join us on Saturday, September 20, at 2:00p.m. in the Henningsen Show Arena for fun competition, lots of laughs, and cool prizes! Sponsored by MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT). Do you have what it takes to be the fastest chicken in the arena?





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE

### VOLUNTEER



Volunteers are needed to serve as still exhibit judging clerks, on Saturday, September 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and/or 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Judging clerks assist the judge in organizing/moving the projects, attach ribbons after evaluation and record all placings, including best of shows/trophies. We also need help with exhibit set-up on Saturday after the evaluations, Sunday helpers, and in a variety of other capacities throughout the week. Please call the St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office at 269-467-5511 to volunteer your services.

## STILL PROJECT AUCTION

The 4-H Youth Council Still Project Auction Committee is asking for additional help! On Friday, September 19 they will need help to move/rearrange projects for the auction. Any muscle is appreciated! If you are around, swing by barn #44. The auction will be on Saturday, September 20 at 4:00 p.m. The committee will need help with preparing projects, buyer check-in, and more! If you are available to help with the auction, please call the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511 to volunteer your services.

## 4-H MILK BARN

The 4-H Youth Council is looking for volunteers to help sell milk at the 4-H Milk Barn during fair week. There are several shifts available if you are interested. There should be a maximum of one adult and two 4-H members at a time. Please call Craig Ulsh, Youth Council President, at 269-506-0199 to schedule your time.



## TINY TAILS BIRTHING BARN

The Tiny Tails Birthing Barn coordinator is looking for volunteers to help staff the barn during the fair. Your responsibilities would include but are not limited to:

- Encourage and show visitors where to wash their hands after petting animals.
- Keep area clean of all feces.
- Do not let anyone pet animals that appear ill.

It is requested that you volunteer for a 3-hour shift any time between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. during the week of the fair (Sunday, September 14 - Saturday, September 20). For more information and/or to sign up for a volunteer time call Jenny Nofziger at 269-625-7140.

## AG-CITING EXPERIENCE

We are still in need of volunteers for the 35th annual Ag-Citing Experience. The dates for the program are Tuesday, September 16, Wednesday, September 17, and Friday, September 19.

"Ag-Citing Experience" is an educational program that gives 3rd grade students in St. Joseph County the opportunity to learn about farm animals and agriculture while on a field trip with their school. The classes are bussed to the fairgrounds where they will be lead on a tour to designated animal stops and field/vegetable crop stations. The animals they will be learning about this year are cattle, goats/sheep, swine, poultry and rabbits. **Note:** scripts are provided, and knowledge is not necessary in these areas to volunteer.

Please call Carma Johnson in the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511 or email her at [john9041@msu.edu](mailto:john9041@msu.edu) to volunteer.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## THANK YOU NOTE CARDS FOR SALE



The 4-H Youth Council will be offering "sets" of 4-H "thank you" note cards, for sale at fair, with each "set" including a 4-H "note card" plus a stamped envelope. "Thank you" note sets may be purchased at the 4-H Fair office starting on Sunday, September 14, and running through Saturday, September 20 during regularly scheduled office hours for as long as supplies last.

At \$2.00 each, these attractive "thank you" note sets are a great buy for use in writing "thank you" notes to trophy, plaque and special award donors and market livestock buyers! (However, the use of "4-H" thank you note stationary is not required.)

Trophy and special award recipients are **required** to write and submit a "thank you" note for the donor(s) of each trophy/special award received. The "thank you" note is then exchanged by the member for his/her trophy/special award. "Thank you" notes must be submitted in a stamped envelope (which has both the donor's address and the award recipient's return address neatly written on the envelope). Note: If the "thank you" note is for a buyer, write on the back of the envelope what species of yours they purchased.

Attention: Thank you notes (including envelopes) should be written using an ink pen to end up with the most professional and neat-looking results! In addition, the 4-H Youth Program Coordinator reserves the right to refuse "thank you" notes submitted with sloppily and/or incompletely addressed envelopes and/or dirt-smudged envelopes.

Donor Name/Address Information: The trophy/special award donor's name will be printed on a "donor identification card" that will be attached to each trophy/special award. A list of all trophies/plaques/special awards and the corresponding donors (including the donor's complete address and the name of the "contact person" for business donors) will be posted on the A-frame in the middle of barn #44.

Buyer Name/Address Information: The buyer's name and number will be written on a sheet of paper that is filled out immediately following the sale of your animal. A list of all buyers (including complete address and "contact person" for businesses) will be posted on the A-frame in the Henningsen Show Arena.

Be sure to put some real time and thought into composing your note. Hastily written notes are not well received by donors and buyers. It is up to you as an award winner to express your appreciation in such a way that donors are encouraged to continue donating trophies and special awards in the future. Without the support of our donors, the awarding of fair trophies and awards would not be possible.

## TROPHIES & SPEICAL AWARDS PICK-UP

Trophies and special awards may be picked up on Saturday, September 20, 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 21, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in barn #44.

To pick up your trophy you must submit a stamped and sealed, thank you note written to the donor with the correct address and your return address. Thank you notes with pre-stamped envelopes will be for sale in the 4-H office for \$2.00 each during regularly scheduled hours. A listing of all the donors, with correct spelling addresses will be posted in barn #44 and all livestock buyers' information will be in the Henningsen Show Arena.







# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## SHOOTING SPORTS

Thanks to the wonderful efforts of a few volunteers this year, St. Joseph County 4-H members who are interested in archery, BB gun, shotgun, and rifle will be able to compete in the 20th annual county "shoot". This is possible because of the many hours the shooting sports volunteers put in to organize and work with the kids throughout the year. The "shoot" will take place at the St. Joseph County Conservation Club on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The Conservation Club and 4-H leaders have been very influential in helping get support from other organizations for supplies and have offered hunter safety classes that are necessary to participate in any shoot. For more information, contact your shooting sports leader. Each shooting sports participant must also do an educational still project to be judged on Saturday, September 13.

## RELEASE OF EXHIBITS AT THE END OF THE WEEK

- **Saturday, September 20** - All 4-H still project exhibits released from 10:00 - 11:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, September 20** - Optional release for cattle, horses, poultry and rabbits ONLY 11:00 p.m. - 12 midnight
  - No other animal species are permitted to leave the fairgrounds until release Sunday morning!
  - We encourage all poultry & rabbits to be taken home during this time to get the barns cleaned. If necessary, they may also be loaded out on Sunday, September 21, but must be gone by 6:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, September 21** - All livestock will be released between 5:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, September 21** - Pick up any remaining still project exhibits and awards from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in building #44.

All livestock exhibits must be **checked out by the specie Superintendent** before leaving the barns.

It is highly recommended that still exhibits be picked up during the above-noted times as there is no guarantee of exhibit security. Any exhibits not picked up two weeks following the fair will either be disposed of or given to a charitable organization as deemed appropriate.

## PEN/STALL CLEAN OUT POST-FAIR



The Fair Board requests that ALL livestock exhibitors clean out their pens/stalls on Sunday, September 21 following the removal of animals. This clean-out effort on your part really helps the fair maintenance staff get the fairgrounds back in order quickly and efficiently following the fair. 4-H project leaders will be responsible for organizing their members to get the clean-up accomplished. Be sure to visit with the appropriate 4-H animal superintendent/assistant superintendent during fair week to get details on how the clean-out will be handled. **Attention: All 4-H Livestock members/clubs will be held responsible for cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.**

If all livestock exhibits are removed Saturday night, it is still the responsibility of the exhibitor to help with barn clean-up and tear down of pens/stalls on Sunday.

## 4-H MEMORIAL PARK

Access to the 4-H office during the fair is by way of the beautiful brick-paved pathway. There have been several bricks added to the walkway this year. To put your mark on the fairgrounds, pick up a 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program form. Fill it out and return it to the MSU Extension office. **Note:** The Donate-A-Brick Program is a fund-raiser for the 4-H Youth Council that started with the 2001 fair season.





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## GOING HOME: BIOSECURITY TIPS FOR ANIMALS THAT WENT TO THE COUNTY FAIR

Author: Katie Ockert, Michigan State University Extension



Animals exhibited at the county fair that will return to their home herds pose a significant biosecurity risk to the animals left at home. Follow these steps after the fair has ended to protect everyone.

Animals that have been exhibited during the county fair are likely near and dear to their exhibitors' hearts. After all, they spent countless hours training and preparing their animal for the show at the fair. We protect them from everything before the show season, but do we give enough thought about what happens when they go home? Each time an animal is taken out of its home environment and exhibited, there is a certain amount of risk for exposure to illness.

Michigan State University Extension offers these biosecurity steps exhibitors can take to protect their show animals and those that were left at home after the fair has ended.

- Keep animals that were at the fair separate from animals that were not for 28 – 30 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 was at the fair.
- Throw away any feed or hay that was at the fair.
- Always wear clean clothes and footwear. Boot coverings may be helpful when caring for 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.

If you notice any of the above symptoms, please call your veterinarian immediately.

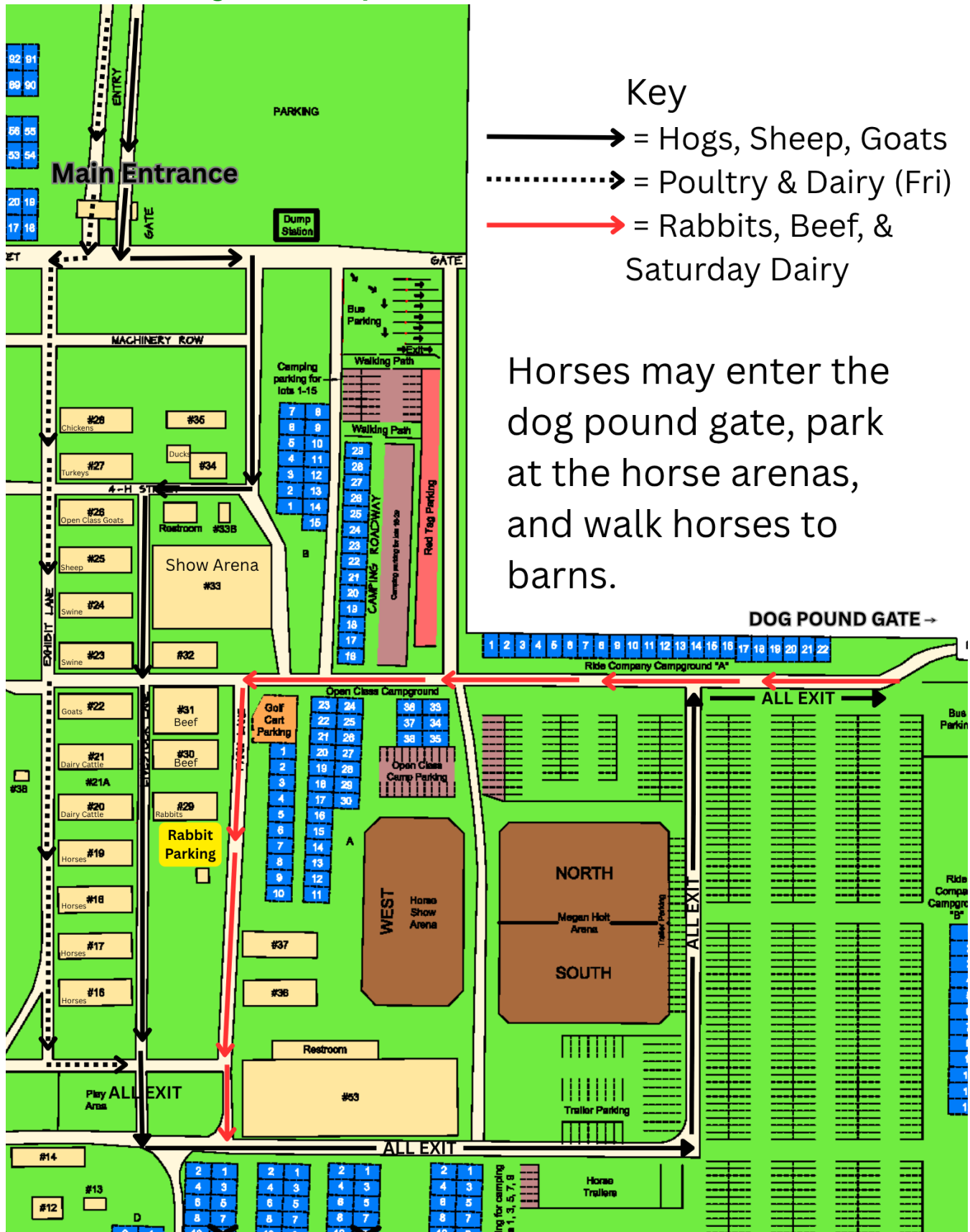
Care of animals after the fair is critical. Exhibited animals were exposed to animals from other farms, fair goers who may not have washed their hands in between various species of animals, and potentially a lot of stress. By following these steps, you can help keep all of your animals safe and healthy.

For more information about fair biosecurity, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity>.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Livestock Unloading Route Map





# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, 9/6:</b></p> <p>Carcass live weigh-in Beef, Goats, Sheep, Swine 10-11 am</p> <p>Driven &amp; Ridden Dressage Show 9am</p> <p>Honor Court Interviews 11am</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Carcass Evaluation @ Bontrager Custom Meat Processing in Leonidas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30pm Goat</li> <li>6:00pm Swine</li> <li>6:30pm Sheep</li> <li>7:00pm Beef</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5:30-7pm Dog Skill-A-Thon</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:00pm Cat Show @ Henningsen Show Arena</p> <p>Make sure poultry and rabbits (and any other animals checking in on Friday) are clean!</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>3-7pm Rabbit Check-In</p> <p>3:30-7:30pm Sheep &amp; Swine Check-In (optional)</p> <p>4-7pm Poultry Check-In</p> <p>5-7pm Beef/Dairy Beef/ Dairy Feeder Steer Check-In (optional)</p> <p>5-8pm Dairy Cattle Check-In (optional)</p> <p>Horse Check-In (by request)</p> <p>Make sure all animals checking in on Saturday are clean!</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8-11am Sheep &amp; Swine Check-In</p> <p>8am-12pm Beef &amp; Goat Check-In</p> <p>8am-1pm Dairy Cattle Check-In</p> <p>8:30am Dog Grooming, Showmanship, Rally &amp; Obedience</p> <p>9am-12pm &amp; 1-4pm Still Project Check -In/Judging</p> <p>2-6pm Evaluations for Beef, Dairy Beef/Dairy Feeder Steers, Poultry, Rabbits</p> <p>3-5pm Dairy Cattle Interviews</p> <p>5pm Horses must be checked in &amp; stalled</p> <p>5pm Horse Exhibitor Meeting @ Marge Tien Practice Arena</p> <p>7:30pm Sheep Exhibitor Meeting</p> <p>8pm Honor Court Ceremony</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:30am Horse Show: Showmanship/Western/ Reining/Tail</p> <p>8-11am Sheep Evaluations</p> <p>9am-12pm Goat Evaluations</p> <p>9am-1pm Swine Evaluations</p> <p>9am Rabbit Show</p> <p>10:30am Poultry Show</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30am Horse Show: English/ Jumping/In-Hand</p> <p>9:30am Swine Show</p> <p>10am Goat Show</p> <p>4pm Horse Show: In -Hand</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:30am Horse Show: Driving</p> <p>9am Beef Cattle Show (Beef Cattle &amp; Dairy Beef Steers)</p> <p>9am Dairy Beef Show (Dairy Feeder Steers)</p> <p>4pm Sheep Show</p> <p>6:30pm Horse Show: Costume</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10am Horse Show: Gymkhana</p> <p>10am Dairy Cattle Show</p> <p>3pm Animal Project Demonstrations</p> <p>3-7pm Still Project Demonstrations &amp; Performances</p> <p>6:45pm Style Revue</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10am Small Animal Sale (turkeys, chickens, rabbits, goats)</p> <p>10:30am Large Animal Sale (swine, lambs, market beef, dairy steers, gallon of milk, dairy feeder steers)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7pm Sweepstakes Showmanship</p> <p>9pm 4-H Dance &amp; Fun Night!</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>10am Livestock Judging Contest</p> <p>2pm Chicken Races with MSU/IAT</p> <p>4pm Still Project Auction, Barn 44</p> <p>5pm Horse Project Awards</p> <p>10pm Poultry Barn Clean-up</p> <p>10-11pm Still Project Check-out</p> <p>11pm-12am Livestock Load-Out for <u>approved species</u></p> <p><b>Sunday, 9/21</b></p> <p>ALL EXHIBITS, LIVESTOCK TRAILERS, &amp; CAMPERS MUST BE OUT BY 11AM PER FAIR RULES</p>



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

### Are you a current or former 4-H'er?

Join us for the MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception

**Sept. 3**

5:30 - 7 p.m.



Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension \* 4-H GROWS HERE

Join MSU Extension for the eighth annual MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception on Wednesday, September 3.

All current or former 4-H'ers attending MSU this fall are invited to stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

Members of the MSU Extension staff will be on site to interact with 4-H alums and free pizza and pop will be provided. Come to meet fellow 4-H'ers, network with staff and students and have fun.

Learn more at [www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception).

Want to learn more about collegiate 4-H at MSU? Plan to stop by this event and stay for the club's first meeting of the fall semester, to start at the conclusion of the event.

## August 2: Breakfast on the Farm

*MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center, Lansing*

Live in or around Ingham County? Stop by Breakfast on the Farm at the MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center. The event will include tours of the farm and great food.

[www.canr.msu.edu/breakfast\\_on\\_the\\_farm/find\\_a\\_breakfast](http://www.canr.msu.edu/breakfast_on_the_farm/find_a_breakfast)

## August 14-17: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

*MSU Pavilion, East Lansing*

The State 4-H Horse Show is an annual, three-day event that brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event; spectators are welcome.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show)

## August 14: Beach Day

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Celebrate the end of summer at the garden with a day at the beach! Make sand castles, paint shells, play beach games and more. Bring your beach towel and suit and come ready to get wet.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/beach-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/beach-day)

## August 18: Adulthood 101 - Navigating Life: Addressing and Handling Peer Pressure

*Online*

This interactive presentation will explore the reality of peer pressure and ways to identify, process, and overcome it, to ensure healthy decision making and positive self-confidence.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-navigating-life](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-navigating-life)

## September 17: Adulthood 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress and Deliver with Confidence

*Online*

Learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-professionalism](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-professionalism)

## September 20: Michigan State 4-H Dog Show

*Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna, MI*

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-H'ers from counties across Michigan. Registration is due by August 31 and spectators are welcome!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show>







# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## HELPFUL LINKS

Be sure to check the fair book and the website for information, updates and new requirements.

- Fair Information - [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_fair](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_fair)
- Companion Animals - [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_dog\\_project](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_dog_project)
- Horse & Pony - [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_horse\\_and\\_pony](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony)
- Livestock - [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_livestock](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_livestock)
- Still Project - [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_still\\_projects](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_still_projects)

## ANNUAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS BANQUET

The annual recognition is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, at the Centreville Jr/Sr High School at 6:00 p.m. Check the website for the awards application.

## EXPLORATION DAYS

Are you ready for Exploration Days 2026? We had a GREAT trip this year. Don't miss out! Let's see if we can charter a bus next year! Dates for 2025 Exploration Days are June 17-19. For more information go to [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days)

# Have a Great Fair!

**Remember to be kind and courteous to judges, clerks, leaders, fellow 4-H members, MSU Extension staff and all other fair goers.**

**Reminder:** Enrollment for next year begins the middle of October.

Check with your club leaders to find out when your club is doing enrollment.

Sign up online at: [www.v2.4honline.com](http://www.v2.4honline.com).