



SEPTEMBER 2026

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Beyond Ready

Here's to Another Great 4-H Program Year! Pick Up a Beyond Ready Sign!

On September 1st, we kicked off a new 4-H Program Year! This means it's time to re-enroll with Washtenaw County 4-H. We will continue to send newsletters and communications to those enrolled last year until the end of the year, but it's important to re-enroll **before** you start attending 4-H events and club meetings. You can re-enroll on [4-H Online](#).

We also have Beyond Ready Yard Signs in our office that families can pick up for free! We want to see them displayed across our county to promote our Washtenaw County 4-H program. We do ask that you only take one sign per family.

You can pick them up during our office hours between 8:30 am – 12 pm and 1-3:30 pm. We can also get you a sign if you attend an evening meeting at our office.



UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

4-H Online Opens for 2026-27 Program Year

September 3rd

Advisory Council Meeting

September 8th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Superintendent Meeting

September 16th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Annual Leader Meeting

September 17th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Board/Association Meeting

September 22nd at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee Meeting

September 24th at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Scholarship & Harwood Scholarship

We are now accepting [applications for the Washtenaw County 4-H Scholarship funded by the Advisory Council](#). This scholarship is open to any high school senior graduating in 2027. We will also be releasing the Ada May and Webb Harwood Memorial Scholarship Application soon! This scholarship is for incoming freshman or higher continuing their education at an accredited institution of high education. When the application is ready, we will send it out through 4-H Online, Facebook, and put it on our website. Questions? Please contact Jenny Speyer, 4-H Program Instructor at speyerje@msu.edu



Washtenaw County Superintendent & Leader Meetings



We will be hosting both our Annual Leader Meeting and 4-H Youth Show Superintendent meetings this September. The 4-H Youth Show Superintendent Meeting will be on Wednesday September 16th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office and our Annual Leader Meeting will be on Thursday September 17th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office.

At our annual leader meeting we will go over leader expectations and have a chance to turn in your annual required paperwork.

Club Leaders will receive an email from Amy this week with your required paperwork including your AFSR, Civil Rights Compliance, and other required forms.

If you are a club leader or superintendent and unable to attend your meeting, please let Amy know.

Join the Washtenaw County 4-H Discussion Meet Team

Looking for an opportunity for your high school age 4-H'er to improve their public speaking and discussion skills? Join the High School Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Team!

What is a Discussion Meet? Discussion Meet is a unique competition that it is not a debate but strictly a discussion. It is modeled more after a committee meeting and the ability for the competitors to cooperatively discuss a specific topic to come up with solutions. No previous experience is needed to attend the team meetings! The team will meet approximately 3 times to prepare and discuss before the Discussion Meet on November 12th at Milan High School at 6pm.

Interested? Please contact Mandy Rogers at rogers3mandy@yahoo.com by September 13th





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congratulations to Jean Martin, 2026 Michigan 4-H Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer

Washtenaw County 4-H volunteer Jean Martin has been honored with the prestigious 2026 Michigan 4-H Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award. This award is given to a 4-H volunteer with more than 10 years of service. Winners are selected through a statewide nomination and review process.

[The Michigan 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards](#) highlight the important work of 4-H volunteers across the state who share their time, energy and commitment with 4-H every day to improve the lives of Michigan young people. Through the 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards program, Michigan State University Extension's 4-H Youth Development program honors outstanding volunteers for their unwavering dedication to 4-H and Michigan young people.



If you have been a part of the Washtenaw County 4-H program, you have likely encountered Jean in Still Projects judging or committee meetings, at Advisory Council meetings, at Target Archery Practice, at the 4-H Holiday Tree Sale, at our Annual Recognition Program (popping that popcorn), at 4-H Club Leader Meetings, or various other 4-H events and programs. Martin has been a steadfast and selfless leader in the Washtenaw County 4-H program for 33 years. Her decades of knowledge, experience and dedication have reached nearly every area of the program. Quiet and humble, Martin never seeks recognition; when something needs to be done, she simply steps forward.

We are incredibly grateful for all that Jean has done for the Washtenaw County 4-H program and all the youth whose lives have been impacted by her service. Recipients of the Michigan 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards receive a \$400 monetary award donated in their name to the 4-H program, club or activity of their choice. These grants are made possible by the Michigan 4-H Volunteer Recognition Fund of the [Michigan 4-H Foundation](#). Jean has allocated these funds to our 4-H Target Archery program and also to our 4-H Still Projects Committee.

Jean will also be recognized along with other outstanding Michigan 4-H youth, alumni, volunteers, partners, and staff members at the Legacy Awards on October 3rd in East Lansing. You can read more about Jean and the other volunteer winner in [this article](#).

If you see Jean, please congratulate her on this award and her dedication to the Washtenaw County 4-H Program!



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congratulations to the Washtenaw County 4-H State Horse Show Delegation



Washtenaw County 4-H sent a delegation of seven riders to the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show in East Lansing on August 13-16th. Riders included Gracelyn Collier of Tri-County Rebels 4-H Club, Alexis Couch and Charlotte Trudeau of Challengers 4-H Club, Aamenah Jamil (pictured to the left with her horse Baxter) and Amelia Lorch (Pictured to the bottom with her horse Russo) of Hooves & Paws 4-H Club, and Peyton Skeans and Annikah Stalhandske of Revel Wranglers 4-H Club.

Here is a rundown of their top placings. You can see a full list of the results from this Show [online](#).

Thursday Ranch:

- Annikah Stalhandske: Ranch Pleasure 14-15 year old: 1st place
- Annikah Stalhandske: Ranch Trail 14-15 year old: 2nd & Reserve Grand Champion

Friday Gymkhana:

- Gracelyn Collier: Indiana Flag Race: 1st TOP 5
- Charlotte Trudeau: Indiana Flag Race: 4th
- Gracelyn Collier: Cloverlead Barrel Race: 3rd

Saturday Seniors:

- Aamenah Jamil: English Pleasure Hunt Seat: 3rd
- Aamenah Jamil: English Equitation Hunt Seat: 2nd
- Aamenah Jamil: Western Dressage Basic Level Test I: 1st & Reserve Grand Champion
- Aamenah Jamil: Western Dressage Basic Level Test II: 2nd

Sunday Juniors:

- Ameila Lorch: Hunter Hack 15 year olds: 1st & Grand Champion



Premium Checks and Auction Checks Coming Soon!

We have printed auction checks and premium checks are coming soon. This year we will have them available for pick up from the MSU Extension Office or from our L&D Treasurer, Nicole Feldkamp. If you want just your auction check, you can pick them up at Saline Fair if you contact Nicole at 734-320-2776. Otherwise, you can pick up auction and premium checks from our office (between 8:30 am – 12 pm, 1-3:30 pm or during evening meetings) starting September 8th until September 18th when they will be mailed out. With the increase in the cost of postage, we are trying this option to help us lower our costs. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Amy harr1976@msu.edu or Jenny speyerje@msu.edu. **Families can also donate back their premiums to the 4-H Youth Show if they want to help support our program. Contact Amy or Jenny for more information.**



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Congratulations to the Washtenaw County 4-H Target Archery Team

Members of the Washtenaw County 4-H Target Archery Club competed in the 4-H Tri-County Archery Tournament hosted by Monroe County 4-H in at the Washtenaw County Sportsman's Club in Ypsilanti on August 30th.

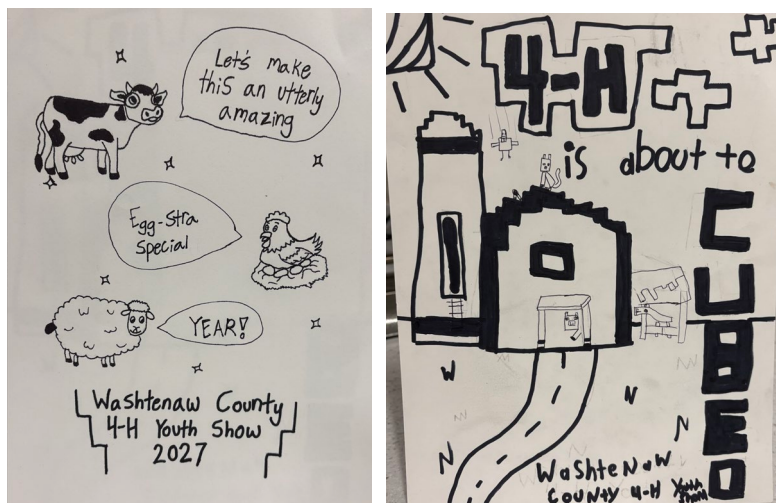
4-H members who competed included Anthony Cabrejos (not pictured), Evelyn Tessier, Isaac Tessier, Simon Tessier, Vivienne Turri and Jerry Bima, our 4-H Target Archery Instructor also attended. The group also showed off their new Washtenaw County 4-H Target Archery T-Shirts!



Their placings included:

- Isaac Tessier- First place in the Senior Barebow Recurve Division
- Simon Tessier- Second place in Senior Barebow Recurve Division
- Anthony Cabrejos- Second place Beginner Bowhunter Division
- Vivienne Turri- First place in Junior Barebow Recurve Division
- Evelyn Tessier also participated in Junior Barebow Recurve Division

Congratulations to the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Book Cover Contest Winners for 2027



Congratulations to the two winners of the 4-H Youth Show Cover contest! This year's winners are Addison Messing (13+ years old) and Warren Baker (12 years and under) of All Around 4-H Club. Addison's punny farmer animals will be featured on the front cover and Warren's cubed Minecraft farm will be featured on the back cover. We also want to thank everyone who voted to determine which cover made it on the front and back. We also want to acknowledge Alexander Klotz of Townline Workers 4-H Club who got

second place in the 12 and under age group and Lily Simons of S & L Bauernhof 4-H Club who got third place in the 12 and under age group.



4-H Committee Calendar 2026-27

Horse Board/Association (Staff Facilitated by Amy)

(Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, Board at 6:30 pm)

September 22, 2026	October 27, 2026	November 24, 2026
No Meeting in December	January 26, 2027	February 23, 2027
March 23, 2027	April 27, 2027	May 25, 2027
June 22, 2027	July TBD	

Advisory Council (Staff Facilitated by Amy/Jenny)

(Second Thursday of odd months at 7:00 pm)

September 10, 2026	November 12, 2027	January 14, 2027
March 11, 2027	May 13, 2027	

Livestock and Dairy Committee (Staff Facilitated by Amy)

(Second Thursday of even months at 7:00 pm)

October 8, 2026	December 10, 2026	February 11, 2027
April 8, 2027	June 10, 2027	July 8, 2027

Small Animal Committee (Staff Facilitated by Amy)

(Fourth Thursday of odd months at 6:00 pm)

September 24, 2026	November TBD	No meeting in December
January 28, 2027	March 25, 2027	May 27, 2027

Still Projects Committee (Staff Facilitated by Jenny)

(Fourth Tuesdays of even months at 6:30 pm on Zoom)

October 27, 2026	No meeting in December	February 23, 2027
April 27, 2027	June 22, 2027	August 24, 2027

4-H Ambassadors (Volunteer Facilitated by Jessica Kipfmiller)

(Second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm)

September 9, 2026	October 14, 2026	November 11, 2026
December 9, 2026	January 13, 2027	February 10, 2027
March 10, 2027	April 14, 2027	May 12, 2027
June 9, 2027	July TBD	August 11, 2027

All meetings are held in the MSU Extension Office unless otherwise indicated.



September 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3  4-H Online Opens for Enrollment for 2026-27 Year	4	5
6	7 	8	9  6:30 pm - 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	10  7 pm - Advisory Council Meeting	11	12
Auction/Premium Checks Available for Pick Up						
13	14	15	16  6:30pm - Superintend ent Meeting	17  6:30pm - Annual 4-H Leader Meeting	18  4-H Youth Show Auction/ Premium Checks Mailed Out	19
Auction/Premium Checks Available for Pick Up						
20	21	22  6:30/7pm - Horse Board and Ass'n Meeting	23	24  6 pm - Small Animal Committee Meeting	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Jenny and we will try our best to add it here!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting the new 4-H year with a focus on being Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

A new 4-H year is the perfect time for volunteers and youth to set the tone for growth, learning and readiness. Beginning the year with intentional activities helps young people build confidence, explore their interests, and understand how their 4-H experiences prepare them for life beyond the club.

Early goal setting, reflection and hands-on project work encourage youth to practice important skills such as communication, decision making and responsibility. Volunteers play a key role by helping youth make connections between what they do in 4-H and the skills they will need in future school, work and community settings.

By starting strong and reinforcing these ideas all year long, clubs can help ensure youth are truly Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

#BeyondReady

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

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! Plan to stay after for the first meeting of the fall semester for MSU Collegiate 4-H!

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

September 20: Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival

Schomaker Farms, Saginaw

Join the Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival for a fun-filled afternoon at Schomaker Farms! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, learning, and community. The public is welcome!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-4-h-fall-festival

September 23: Adulting 101 – Are You Ready?

Online

Get ready for anything! This workshop will teach youth how to stay calm, make a plan and handle emergencies with confidence and safety.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026

October 2: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

University Club of MSU, Lansing

4-H donors and staff with 4-H responsibilities are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting

October 3: Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration

University Club of MSU, Lansing

Join us to celebrate and recognize Michigan's outstanding 4-H youth, alumni, volunteers, partners and staff. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-legacy-celebration

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

For more than 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities.

Celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week! Learn more and find ideas of how to celebrate in your community online.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>

October 5: Go Green for 4-H!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Re-enroll for the 2026-2027 program year!

Welcome to September and the new 4-H program year! Beginning Thursday, September 3, you may login to your family's 4-H Online (mi.4honline.com/) account and enroll your 4-H members for the 2026-2027 program year. All returning families should utilize the same email address to access their account as they have in the past.

If you do not remember your login email, do not create a new account, simply contact your county staff member (www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/county/) for assistance. Thanks for being a part of the 4-H community!



How to Register with 4-H: Returning Family

1. Visit **mi.4honline.com**.
2. Log in to your account.*
3. Click "Enroll Now" for the returning member(s).
4. Update information.
5. Continue until you click the final SUBMIT button.
6. Add members if needed.

*If you need assistance accessing your account, contact your local 4-H staff; do not create a new account.

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National 4-H Week: October 4-10

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 4-10, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Join with 4-H'ers around the country in activating on two important initiatives:

Monday, October 5: Go Green!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H! Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag National 4-H, Michigan 4-H program, and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Thursday, October 8: Thankful Thursday

On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the mentors, educators and volunteers who are making positive impact on your people's lives in 4-H. Share who you're thankful for and celebrate how they are making a difference on Thursday, October 8! Share your 'Thankful' story on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Learn more about more ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week.

Wild Spartans returns!

Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration required:

www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:
www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series

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