



MARCH 2026

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



4-H Exploration Days Registration Starts March 12th at 7 pm

This MSU precollege program from June 24-26th welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime.

Youth stay in the dorms and eat in the cafeteria while attending sessions and engaging in exciting free time activities. If you are interested in attending, check out the [session descriptions](#) and learn more on the website: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/

Sessions fill up VERY quickly once it opens on March 12th, so we recommend being ready to register at your computer at 7 pm

Washtenaw County 4-H has scholarship funds to provide \$50 off each delegate who attends. **If you would like the scholarship, do not pay in full when you register.**

We are also looking for additional female and male chaperones (must be 21+ years old) to attend this event. We have funds to cover the cost for chaperones and it's a great chance to hang out on campus and experience the college life!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

Beef Tagging/Weigh In

March 7th from 8-11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

4-H Ambassadors Meeting

March 11th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Advisory Council

March 12th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

L& D/Small Animal Mentor Night

March 18th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Board & Association Meeting

March 24th at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee Meeting

March 26th at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Livestock & Dairy and Small Animal Mentor Night: March 18th at 6:30 pm



Join us for Livestock, Dairy, and Small Animal Mentor Night when we will match mentors and mentees for the Mentorship Program! This program is a great way for teens to gain leadership skills and provides our Cloverbud age participants and Mentees that are new in a project area with experience and skills in a livestock project area. We will also have a fun ice cream social for all that come!

New to the program? We will share a short presentation about the program and provide mentors and mentees with time to get to know each other!

Questions? Please contact Kathy Grau, kgrau3437@aol.com or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, hammerfarm89@aol.com or 734-216-7048.

4-H Learn How to Raise Chickens with 4-H'er Sophia

Want to start a new flock in 2026? Join us for the 4-H Learn How to Raise Chickens Workshop on Saturday March 14th from 1-2:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office at 705 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Dive into the wonderful world of chicken keeping with poultry specialist and 4-H member Sophia! Attendees can participate in creating a chicken first aid kit. We will walk through everything you need to know to start your flock in 2026! This workshop is open to ages 5-19 years old. There is limited space in this workshop so please only sign up if you plan to attend.



Register at:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ePSzu1IAnN6wA8m

Questions about the program? Email Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu.

Hoof Trimming with Jr. Livestock on May 16th



Junior Livestock is once again organizing a cattle hoof trimming event on May 16th at a 4-H Family's farm. If you are interested in attending, please [complete the survey](#) so they can get numbers for the event.

The deadline to complete the survey is **April 27th**.

If you have questions about this event, please contact Kathy Grau, kgrau3437@aol.com or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, hammerfarm89@aol.com or 734-216-7048.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Spring Break Cloverbud Camp is BACK!

This STEAM focused day camp for ages 5-7 years old (by January 1st) will be held at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI on March 31st and April 1st from 9 am - 3 pm. Families can sign up for one or two days of camp. The cost is \$10 per day. Check out our registration and details at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/washcloverbudcamp26/>

Youth will get the opportunity to:

- Try out a variety of 4-H projects
- Engage in hands-on activities
- Participate in STEM challenges
- Meet new friend



We are also looking for teens or 4-H volunteers interested in helping at this camp! If you are interested, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu.

Save the Date: Rabbit Showmanship Clinic on April 11th from 1-3 pm



Come join us on Saturday, April 11th, from 1:00-3:00 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds for a rabbit showmanship clinic hosted by 4-H Teen Leader Genevieve Peale of All Around 4-H Club. We will have a group demonstration showing all the steps of 4-H rabbit showmanship and handling. The idea is to help new and old exhibitors who would like extra practice and support with their showmanship skills. All ages, cloverbuds, and up are welcome. After the showmanship practice, there is a chance for kids to assemble their own rabbit first aid kit. An explanation of what materials are needed and why will be discussed.

[Sign up here!](#)

Stil Projects Jar Workshop on Sunday April 12th from 2-3:30 pm

At this hands-on workshop hosted by 4-H teens, youth will pick from different recipes and make a food gift jar by measuring out and adding different ingredients. These recipes will be for sweet and savory jars and they can also customize their recipe. Then youth will get to decorate their jars. This workshop is open to ages 5-19 but cloverbuds (5-7 year olds) must have an adult or teen helper present during the workshop. This event will be at the MSU Extension Office. There is a \$5 fee for this workshop to cover the cost of supplies.

[Register here!](#)





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Save the Date: YQCA Training Sessions on April 6th and May 6th at 6 pm



All market beef and swine exhibitors are required to have an updated YQCA certification before marketing animals at the 4-H Youth Show auction. This certification can be obtained by participating in an online or in-person training.

Thanks to a grant from Bayer, this training is provided free of charge to Washtenaw 4-H exhibitors. Please follow the steps below to complete a certification.

1. Contact the MSU Extension Office (734-997-1678 or email cousin40@msu.edu) to obtain a coupon code (optional) to receive the training for free- you will need to specify if you need an online or in-person code.
2. Register through www.yqcaprogram.org – this step is required whether you attend in-person or online!
3. Sign up for your in-person training on the site and/or complete the online training. The March and April dates will be listed in the YQCA system for in-person training options.
4. Be sure to complete the pre-test before you attend an in-person training.
5. **If you want to complete an online YQCA training, you MUST wait until a year has lapsed on your previous training. If it is too close to the Youth Show, we recommend taking an in-person training. You do NOT have to wait a year to take an in-person training.**

We are offering two opportunities for in-person training at the Washtenaw MSU Extension Office on April 6th and May 6th at 6 pm. Washtenaw exhibitors are also welcome to attend YQCA trainings in neighboring counties. Those opportunities will be shared as they become available.

Need help registering? Check out the [YQCA Help Page](#) to help walk you through the registration process.

Calling All Youth and Adults: Volunteers Needed for Project RED April 20th -23rd

Project RED (Rural Education Days) at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds is a great opportunity for youth and adults to volunteer and help educate 3rd graders, teachers, and chaperones about agriculture!

We need volunteers for the 21st – 23rd and also for set up on the afternoon/evening of April 20th. Volunteers are needed for animal exhibits, group leaders, commodity displays, and other educational exhibits. We welcome adults and youth for these volunteer opportunities and can provide a letter to a school for youth volunteering.

[Sign up here to volunteer!](#)





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Countywide 4-H Volunteer Opportunity from Our 4-H Horse Association

The Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Association has organized a countywide volunteering opportunity at [Starry Skies Equine Rescue and Sanctuary](#) at 8133 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 on Saturday April 4th from 10 am – 12 pm. You do not have to be a horse exhibitor to participate! If you are interested in attending, please complete the form. Youth 12 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult.

To the left check out some of our 4-H'ers volunteering at Starry Skies!

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Meuj95p37zTNhncC7>



Junior Livestock Meets in Dundee



The Junior Livestock enjoyed a fun filled day at the new Full Swing Sports in Dundee, which is a sports simulator & multi sport arcade. The kids enjoyed playing baseball, soccer, football, bowling, disc golf, foot golf, basketball, dodgeball, hockey, and a shooting gallery.

Join us for our next activity, Mentor Night, on March 18th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office (see page 2 for details).

If you are interested in Jr. Livestock or have questions, please contact Kathy Grau, kgrau3437@aol.com or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, hammerfarm89@aol.com or 734-216-7048.

Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team Practices for States in June

The Washtenaw County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team has been hard at work! The Novice, Junior, and Senior competitors have been practicing dairy facts and stats while learning the rules of Quiz Bowl. The team practices on the third Monday of every month on the Horning family farm. All ages plan to compete at the state competition held at MSU in June. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved in our county's upcoming teams for Dairy Management and Dairy Judging!

Thank you to Harper Jane Adkins for submitting this information!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H Youth Show Weigh In and Tagging Dates

Weigh in and tagging for Beef to be exhibited at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show will be Saturday March 7th from 8 – 11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. This year we will be in Barn F (Dirt Barn). RFID tags should be in ears, or at minimum, bring your tag and tagger; RFID is required for the 4-H Youth Show.



We also strongly encourage youth to be enrolled in [4-H Online](#) before weigh in dates as only currently enrolled 4-H youth are covered under 4-H liability policy. Weigh in and tagging for feeders, market goats, sheep, and swine to be exhibited at the 4-H Youth Show will be held on April 25th from 8 am – 11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds.

Here are a few reminders about weigh-in/tagging rules:

- ALL cattle must have an RFID tag in their ear before they are transported. If you don't have the ability to tag the animal at home, bring the RFID tag and tagger with you and we will get it in the ear at tagging.
- Animals MUST be tagged in at the spring weigh-in in order to be shown at the 4-H Youth Show.
- All males must be castrated before tagging
- All sheep and goats must have a Scrapies tag or tattoo in order to exhibit at the 4-H Youth Show
- Exhibitors wishing to exhibit in the commercial lamb class must provide a receipt of purchase at weigh in that is within the current market range for feeder lambs for market.
- Lambs cannot exceed 110 pounds at the spring weigh-in
- All market hogs must be tagged at the spring weigh-in, but they will NOT be weighed. Hogs are not allowed to leave the trailer.

Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinars: Tuesdays this Spring

Ready to take your market livestock project from your 4-H best to better? The 2026 Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project webinar series is packed with tips to help 4-H'ers (ages 8-19) build confidence, sharpen marketing skills, and boost auction success!

Webinars are on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm starting on April 21st – May 19th. Each week features a new skill including: SMART goals, effective communication, marketing strategies, record keeping & break-even points, social media promotion, & buyer outreach.

You can find all the [details on their website](#) or [register for these free zoom webinars](#).





March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 MSRBA  Convention Rabbit Show - MSU Pavillion	2	3	4	5	6	7  8-11 am - Beef Tagging Weigh In 4-H Spark & Share in Frankenmuth
8 	9	10	11  6:30 pm - 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	12  7 pm - Advisory Council Meeting	13	14 
15	16	17 	18  6:30 pm - L&D and Small Animal Mentor Night	19  6:30 pm - Washtenaw Dairy and Livestock Banquet @ Chelsea High School	20 	21
22	23	24  6:30/7 pm - Horse Board & Committee Meeting	25	26  6 pm - Small Animal Committee Meeting	27	28 
29	30	31  4/31 - 5/1 Washtenaw Co 4-H Cloverbud Spring Break Camp at WFC Grounds				

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

*Preparing youth
to be
Beyond Ready*



**Beyond
Ready**

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.

Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch 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. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

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

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.