



August 2026

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond
Ready**

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Learn by doing.



Wayne County Upcoming Events

Crafts Around the World Workshop 2026- Rescheduled!

Get ready to travel the globe—without leaving Michigan! Join us for a fun, hands-on cultural experience where youth will explore art from around the world through creative craft projects. In just one evening, participants will “travel” to multiple countries, learning about different cultures, traditions, and artistic techniques through engaging activities like Australian dot painting and German potato printing. This interactive workshop is designed to spark curiosity, build creativity, and foster a sense of global connection—one craft at a time.

Date: Wednesday, August 5th

Time: 3-4:30pm

Location: Greenmead Historical Park – Friends Meeting House

Address: 20501 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48152

Ages: Best for youth in grades 3–6

Cost: \$5 per participant

Registration Deadline: Aug 1st (advance registration required)

What to Expect:

“Travel” to different countries in one afternoon

Learn about cultures, traditions, and artistic styles from around the world

Build creativity and global awareness through hands-on activities

Register here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/crafts-around-the-world-workshop->

New Date!

Wednesday, Aug. 5
3-4:30 p.m.
Greenmead Historical Park's
Friends Meeting House

In just one afternoon, participants will “travel” to multiple countries, discovering unique artistic traditions from around the globe. Through engaging craft projects like Australian dot painting, German potato printing, and more, youth will learn about different cultures, histories, and creative techniques. This interactive workshop fosters creativity, cultural appreciation, and a sense of global connection - one craft at a time!

\$5/Participant
Advance Registration Required
at LivoniaParks.org
Best for participants in grades 3-6

Celebrate the 80th Annual Wayne County Fair!

Join us August 10-15 for the 80th Annual Wayne County Fair, a beloved community tradition celebrating agriculture, youth achievement, entertainment, and family fun! Enjoy livestock exhibits, 4-H competitions and showcases, exciting grandstand events, carnival rides, delicious fair food, live entertainment, and so much more.

Whether you're cheering on local 4-H youth, exploring exhibits, or making memories with family and friends, there's something for everyone at the Wayne County Fair.

August 10-15, 2026

Wayne County Fairgrounds

Learn more and view the full schedule:

<https://waynecountyfairgrounds.net/wayne-county-fair/>

Come help us celebrate 80 years of tradition, community, and fun at the Wayne County Fair!





Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Power Hour Events at the Wayne County Fair!

Looking for some hands-on fun during the Wayne County Fair? Join us for 4-H Power Hour, a series of exciting educational activities designed for all fair youth exhibitors and registered 4-H members, including those not participating in fair exhibits. Each session is packed with learning, creativity, and fun!

 **Location: Rabbit Barn, Wayne County Fairgrounds in Belleville, MI**

 **Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

➤ **August 10: Australian Dot Painting** 🎨

Explore the colorful world of Australian Aboriginal art! Learn about the history and meaning behind dot painting while creating your own unique masterpiece to take home.

➤ **August 11: Fun with Pollinators & Bee Hotels** 🐝 🌸

Buzz into the fascinating world of pollinators! Discover why bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are so important to our environment. Then, get creative as you build your very own bee hotel to take home and provide a safe habitat for native pollinators in your backyard.

➤ **August 12: Rocket Launching** 🚀

Blast off into STEM! Design, build, and launch your own rocket while learning the science behind flight, motion, and aerodynamics.

➤ **August 14: Strawberry Jam Making** 🍓

Get a taste of food science as you learn how fresh strawberries are transformed into delicious homemade jam. Participants will explore basic food preservation concepts and enjoy a sweet hands-on experience.



Whether you're interested in art, science, nature, or cooking, there's a Power Hour for you! Come make new friends, try something new, and add even more fun to your fair experience.

Questions? Contact Ashleigh Klein at apelashl@msu.edu.

We can't wait to see you at the fair for some 4-H fun!



Wayne County Upcoming Events

Notes & Floats at the Wayne County Fair!

Pop In for Some Gratitude! Write a Note. Enjoy a Float!

Take a break from the excitement of the fair and join us for Notes & Floats, a fun and meaningful drop-in workshop designed to help youth and volunteers share their appreciation with the people who make the Wayne County Fair and 4-H program possible.

Stop by to write a thank you note for a livestock buyer, volunteer, club leader, mentor, sponsor, or supporter and enjoy a FREE root beer float on us! We'll also have plenty of "pop" themed treats, including popcorn, lollipops, and other fun snacks. Whether you're thanking someone for their support, encouragement, or dedication, we'll provide everything you need to create a heartfelt note and spread a little gratitude.

Workshop Dates

- **Tuesday, August 11 | 5:00-6:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, August 14 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

Wayne County Fairgrounds

Open to all Wayne County Fair exhibitors, 4-H youth, and volunteers.

Drop in anytime during the workshop, cool off with a sweet treat, and make someone's day with a simple thank you!

Questions?

- **Ashleigh Klein:** apelashl@msu.edu
- **Laurie Rivetto:** rivettol@msu.edu



NOTES & FLOATS

**Pop in for some gratitude!
Write a note. Enjoy a float!**



Tuesday
5pm-6pm

Friday
1pm-2pm

Find us in the (location TBD)

**Fun-Filled Thank
You Note Workshops**



Stop by to write a thank you note for a buyer, volunteer, or club leader and enjoy a FREE root beer float on us! We'll also have plenty of "pop" themed treats, including popcorn, lollipops, and other fun snacks. Drop in, cool off, and spread a little gratitude!



Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Fair Week Goosechase Challenge

Get ready for some fun at the fair! All 4-H fair exhibitors are invited to take part in our annual Fair Week Goosechase—a fast-paced, interactive scavenger hunt filled with exciting missions, trivia challenges, and chances to connect with fellow 4-H'ers.

New missions are released throughout the week, and anything can happen! Compete solo or as a team of up to four for a chance to win gift card prizes for the top three scorers!

Open to all youth participants.

Please note: youth ages 13 and under must participate with a parent or guardian.

Don't miss out on the fun, join the chase! Join codes will be released on Sunday August 9th during fair meetings.

For any questions about the fair and 4-H sponsored events at the fair, please reach out to Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu).



Last Chance to Enter!

Calling all Michigan youth ages 5–19 (as of Jan 1, 2026)! Showcase your talents in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

- ✓ Free to enter by August 7, 2026
- ✓ Open to all Michigan youth
- ✓ Receive helpful feedback from judges

Explore classes like:

- Livestock & animal showmanship
- Still exhibits & crafts
- Educational & project-based entries

Bonus: Youth ages 8–19 can apply for post-secondary education scholarships thanks to the Michigan State Fair Foundation!

Learn more & enter:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>





Wayne County Upcoming Events

Got a business idea? Let's hear your pitch!

Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a 2-minute video! Whether your business is already running, just getting started, or still an idea-you can compete. Market animal projects are great to pitch!

Open to any youth ages 8–19 (as of Jan 1, 2026); entry deadline of August 7, 2026

Product, service, or community impact ideas welcome
Submit a short video pitching your business directly to the audience

🏆 Win gift cards (\$75, \$50, \$25) thanks to MSU Federal Credit Union!

Show your creativity, confidence, and innovation—start planning your pitch today!

More information can be found at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan4-hbusinesspitchcontest>

Check out the Fair Book (Dept 73) and registration link at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>



Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

The Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest is a chance for youth to design something that inspires others to support Michigan 4-H!

- ✓ Open to Michigan youth ages 8–19
- ✓ Choose video (90 seconds or less) AND/OR non-video (poster, flyer, graphic)

✓ Focus on promoting the Michigan 4-H license plate
Entries are judged on creativity, originality, and promotional impact

Enter through Department 73 in the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

Winners earn prizes AND recognition on Michigan 4-H channels
Your ideas could help drive support for 4-H across the state-literally! 🚗

Find out more and enter at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>

More information also available at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-license-plate-promotion-contest>





Wayne County Upcoming Events

Wellness Festival

Join us for the Wellness Festival on Saturday, August 22, from 12:00–4:00 p.m. at DPFLI (16745 Lamphere, Detroit, MI 48219) for a free, family-friendly afternoon focused on health, wellness, and community. Hosted in partnership with MSU Detroit Partnership for Learning and Innovation (DPFLI), MSU Extension Wayne County 4-H, and ARUKAH, the festival will feature fitness classes, free food samples, nutrition workshops, community resources, live music, and an exciting Back-to-School Give-Away. Whether you're looking to improve your health, connect with local organizations, or enjoy fun activities with your family, there's something for everyone.

Admission is free, and all are welcome! Any questions please email: LaToya @ Cainjone@msu.edu .

Scan the QR code or click the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellness-festival-tickets-1993553564376>





Member Spotlight- Stella

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

Reciting the pledges at the awards show.

How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

Joined in 2024 to be able to learn and have experiences with animals.

What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

The horses!

What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

New adventures and knowledge.

What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

Join!! It's so much fun learning and having hands on experiences!

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

Making bottle rockets and setting them off at the park. Or the chickens. Or the horses. Or tie dying shirts. So many things!!

What are your plans for the future?

Have so many more fun activities.

Do you want to be featured under our member spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form <https://forms.gle/U5nBbYPS3YaNvqZ7>





Volunteer Spotlight- April W.



Where do you volunteer, and how did you get started?

I'm one of the volunteer co-leaders for Quiet Life Farms 4-H Club in Detroit. We're in our very first year as a club and I'm having so much fun! For years, my vision has been to provide a safe space in the city of Detroit for kids to engage with nature, specifically to care for farm animals.

Thanks to 4-H and Detroit's new Animal Husbandry Ordinance, that dream is a reality!

What has been your favorite or most fulfilling part of volunteering with 4-H?

I love giving young people an opportunity to access the benefits of nature. I grew up on a dairy farm in SW Michigan and, as a kid, I took for granted the green space and animals I had access to on a daily basis. As our urban 4-H families engage with agricultural, I'm so excited for them to reap all the physical, emotional, mental, and social benefits that come with it, too.

What volunteer projects do you most like to be a part of?

I especially love helping kids engage in their passions, whether that's growing flowers or vegetables or working with farm animals.

Do you have any advice for other 4-H volunteers?

Collaboration has been a crucial part to our first year as a 4-H Club being successful. The ideas I get from my co-leaders, other clubs, and 4-H resources are always so helpful.

Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?

You never know where you might have a 4-H experience!

My husband and I were eating at a local restaurant, and our server happened to be a 4-H alumni! She was willing to bring her former show rabbit to our next meeting and give a demonstration. The kids loved it and it was great to have a college student share about her positive 4-H experiences and how they help her in her day-to-day life.



Announcements

4-H Alumni and Friends Network

Open to family, friends, alumni, parents, volunteers and supporters of Michigan 4-H! If 4-H has been part of your life—or if you simply care about helping young people thrive—you're welcome here.

Find out more and sign up at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/Alumni/michigan-4-h-alumni-friends>



Pizza Kit Fundraiser Supports Wayne County 4-H Youth

As summer winds down and the school year gears up, make dinner easy while supporting local youth! From August 3 through September 2, Wayne County 4-H is hosting a 100% online Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser.

Skip the paperwork and hassle. Simply order online, and your pizza kits, cookie dough, breadsticks, and other delicious treats will be shipped directly to your doorstep. It's the perfect way to stock your freezer for busy school nights, after-school activities, and family pizza nights throughout the fall. Not interested in purchasing anything, there is even an option for monetary donations!

Every purchase helps support Wayne County 4-H programs that provide youth with hands-on learning experiences, leadership development opportunities, community service projects, workshops, camps, and more.

Your support helps local young people gain the skills and experiences they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Start the school year off right by supporting the future leaders of Wayne County, one slice at a time!

Order online August 3 - September 2:

[Little Caesars Fundraising Click to Raise Money for a Cause](#)

Thank you for supporting Wayne County 4-H and helping youth learn, grow, lead, and thrive! 🍕 🍀





Announcements

Now Forming:

2025–2026 Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event Planning Committee!

Wayne County 4-H is beginning preparations for the 2025–2026 Recognition Event—and we need YOUR help to make it a success!

We're looking for adult Gold Level volunteers and teen leaders (ages 12 and up) to serve on this year's planning committee. Whether you love organizing events, getting creative, or just want to lend a helping hand, there's a role for you!

Why get involved?

- Help shape one of the biggest events of the year
- Share your ideas on awards, themes, decorations, and more
- Build leadership and teamwork skills
- Choose a role that fits your interests and availability



WE WANT YOU!

The event will take place in late January or early February 2027, with our first committee meeting happening in September 2026. This year's committee will be flexible and members will take on specific tasks based on their availability and skills.

Committee Roles Include (but are not limited to):

- 🎨 Graphic Design – Create social media graphics, invitations, programs, and other print materials.
- 🏆 Awards – Proofread applications, assist with judging, and help select prizes.
- 💰 Fundraising & Donations – Seek out silent auction items, sponsorships, or supply donations.
- 📧 Data & Mailings – Compile mailing lists in Excel, create labels, and manage RSVPs.
- 📅 Day-Of Support – Assist with event setup/cleanup, registration, food line, activity stations, presenting awards, and silent auction management.
- 🧠 Planning & Implementation – Help make key decisions on theme, decorations, food, awards, and more!

Whether you want to dive in or just lend a hand in one area, there's a spot for you on the committee. Your voice and talents matter! And it takes a team to make this event a success!

Interested?

Complete the short interest form here: <https://forms.gle/prKgarPBqB7NfxHK7>

Questions? Contact Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408).

Let's work together to create a meaningful and memorable event that celebrates the achievements of our Wayne County 4-H youth and volunteers.



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Grow Your Club Team Through Volunteer Recruitment

As we wrap up the current 4-H program year on August 31 and prepare for a new year beginning September 1, now is the perfect time to think about strengthening your club's volunteer team. Many volunteers assume they must lead an entire club or have extensive subject matter expertise to get involved. In reality, clubs are often most successful when responsibilities are shared among several adults, each contributing their own skills, interests, and availability. Recruiting additional volunteers can help prevent burnout, improve program quality, and create more opportunities for youth members.

Start with Small Volunteer Roles

When recruiting, consider offering specific, manageable opportunities rather than asking someone to become a club leader right away. Parents and community members are often more willing to volunteer when expectations are clear and time commitments are limited.

Potential volunteer roles may include:

- **Activity Coordinator:** Plans and leads one educational activity or project each month.
- **Community Service Coordinator:** Organizes service projects and community outreach opportunities.
- **Communications Volunteer:** Sends reminders, manages club emails, or helps maintain social media pages.
- **Event Volunteer:** Assists with club outings, workshops, fundraisers, or special events.
- **Fundraising Coordinator:** Helps organize fundraising efforts and tracks fundraising goals.
- **New Family Mentor:** Welcomes new members and helps answer questions about 4-H participation.
- **Project Resource Volunteer:** Shares expertise in a specific project area such as gardening, crafts, STEM, photography, livestock, or cooking.
- **Hospitality Coordinator:** Organizes refreshments, recognition activities, and meeting hospitality throughout the year.

Don't Forget About Teen Leaders

Volunteer recruitment doesn't have to focus solely on adults. Many of these roles can be youth-led with the support of an adult mentor. Teen leaders are an incredible resource for clubs and can gain valuable leadership, communication, and project management skills through service. Consider identifying older youth who may be interested in taking the lead on a specific responsibility, while an adult volunteer serves as a coach, mentor, and resource.

Examples include:

- A teen leader planning and facilitating club activities while an adult provides guidance and support.
- A teen leading community service projects with an adult helping coordinate logistics.
- A youth communications team creating newsletters and social media content under adult supervision.
- Teen leaders organizing fundraising efforts while an adult oversees finances and compliance.
- Experienced youth serving as new member ambassadors, helping welcome and orient new families.

This shared leadership approach not only develops future leaders but also helps distribute responsibilities across the club. When recruiting adults, you may find it appealing to present some opportunities as mentoring roles rather than positions where the adult must do all the work themselves.



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Grow Your Club Team Through Volunteer Recruitment Continued

Where to Find Potential Volunteers

Some of your best future volunteers may already be connected to your club.

Consider reaching out to:

- Parents and guardians of current members
- Alumni members and families
- Community partners
- Teachers and educators
- Local business owners
- Friends, neighbors, and extended family members with skills or interests related to your club's activities

Remember, many people simply need a personal invitation. If you know someone who would be a good fit, ask them directly and explain how their skills could benefit youth in your club. A personal conversation is often much more effective than a general request for volunteers.

How to Become a 4-H Volunteer

All Michigan 4-H volunteers must complete the MSU Extension volunteer selection process before serving in an official volunteer role.

The process includes:

- Completing an online volunteer application
- Providing references
- Completing a background check
- Participating in volunteer orientation and required training

Interested adults can learn more and begin the application process at https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/index

Final Thought

Successful clubs are built by teams of dedicated youth and adults working together. As you prepare for the new 4-H year, consider both the adults who could support your club and the older youth who are ready to step into leadership roles. A simple invitation can spark a meaningful volunteer experience, strengthen your club, and create new opportunities for youth to learn, lead, and thrive.





Success Story

4-H Exploration Days

Wayne County 4-H saw tremendous growth and impact during this year's 4-H Exploration Days, with participation more than doubling from the previous year. In 2025, 26 youth attended; in 2026, that number grew to 53 youth representing Wayne County. Of those participants, 32 youth attended for the first time, highlighting the program's expanding reach and success in introducing new audiences to 4-H experiences.

Exploration Days provided youth with the opportunity to live on Michigan State University's campus, build independence, and participate in hands-on educational tracks that foster life skills such as leadership, communication, and decision-making. For many first-time attendees, this experience was a meaningful step outside of their comfort zones, helping them gain confidence while forming new friendships with peers from across the state.

This growth would not have been possible without the dedication and support of 7 committed chaperones. Notably, 4 of the 7 chaperones were newly recruited 4-H volunteers specifically for this event, demonstrating strong community interest and willingness to support youth programming. Their collective guidance and supervision ensured a safe, positive, and smooth experience for all participants, allowing youth to fully engage while feeling supported every step of the way.

The significant increase in participation demonstrates both a growing interest in 4-H opportunities within Wayne County and the effectiveness of intentional outreach and recruitment efforts. With nearly two-thirds of participants being first-time attendees, Wayne County 4-H continues to successfully create pathways for new youth to get involved, building a strong foundation for future engagement in 4-H programming.

What participants had to say:

- "I love Explorations Days. I hope I can come back again next year." - First-time female participant
- "This 4-H is really cool, I like how I get to explore a college campus. I wonder if other Universities do programs similar to this."- First-time male participant.
- "This event really helps the youth explore their interests and come out of their shell. It has been very rewarding as a chaperone and a father to witness the amazingness that occurs during this program."
-Chaperone and Parent



Save the Date for 4-H Exploration Days 2027 June 23-25, 2027!



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.

