



October 2026

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond
Ready**

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Learn by doing.



Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Farm to Table Workshop Series

Save the Dates

4-H Farm to Table Workshop Series

Allen Park Farmer's Market!

Fridays

October 2nd-16th, 2026

5:00 - 6:30pm

The 4-H Farm to Table Workshop Series is a hands-on educational experience that helps youth in grades 4th and up, explore where their food comes from and how it moves from the farm to their table. Through engaging workshops, participants learn about local agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and sustainability while building practical life skills. Youth explore how food is grown and harvested, connect with agricultural and food experts, and take part in hands-on cooking activities using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The series emphasizes experiential learning, teamwork, and confidence-building while encouraging healthy food choices, an appreciation for local food systems, and the 4-H philosophy of learning by doing.

For more information and registration visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-farm-to-table-workshops>

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





Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Adulting 101 Series

Mental health is an important part of thriving on your own.

Join the **FREE** Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar, **Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health**, on October 7 from 6-7 p.m. ET. Participants will explore practical strategies to support emotional well-being, build healthy habits, and discover resources to help navigate life's challenges. Perfect for teens and young adults preparing for college, work, and independent living!

For more information and to register today go to: <https://bit.ly/4AvNiOZ>



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Do you know a youth ages 12-19 who is looking for their next step? Someone who...

- wants to build confidence,
- develop real-world skills,
- meet new friends from across the state,
- explore future careers,
- and prepare for life after high school?

4-H Future Squad may be the perfect fit! This virtual 4-H club meets twice a month to learn "adulting 101" type topics.

Find out more and sign up to join today: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>



Member Spotlight- Teagan F.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I graduated from Cloverbud.

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

My mom asked me if I was interested. I wanted to learn about rabbits because they were my favorite animal, we joined last year as protégés.

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

I love animals. I wanted to learn about rabbits, but I've learned about all the other animals as well.

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

I've made lots of new friends. I learned about different animal body parts, and how to show a chicken, rabbits, and goat.

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

It's hard work and you must work with your animal, or it wouldn't be the best showing animal. In 4H, you can also have fun and play games with your friends and celebrate, birthdays and learn.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

I wouldn't say it's my favorite, but the funniest memory is me getting kicked in the face by a goat. Right before going into the ring, my goat jumped up and kicked me in the face, and I was really upset. But I worked my way through it, and when I went into the ring my goat continued to jump up and be crazy. We got through it though, and I was excited that I did it!

What are your plans for the future?

This year we are not going to protege, so I'm excited about that. For my future, I want to be a vet and learn more about animals.

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

In 4-H, I play with my friends, but when I'm at my house, I would play with my brother. I watch TV, be creative, read, and just find something else to do to stay busy. In school, I also do cheerleading.



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>



Announcements

2026 Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to our 2026 Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship Recipients! We are proud to recognize Jeffery Bridges and Caoilainn James as the 2026 recipients of the Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship. Each awardee will receive a \$1,500 scholarship applied directly toward their tuition at Michigan State University.

To be eligible, recipients must be active Wayne County 4-H participants or recent 4-H Alumni within the last 3 years and enrolled as full-time students at MSU for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Please join us in congratulating Caoilainn and Jeffery on this outstanding achievement and wishing them continued success in their academic journeys!



Jeffery will be entering his first year at MSU this fall majoring in Chemical Engineering.



Caoilainn will be entering her Junior year at MSU this fall majoring in Animal Science with a minor in agricultural business management.

Celebrating Our Graduating 4-H Members

This year, we celebrate several outstanding youth who have reached an exciting milestone—their graduation from the Wayne County 4-H Program in the 2025-2026 year. While we will truly miss their presence, we look forward to seeing how they carry their 4-H experiences into the next chapter of their lives. We also hope they will consider giving back by sharing their talents as future 4-H volunteers.

Each of these young people has left a lasting mark on Wayne County 4-H, and we are so proud of all they have accomplished. Congratulations on your achievements, and best wishes as you pursue your future goals. We know 4-H has prepared you to be Beyond Ready for whatever comes next!

🎉 Congratulations to:

- Wyatt Behrendt, Four Seasons 4-H Club
- Ryan Musehl, 4-H Future Squad
- Caoilainn James, Superstock 4-H Club
- Amelia Suydam, Mustangers 4-H Club

These members will be specially recognized at our Annual Recognition Event in January 2027.



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Stress-Free 4-H Officer Elections

Officer elections are a great opportunity to build youth leadership skills, but they can sometimes feel intimidating for both youth and volunteers. A smooth election starts with a clear process that gives all members a fair opportunity to participate.

Key tips for a successful election:

- Follow your club or committee bylaws if election procedures are outlined.
- Elect one position at a time, beginning with president, then vice president, secretary, treasurer, and any additional offices.
- Allow nominations from others and self-nominations.
- Give candidates a chance to introduce themselves and share why they would like to serve.
- Use a secret ballot whenever more than one candidate is running for a position.
- Have two impartial members count ballots and report the results.
- After results are announced, make a motion to destroy the ballots.
- Taking time to follow a consistent process helps ensure elections are fair, organized, and positive for everyone involved while encouraging youth to step into leadership roles.

Read the full article:

Holding a 4-H Officer Election Can Be Anxiety-Free

by Roxanne Turner, Michigan State University Extension

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/holding_a_4_h_officer_election_can_be_anxiety_free





Success Story

Youth Leaders Turn Sweet Idea into Fair Success

What started as a conversation around the dinner table became one of the most exciting new additions to the 2026 Wayne County Fair.

Earlier this year, Wayne County 4-H teen leader and Livestock Developmental Committee President Amelia H. shared an idea inspired by her experience helping operate her school's student store. Through that role, Amelia learned valuable skills in customer service, inventory management, food safety, and small business operations. Recognizing the success of the student store, she envisioned creating a similar opportunity that could benefit Wayne County 4-H.

Amelia brought the idea to fellow teen leader and Livestock Developmental Committee Secretary Abigail S., and together they developed a proposal for a 4-H-operated concession stand serving hard scoop ice cream, beverages, and snacks during the Wayne County Fair.

In June, the pair presented their vision to the Livestock Developmental Committee, receiving enthusiastic support from both youth and adult volunteers. They then worked alongside committee members to present the concept to the Wayne County Fair Board. After several discussions, the Fair Board agreed to renovate and provide access to an unused building on the fairgrounds, creating what would soon become the 4-H Sweet Shack.

With less than two months before fair week, youth and adult volunteers from both the Livestock and Equine Committees came together to bring the vision to life. More than 100 volunteer hours were dedicated to cleaning, painting, organizing, fundraising, gathering supplies, and preparing the space for operation.

Like many entrepreneurial ventures, the project faced challenges along the way. Initial plans required adjustments, budgets were refined, and concerns arose about having enough startup funding. Rather than giving up, youth and volunteers worked together to secure sponsorships and donations from community supporters. Their persistence paid off, and the Sweet Shack officially opened during the 2026 Wayne County Fair.

Operating on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, the Sweet Shack offered six flavors of hard scoop ice cream, along with water and sports drinks for fairgoers. Each shift was staffed by 4-H youth and screened adult volunteers, creating a true youth-adult partnership. Youth gained firsthand experience serving customers, managing inventory, handling transactions, working as a team, and solving problems in a real-world business setting.

The Sweet Shack exceeded expectations during its inaugural year, generating nearly \$2,000 in profit. Proceeds were split between the Wayne County Livestock and Horse & Pony Committees to support future educational programs and opportunities for local 4-H youth. Beyond the fundraising success, the project provided meaningful leadership and workforce development experiences. Participants strengthened communication, customer service, financial management, teamwork, adaptability, and leadership skills while seeing the direct impact of their efforts.

Success Story Continued

Youth Leaders Turn Sweet Idea into Fair Success

"The Sweet Shack was one of my favorite parts of the fair this year," said Amelia. "Seeing something I put so much research and work into come to life was very rewarding, and I learned many skills that will help me later in life."

The success of the 4-H Sweet Shack is a powerful example of what can happen when youth are encouraged to share their ideas and take the lead. Through creativity, determination, and strong youth-adult partnerships, Amelia and Abigail transformed a simple idea into a successful fundraising initiative that will support Wayne County 4-H for years to come. Their story serves as a reminder that in 4-H, youth are not just participants, they are leaders, innovators, and changemakers.





Fun Stuff

Mini Apple Pizzas



MINI APPLE PIZZAS

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 apples
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter (or peanut free friendly option)

Optional toppings

- 1 banana sliced
- blueberries
- raspberries
- mixed seeds
- coconut
- ground cinnamon
- maple syrup

Directions

- Fill a mixing bowl halfway with cold water and add the lemon juice.
- Core the apples and slice into 5mm / ¼" slices, then place into the bowl of lemon water for a few minutes (to stop the apples browning).
- Drain the apples, then spread a little peanut butter onto one side of each apple ring.
- Top with desired toppings (try fresh, frozen or dried fruit, seeds, nuts, coconut, maple syrup, ground cinnamon etc...)
- Alternatively, set out all the topping ingredients into small bowls and let kids add what they like to their 'apple pizzas!', encouraging them to try new tastes, flavours and textures!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H



Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

October 3: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

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

October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

Online

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club

Online

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulging 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management,

communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at: www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.

