

# Berrien County 4-H Spotlight

## Upcoming MSU Extension Office Closures

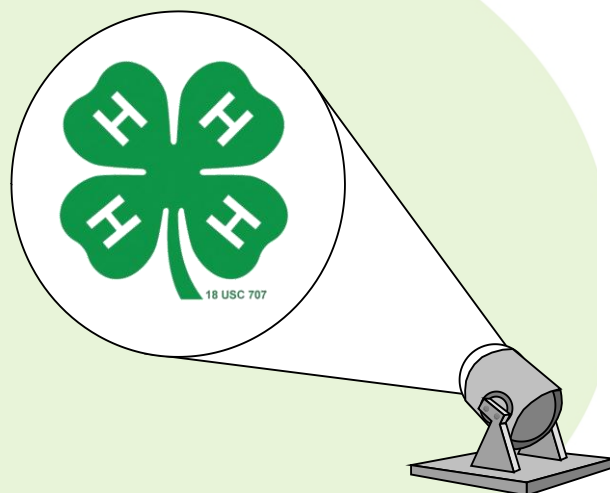
The Berrien County MSU Extension Office will be closed on the following days. Please arrange for any pickup or drop offs prior to these dates.

### *CLOSED FRIDAYS*

*November 11*

*November 13*

*November 27 – 28*



**Volume 27 Issue 6**

**October – November 2025**

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## CONTACT US

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269-944-4128

**Email:**  
[msue.berrien@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.berrien@county.msu.edu)

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[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h)

# COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



## Leaders Council Elections



The 4-H Leaders Council is currently seeking names of teens and adult leaders who would be interested in serving on the Council. Adult leaders serve a term of 3 years, while teen leaders serve a 2-year term. Leaders Council serves as Board of Directors of the Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association. It also serves as the counsel to the 4-H Program Coordinators. The Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month at the MSUE Office in Benton Harbor. Each candidate is asked to submit a 100-word bio to be included with the election mailing. Vacancies to be filled:

- Two (2) - Teen Leaders
- Three (3) - Adult Leaders

Please send your intention to run as a candidate to Bobbi Lawson at [bobbilawson85@gmail.com](mailto:bobbilawson85@gmail.com), Katrina Schneider at [galienchanters@gmail.com](mailto:galienchanters@gmail.com), or by mail to 1737 Hillandale Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Submissions are due no later than October 4, 2025.

## 4-H Horse Leaders Newly Elected Officers



The Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association held their annual election officers at the August meeting. Officers were inducted and will transition into their roles starting at the October meeting. Each officer will serve a one-year term. The Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association is open to 4-H Horse and Pony project leaders. Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. EST at the Berrien County Youth Fair – Youth Memorial Building. Take time to congratulate these individuals on their new appointments.

**President** – Chrissy Bradford  
**Vice President** – Tami Gear

**Treasurer** – Suzette Hendershott  
**Secretary** – Charity Hackett

## Enrollment Deadline Approaching



4-H Online is now open for 4-H new year enrollments! Login today to submit your annual enrollment.

2024 - 2025 deadlines are as follows:

- January 1 – Returning Member Re-enrollment deadline
- June 1 – New Member deadline

Paper accommodations available upon request to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or can be found online at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/enrollment](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/enrollment)



# COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



## Club End of the Year Forms



This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit Annual Financial Report Forms are due October 1.

Forms can be mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, dropped off at the after hours drop mailbox out front or faxed to 269-944-4128.

Forms that need to be submitted include:

- Annual Financial Report
- Civil Rights Statement
- Club Profile
- Inventory Record.

Forms can be found online at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/leader-resources/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/leader-resources/)

## Candy Bar Fundraiser



The Annual Fall Fundraiser is in full swing. Thank you to all the clubs that have participated in selling World's Finest Chocolate Candy Bars. Reminder to clubs that sold World's Finest Chocolate Candy Bars, that the deadline for ALL money to be turned in by is December 4.

Checks can be either mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022; dropped off during office hours or through the after-hours mailbox.

A Club's portion of the candy bars profits cannot be distributed until all money owed by the club is submitted. Checks should be made payable to: Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association, Inc.

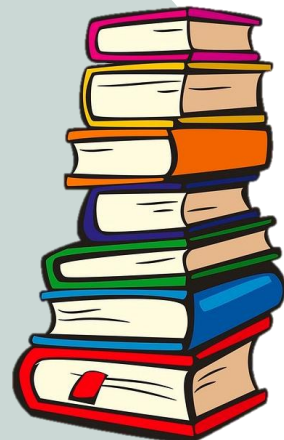
For questions, issues or concerns related to the candy bar sale, please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

## County Curriculum Order

Taking new projects? Need a member record book? Leveling up in your project? Need a new project book? Don't waste time, reach out to your local 4-H Project Leader on what resource books you need as we look towards kicking off the new 4-H year!

This year's countywide curriculum order is scheduled to be placed on January 1. Club Coordinator & Project Leaders can submit their requests for member & leader resources by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office.

When requesting, please include Club Name, Resource Name (s), & # needed.



# COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



## Michigan 4-H License Plate – Now Available



Michigan drivers have a new way to show their 4-H pride while supporting 4-H youth development programming: through the purchase of the newly released Michigan 4-H license plate. Available at the Michigan Secretary of State, the plate prominently displays the signature 4-H clover and part of the proceeds from every sale and renewal will go to support Michigan 4-H youth.

Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate will cost \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee will also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting [Michigan.gov/sos](https://Michigan.gov/sos), by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks.

## Casey's and 4-H – October 1 – November 4



From October 1–November 4, Casey's and 4-H are joining forces to strengthen the communities they call home.

Join us in supporting 4-H at Casey's on:

- October 1–10: Round up your in-store purchase to donate to 4-H.
- October 1–November 4: Add a donation to any order made online or in the Casey's app.

Berrien County has three Casey's throughout the county including:

1. Watervliet
2. Berrien Springs
3. Bridgman

A portion of the proceeds comes back to the Berrien County 4-H program.

## 4-H Countywide Project: Seed Conservation



Come join us at the Burns Prairie Preserve on Mt. Zion Road in Galien to learn about habitat restoration, native flowers, and collecting seeds while maintaining conservation practices.

Open to youth ages 5 - 19 years.

Time: 2:00 PM.

Limited to 15 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.

Registration can be done through 4-H Online at:  
<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

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



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension





# COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



## Berrien 4-H Alumni Scholarship

### 4-H Horse Leaders – Equine Educational Award

The Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association awards an educational scholarship to a member of the 4-H Horse and Pony project area. This scholarship was created to encourage active participation in the Berrien County 4-H Equine Project. Horse ownership and/or an equine-related Major/Minor are not a requirement for eligibility. This year's recipient received a scholarship in the amount of \$250.00. Recipient was as follows:

**Lauren L.**  
*High Spirits 4-H Club*

### Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation. Recipient received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education. Scholarship is sponsored by the Cerny Family. Recipient is as follows:

**Kyle S.**  
*Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club, Galien Chanters 4-H Club & We Can Ride 4-H Club*

### Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni(s) who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation. Recipients received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education. Recipients are as follows:

**Sarah Hackett**  
*We Can Ride 4-H Club*

**Paul Pirri**  
*Blue Ribbon Bandits 4-H Club*

**Brooke Strefling**  
*Galien Chanters 4-H Club*

*Scholarships were awarded in June 2025 and will be formally recognized at the upcoming 4-H Member and Leader Recognition Celebration on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Hidden Pointe.*

## 4-H Capital Experience – Save the Date

Youth in 9th grade through age 19 are invited to attend the 4-H Capitol Experience. You do not need to be a member of 4-H to attend the event, but all participants will be asked to enroll in 4-H Online upon completing their event registration.

Youth registrants will select an issue group according to their interests, which will be led by a teen facilitator. Issue groups will provide a space for youth to meet peers from across the state while talking about their ideas and what they learned. Youth will:

- Meet elected officials
- Hear from experts in policy representing a broad range of careers
- Hear from young people who have made a difference in their communities
- Discuss hot topics important to youth.

The 2025 registration fees will be \$365.00 and include hotel accommodations at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H Program Coordinator or local 4-H office to inquire about local funding opportunities.





# MEMBER AND LEADER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

## Berrien County 4-H



RSVP using the  
following QR Code



or by calling the  
Berrien County MSU  
Extension Office at  
269-927-5674.

Please join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our talented members and leaders at this year's recognition celebration!

**WHO:** Berrien County 4-H Families, Leaders & Members

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 9, 2025

**WHERE:** Hidden Pointe  
1062 Nickerson Ave, Benton Harbor, MI

**TIME:** Doors open at 3:00 p.m.  
Recognition program begins at 3:30 p.m.  
Dinner to follow awards program

**COST:** Free

**REGISTER:**

- Online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HRecognition2025/>
- Calling 269-927-5674
- Mailing in the below RSVP

**\*\*Deadline to register is November 1, 2025**

### 2025 4-H RECOGNITION CELEBRATION RSVP

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# OF SEATS RESERVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST BELOW NAMES OF INDIVIDUAL ATTENDING:**

### Questions

Berrien County MSU Extension  
Office  
269-927-5674  
1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Kelly Stelter,  
4-H Program Coordinator  
269-927-5674 ext. 4015  
[grandtke@msu.edu](mailto:grandtke@msu.edu)



# FALL INTO 4-H AT JOLLAY ORCHARDS

## Berrien County 4-H

Fall into 4-H as we celebrate the kick off of our new 4-H year! Berrien County 4-H Families and Leaders are invited to join us for a day of family friendly activities. Activities include:

- U-Pick Apples
- Haunted House
- Hayrides
- Corn Maze
- Craft Projects
- Cider & Donuts
- AND MORE!!!

**RSVP using the  
following QR Code**



**or by calling the  
Berrien County MSU  
Extension Office at  
269-927-5674.**

**WHO:** Berrien County 4-H Families, Leaders & Members

**WHEN:** Sunday, October 19, 2025

**WHERE:** Jollay Orchards  
1850 Friday Rd, Coloma, MI 49038

**TIME:** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST

**COST:** Free

**REGISTER:**

- Online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> starting on September 10, 2025.
- Calling 269-927-5674

### Questions

Berrien County MSU Extension Office  
269-927-5674  
1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Kelly Stelter  
4-H Program Coordinator  
269-927-5674 ext. 4015  
[grandtke@msu.edu](mailto:grandtke@msu.edu)





# STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

## 2026 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

COSTA RICA · JAPAN · TAIWAN · SOUTH KOREA · ARGENTINA



**OUR MISSION:** Enhancing world understanding and global citizenship through high-quality 4-H international cultural immersion and exchange programs for 4-H aged youth.

## Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruits host families and plans enrichment activities.

### 2026 PROGRAM DATES\*

**Costa Rica:** June 26-July 23

**Japan 8-Week:** June 11-August 6

**Japan 4-Week:** July 9-August 6

**Taiwan:** July 9-August 6

**South Korea:** July 16-August 13

**Argentina:** July 12-August 2

\*All dates are approximate; final dates will be announced when applications open in the fall.

### 4-H YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

- ➡ 12-18 years old for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan
- ➡ 12-18 years old for South Korea
- ➡ 15-18 years old for Costa Rica, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

*Applicant must not be in college*

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Contact your State Coordinator and/or reach out to States' 4-H to learn more
- Applications open in Fall 2025

[www.states4hexchange.com](http://www.states4hexchange.com)

[exchange@states4h.org](mailto:exchange@states4h.org) · (206) 462-2200



# STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



## National 4-H Congress

National 4-H Congress is a five-day event that engages high school aged 4-H members in leadership, citizenship, global awareness, and inclusion. Youth will hear from nationally renowned speakers, which in the past have included a wide range of individuals, including Holocaust survivors, social entrepreneurs, Miss America, and civil rights leaders. Additionally, participants take part in breakout sessions on a wide range of topics, including communications, leadership, and STEM. Participants not only have the opportunity to participate in state-of-the-art educational workshops and hear from world-renowned speakers, but they also have the opportunity to network with other 4-H members from across the United States.

Beyond the conference, National Congress delegates attend educational tours, including the Georgia History Center, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park, Georgia Aquarium, and Coca-Cola Headquarters. Youth carry out community service projects throughout the Atlanta area which has included in the past programs in parks, community schools, and other community organizations.

- **When:** November 29 – December 3, 2024
- **Where:** Atlanta, GA
- **Who:** Youth aged 14-19
- **Cost:** Cost is approximately \$1800.00 - \$2000.00 with adjustments based on airfare.

**County Scholarship:** The Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program offers Berrien County 4-H'ers to receive a county level scholarship to apply towards registration fee approximately \$1650.00 - \$1850.00 making the registration cost after scholarship application of \$150.00. Scholarships are limited and filled based on an application process.

**Registration:** Application for the trip is due with a \$50.00 deposit to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office no later than August 1, 2024. Checks can be made payable to MSU. Notification of scholarship and trip selection will be done prior to August 10, 2024. Application for trip can be found online at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships) or can be requested by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

To learn more, visit the National 4-H Congress website at: <https://national4-hcongress.com/>

## Michigan State 4-H Horse Show Results

Camille C. of the Tumbleweeds 4-H Club along with her equine partner, Seeking in the Dark, Dexter was selected for the second year in a row to represent Berrien County 4-H at the 2025 Michigan State 4-H Horse Show held in East Lansing, MI. Camille and Dexter were selected through an application process that is administered each year as each county across the state is only allotted based on project membership to send a specific number of delegates to the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show.

The Michigan 4-H State Horse Show took place on August 14 - 18, 2025 at the Michigan State University Pavilion. This 4-day competition event showcases more than 275 classes of 4-H members and their projects. The Michigan 4-H State Horse Show strives to develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other traits of character. Also, participants learn horsemanship skills and understanding of horse training through evaluating their project progress.

This year's Berrien County competitor results from the competition are below:

**Senior English Equitation Hunt Seat**  
Grand Champion

**Senior Western Pleasure**  
Reserve Grand Champion

**Senior English Pleasure Hunt Seat**  
Top 5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall

**Senior Trail**  
Reserve Grand Champion



Additionally, Camille received a Sportsmanship award for having a positive attitude, always seeing the positive side of everything and having an overall upbeat attitude that had her going with the flow throughout the event.



# STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



## Do you know someone deserving of the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year?

Can you think of 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 2025 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](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources).



## Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Hey, leaders of tomorrow - if you're age 12-19 and ready to grow skills, make friends, and become beyond ready for your future, join the 4-H Future Squad!

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club that was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the fifth 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 2025 through May 2026, virtually through Zoom. Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Club meetings for the 2025-2026 year will take place on a variety of days of the week. Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail. This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: [www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/](http://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.

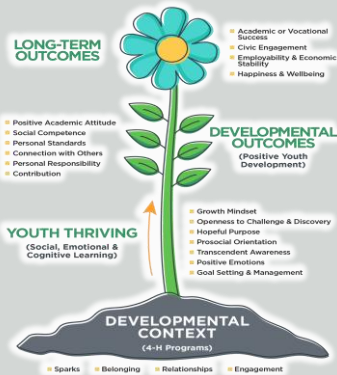
Learn more and access applications materials at: [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4\\_h\\_scholarships](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships).



# STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Why 4-H? This is a question asked many times of our youth and adults. What made you want to get involved and what keeps you coming back?

This is the SPARK of 4-H and serves as one of the four developmental context areas of the Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development. We strive to reach our members where they are and help them grow through the 4-H program.

To do this, we need to know what your spark is...

- Is there a specific project that brought you here?
- Is there a project you would like to see us add?
- Did you show up because you had friends in the program?

Reach out to your local 4-H staff to share your ideas.

### October 5-11: 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!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week)

### October 6: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth With Skills for Life

#### Online

Life doesn't come with a manual—but 4-H comes pretty close! Join Michigan 4-H State Leader Jodi Schulz for a fun and practical look at how volunteers can help young people build the skills they need to be Beyond Ready. This session will be offered twice:

- 12 p.m.: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life)
- 7 p.m.: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm)

### October 14: Wild Spartans – Helping Others Help Nature

#### Online

Join 4-H staff for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This session will feature Trish Brockman, and ecologist with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., who will help to explore the world of helping threatened and endangered wildlife. Open to youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026)

### October 23: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Officers in Action: Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles

#### Online

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. Learn how to support club officers in meaningful ways that promote responsibility, teamwork and real-life leadership skills. This session will be offered twice.

- **12-1 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon)
- **7-8 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm)





Berrien County MSU Extension  
1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



# 4-H Spotlight

Berrien County 4-H Youth Development



Facebook – “Berrien County 4-H Youth Development”

Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

