

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 on Fridays

July 4, 2025

August 1, 2025



Volume 28 Issue 5

June – July 2025

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CONTACT US

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berrien/berrien_county_4_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h)

COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Upcoming Countywide Project Workshops & Kit to Go!

Registration is now open for countywide projects and project exploration kits. Pre-registration is required, and workshops are limited on a first come, first serve basis until full regardless of participation via self-paced or in-person. All supplies are included unless noted during the registration process. Club Leaders may request Kit to Go's for their membership by directly contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Countywide Project – Splash of Color

Are you new to watercolor? Still feel like a beginner? Come join us as we create an abstract and an animal painting. Learn how art can be freeing and relaxing.

- **Date:** June 22, 2025 at 2:00 PM
- **Where:** Berrien County MSU Extension office
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025,
- **Register online at:** <https://v2.4honline.com/#!/user/sign-in>
- **Limited to 15 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.**

4-H Kit To Go! – Fairy Garden Fun

.From beaches to woodlands and more! Let your imagination soar by creating your own miniature faux fairy garden

- **Date:** August 2025
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025,
- **Register online at:** <https://v2.4honline.com/#!/user/sign-in>
- Registration opens on June 1, 2025.
- **Limited to 20 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.**



The Teen/Service 4-H Club will be hosting its annual 4-H Lemonade stand during the Berrien County Youth Fair.

They need club help, both Youth and Adults to assist during the week of the BCYF. Clubs may sign up for just one or multiple two (2) hours shifts. Clubs will earn a portion of the profits for that day.

If interested reach out to Bobbi Lawson at bobbilawson85@gmail.com or Freida Keefer at freida.keefer@yahoo.com to for questions and shift sign up.

Shifts are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Each shift is required to have a Gold Level volunteers always present in the booth.

Updated Rabbit Showmanship Guide



Hot off the press, the 4-H Rabbit Showmanship Guide has been updated! This bulletin contains objectives and guidelines for the 4-H participant in rabbit fitting and showing contests. Information covered includes feeding, care, grooming and conditioning. The bulletin provides full color step-by-step instructions with photo illustrations for completing the contest examination and includes a rabbit showmanship scorecard.

Request your copy today for your club or 4-H member by using the QR code or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office.

Each member and leader is given a copy free of charge at a ratio of one guide per a member/leader.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Top Honor to Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team

Congratulations and a round of applause to the members and coaches of the Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team. Recently, the team competed at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Judging Contest and each member placed in the top ten in their designated divisions. Members include Ginger H., Ellie K., Vivian M., Katie L., Ella M., Avery M. and Ellie K. Team Coaches are Kaitlyn Miller and Tom Rossman of the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club. Results from the competition are as follows:



Back row – Kaitlynn M. (Coach), Avery M., Ella M., Vivian M. & Tom R. (Coach) Front row – Ginger H. and Katie L.

Senior Novice: Reasons

4th Place – Ginger H.
7th Place – Ella M.
8th Place – Avery M.

Senior Novice Individual: Overall

1st Place – Ginger H.
3rd Place – Ella M.

Junior Regular Individual: Overall

1st Place – Katie L.
5th Place – Vivian M.

Junior Regular Individual: Reasons

1st Place – Katie L.
2nd Place – Vivian M.

Senior Regular Team: Overall

1st Place – Berrien County

Senior Regular Team: Reasons

1st Place – Berrien County

4-H Fall Leader Update



The Berrien County 4-H Annual Leader Update Training dates have been set. Don't waste time and mark those calendars now. Club Coordinators, project, and resource leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. It is important that each 4-H club/group is represented. Volunteers that are working on becoming new club leaders are also welcome. This is a valuable opportunity. Leaders only need to attend one time.

Dates are as follows:

- September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Buchanan Westerners
- September 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Berrien County MSU Extension

No pre-registration is required.

Enrollment Deadline

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

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

Enrollment forms must be on file by the deadline dates listed above to be eligible for project complete, awards, scholarships, etc.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Mark of Excellence Award Recipient



Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 10 and 11, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The reflection is "4-H Beyond Ready..." and the youth referred to a variety of memorable experiences in their time as 4-H'ers and how it makes them beyond ready to take on challenges in the future. As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners.

In 2025 the following youth was selected from Berrien County:

Breelyn P. of Backyard Renegades 4-H Club

Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning reflections will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winner!

4-H Dairy Days

New Educational Contests for 2025!

PHOTOGRAPHY

GRAPHIC DESIGN

VIDEOGRAPHY

Submission Deadline: June 5th!



These awards do not count towards the high rank scholarship awards
The age divisions will be the same as the other MI 4-H Dairy Days Contests
These are free contests that are open to any Michigan 4-H youth!

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

- Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 individuals in each age division (senior, junior, and novice)
- There will be a "people's choice" winner for each photo division that will be decided via Facebook "likes"
- The theme for the photography contest is the dairy industry

GRAPHIC DESIGN CONTEST

- Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 individuals in each age division (senior, junior, and novice)
- The theme is 4-H Dairy Days 2025
- The overall winning logo design will be the logo used for the 2025 Dairy Days t-shirts

VIDEOGRAPHY

- Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 individuals in each age division (senior, junior, and novice)
- The theme is "Why Should Youth Be Involved in the 4-H Dairy Program?"

International Travel on a Budget

International Travel On a Budget

Michigan 4-H Adulting 101
Monday, June 2, 2025
6:30-7:30pm ET
FREE on Zoom

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Dreaming of Traveling the World Without Breaking the Bank? 🌍 ✈️

Join us Monday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. ET for International Travel on a Budget — a must-attend session for students looking to explore the world without draining their wallets.

Whether you're planning a study abroad trip, a gap year, or just your next summer adventure, we'll cover smart tips, budget hacks, and insider advice to help you travel farther for less.

Don't miss it — your passport to affordable travel starts here! Register for this FREE Adulting 101 session facilitated by MSU Extension Tourism expert here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-international-travel-on-a-budget>



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event

Date: Sunday, August 10, 2025 at 3:00 PM at the Berrien County Youth Fair

Eligibility: Open to any Berrien County 4-H member who has completed the 8th grade by July 15, 2025. Maximum years of participating in the event is not to exceed five. Exhibitors must be enrolled in Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project by July 1, 2025.

Purpose: The Purpose of the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event is to identify and recognize the most versatile 4-H teen member and horse team in the Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project. The scholarship recognizes the outstanding 4-H horse and rider versatility combination at the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event.

2025 Gymkhana will be Speed and Action

Amount of Scholarship: \$500.00 to Champion, \$250.00 to Reserve Champion and \$250.00 to the Sportsmanship Award Recipient.

Member and horse must be pre-registered or post marked for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event by Monday, July 15, 2025.

NEW for 2025:

- Registration is completed via 4-H Online in the event section at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>
- Scholarship is now awarded for the Sportsmanship Award

For eligibility, rules, requirements and application can be found by calling the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674. or online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h

Ten Michigan 4-H Volunteers honored for 50 years of Service in 2025

For the fifth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

"Simply put, our Michigan 4-H programs would not be possible without the help of caring volunteers who give their time and talent," said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "MSU Extension is grateful for every volunteer in every program, but these ten individuals deserve special recognition. They have given so much to 4-H over their five decades of service and we offer our heartfelt thanks for all they have given to support 4-H youth."

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2025 are:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ Cheryl Barton, Shiawassee County | • Vanessa Powell, Jackson County |
| ▪ Linda Bogue, Cass County | • Diane Shepherd, Sanilac County |
| ▪ Lisa Coe, Barry County, | • Paul Shoup, Mason County |
| ▪ Janel Horrocks-Boehmer, Ingham County | • Bernadette Strahl, Menominee County |
| ▪ Sharon Mitchell, St. Joseph County | • Marla Wedge, Allegan County |

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at: <https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.





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**Adult assistance
is required for
the SOLD Kit.**

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SOLD! Making the Most at Your Fair Auction

The SOLD!! Making the most at your fair auction kit is designed to assist youth with getting ready for their local exhibition auction.

Grow the potential profit of your 4-H Livestock projects through a variety of marketing and communication strategies that will give you a leg up on your competition.



In this kit, youth will gain knowledge related to methods of marketing and advertising their products. Participants will explore and practice production, management, and distribution skills. In addition, this kit provides a venue to explore what it takes to be successful in business and view the world of animal science and agribusiness as a career option. Market animal projects have the potential to teach you valuable life skills in addition to basic animal science, care and management.

Activities included are as follows:

- 7 Steps to a Great Thank You Note
- How to avoid a communication catastrophe
- The "Write" Stuff
- DIY Buyer's Thank You Gift
- Buyer's Thank You Poster

Each kit includes customization to a project area. Youth can select up to three (3) project areas to customize when registering. Customization selections are as follows:

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| • Beef | • Rabbit |
| • Sheep | • Chicken |
| • Swine | • Turkey |
| • Goat | • Expressive Arts |

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years, 4-H Clubs & Independent Fair Groups. Individual & group kits can be requested through the same registration link.

Cost: Free

Registration: Register through the QR code or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or Cass County MSU Extension office 269-445-4438. Kits are limited on a first come, first serve basis until gone. Kits are scheduled to be distributed throughout June & July.



<https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HSold2025/>

COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Giving Bean Fundraiser



It is Spring Fundraiser time, and we are selling items from the Giving Bean. Orders can be placed online or via paper. Paper forms can be requested through your local Club Coordinator.

Fundraiser timeline is as follows:

- April 28th – Order Forms Available
- June 4 – Paper order forms along with payment due to the Extension office
- July 1 – Order pick up available for Club for distribution
- April 28, 2026 – Online order platform expires

Michigan 4-H Survey

We value your input!

Michigan 4-H is conducting a survey to better understand the topics and educational approaches that best meet your needs. Your feedback will help us improve and enhance how Michigan 4-H serves communities across the state.

Click the link below or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca



MI 4-H Livestock Judging Contest



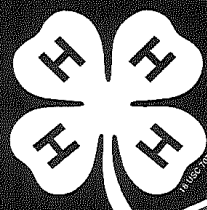
Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are competing in the Michigan Livestock Expo but are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive

While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award!. Registration is due by June 12. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2025





MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Summer of Savings

Michigan 4-H Summer of Savings 2025 is here!

This summer, invest in YOU – with 4-H and \$20!

Ready to build your money smarts and earn a reward this summer?
Michigan youth ages **9–19** are invited to join the **Summer of Savings!**

The challenge will take place **NOW - August 15, 2025.**

All details, including learning options and how to participate, will be shared following registration.

For more information and to register:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/summer-of-savings>

Learn and Earn!

Registrants will choose how they learn about their financial future through one of the following:

- ✓ Joining a live Zoom session
- ✓ Watching a recorded savings lesson
- ✓ Taking a self-guided course (parent/guardian permission required if under 12 years old)

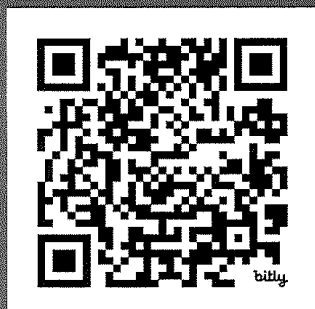
First 100 participants will receive a \$20 gift card upon completion of a savings lesson.



Register Now!

Registration Link:

<https://bit.ly/43dBX6w>



Thank you to Greenstone
Farm Credit Services for
sponsoring this learning
opportunity!



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STATE 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.

"We are elated that the Michigan 4-H license plate is officially here," said Quentin Tyler, director of Michigan State University Extension, which is home to the Michigan 4-H program. "We hope the many members of our Michigan 4-H community – youth, parents, alumni and supporters – will consider supporting 4-H by purchasing a plate as they renew their licenses this year."



Similar to 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, 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.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2024-25 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2025-2026 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs. **All applications are due June 1.**

"County 4-H programs and clubs have so many unique programs," said Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "Thanks to the support of our generous 4-H donor community, we are pleased to offer mini-grants to support these many wonderful programs."



Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$500.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.



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 can participate in state-of-the-art educational workshops and hear from world-renowned speakers, but they also can 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 28, 2025 – December 3, 2025
- **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, 2025. Checks can be made payable to MSU. Notification of scholarship and trip selection will be done prior to August 10, 2025. Application for trip can be found online at: 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 4-H State Horse Show

The State 4-H Horse Show is an annual, three-day event that brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event.

Date: August 14 – 17, 2025

Where: MSU Pavilion

Who: Open to youth ages 13 and Up as of January 1, 2025.

For more show schedule, eligibility, etc. go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/registration-information

Berrien County Application:

- Berrien County Application can be submitted via 4-H Online in the events section.

Deadline for Application: July 1, 2025 – No late submission accepted.

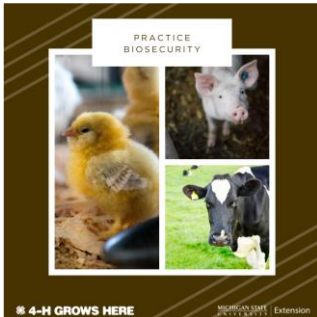
****Selected delegates will receive a registration packet that is due by July 15, 2025**



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Livestock and poultry owners encouraged remain vigilant about biosecurity



In recent years, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in cattle, cats and poultry across the country and Michigan. Livestock and poultry owners are strongly encouraged to take proactive measures to defend against additional outbreaks in Michigan. Check out the following resources helpful information on biosecurity:

- www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity
- www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms
- www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza
- www.canr.msu.edu/avian_influenza/

June 6: Fairy Garden Workshop

Britton

Youth ages 5-19 will learn the basics of miniature gardening and some fairy lore.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/fairy-garden-workshop25

June 7: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure.

Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens. We will be finding new caches, trading travel bugs, exploring the gardens and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache

June 13: 4-H Terrarium Workshop

Britton

Youth ages 8-19 will create a miniature, self-sustaining ecosystem, in a controlled indoor environment.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-terrarium-workshop

June 20: Garden to Table Summer Workshop Series

Taylor Community Library, Taylor

In this hands-on program, youth will explore the journey of food from seed to plate!

Participants will learn how to plant and care for a garden, harvest fresh produce, and turn their homegrown ingredients into simple, healthy meals.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-to-table-summer-workshops

June 24: Digger Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, East Lansing

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in our communities.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/digger-day

June 28: Michigan 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Come test your dairy industry knowledge against other 4-H'ers! This free event is open to any 4-H youth ages 8-19. Youth may enter as individuals or as teams.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-mi-4-h-dairy-quiz-bowl>



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4-H Spotlight

Berrien County 4-H Youth Development



Facebook – “Berrien County 4-H Youth Development”

Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

