



MARCH 2025

4-H Family News

Eaton County



Congratulations, County Award Winners!

Thank you to everyone that attended our Volunteer Celebration and County Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 22nd ! It was wonderful to celebrate all your accomplishments in the 23-24 program year, and we look forward to making this coming year even better.

Please see the next page for a complete list of all youth and volunteers that were recognized at our celebration. **If you still need to collect your award, these will be available at the Extension office to be picked up anytime before April 7th**

Once again, thank you all for all your valuable contributions to the Eaton County 4-H Program!

Sincerely,

Jessie Gott, Eaton County 4-H Program Coordinator

Upcoming Committee Meetings

4-H Council | March 3rd | 7 PM | PMR

Horse Development Committee Meeting | March 12th |

6:30 PM | PMR

Dog Committee Meeting | March 19th | 6:30 PM | PMR

CONTACT US

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Eaton County

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Eaton County 4-H:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EatonCounty4H/>

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Volunteer Celebration + County Awards

Volunteer Years of Service:

25 Years

Doug Thering
Kathy Pettit
Kim Smith
Larry Hall

20 Years

Hannah Ymker

15 Years

Brittany Schroder
Brooke Braska
Jill Hickey

10 Years

Betty Humphrey
Jill Cords
Patrick Priesman
Taylor Lilly
Trenton Mauk

5 Years

Christie Omo
Amber King

1 Year

Anika Stehlik
Savannah Mauk

Volunteer + Club Awards:

Outstanding Leader Award Winner:

Teresa Ritsema – Barn Busters 4-H Club



Club Community Service Award Winner:

Barn Busters 4-H Club



Club Recreation Award Winner:

Barn Busters 4-H Club



Volunteer Celebration + County Awards

County Medal Awards:

Dairy Market/Feeder

Medal: Kennedy Moore, Walton Wonders

Honorable Mention: Taylor Benkobsky,
Walton Wonders

Goats

Medal: Gabriel Purdy, We-R-A-4-H Club

Fine Arts

Honorable Mention: Landon Ritsema
Barn Busters 4-H Club

Young Achievers:

Dogs

Colin DeMott, Barn Busters 4-H Club

Goats

Emma Bryner, Barn Busters 4-H
Club

Horses

Aubrey DeMott, Barn Busters 4-H
Club

Rabbits

Aubree Mills, Walton Wonders 4-H
Club

Cake Decorating

Charlotte Smith, Maple Valley
Riders

Craft, Gnome Garden

Jaylinn Smith, Walton Wonders
4-H Club

Craft, Tye Dye

Aliyana Pena, Barn Busters 4-H
Club

Horticulture

Wyatt Stanton, Barn Busters 4-H
Club

Performing Arts

Gabiella Sutter, Barn Busters 4-H
Club

Sewing

Adalin Polk, Barn Busters 4-H Club

Woodburning

Eva Graham, Maple Valley Riders

Completion Awards:

Morgan Bowles, Benton Varity

Michaela Cheeseman, Vermontville Jr Farmers

Devarion Davis, Millerburg

Ty Emenhiser, Millerburg

Danielle Getter, J & D Outlaws

Richard McCrumb, Eaton Equestrians

Thela Priesman, Vermontville Jr Farmers

Olivia Rushmore, Walton Wonders

Volunteer Celebration + County Awards



Young Achiever Award Recipients



Club Award Winners: Barn Busters 4-H Club

Volunteer Celebration + County Awards



15 Year Leaders



25 Year Leaders



County Medal Award Recipients

Volunteer Celebration + County Awards



Outstanding Leader Award Recipient:
Teresa Ritsema



Completion Award Recipient:
Olivia Rushmore



Banquet Planning Committee:
Brenda Holland and Kim Smith



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Eaton County Fair Board Active Shooter Training – April 7th

The Eaton County Fair Board will be holding an Active Shooter Training on April 7th at 6:00pm in Kardell Hall. All administrative leaders and superintendents are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Phil Rolfe:

517-983-9370 | rolfe_philip@yahoo.com

It's Time to Register!

Log into 4-H Online to register
for the 2025 4-H year
www.4honline.com



Resource Shout-Out – Ask Extension!

MSU Extension invites you to ask questions through our online Ask Extension system. Search our database, upload pictures, and ask questions on a variety of topics, such as gardening, agriculture, health, natural resources, etc. Experts from Michigan State University will provide answers within a few days via email.

How do I ask a question? Go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/> and select the Ask Extension button.

For questions about gardening, you can also visit: migarden.msu.edu. The gardening hotline can be reached at 888-678-3464.

Go to: canr.msu.edu/outreach/experts to contact Michigan experts in many areas. For information from experts across the country, go to: ask2.extension.org



2025 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

4-H Exploration Days Registration Opens March 20th at 7:00pm

Mark your calendars! 4-H Exploration Days registration for 2025 will open on March 20th at 7:00pm.

4-H Exploration Days is an annual Michigan State University pre-college program that will take place June 18 to 20, 2025, on the MSU campus in East Lansing. The event draws about 1,000 participants aged 12 to 19 from across Michigan who can choose from a multitude of hands-on learning sessions, field trips, and recreation opportunities.

Information about available sessions can be found below. Each session has a limited capacity so you'll want to make sure you review these ahead of time so you can secure all your preferred sessions once registration opens!

Website for 4-H Expo Days:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information

2025 Session Descriptions:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/uploads/files/2025-4HEXD-Sessions_2025-02-20-AA.pdf

Expo Days Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064712228895#>





MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

2025 Eaton County 4-H Pre-Fair Dog Fun Match

Saturday, May 17, 2025

**For Youth
and
Adults**

Registration Packet and
full information can be
found here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/dog_committee

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Pre-registration is preferred. Please return forms by **Monday, April 28, 2025**. Day of Registration will be from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Pavilion, Eaton County Fairgrounds
1025 S. Cochran Ave, Charlotte, MI

Class Fees:
\$6.00 per class (Pre-Registration)
\$8.00 per class (Day of Show)

Join us for a fun dog show experience!

- Participants may Adults or Youth
- 4-H rules and regulations will be followed for all classes
- Current vaccination records must be attached to the registration form (Bordetella, DHLPP, and Rabies.)
- Appropriate behavior and dress is required at all times
- No puppies under 5 months are allowed to show
- Concessions will be available
- Bake sale fundraiser! Donations for these fundraisers are encouraged

Please review Registration Packet for full list of rules

\$100 of the profit earned may be donated to the Eaton County Agricultural Society for the 2025 Eaton County Fair dog trophies.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open



Apply now for the 2026 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities.

Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is March 31. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

March 3: Adulting 101 – Get It Together: Tim and Organization Tips to Thrive

Online

Learn practical tips to tackle schedules, beat procrastination and organize spaces to help you be successful now and in the future.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/get-it-together

March 11: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

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

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

March 11: Wild Spartans

Online

Join 4-H staff for the "Wild Spartans" series for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session will explore conservation efforts in zoos with Seth Magle, director of the Urban Wildlife Institute at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-march-2024-2025

March 15: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

East Lansing

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-hippology-contest

March 18: Mich. 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Cultivating Developmental Relationships with Youth

Online

Explore how to build impactful connections with youth through developmental relationships. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice:

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-7pm

April 1: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards application deadline

Online

This program provides 4-H members a learning experience where they can develop career skills by using their 4-H experiences to compile a portfolio similar to a professional application while receiving recognition for their 4-H involvement.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-awards-application-deadline





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one chaperone arriving in 2025; we are looking for families interested in opening their homes and hearts by hosting these individuals. Consider sharing the clover this summer and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime by hosting!

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids in mid-July and depart in mid-August, meeting host families for a 3.5-week stay. Online applications to host can be found at:

<https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>.

For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn at brinn@msu.edu.



MSU Extension launches 2025 Global Voices Essay Contest with MSU Global Youth Advancement Network

The Global Voices Essay Contest offers a platform for young people around the world to advocate for their communities and share their opinions and stories about local and national challenges. Michigan students in grades 9-12, and young adults ages 18-24, are invited to share their own stories, reflections and visions by writing and submitting a 600-900-word essay focused on community (defined as the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences and ideas that shape our state). Sub-themes for the essay contest include shared natural resources, heritage and home, bridges of unity, innovation for the future and other.

A panel of MSU, MSU Extension, and Michigan 4-H judges will review and select the winning essays, which will be published on the MSU Global Youth Advancement Network website and receive cash prizes!

The deadline for youth to submit their essay online is May 2. For more info please visit: <https://globalyouth.isp.msu.edu/programs-projects/global-voices/essay-contest/call-submissions-2/>

Michigan 4-H needs your input!

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

Visit https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program. If you have questions regarding this survey, please reach out to Kathy Fischer at fisch226@msu.edu.





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Rev Up Your Future: Careers in Automotive Performance & Evaluation



Passionate about speed, innovation, and problem-solving? Join us Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m. ET for an exciting webinar exploring careers in automotive performance and evaluation!

Discover cutting-edge technologies, learn from industry experts & young professionals, and explore career paths & essential skills. Don't miss this chance to accelerate your future in the automotive world! Part of the Driven for the Future: Career Webinar Series sponsored by Toyota R&D

Register now and get ready to land your dream job:
: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/careers-in-auto-eval>

4-H Wild Spartans: Animals in the City

Join 4-H staff as we look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will explore the role of conservation in zoos and follow along the trails of animals in the city.

Join us on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 at 6:30pm EST for "The Urban Wildlife Institute: Learning About Animals in the City." You will meet Seth Magle, Director of the Urban Wildlife Institute at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL. You'll learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

Monthly sessions will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm EST. Pre-registration is required: https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25/





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

2025 Georgia Boot Trailblazers Contest



The 2025 [Georgia Boot Trailblazers](https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-h-trailblazers/) contest is officially open! This contest is open to 4-H'ers aged 12 – 18 and is an opportunity for them to share about their project journey for a chance to win a prize pack valued at \$800 and receive national recognition on Georgia Boot and 4-H digital channels as a 2025 Trailblazer. The application period will remain open until March 16, and more details on the application process can be found [here](https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-h-trailblazers/).

Don't miss this chance to win a prize package valued at \$800! Learn more: <https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-h-trailblazers/>

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp 7/27 – 8/2

Registration is now OPEN for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp!

Spend the week at Camp Chickagami on beautiful Lake Esau. Learn about the Great Lakes and Michigan's natural resources through experiential learning opportunities, enjoy recreational sessions including swimming, kayaking, archery, outdoor skills, campfires, and more!

Camp is open to youth ages 13-15. Learn more and register at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/index



WORLD FOOD PRIZE



MICHIGAN YOUTH INSTITUTE

AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
MAY 8, 2025

The World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute is a life-changing experience at Michigan State University where students in grades 7-12 engage with leading experts on critical global challenges, participate in engaging activities and tours, and explore exciting ways to make a difference in Michigan and around the world!

At the event, participants will:

- Present their own research and recommendations on how to solve key global challenges in a short speech and small group discussions with MSU faculty, staff, students, peers, and other experts.
- Connect with other student leaders from across Michigan to share ideas, identify solutions to global challenges, and build lasting friendships.
- Take part in educational sessions to explore current research and issues in food, agriculture, natural resources, energy, STEM, international policy, and sustainable development.
- Qualify to apply for domestic fellowships and international internships, and to be nominated for a \$2000 Spartan Youth Programs Pre-College Scholarship from MSU.

Registration and paper due March 15, 2025.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



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HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE MICHIGAN YOUTH INSTITUTE



For more information, please
contact WFPMIYI Coordinators:

Debra Barrett

Senior Extension Educator
Michigan State University Extension
smithde6@msu.edu

Brian Wibby

Extension Educator
Michigan State University Extension
wibby@msu.edu



1

Using the World Food Prize Foundation's [Global Challenge Paper Instructions](#), youth select a country and research a pressing challenge in that country related to global food security, agriculture, and sustainability.

Each participant writes a three to five page paper outlining their research findings, as well as their ideas for addressing the global challenge in their country of choice .

Resources to help students research and write their papers are available on the [World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute webpage](#).

2

Youth participants submit their completed research papers and register to attend the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute by March 15, 2025 by going to:

https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/youth_programs/global_youth_institute/michigan/

Teachers and adult mentors who would like to attend the Institute with their student(s) must also register by March 15, 2025.

There is no registration cost to participate in the Institute and meals will be provided at the event, however, students and teachers/mentors must organize their own transportation to the event.

3

Attend the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute on May 8, 2025 in East Lansing, MI (or via Zoom).

Participants will earn recognition as Borlaug Scholars, qualify to apply for international and domestic internships, and may be selected to represent Michigan at the 2025 World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa!

The World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

4-H State Awards 2025

The commitment you put into “**Making Your Best Better**” is significant. Through your 4-H experiences you are molding your future by growing your skills, becoming a leader, and serving your community. Your 4-H journey has required curiosity, determination, accountability, and dedication to learning and growth. Your efforts are commendable and deserve to be recognized with a Michigan 4-H State Award, the highest honor bestowed on a 4-H member.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is a hands-on learning experience that allows 4-H members to develop and practice “adulting” skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing. Applications and interviews are based on communicating your 4-H participation and learning experiences. Applicants are eligible to compete for cash prizes and be recognized for their 4-H involvement. 4-H members who meet the minimum application score are eligible for a \$50 scholarship toward their 4-H Exploration Days registration. The 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards will be presented during the 4-H Exploration Days on June 18 at MSU.

Who: 4-H members 12-19 years old (on January 1)

Submit an application: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateAwards25/>

Application deadline: April 1



A State 4-H Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth!

Information and application: <https://tinyurl.com/46afjt8>

Application deadline: April 1

Submit application: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateAwards25>

Recognition event: June 18



MSU EXTENSION



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



2025 State 4-H Spring Dog Workshop

April 12th, 2025
9:00am-3:30pm

Isabella County Commission on Aging
2200 S Lincoln Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Registration fee: \$35
Lunch provided

Registration Deadline: April 4th,
2025

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2025DogWorkshop4H/>

Individual Session registration is day-of.

Session topics include:

- Rally
- Showmanship
- Obedience
- Clicker Training
- Canine First Aid
- How to become a 4-H Dog Judge
- And more!



Staff contact:
Kat VanDouser
517-552-6903
Krollkat@msu.edu

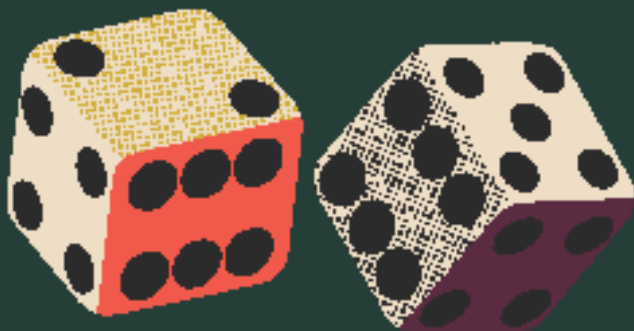
4-H



Night
Every 4th
Tuesday at
7pm



AN EVENT FOR ALL TO
ENJOY, JUST CHILL
PEOPLE HANGING OUT



Register to attend:

<https://forms.gle/gV5yaKdPxb3Yc4uA7>





States' 4-H Summer Hosting

HOST an international youth delegate and bring the richness of the world to your home!

Host an International Youth in Summer 2025 with States' 4-H International

"It's like having a sister I always wanted and a best friend"
-States' 4-H Host Sibling

Open your home to an exchange student and open your lives to the world!



Hosting Details

- Mid-July to Mid-August 2025
- Youth from Costa Rica, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan
 - * Exact dates dependent on your state. Please check with your state's Coordinator for details.
- Host a youth aged 12-18 (majority are 12-14) or an adult chaperone
- Youth have a range of English language abilities, so host families should be prepared to communicate imaginatively
- This is a voluntary program; no stipends will be provided

Host Family Requirements

- You must have a child of the same gender who is within 3 years of the hosted youth (children aged 9+ are eligible to host)
- Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone
- No special activities need to be planned since these youth want to experience American culture, make new friends, and improve their English by staying with your family

For more information, visit <https://www.states4hexchange.org/state-contacts/> to find contact information for your local State Coordinator