



NOVEMBER 2023

4-H Family News

Grand Traverse County



Feeling Thankful

4-H Families and Volunteers,

This time of year always feels like a reset; allowing ourselves to lean into change and prepare for what's next. It's also a time for reflection; being proud of what we've accomplished and thankful for those who helped us get there.

I want to thank you for being active members in this organization. Your presence plays such an important role in the growth of the 4-H community.

Speaking of roles, we are currently in the process of hiring a new 4-H Program Coordinator. We do not yet have a timeline, but rest assured we will choose a qualified candidate. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me personally with any questions you may have.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year with you! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Kristy Oosterhouse

P.S. Don't forget to enroll in your 4-H Club ASAP!
<https://v2.4honline.com>

County Announcements, Dates & Events

4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING | 11-15-2023 | 6:30PM | MSU EXTENSION OFFICE, LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM, 520 W FRONT ST, TRAVERSE CITY, 49684

LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 1-8-2024 | 6:30PM | REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIVESTOCK COUNCIL EDUCATION EXPO | 3-3-2024 | TBA | GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA

VISIT [HTTP://WWW.NORTHWESTMICHIGANLIVESTOCKCOUNCIL.ORG/](http://www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org/) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT POSSESSION DATES AND MORE



CONTACT US

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension Listening Sessions

MSU Extension is committed to serving communities, individuals, and businesses alike in every one of Michigan's 83 counties, where our dedicated staff provide people with educational programs and essential tools for their personal and professional growth. But we can't do that without hearing directly from the communities and people we serve.

Starting in late November, [MSU Extension will be holding a series of public listening sessions across the state](#). Through these sessions, we hope to gather input to determine where the organization is, what we do well, and where there are opportunities for improvement. This input will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend – youth, parents, community and statewide partners, all Extension-affiliated faculty and staff, and curious community members. We also want to hear from our organization's greatest asset — **YOU**. We want to know the trends and influences that you see, what is working well for you, what changes you think could improve our organization, and what a thriving MSU Extension looks like in the future.

You can play a part in helping shape the services and offerings in your community in the future.

How can you help and participate?

We want this process to be inclusive of all, especially staff and underserved communities. Ultimately, we hope this work results in clear direction and goals for MSU Extension in the future. To that end, we are asking you to:

1. Please [register](#) for and attend one of the upcoming in-person listening sessions to share your perspectives. Because some of our colleagues may have conflicts, a virtual listening session for staff only will also be available. Staff are strongly encouraged to attend an in-person session and only defer to the virtual session if absolutely necessary. Please see common [FAQ and answers](#).
2. Please share the [listening session invitation](#) with program participants, partners, businesses, communities, and organizations you serve and encourage them to attend. We encourage you to share the invitation (PDF or Word document), flyer or graphics available [here](#) via email, as well as social media. This [invitation tracking template](#) may be useful to you.
3. Please share the [listening session reminder invitation](#). The goal is to share the reminder invitation at least twice.
4. Identify the diverse perspectives in your community that are important for us to hear for shaping our future programs. If you anticipate that a community member will need translation services for the invitation and/or language interpretation at the listening sessions, please contact Imelda Galdamez (galdamez@msu.edu) as soon as possible.
5. After the listening session, all participants will receive this [thank you message](#).
6. Consider sending an additional thank-you message to those participants and partners you know participated.
7. Share your concerns, hopes, or overall comments through this [anonymous survey](#).
8. Add any suggestions for key stakeholder interviews via this [Google form](#).

We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming listening sessions and thank you for sharing the listening session information with those we currently serve or hope to in the future.

If you have any questions about registration, please contact Kathy Walicki at walicki@msu.edu or 231-873-2129 or Marie Garcia at garci434@msu.edu or 517-353-9464. If you have other questions or comments, please contact us.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Explore the globe with Crafts Around the World!



Curious about other countries around the globe? Like making crafts? The Michigan 4-H Crafts Around the World series provides lessons and instructions for youth to create simple crafts and increase cultural awareness.

In its latest piece, youth can learn about the European country of Norway while making a Norwegian gnome. In Norway, a gnome is called a nisse: a creature who lives in barns or homes, protecting the countryside and the people who live there.

View this activity at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/crafts-around-the-world-series-europe-norwegian-gnome-nisse.

View all the Crafts Around the World activities at www.canr.msu.edu/global_cultural_education/resources.

November 8: Adulthood 101 - Professionalism in the Workplace

Online

Participants will increase their awareness of what it means to be professional and gain tips on different aspects of the work environment to consider, including: shared workspace, relationships with coworkers, communicating and setting boundaries. This free online series is open to teens and young adults (17 and under) and youth development professionals, teachers and adults (18 and up).

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood10111-8-23

November 14: Wild Spartans – Careers in the Exotic Animal Industry

Online

Jump into the world of breeding and caring for amphibians and reptiles. Meet Zach Brinks, vice president of live operations at Josh's Frogs. 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 online series is open to youth ages 12-19.

events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans20232024/

November 21: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Youth Engagement in 4-H Experiences

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can help to increase the level of youth engagement in their 4-H experiences. This series will provide Michigan 4-H 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, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option for the convenience of volunteers.

12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-youth-engagement-in-4-h-experiences

7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-youth-engagement-in-4-h-experiences7pm

November 28: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving — and support 4-H! From 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. EST, Michigan 4-H supporters are invited to participate by giving their support financially or helping spread the word. Michigan 4-H has a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period. County 4-H endowments provide a perpetual source of income for county 4-H programs and every dollar is an investment in 4-H!

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension partners with legislators to host first Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol

On Wednesday, October 4, Michigan State University Extension hosted the first Michigan Day at the Capitol, in partnership with State Reps. Matthew Bierlein (R-Vassar) and Reggie Miller (D-Van Buren Twp.). The event, held at Heritage Hall, showcased the positive impact of the Michigan 4-H program and brought visibility to its efforts throughout the state.

“Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was a great opportunity to educate about and bring awareness to the 4-H program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “We truly appreciate Reps. Bierlein and Miller for their collaboration in hosting this event.”

Michigan 4-H is the flagship youth development program of MSU Extension and reaches nearly 100,000 young people ages 5 to 19 each year. Through various activities, clubs, groups, programs and events, 4-H’ers are offered hands-on learning experiences where they can explore their passions and interests while growing confidence, life skills and a sense of responsibility.

“Michigan 4-H is helping to grow youth in every county of our great state but we would like to reach even more young people with the life-changing program,” continued Tyler. “We hope that our event brings us closer to that goal by increasing the visibility of our 4-H program and all that we offer to youth in our state.”

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was attended by legislators, stakeholders and members of the public. At the event, attendees had the opportunity to visit informational booths hosted by Michigan 4-H youth and staff. A brief program was also held, with event hosts Reps. Bierlein and Miller delivering comments to the audience. Also providing comments were Tyler, MSU Interim President Teresa Woodruff, Genesee County Clerk Register of Deeds Domonique Clemons, who is a Michigan 4-H alum, and Lenawee County 4-H’er Lia Kurowicki.

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Michigan4H. To learn more about Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h.

Michigan 4-H license plate proposed

On Tuesday, September 26, legislation was unveiled that if passed, will create a new fundraising license plate that would generate support for Michigan 4-H. State Reps. Matthew Bierlein, of Vassar, and Reggie Miller, of Van Buren Township, sponsored the legislation which would allow for the creation and sale of a Michigan 4-H plate through the Secretary of State.

The plans would create the 4-H fundraising plate and establish regular disbursements from the license plate sales to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Led by a board of trustees, the foundation works in partnership with MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H Youth Development to support programs to prepare youth for meaningful and productive lives.

The bills were referred to the Michigan House Committee on Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure. On October 11, Michigan 4-H Foundation Director Abbey Miller and MSU Extension Associate Director Dr. Deanna East testified before the committee in support of the 4-H fundraising license plate legislation.



Reps. Miller (left) and Bierlein (right) with MSU Interim President Woodruff (center).