



FEBRUARY 2025

4-H Family News

Grand Traverse County



NEW BEGINNINGS

Hi everyone!

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sarah Bye, and I am the new Grand Traverse County 4-H Program Coordinator! I began on Monday, January 13th and can be reached at byesarah@msu.edu. Thank you for your patience these next couple of weeks while I get my feet under me – baby colt style.

Growing up, I worked on my family's organic beef cattle farm in Farwell, MI and I also lived on a dairy farm in Rosebush, MI for many years. Milking is something I enjoy, and I did it in exchange for room and board. I had a few horses and did a lot of gardening as well. Making hay is the most rewarding work I have ever found to do. There is nothing like going to bed completely spent and waking up feeling like a million bucks of power, grit and joy for another day in the field.

I have done several things in life including marrying a professional land surveyor and moving to Traverse City where I enjoy raising soon to be 16-year-old twins. In my free time, I hike, watch live performances, swim, and volunteer with our local homeless population.

This summer is going to be fantastic with 4-H Exploration Days and the Northwestern Michigan Fair amongst so many more amazing 4-H opportunities! Between now and then, I hope to visit some of your clubs and get to understand everyone's needs better. I am here to serve and thank you all for the energy you put into being a part of our 4-H Community.

Let's make 2025 a strong year for 4-H!

Sincerely,

Sarah Bye
Grand Traverse County
4-H Program Coordinator



UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

NWMI 4-H LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 2/3 | 6:30PM | REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 EDUCATION EXPO | 2/23 | 9:00AM-4:00PM | GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

GT COUNTY HORSE & PONY COUNCIL TACK SALE | 4/5 | 9:30AM-2:30PM | CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONTACT US

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN FAIR 4-H COMMEMORATIVE COIN

2025 NWMI FAIR COMMEMORATIVE COIN DESIGN

From the Grand Traverse County 4-H Youth Leaders Association



You're invited to participate in a fun design opportunity! Use your creative skills to design the back of the **2025 Northwestern Michigan Fair Commemorative Coin**. If your design is chosen, it will be used on the actual commemorative coin, a keepsake to cherish (and show off to your friends!). Plus, you'll receive a **\$50 GIFT CARD** as an added bonus (winner only)! We look forward to your submissions!

Who: All 4-H'ers in the 5 participating counties

What: Design back of 2025 Fair Commemorative Coin

When: Submit by 5/15/2025 @ 12:00AM

Where: Email designs to byesarah@msu.edu

Why: A chance to win a **\$50 gift card** & your original design on a coin!

Image should be **digitally designed** (on a computer, tablet or smart phone)

No hand-drawn designs will be considered

Incorporate **your initials** into your design

From the Grand Traverse County 4-H Youth Leaders Association

4-H YOUTH LEADERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL WISH LIST

Is your 4-H club in need of new educational resources this coming year? Does your club have a project idea but doesn't currently have the materials or funds needed to make it happen? It's time to think outside of the box!

Wish list items will benefit your entire club and its educational pursuits this year and beyond! Examples could include special equipment needs, scholarship funds to help attend educational opportunities, or additional show practice equipment needs. Please list specific brands and item names if your club has particular items in mind. Items and requests are subject to review and approval after submission.

Please note: Only clubs that have not already received Wish List Items may apply; Species Chairs may also request items to be used by all 4-H youth within that species.

Sponsored by the Grand Traverse County 4-H Youth Leaders Association

2025 NORTHWEST MICHIGAN 4-H LIVESTOCK COUNCIL EDUCATION EXPO

Sponsored by Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council. This is our annual Livestock Education Expo open to all 4-H livestock youth ages 5 to 19, where youth can earn the two (2) required education credits for Northwestern Michigan Fair participation as well as expand their knowledge into other areas of livestock interest.

Save time in line the day of the event and pre-register for your sessions!

February 23, 2025

9:00am to 4:00pm

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2025NWMILivestockCouncilEducationExpo/>



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get free tickets for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin!



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on March 1! Join with other members of the 4-H community for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin. This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

In addition to the game, attendees will also enjoy 4-H activities around the concourse. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. For more information and to order tickets, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-Breslin.

A member of the 4-H alumni community? Consider also stopping by the 4-H Alumni Tip-Off Reception on March 1! More information and registration at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-alumni-tip-off-reception.

February 4: Crash Course: Credit Survival 101

Online

Youth learn the basics of credit: advantages and disadvantages, credit vs. debit, credit scores, interest, and tips to managing credit wisely.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/crashcreditcoursefeb-4

February 11: 4-H Wild Spartans – The Relationship Between Tribes and Fish

Online

Plunge into the world of Great Lakes fisheries and meet Jason Smith, Great Lakes fisheries assessment biologist for the Bay Mills Indian community. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. Open to youth ages 12-19 years.

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

February 12: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. This weekly series will be offered Wednesdays from Feb. 12 – Mar. 19 at no cost.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-february-march-25

February 13: Ace the Interview: Tips to Land Your Dream Job

Online

Through the partnership of Toyota and Michigan 4-H, youth will explore a variety of career paths in the automotive industry as well as build workforce readiness skills to take on their goals. This second offering in the five-part webinar series will focus on tips for a successful interview.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview

February 15: 4-H Animal Science Career Quest 2025

Online

A career exploration program for youth ages 12-19 interested in pursuing a career in animal science. Learn about everything animal science has to offer and many career skill-building activities through hands-on sessions. Register by Feb. 3.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-career-quest-2025

February 25: 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series; Facilitation Skills for 4-H Clubs

Online

Gain essential facilitation skills to engage every voice and increase efficiency in your 4-H club. This session offers tools to create inclusive, dynamic discussions, making sure all members feel heard while streamlining club activities. This webinar will be offered at two different times:

12 p.m. www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-every-voice-facilitation-skills-for-dynamic-4-h-clubs-noon

7 p.m. www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-every-voice-facilitation-skills-for-dynamic-4-h-clubs-7pm



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence contest (10-11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found online at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>. Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.

Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 8 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.



To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/>. Registration opens Feb. 1 and closes Mar. 15.



Seeking outstanding agricultural 4-H volunteers

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is seeking nominations of remarkable agricultural 4-H volunteers for the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award. This award recognizes outstanding 4-H volunteers that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development in the areas of 4-H beef cattle; dairy cattle; goats; horses; horticulture, crops and soils; poultry; rabbits; sheep; swine; and veterinary science.

Up to five MFB Excellence in Agriculture Award honorees are recognized each year. Selected recipients will be recognized by both Michigan 4-H and MFB. In addition, honorees receive a \$1,000 grant they designate to a 4-H agricultural program of their choice. The award is supported by an endowment with the Michigan 4-H Foundation that was established by MFB.

Nominations for the MFB Excellence in Agriculture Award should be submitted by March 15. To nominate a deserving individual or learn more about the 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award, visit <https://mi4hfdtn.org/grants-scholarships/mfb-4-h-excellence-in-agriculture-award/>.