



FEBRUARY 2023

4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



HAPPY FEBRUARY!

I hope everyone has been having a great winter thus far and getting back into the swing of things with your 4-H clubs!

We are moving full speed ahead with both county and state programming. February is a busy month for state event registrations with many deadlines quickly approaching. Check out pages 5-10 and take advantage of these opportunities. Keep in mind 4-H council offers scholarships to help offset the cost of attendance at events (application link on page 3).

I hope to see many of our leaders at the 4-H Leader Meet later this month (details on page 2). There is also a 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series starting in February (details on page 10) to provide additional support to our leaders.

Make sure to save the date for our “alternative spring break” program (box below) and plan to join us for some fun while you’re off school.

As always, give us a holler at the office if you need anything!

All the best,
Stacey Woggon
4-H Program Coordinator



SAVE THE DATE FOR “ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK”

March 27 – March 31, 2023

Schedule and registration coming soon!

Not going anywhere for spring break? Don't worry, Gratiot County 4-H has you covered! We will be hosting classes and activities all week long. Stay tuned for the full schedule including a STEM challenge, animal shelter tour, arts & crafts, and more!

CONTACT US

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4-H Program Coordinator

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GCCFFY Fair Entry OpensFeb. 1, 2023, Online
 Horse Developmental Committee MeetingFeb. 1, 2023 @ 7pm, Zoom
 GCCFFY Fair Board MeetingFeb. 2, 2023 @ 6pm, Fair Office
 GCCFFY Market Beef Registration DeadlineFeb. 15, 2023, Fair Entry
 4-H Leader Meet.....Feb. 25, 2023, MSU Campus
 4-H Council Meeting.....Feb. 27, 2023 @ 7pm, Extension Office

GCCFFY UPDATES

While the GCCFFY is not a MSU Extension/4-H sponsored event, this information is of interest to many in our 4-H community. Please contact the GCCFFY directly at info@gccffy.org or 989-466-5071 for any fair related questions.

- Fair Entry will open for registration on Feb. 1
- Record books and the fair book will be finished and uploaded to the GCCFFY website around the middle of February.
- Market beef registration deadline is Feb. 15.
- Beef ear tags are available at both the Fair Office and the MSU Extension Office for \$3 a piece.

JOIN US FOR THE 4-H LEADER MEET ON FEB. 25!

We will be diving into some of the curriculum available through Extension and best practices for re-engagement. The leader meet is open to all Gold Volunteers and teen leaders. 4-H Council is covering the cost for all Gratiot County 4-H participants. Please select “pay by check” when you register, and we’ll put the council funds through on the back end. You do not need to prepay by credit card. Register here:

https://events.anr.msu.edu/Michigan_4h_leader_meet/

Save the date!
 Gratiot County 4-H Cloverbud Day
 July 25, 2023 @ GCCFFY Fairgrounds





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Scholarships Available

Did you know the Gratiot County 4-H Council provides scholarships to help offset the cost of attending events? Gratiot County 4-H members can receive 50% up to \$250 for a county or state event and 50% up to \$500 for a national event. Scholarship application forms can be downloaded on our website:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/uploads/files/scholarship%20application%202023.pdf>



CLUB UPDATES

- Gratiot County Livestock 4-H Club had their first meeting on January 14th. This new club will focus on livestock judging and preparing youth for livestock related contests. Interested in joining? Contact leader Angie Lake at ajlake09@yahoo.com
- Somethin' Special 4-H Club made tie blankets at their January meeting and donated them to the Child Advocacy Center. Great job using your hands to help others in our community! (pictured below)
- Critters & Crafts 4-H Club held a demonstration on canning during their January meeting.
- Several Gratiot County 4-H members attended the State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show on January 28th. Lots of great placings and fun was had. Congratulations to all the participants!



Do you have club updates, event photos, or other information to share in our newsletters? Please email submissions to woggonst@msu.edu





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Day at the Breslin & 4-H Alumni Tip-Off Reception



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on February 12! Join with other members of the 4-H community for 4-H Day at the Breslin and cheer on the MSU Women's Basketball game as they take on Penn State.

Attendees will also enjoy 4-H games and activities around the concourse. Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin

4-H alumni can also take part in a special pre-game event: the 4-H Alumni Tip-Off Reception. Enjoy networking and fun with other 4-H alumni before the game. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-alumni-tip-off-reception

February 14: Wild Spartans Series – Black River Lake Sturgeon Facility, Management of a Threatened Species

Online

Meet Doug Larson, research assistant at the Black River Sturgeon Facility. Learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february-2023

February 25: 4-H Leader Meet

MSU Campus, East Lansing

Enjoy a variety of fun and interactive sessions, informative presentations, and useful tips for meetings. Open to adult and teen leaders in Ionia, Montcalm, Gratiot, Clinton, Eaton and Ingham.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-leader-meet-2023

February 28: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Building the Value of Your 4-H Club

Online

A webinar series that 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.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-building-the-value-of-your-4-h-club-7pm

March 3-5: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference

Ralph A. MacMullan Center, Roscommon

This weekend workshop will focus on all things dairy cattle nutrition. MSU and MSU Extension faculty, industry partners, and MSU students will lead educational sessions. Open to MSU Extension Gold Volunteers and 4-H youth (ages 12-19). Register by Feb. 8.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-dairy-conference

March 4: 2023 Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop

MSU Campus, East Lansing

This one-day workshop is designed for 4-H teens ages 12-19 and adult volunteers in the beef, sheep, goat and swine project areas.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-livestock-workshop

March 4: 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshop

Ralph A. MacMullan Center, Roscommon

Interested in leading shooting sports with a 4-H club? Become a certified instructor at this one-day, hybrid workshop! Register by Feb. 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-workshop-ram





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Plan to attend the Michigan 4-H Dog Program Learning Workshop!

Registration is now open for the first statewide canine workshop of the year! This is an all-day workshop for youth and adult participants on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at the Isabella County Commission on Aging in Mt. Pleasant. Each youth and adult will participate in all four sessions with lunch included. We will have a participant bag and door prizes. Registration is limited so sign up early at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/LearningWorkshop2023/>. For additional questions, please contact Kristi Schreiber at schrei61@msu.edu.

Michigan 4-H Dog Program Learning Workshop

For youth ages 8 - 19

DATE & TIME:

Feb. 25, 2023
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

LOCATION:

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

COST: \$35/person

(includes lunch, materials and door prizes)

TO REGISTER:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/LearningWorkshop2023/>

Agenda:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:30 - 8:50 | Check In - Lobby |
| 9 - 9:45 | Welcome/Opening Session |
| 10 - 10:45 | Session Block #1 (all sessions will be repeated so that attendees can participate in them all) |
| | - Basic Grooming |
| | - Canine First Aid |
| | - Leader Dog Opportunity |
| | - How To Pick A Puppy, Dog Patch Program, Leader Forum |
| 11 - 11:45 | Session Block #2 (repeat of session block #1) |
| 12 - 1 | Lunch |
| 1:10 - 1:55 | Session Block #3 (repeat of session block #1) |
| 2:05 - 2:50 | Session Block #4 (repeat of session block #1) |
| 3 - 3:30 | Panel Discussion with Instructors & Closing |



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the MSU Extension office at (989) 317-4079 at least 5 days prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this time will be met when possible.

* Each participant will receive a first aid kit for their dog

* Please do not bring your dog
(dogs will be welcome at our overnight camp and agility workshops that are being planned)



The Michigan 4-H Dog Project Learning Workshop is sponsored by Michigan 4-H Youth Development Programs, Michigan State University Extension

Become a 4-H Puppy Raiser with Leader Dogs for the Blind!

Do you want to participate in the 4-H Dog Project area but need a canine companion? Please consider becoming a 4-H Puppy Raiser with Leader Dogs for the Blind. We are hosting a new "Partnership Kick-Off Event" to provide more information on how to engage with this project. The event will be held on February 23 at the Leader Dog Campus in Rochester Hills. This event is in-person and we will also provide virtual availability for participation. The event is FREE. Please use the link below to register.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/LeaderDogFeb23/>



Puppy Raisers are Needed!

4-H and Leader Dogs for the Blind need YOU to make a DIFFERENCE!

"Your family temporarily adopts a program puppy for eleven months until they are old enough to head off to school!"

New Launch and Rollout at our Informational Meeting
FEBRUARY 23, 2023, AT 6:30
WILL ALSO BE HELD VIRTUALLY FROM THE LEADER DOG CAMPUS




APPRECIATING INDEPENDENCE

The mission of Leader Dogs for the Blind is to Empower people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

CONTACT INFO:

- 1039 S. Rochester Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
- 888-777-5332
- leaderdog@leaderdog.org
- LeaderDog.org
- Kristi Schreiber
- 4-H P.C Isabella Co.
- 4-H State Companion
- Animal Point of Contact
- schrei61@msu.edu
- 989-330-5131



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Learn about dairy cattle nutrition and related careers at the Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference!

Registration is now open for the 2023 Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference! The event is March 3-5 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon. It is open to 4-H youth ages 12-19 and active Gold Volunteers; cost is \$130/person. Educational sessions lead by MSU faculty and students, MSU Extension professionals, and industry partners will focus on dairy cattle nutrition and related careers. Schedule and registration can be found here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../2023-michigan-4-h-dairy...> Gratiot County 4-H has scholarships available to offset the cost of attendance at this event.



Test your knowledge of animal science and livestock management practices at the 2023 Skillathon!

Registration is now open for the 3rd Annual Skillathon! Every March, Michigan 4-H hosts the most comprehensive test of livestock and traditional farm animals in the nation. This is an annual competition that tests both youth and adult competitors' knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices in 10 separate categories. Qualifier dates are March 4 and 11, 2023. The Skillathon is open to Michigan youth (8-19 years old as of Jan. 1, 2023) and adults. For more information and registration links, please visit <http://www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2023-Skillathon>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join us for the 2023 Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop!

This one-day workshop will take place on Saturday, March 4th on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is designed for 4-H youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1, 2023) and Active Gold MSU Extension volunteers in beef, sheep, goats, and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of breakout sessions, including intro to your species project, animal and carcass evaluation, marketing your livestock project, animal anatomy, reproduction, nutrition, and more! Registration will cost \$30, which includes lunch and a t-shirt. Full details and a link to register can be found here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../michigan-4-h-livestock-workshop>



JOIN MICHIGAN JR LIVESTOCK SOCIETY & MICHIGAN 4-H

Michigan Youth Livestock Conference

March 11, 2023
University Center
80 Livingston Blvd Gaylord, Michigan
Registration begins at 9:00 am

Beef, Swine, Sheep, Rabbits, & Poultry

Educational sessions on animal selection, feeding for success, and preparing your animal for success in the ring.

Registration through 4-H Online Registration includes lunch & a shirt
Registration Fee- \$25.00
Registration is open 1/17/23-2/20/23

For more information contact
Kimberly Roestel at Kimberly.roestel@gmail.com
Michelle at eaglingm@msu.edu
or 989-354-9870

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SOCIETY

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Head to Gaylord for the Michigan Youth Livestock Conference!

Michigan Junior Livestock Society has joined Michigan 4-H for an exciting educational opportunity! The Michigan Youth Livestock Conference is set to happen March 11, 2023 at the Gaylord University Center. The Conference will provide new opportunities to Michigan youth who are interested in raising, exhibiting, producing, or showing livestock. This event is open to all youth and is geared towards those ages 9-19. Registration is through 4-H Online and will close February 20th. Space is limited. Questions can be directed to Michelle at eaglingm@msu.edu or Kimberly at Kimberly.roestel@gmail.com

Save the Dates for Other Upcoming Livestock Events:

- Michigan Beef Expo – April 1-3
- Gratiot County Youth Swine Day – April 29
- Michigan 4-H State Goat Show – June 17
- Michigan 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest– July 12
- Michigan Livestock Expo – July 13-15



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The 4-H Capitol Experience program, scheduled for March 12-14, in Lansing, has been described by past participants as "amazing", "life-changing", and "an opportunity unlike any other".

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on agriculture, civil rights, education, energy, environment and natural resources, health or law enforcement and corrections.

The cost to register in 2023 is \$365, which includes meals, material fees and lodging at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. Scholarships may also be available through your local Farm Bureau office.

Registration is open until February 13. To find out more, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.



World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute registrations due March 15!

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 11 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.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas related to global food security with experts and other Michigan youth while learning how university faculty and staff members, researchers and students are working to address 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 two- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 20 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. They also participate in interactive activities related to global food challenges and engage with area experts to discuss solutions to global hunger and poverty.

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/>. Registrations and papers are due March 15.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



JOIN US ONLINE

RAINBOW SPARTANS

Monthly webinar series for youth and families interested in learning more about the LGBTQIA+ community and support networks

Begins February 1, 2023 | 6:30 PM EST then on the 1st Wednesday of each month

Registration required:
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/rainbow/>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Check out the new Rainbow Spartans Series!

Join MI 4-H staff, youth members, volunteers, and community partners as we meet individuals and organizations in the LGBTQIA+ community in the Rainbow Spartans Series! Youth and their families will learn about the LGBTQIA+ community, support networks available, and more during these monthly sessions. Sessions last approximately 1 hour and will feature 1 guest speaker or organization. Following the presentations, youth participants will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with the presenter. Suggested audience age is 12-19 years. Viewers may watch together with their family if comfortable doing so. This series is open to non-4-H youth and is free of charge. Monthly sessions will be held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. ET through December. For more information, check out the Rainbow Spartan Series website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-hwrh/rainbow-spartans>

Spark your imagination and passion at Ignite by 4-H!

Ignite by 4-H is an inclusive high-school-aged teen event held in Washington, DC, for four days of inspiring and engaging speakers, workshop sessions, entertainment and creating amazing connections. Explore the best 4-H offers in STEM, Agriscience, Healthy Living and Emotional Well-Being on March 9-12, 2023. Discover exciting career paths and create an actionable plan to help create real change in your community. It's an experience you won't want to miss. Registration closes February 10th — Reserve your spot today! More info at <https://4-h.org/parents/ignite-by-4-h/>



Learn more about supporting 4-Her's through the Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series!

The webinar 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 youth. There will be a minimum of 6 topics offered throughout the year, with each topic offered twice as a daytime and evening option. Everyone who attends at least four of the webinars in person will receive a certificate at the end of the series. The first session "Building the Value of Your 4-H Club" will be held on February 28, 2023. Check out the full line-up and register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



States' 4-H International Exchange Programs 2023 INBOUND PROGRAMS

Host a delegate in your home this summer and give your family a global perspective!



Host a Japanese youth in Summer 2023 through States' 4-H International!

Invite an international youth into your home for three and a half weeks and share an American experience. Expand your family's cultural understanding, learn about new foods and customs, and possibly a new language all while sharing your own. Your children will build lifelong friendships and will gain new perspectives on their own country too!

Host a Japanese Youth in Summer 2023 through States' 4-H International!

Michigan 4-H will be having 12 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2023 for interested families possibly opening their home and hearts by hosting! A host family needs to complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (be within 4 years of age), adults be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, participate in an interview and home visit process. Applications to host can be found at www.states4hexchange.org

Check out the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Michigan-4-H-International-Exchange-Programs-164923776970132> and the States 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange> to keep up to date on all the wonderful opportunities available. Please feel free to contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu or Co-Coordinator John Wurm wurmj@msu.edu with any questions.

Mailing Panel

County Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

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4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



4-H 
GROWS HERE