



SEPTEMBER 2025

# 4-H Family News

Livingston County



**Beyond Ready**

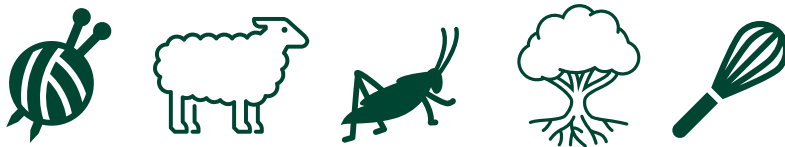
## Help us Plan Countywide Workshop/Clinics!

We are looking for 4-H'ers feedback to help us plan for the upcoming 2025-26 program year! We want to know what types of projects you would like to see for workshops and clinics. Your answers will help shape what types of countywide programming we offer in Livingston County 4-H. Please only complete one survey per 4-H'er. This survey is meant for youth **NOT** adults\*.

Take the survey here:

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_88hPXsicsxKihgO](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_88hPXsicsxKihgO)

\* However, if you are an adult who is a gold level volunteer or willing to complete the volunteer screening process and want to teach or help lead a workshop or clinic, please contact Jenny or Kat.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

### 4-H Online Shut Down

August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>

### Animal Project Committee Meeting

September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

### Livingston Conservation District Field Day

September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Nature Center

### 4-H Online Enrollment Begins for 2025-26 Program Year

September 8<sup>th</sup>

### 4-H Council Meeting

September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

### 4-H Annual Leader Meeting

September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

## CONTACT US

Kat VanDouser

4-H Program Coordinator

[krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu)

Jenny Speyer

4-H Program Instructor

[speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu)

2300 E. Grand River Ave., Suite 111

Howell, MI 48843

## PHONE & EMAIL:

517-546-3950

[msue.livingston@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.livingston@county.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/livingston/>

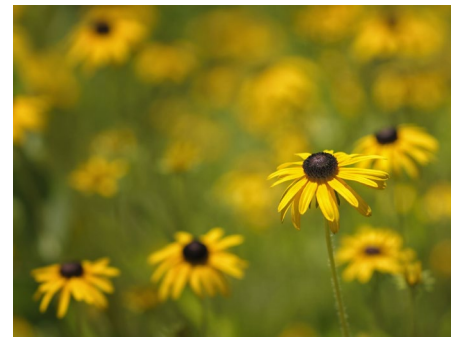
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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Livingston Conservation District Field Day

The Livingston Conservation District will be holding their annual Fun Family Field Day on Saturday, September 6th, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Livingston Conservation District Nature Center in Iosco Township. There will be catch and release fishing, hayrides, archery practice range and 4-H will be hosting a fun pollinator activity near our Pollinator Planting! A picnic lunch will be provided to everyone attending. Plan to dress for the weather, this event will be held rain or shine.



The Livingston Conservation District Nature Center is a 70 acre area with walking trails, ponds, and forested areas. The Nature Center is located at 9585 Roberts Road, Gregory, MI between Bradley and Gregory Roads in Iosco Township. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Livingston Conservation District at [admin@livingstoncd.org](mailto:admin@livingstoncd.org) We hope to see you there!

## County Awards Applications Available on September 1st



We are looking forward to once again recognizing the many youth and adults in our 4-H program this fall with our annual County Awards!

Applications will be **available September 1<sup>st</sup>** on our website and we also have paper copies at the MSU Extension Office. Applications will be due in October with a date to come soon. This is 4-H's chance to be recognized for all their hard work in their project areas throughout the year! In addition to your own awards, please consider nominating a leader or volunteer that has made your year in 4-H fantastic!

## 4-H Ambassadors, Teen Leaders, and Volunteers Support 4-H at the Livingston County Board of Commissioners Meeting

Thank you to all our 4-H Ambassadors, Teen Leaders, and Volunteers who attended the Livingston County Board of Commissioners meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> to support our 4-H Ambassadors Ashely Bernardin and Rachel Newsom who spoke during the call to the public about the impact of 4-H programs on their lives. Ashley also led the group in the 4-H pledge. These 4-H Ambassadors did a fantastic job speaking confidently in front of a packed room of people.



We appreciate this chance to share impact of the Livingston County 4-H program including the number of youth participating in Fowlerville Youth Show and the number of youth who attended state 4-H events.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Annual 4-H Leader Meeting: September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at MSU Extension Office



We will be hosting our annual 4-H Leader Meeting on Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Livingston County MSU Extension Office. We will be going over the annual required paperwork for 4-H clubs, any 4-H program changes, and a refresher on fundraising requirements and ideas for fundraising. This is also an opportunity for you to pick up resources and network with fellow club leaders. All club administrative leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. If you cannot make it, please reach out to Kat to set up a time to chat! – this will have a more formal setup this year, as we have not held a formal leader meeting since 2022!

## Grand Equestrians Participants Attend the Fowlerville Fair and Leaders Day

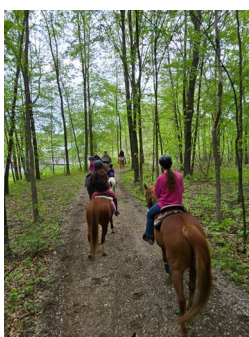
In addition to the riding portion of the Grand Equestrians program attending the Fowlerville fair, our Grand Equestrians Out of the Saddle program went to their first horse show too!

The Out of the Saddle program is a new aspect of the Grand Equestrians Program that developed



a few years ago focusing on horse care and safe horse handling. The four student “Wranglers” that we took to the show this year have been in the Out of the Saddle program now for 3 consecutive years. They have learned that groundwork as well as riding, is fun and rewarding. Each Wrangler showed the horse they have been working with during the summer session, with the help of volunteers. The teams entered into the show ring and completed an in hand trail class with their horses. Thank you to the Leaders that put this show on, we look forward to participating again and so do our students and families!

## Upcoming Livingston County 4-H Pinckney Horse Trail Ride: October 12<sup>th</sup>



The Livingston County 4-H Horse Committee will be hosting another trail ride October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Pinckney State Recreation Area. The trailhead is located at 3683 Monks Rd, Pinckney, MI 48169. Riders should be ready to ride at 2 pm.

Pre-registration is not required. Maps can be found [online](#). Participants must trailer in their own horse and should be comfortable trail riding in a group. If you have questions, please reach out to Kat at [krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu).





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Join a Livingston County 4-H Committee or Run for Election!

We need more 4-H youth to use their voices and shape our program at our Livingston County 4-H Committee meetings! This is YOUR 4-H program, and we encourage all our 4-H members to attend committee meetings relevant to their projects and interests. Our Livingston County 4-H Committees include 4-H Animal Project, Council, Grand Equestrians, and Horse. We are also looking for interested 4-H youth and volunteers who would like to serve on these committees. Youth interested must be enrolled 4-H members prior to being elected. Each committee has its own age requirements. Adults interested in serving on a committee must be Gold level volunteers prior to being elected. Each committee has its own years of volunteering requirements. If you are interested in running for an elected position on any of the following committees, please contact Kat VanDouser, [krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu).



## Reminder for Horse & Pony Exhibitors: Horse Recognition Program Deadline



Our 4-H Horse Recognition Program deadline is quickly approaching! The Livingston County 4-H Horse Recognition Program is for every child enrolled in the Livingston County 4-H horse/pony project area. Members do not need to have a horse or have any prior knowledge of horses to join a club and participate in this program. Youth earn points towards their recognition awards through a variety of activities, which can be found at the bottom of this email. The document on the website is under construction and is not entirely accurate, corrected file to be sent out soon!

The deadline to submit the tally sheet is September 30th at 11:59pm. Tally sheets can be submitted electronically via email to [krollkat@msu.edu](mailto:krollkat@msu.edu) or [shellsteadman@gmail.com](mailto:shellsteadman@gmail.com), mailed to the 4-H office. Tally sheets can be found here: [Tally Sheets](#)

For full recognition program rules, please see the 4-H online email sent out by Kat on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## New 4-H Program Year For 2025-26 Starts September 8th

Our program year officially ends on August 31<sup>st</sup> and 4-H Online will shut down until September 8<sup>th</sup>. 4-H leaders, families, and volunteers will not be able to log into their account during this time. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, youth and volunteers can begin enrolling for the 2025-26 program year. We recommend enrolling as soon as possible so you don't miss any important communications.





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Congratulations to our Livingston County 4-H State Horse Show Delegates!



Congratulations to our Livingston County 4-H State Horse Delegation for their great showing at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show! Our delegation included Tessa Carter from Canter Lopes 4-H Club, Lilianna DesJardin from Belts-N-Buckles 4-H Club, Alexa Glynn from Belts-N-Buckles 4-H Club, Delani Harrison of Belts-N-Buckles 4-H Club, Ava Kraeling from It's a Pleasure 4-H Club, MJ Lucier from Belts-N-Buckles 4-H Club, and Danykah Muck from Barnyard Banditz 4-H Club. Below are their placings:

### Friday Gymkhana:

- Alexa Glynn: 12-13– Indiana Flag Race – 2<sup>nd</sup> TOP 5
- Alexa Glynn: 12-13– Speed & Action – 6<sup>th</sup>
- Danykah Muck: 14-15– Down and Back – 5<sup>th</sup>

### Continued Friday Gymkhana:

- Danykah Muck: 14-15– Down and Back – 5<sup>th</sup>
- MJ Lucier: Miniature 11-19 - In Hand Trail 34" and under – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- MJ Lucier: Miniature 11-19 - In Hand Cloverleaf – 5<sup>th</sup>
- MJ Lucier: Miniature 11-19 - In Hand Poles – 4<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday Seniors:

- Tessa Carter: 16 - English Equitation Saddle Seat- 2<sup>nd</sup> TOP 5
- Tessa Carter: 16 - English Pleasure Saddle Seat – 2<sup>nd</sup> TOP 5
- Tessa Carter: 16 - English Equitation Hunt Seat- 4<sup>th</sup>

### Sunday Juniors:

- Lilianna DesJardin: 14 - Western Pleasure – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Lilianna DesJardin: 14– Showmanship – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Lilianna DesJardin: 14 - Western Horsemanship – 5<sup>th</sup>
- Delani Harrison: 13 - Hunter Hack – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Delani Harrison: 13 – 12-13 English Equitation Saddle Seat– 1<sup>st</sup> TOP 5
- Ava Kraeling: 13 - Western Dressage Basic Level Test I- 4<sup>th</sup>
- Ava Kraeling: 13 – Trail – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- MJ Lucier: 13 – Showmanship – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- MJ Lucier: 13 - English Equitation Hunt Seat – 4<sup>th</sup>
- MJ Lucier: 13 - English Pleasure Hunt Seat – 7<sup>th</sup>



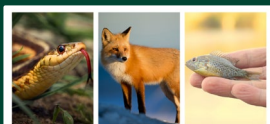






# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Wild Spartans Series returns



Join Us Online  
**WILD SPARTANS**  
MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES  
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN LEARNING  
SCIENCE • RESEARCH • CAREERS • CONSERVATION  
October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST

Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will begin in October and be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration is required: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026).

### September 11: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Planning with Purpose: Designing Your Best 4-H Year Yet Online

This webinar will guide volunteers through seasonal planning, setting goals and aligning club activities with youth development outcomes. This session will be offered twice.

- **12 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-noon)
- **7 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-7pm)

### September 17: Adulting 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress & Deliver with Confidence Online

Participants will learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-professionalism%20\(COPY\\_1754674660740\)](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-professionalism%20(COPY_1754674660740))

### September 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Friendly but Firm: Boundaries that Make Volunteering Better Online

Learn how to say “yes” with intention, “no” without guilt, and keep your 4-H experience fun, respectful, and drama-free. This session will be offered twice.

- **12 p.m.:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-noon)
- **7 p.m.:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-7pm)

### September 20: 2025 Michigan 4-H Dog Show

*Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna*

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-Hers from counties across Michigan. Spectators welcome.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show)

### September 20-21: Fall 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification for Adults and Teens

*Shiawassee Conservation Association, Owosso*

Learn about 4-H shooting sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use, and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/fall-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-for-adults-and-teens](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/fall-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-for-adults-and-teens)

### October 3: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

*Henry Center for Executive Development, Lansing*

4-H donors are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting)



# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## 2025 Michigan 4-H State Award winners announced

The Michigan 4-H State Awards program recognized outstanding 4-H members during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members and recognizes excellence in learning, leadership and service.

In total, 38 4-H members from 15 counties submitted applications for this year's program. Recipients of the 2025 awards are:



- **Achievement:** William Rogers of Washtenaw County
- **Beef Science:** Emma Verbeek of Delta County (junior division)
- **Birds and Poultry Science:** Avery Mastej of Van Buren County (junior division)
- **Civic Engagement and Service:** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Companion Animal Science:** Taylor Johnson of St. Joseph County (junior division) and Makenzie Rehberg of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Dairy Science:** Adrienne Balchik of Gogebic County (junior division) and Harper Jane Adkins of Washtenaw County (senior division)
- **Equine Science:** Lillian Wasson of Oceana County (junior division)
- **Food, Nutrition, Health and Fitness:** Vivienne Turri of Washtenaw County (junior division)
- **Gardening and Horticulture:** Trent Simons of Otsego County (junior division)
- **Goat Science:** Aleah Simpson of Houghton County (junior division) and Alison Borowski of Alpena County (senior division)
- **Leadership:** Zoe Rorick of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Lyla Lapaugh of Eaton County (junior division)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** John Jinks of Monroe County (junior division)
- **Sheep Science:** Morgen Schmidt of Monroe County (junior division) and Owen Plum of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Swine Science:** Taylor Trattles of St. Joseph County (junior division)
- **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Verina Duncan of Eaton County (senior division)

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to 4-H members who are 12-19 years old with two or more years of 4-H experience. To qualify, 4-H'ers must submit a written application that showcases the learning experiences, knowledge and skills they've acquired through 4-H, as well as their contributions to 4-H communities. Submissions are reviewed by a selection committee. In addition to a plaque, each 4-H State Award winner in the senior division received a \$300 cash award, junior winners received \$100 cash awards, and achievement award winner received \$500. These awards are made possible by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

## National 4-H Week: October 5-11

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 5-11, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Learn more about ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>.