

Oceana County 4-H Awards and Recognition – 2025/2026

 **ATTENTION: All Leaders and Adult Volunteers**

 **Nominations Deadline: Wednesday, September 16, 2026, by 4:00 PM**

The **Oceana County 4-H Awards Committee** has updated the process for recognizing the accomplishments of 4-H members. We ask for your help in ensuring each member is celebrated for their hard work and dedication.

Awards Available:




- **4-H Membership Pin** – All 4-H youth members
- **4-H Citizenship Award** – Members 12 years and older
- **4-H Project Achievement Award** – Members 10 years and older
- **Oceana County 4-H Medals** – High school-aged members
- **Oceana County Lamp of Knowledge Award** – Members 15 years and older
- **Livestock Master-High School** aged members
- **Michigan 4-H Key Club Award**

Why Awards Matter

4-H awards represent the time, effort, and dedication your youth have invested in their projects. They also become meaningful reminders of their 4-H journey in the years ahead.

Your Role as a Leader or Volunteer

We rely on you to help us recognize every deserving youth. Award decisions are based on **completed nomination forms**, so please:

-  Carefully review the nomination forms provided
-  Use the criteria outlined for each specific award
-  Refer to the attached list of your club members and past award recipients for reference

What to Do Next:

1. **Complete the 4-H Membership Pin Form** for *every* club member.
2. **Submit nominations** for higher-level awards to recognize outstanding youth.
 - You may nominate as many deserving individuals as you wish.
 - Please include **detailed examples and specific accomplishments** to help the committee evaluate fairly.

The Awards Committee is committed to **“Making the Best Better”** as we continue improving the recognition process. Thank you for your time, care, and commitment to our youth.

If you have questions or need support, please contact Jennifer Payne at wassonj3@msu.edu or call the office.

On behalf of the Oceana County 4-H Awards Committee – THANK YOU!

4-H Membership Pin

Criteria:

- Must be an enrolled member of 4-H for the 2025/2026 calendar year
 - Must complete all requirements to establish a completed 4-H Project Year
 - A membership Pin with the corresponding completed 4-H years will be **awarded to ALL club members**
- Membership Pins will be available to pick up by leaders at or after the County Awards Program.

Description: Awarded in recognition of a completed 4-H Membership Year.

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4-H: _____

Primary Club Membership: _____ Club Leader(s): _____

Leader Comments: _____

4-H Membership Pin

Criteria:

- Must be an enrolled member of 4-H for the 2025/2026 calendar year
 - Must complete all requirements to establish a completed 4-H Project Year
 - A membership Pin with the corresponding completed 4-H years will be **awarded to ALL club members**
- Membership Pins will be available to pick up by leaders at or after the County Awards Program.

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Leader Comments: _____

4-H Membership Pin

Criteria:

- Must be an enrolled member of 4-H for the 2025/2026 calendar year
 - Must complete all requirements to establish a completed 4-H Project Year
 - A membership Pin with the corresponding completed 4-H years will be **awarded to ALL club members**
- Membership Pins will be available to pick up by leaders at or after the County Awards Program.

Description: Awarded in recognition of a completed 4-H Membership Year.

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4-H: _____

Primary Club Membership: _____ Club Leader(s): _____

Leader Comments: _____

The Project Achievement PINS that may be awarded are in the following areas:

(Note-age has been reduced to 10 years of age)

Agriculture	Healthy Living
Arts & Crafts	Hobbies & Collections
Beef	Home Environmental
Biological Sciences	Horse & Pony
Cats	Industrial Arts/Mechanics
Cavies	Judging
Citizenship & Civic Engagement	Leadership
Clothing & Textiles	Mentoring
Communication Arts	Outdoor Education & Recreation
Community Service	Photography & Video
Conservation	Plant Science
Consumer Education/ Home Economics	Poultry
Dairy Cattle	Rabbits
Demonstration	Reporting Media
Dogs	Robotics
Equine Sciences	Sheep
Family Lifestyle's	Swine
Foods- Nutrition	Tech & Engineering
Food Sciences	Veterinary Science
Gardening/Horticulture	Visual Arts (Needlecrafts,
Goats	Painting/Drawing)

4-H Project (PIN) Achievement Award Nomination Form

Criteria:

- Must be a minimum of 10 years of age by Jan 1st of the recognition year
- Must have a minimum of 2 years in 4-H and 2 years in the project
- Must be enrolled in the Project Area
- A Project Achievement Pin will be **awarded once in a lifetime in a specific project area**
- Nomination for this award can be leader, adult volunteer, or self-nominated

Description: Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in a specific project area.

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4 H: _____

Project Area Nominated for: _____ Nominated by: _____

Reasons supporting nomination:

4-H Project (PIN) Achievement Award Nomination Form

Criteria:

- Must be a minimum of 10 years of age by Jan 1st of the recognition year
- Must have a minimum of 2 years in 4-H and 2 years in the project
- Must be enrolled in the Project Area
- A Project Achievement Pin will be **awarded once in a lifetime in a specific project area**
- Nomination for this award can be leader, adult volunteer, or self-nominated

Description: Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in a specific project area.

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4 H: _____

Project Area Nominated for: _____ Nominated by: _____

Reasons supporting nomination:

4-H Citizenship Award Nomination Form

Criteria:

- Must be a minimum of 12 years of age by Jan 1st of the recognition year
- Must have a minimum of 2 years in 4-H and 2 years in the project
- Members can be **awarded in only one Citizenship Project Area per year**
- This award can be given more than once and is Leader, Adult Volunteer, or self-nominated.
First time winners will receive a pin, after first year-only certificates are given. (changed 2025)

Description: Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in **Communication Arts, Community Service, Mentoring, Personal Development**

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4 H: _____

Project Area Nominated for: _____ Nominated by: _____

Reasons supporting nomination:

4-H Citizenship Award Nomination Form

Criteria:

- Must be a minimum of 12 years of age by Jan 1st of the recognition year
- Must have a minimum of 2 years in 4-H and 2 years in the project
- Members can be **awarded in only one Citizenship Project Area per year**
- This award can be given more than once and is Leader, Adult Volunteer, or self-nominated.
First time winners will receive a pin, after first year-only certificates are given. (changed 2025)

Description: Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in **Community Service, Mentoring, Communication Arts, Personal Development**

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4 H: _____

Project Area Nominated for: _____ Nominated by: _____

Reasons supporting nomination:

Oceana County 4-H Medal Nomination Form

Criteria:

- Must have been enrolled in 9-12 grades for the 2025-2026 School Year. (Changed 2025)
- Must have completed a minimum of 2 years in 4-H
- Nomination is by leader, adult volunteer, or self-nomination
- Can receive ONE MEDAL in only ONE CATEGORY per year and each category ONLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME
- The receipt of a County Medal may be awarded in conjunction with other awards/recognition

Description:

A maximum of four (4) medals for the County will be awarded in each of the following categories per year:

1. **Achievement** - Awarded for overall achievement in a variety of project areas and 4-H involvement in activities and events.

2. **Leadership** - Awarded in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities demonstrated throughout the 4-H Year as a 4-H member and positive role model while assisting with local projects, as well as helping with county-wide committees, events, and activities.

3. **Sportsmanship** - Awarded in recognition of demonstrated outstanding personal sportsmanship values as well as the promotion of sportsmanship ideals in others.

NOTE: There will be a limited amount of medals awarded based on the information provided by the nominating party so please be as detailed and list as many specific examples of achievements as possible. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

Nominee: _____ Grade & Age: _____

Club(s): _____ Years in 4 H: _____

Medal Nominated for: _____ Nominated by: _____

Reasons supporting nomination: _____

Oceana County 4-H Lamp of Knowledge Award Nomination Form

Description: This award is given in recognition of **superior achievement** by a 4-H member who has **demonstrated** outstanding knowledge, understanding character, growth, and commitment in a variety of aspects of 4-H programs, projects, workshops and experiences throughout his/her years in 4-H. This individual embodies the ideals set out in the 4-H Pledge and Motto and an Outstanding 4-Her of the Year

Criteria:

- **Must be a minimum of 15 years of age by Jan 1st of the recognition year**
- **Must have a minimum of 3 years of 4-H Membership**
- **Must be nominated by a Club Leader/Adult volunteer**
- **Awarded based on the results of a competitive judging by the Awards Committee Members**
- **Points will be given for achievement/involvement in the following areas:**

Leadership & Personal Development (Head)

Workshop & Training Attendance
4-H Council & 4-H Committee Membership
4-H Offices / Positions Held
Leadership Roles / Offices Held
State 4-H Participation/Involvement
National 4-H Participation/Involvement

Awards & Recognition (Heart)

County Awards Received
State Awards Received
National Awards Received

Community Service (Hands)

Involvement in Community Service Projects
Involvement in County 4-H Events & 4-H Promotion

General (Health)

4-H Project Years Completed
Project Achievement
Club Meeting Involvement
Administrative Endorsement
Other Information

- **Must have been awarded a minimum of**
 - 1 - 4-H Project Achievement Award**
 - 1 - 4-H Citizenship Award**
 - 1 - Oceana County 4-H Medal**
- **Must receive 4-H Administrative Signature of Endorsement**
- **May be awarded in conjunction with other eligible awards, medals and/or recognition**
- **May be awarded once in a lifetime**

A recognition award will be awarded to ***the nominee receiving the most points*** based on the information received on the attached nomination form. **Please be sure to provide as much information as possible and provide numerous and specific examples to support the nomination.**

Oceana County 4-H Lamp of Knowledge Award Nomination Form

Nominee: _____ Age: _____ Years in 4-H: _____

Club(s): _____ Nominated by: _____

Reasons to Support my nominations in the following areas:

Leadership & Personal Development (Workshop & Training Attendance, 4-H Council & 4-H Committee Membership, 4-H Offices / Positions Held, Leadership Roles / Offices Held, State 4-H Participation/Involvement, National 4-H Participation/Involvement)

Awards & Recognition (County Awards Received, State Awards Received, National Awards Received)

Community Service (Involvement in Community Service Projects, Involvement in County 4-H Events & 4-H Promotion, Recognition within the community)

General (4-H Project Years Completed, Project Achievement, Club Meeting Involvement) & Additional Comments

Nominating Signature: _____ Administrative Endorsement: _____

Oceana County 4-H Livestock Master Pin Application Form

Awarded by Market Livestock Committee – Presented at the Fall Awards Ceremony

Description:

This award is given in recognition of superior achievement by a 4-H member who has demonstrated commitment, experience, and dedication to a variety of livestock projects within their 4-H career. Only three Livestock Master Pins will be awarded annually. Members may receive this award once in their 4-H lifetime. Applications will be reviewed and selected by the Market Livestock Committee at their September meeting.

Eligibility Criteria (All must be met to qualify):

- Must currently be in **High School**
- May receive **only once in a 4-H career**
- Must have **raised and shown three (3) or more species** of animals (large or small)
- Must have **marketed and sold a livestock project** at the Oceana County Fair (large or small) **at least two times**
- Must have attended **ten (10) or more educational clinics or events** related to livestock during their 4-H career
- Must have **participated in two (2) or more livestock shows** outside of the Oceana County Fair
- Must submit this **completed form with a club leader's signature of support**

Applicant Name: _____

Age: _____

Years in 4-H: _____

Club(s): _____

Current Grade in School: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Livestock Experience

List the livestock species you have raised and shown in 4-H (minimum of 3):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(Additional species, if applicable):

Have you sold a market livestock project at the Oceana County Fair at least two times?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Years you sold market livestock:

1. _____ 2. _____ (Additional years, if applicable): _____

Educational Involvement

List at least 10 educational livestock-related clinics, events, or trainings attended throughout your 4-H career:

(Include location and approximate date if possible)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Outside Show Participation

List at least 2 livestock shows you have participated in outside of the Oceana County Fair:

1. Show Name/Location: _____ Year: _____
 2. Show Name/Location: _____ Year: _____
- (Additional shows, if applicable): _____
-

Supporting Leader Endorsement

Leader Name: _____

Leader Signature: _____

Date: _____

☐ I support this applicant and verify the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Submit completed form to the Oceana County MSU Extension Office