



FEBRUARY 2025

# 4-H Family News

St. Joseph County



## 4-H Families and Volunteers,

As we look forward to warmer days ahead, we can also look forward to getting back into 4-H mode. Before you know it, it'll be time for tagging days, clinics, pre-fair meetings, and more! In the meantime, begin working on still projects and encourage your friends to join 4-H before May 1st.

Do you know someone who would be a great 4-H volunteer? Have them contact the MSU Extension Office for information about the Volunteer Selection Process.

One thing is certain: preparations are in full swing for the 2025 program year and fair season! We hope you are excited for some exciting new opportunities!

Sincerely,

Kayla Mitchell

4-H Program Coordinator

## CONTACT US

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**It's not too late to enroll in 4-H  
for 2025!**

**New enrollment ends May 1st.**



Visit [v2.4honline.com](https://v2.4honline.com) to complete your enrollment today! New members are welcome and encouraged to join!

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 2025 Summer 4-H Camp Counselors Needed!



**New for 2025:** Introducing 4-H camp counselors-in-training, also known as CITs! CITs are 13-15-year-olds who are interested in becoming 4-H camp counselors.

Please review the **Camp Counselor Cover Letter** for more information and complete the application by **Friday, February 14** if you are interested! Forms can be found on our website [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/general-info](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/general-info).

## Cloverbud Day Camp

Introducing Cloverbud Day Camp! On Saturday, **May 10, 2025**, we will be hosting Cloverbuds at Amigo Centre for a taste of what Summer 4-H Camp is like. Stay tuned for more information!



## Ice Cream and Awards



Join your fellow 4-H'ers on Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Centreville Elementary Gym for an ice cream social to recognize the 2025 County Award winners!

## 2024-2025 Enrollment



**Enrollment** is open! To re-enroll or enroll a new member, go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>.

New members have until May 1 to enroll. However, if a project they are interested in has already started, they will have to wait until the next program year to participate in that particular project.

**Emails will only be sent to those enrolled for 2024-2025 moving forward!**



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## To Make The Best Better



If someone you know is interested in becoming a **St. Joseph County 4-H Volunteer**, please have them email Kayla at [mitch704@msu.edu](mailto:mitch704@msu.edu) and she will help them get started with the Volunteer Selection Process.

*There is more than just enrolling in 4-H Online.*

## Keep Up to Date with the Latest Events

Don't forget to **join our group on Facebook**, *St. Joseph County, Michigan 4-H*, to stay up-to-date on information as quickly as possible and receive friendly reminders <https://www.facebook.com/groups/909365369137222>.



## 2025 Prize Survey



Each year our councils struggle to decide on prizes that everyone will enjoy. So, we want your input! **YOUTH ONLY** please fill out this short survey

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4PdNP UdpleBV0c6](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4PdNP UdpleBV0c6).

All responses are anonymous.

## 2025 Fair Book Theme and Cover Contest

Are you artistic? Do you enjoy drawing? Are you a wizard on the computer? Showcase your skills! We want **YOU** to design our 2025 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book cover. Pick a theme that will be used for 4-H Club Displays in 2025 and come up with a fun 8.5"x11" cover! Please have your submissions uploaded here

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eqU5gqhakl6YUU6](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eqU5gqhakl6YUU6), delivered to the MSU Extension office, or emailed to Kayla at [mitch704@msu.edu](mailto:mitch704@msu.edu) by

**February 28.**








# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 4-H State Rabbit and Cavy Show Results

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Kendee Beadle  
Rees Beadle  
Lakyn McGrady  
Kira Schwemer

Ava Sowards-Haack  
Katelyn Trattles  
Taylor Trattles

**CONGRATULATIONS** to award winners at the 2025 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show from St. Joseph County!

**Kendee Beadle** - Best of Breed & Best of Variety Broken - Havana, Best Opposite Sex of Variety Red - New Zealand

**Rees Beadle** - Best of Breed, Best Opposite Sex of Variety Blue, Best of Variety Broken, Best of Variety White, Best Opposite Sex of Variety White, & Best in Show Rabbit - New Zealand

**Lakyn McGrady** - 1st place Junior Educational Display & Best Overall Educational Display

**Kira Schwemer** - 5th place 8-year-old Rabbit Showmanship, Best Opposite of Breed & Best of Variety Chocolate - Polish

**Ava Sowards-Haack** - Best Opposite Sex of Variety Blue & Best Opposite Sex of Variety White - Rex

**Katelyn Trattles** - 5th place 14-year-old Rabbit Showmanship

**Taylor Trattles** - Best of Breed - Champagne D'Argent

## Your Opinion Matters to Us!



We value your input!

Michigan 4-H is conducting a survey to better understand the topics and educational approaches that best meet your needs. Your feedback will help us improve and enhance how Michigan 4-H serves communities across the state.

Click the link below or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca)

## New Hunter Safety Course

4-H Hunter Safety course coming in April!

Whether you need it to join 4-H Shooting Sports, want to practice gun safety, or need it to go hunting - we've got you covered!

This is a 4-H youth-only event sponsored by St. Joseph County 4-H in partnership with the St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club.

Save the dates **April 24-26** in your calendar and be on the lookout for more information coming soon!



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**HUNTER SAFETY**

4-H YOUTH ONLY COURSE  
COMING IN APRIL 2025

24 APR 25 APR 26 APR

Our Location  
St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 2025 Rabbit Superintendent Team

Congratulations and welcome to the new Rabbit Superintendents!

### Rabbit Superintendent:

Emily Redmond

### Assistant Rabbit Superintendents:

Nancy Mangus

Kaley Thornburgh

Kayla Irelan

Diane Zinsmaster



## 2025 Important Livestock Dates to Save



- Saturday, March 22, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Beef Tagging, Fairgrounds Barn #31
- Saturday, May 3, Horse Council Silent Auction, Fairgrounds
- Saturday, May 17, Turkey Hatch Date
- Tuesday and Thursday, June 3 & 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Dairy Feeder Steer (barn #31), Sheep (barn #25), Goat (barn #22) Tagging, Fairgrounds
- Tuesday and Wednesday, June 10 & 11, 5:00-7:30pm: Swine Tagging, Fairgrounds Barn #53
- Sunday and Monday, July 13 & 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Turkey Tagging/Vaccination, Fairgrounds Barn #27
- Saturday, July 19, Chicken Hatch Date
- Sunday, August 10, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Rabbit Tattooing, Fairgrounds Barn #35
- Wednesday, August 13, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Rabbit Tattooing, Fairgrounds Barn #35
- Sunday and Monday, August 17 & 18, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Chicken Tagging, Fairgrounds Barn #28



# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Youth Council Meeting.....	Date: 2.3.25
Horse Council Meeting.....	Date: 2.4.25
Livestock Association Meeting.....	Date: 2.11.25
Still Exhibit Discussion Meeting at ISD.....	Date: 2.11.25
Fair Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	Date: 2.13.25
Camp Counselor Applications Due.....	Date: 2.14.25
Fair Association Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	Date: 2.18.25
Still Exhibit Meeting to Vote on Changes.....	Date: 2.19.25
Camp Counselor Interviews.....	Date: 2.22.25
Texas Roadhouse Youth Council Fundraiser Portage.....	Date: 2.26.25
<a href="#">Annual 4-H Leader Meeting #1 at ISD</a> .....	Date: 2.27.25
Fair Book Cover Contest Deadline.....	Date: 2.28.25
Youth Council Meeting.....	Date: 3.3.25
Horse Council Meeting.....	Date: 3.4.25
<a href="#">Annual 4-H Leader Meeting #2 at ISD</a> .....	Date: 3.10.25
Fair Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	Date: 3.13.25
County Awards Ice Cream Social at Centreville Elementary Gym.....	Date: 3.18.25
Beef Tagging at Fairgrounds.....	Date: 3.22.25
Horse Council Meeting.....	Date: 4.1.25
Youth Council Meeting.....	Date: 4.7.25
Fair Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	Date: 4.10.25
Hunter Safety at SJC Conservation Club.....	Date: 4.24 - 4.26.25
Horse Council Silent Auction at Fairgrounds.....	Date: 5.3.25
4-H Scholarship Interviews.....	Date: 5.3.25

## 4-H Youth Council Fundraiser

**Date:**  
Wednesday,  
February 26, 2025

**Time:**  
3:00 - 10:00 PM

**Where:**  
Texas Roadhouse  
7039 S. Westnedge  
Ave, Portage, MI  
49002

**What:**  
Enjoy a meal at  
Texas Roadhouse  
and mention that  
you would like to  
donate to St.  
Joseph County 4-H!  
A percentage of  
your meal will be  
donated back to our  
program!







# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:nashbett@msu.edu) or Janice Zerbe at [rajzerj@msu.edu](mailto: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/>.





Donation Form

Brick No(s) \_\_\_\_\_



4-H Donate-A-Brick Program

( brick(s) will be placed in 4-H Memorial Park in time for the upcoming Fair if received by May 31 )

Mail or deliver completed donation form and a check made payable to St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council to the MSU Extension office by May 31 in order for bricks to be in place by the upcoming Fair. The MSU Extension Office mailing address is as follows: 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program, c/o MSU Extension, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032 (Form may be reproduced for additional donation/brick orders.)

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Donor name as you would like it to appear for publicity purposes.

Contact Person/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Please complete if business/organization.

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_ Street/P.O. Box No. City State Zip Code

Home Phone No. (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone No. (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Please check the 4-H Youth Program monetary contribution you would like to make, then complete the brick engraving information needed. (Personalization ideas include "In Memory of", "In Honor of", "Dedicated to", etc.)

\$50 Donation: Donor receives a 4 in. x 8 in. brick engraved with two (2) lines of text (maximum of 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation).

Grid for engraving text on a \$50 brick (2 lines x 13 columns)

\$100 Donation: Donor receives an 8 in. x 8 in. brick with four (4) lines of text (maximum of 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation).

Grid for engraving text on a \$100 brick (4 lines x 13 columns)

+ Write in additional cost of \$2.00/brick if 14 or 15 characters are needed for one or more lines of text (versus the standard 13). Record extra characters at end of appropriate line(s).

+ Write in additional cost of \$5.00/brick if an additional line of text is needed for one or more bricks. Record text for additional line below appropriate fill-in grid. Limit of one extra line per brick.

= Write in total amount of contribution, including any extra engraving costs if applicable.

Important Note: Your contribution to the 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program is tax deductible if you itemize your deductions on your federal income tax form. Your cancelled check will serve as documentation of your donation. (Receipts are available upon request.)

Office Use: Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. \$\_\_\_\_\_