



MARCH 2025

# 4-H Family News

## Washtenaw County



### Livestock, Dairy, and Small Animal Mentor Night: March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm



Join us for Livestock, Dairy, and Small Animal Mentor Night at the MSU Extension Office where we will match mentors and mentees for the Mentorship Program! This program is a great way for teens to gain leadership skills and provides our Cloverbud age participants and Mentees that are new in a project area with experience and skills in a livestock project area. We will also have a fun ice cream social for all that come! Youth do not have to be cloverbuds to be matched and can also be matched with a mentor if they are new to project area. All cloverbuds and youth new to project areas are welcome!

New to the program? We will share a short presentation about the program and provide mentors and mentees with time to get to know each other!

Questions? Please contact Kathy Grau, [kgrau3437@aol.com](mailto:kgrau3437@aol.com) or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, [hammerfarm89@aol.com](mailto:hammerfarm89@aol.com) or 734-216-7048.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

##### Advisory Council Meeting

March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the MSU Extension Office

##### Ace the Interview Workshop

March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

##### Small Animal Committee Meeting

March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

##### Horse Association Meeting (Rescheduled)

April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

##### 4-H Ceramics Workshop

April 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at the MSU Extension Office

##### Feeder, Goat, Sheep, and Swine Weigh In & Tagging

April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

#### CONTACT US

**Amy Harris**

4-H Program Coordinator

[harr1976@msu.edu](mailto:harr1976@msu.edu)

**Jenny Speyer**

4-H Program Instructor

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

705 N. Zeeb Rd.,  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
48107

#### PHONE & EMAIL:

734-997-1678

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

#### WEBSITE:

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

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

**Sign Up For YQCA Training on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm and April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**



All market beef and swine exhibitors are required to have an updated YQCA certification before marketing animals at the 4-H Youth Show auction. This certification can be obtained by participating in an online or in-person training.

Thanks to a grant from Bayer, this training is provided free of charge to Washtenaw 4-H exhibitors. Please follow the steps below to complete a certification.

1. Contact the MSU Extension Office (734-997-1678 or email [cousin40@msu.edu](mailto:cousin40@msu.edu)) to obtain a coupon code (optional) to receive the training for free- you will need to specify if you need an online or in-person code.
2. Register through [www.yqcaprogram.org](http://www.yqcaprogram.org) – this step is required whether you attend in-person or online!
3. Sign up for your in-person training on the site and/or complete the online training. The March and April dates will be listed in the YQCA system for in-person training options.
4. Be sure to complete the pre-test before you attend an in-person training.
5. If you want to complete an online YQCA training, you MUST wait until a year has lapsed on your previous training. If it is too close to the Youth Show, we recommend taking an in-person training. You do NOT have to wait a year to take an in-person training.

We are offering one opportunity for in-person training at the Washtenaw MSU Extension Office but the date and time have not been scheduled yet. Washtenaw exhibitors are also welcome to attend YQCA trainings in neighboring counties. Those opportunities will be shared as they become available.

Need help registering? Check out the [YQCA Help Page](#) to help walk you through the registration process.

## **Ace the Interview Workshop: March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-3:30 pm**

This workshop, led by MSU Extension Educator Laurie Rivetto, equips teens with the tools to confidently navigate job, internship, or college interviews. Participants will learn key strategies for answering common questions, showcasing their strengths, and making a great first impression. The session includes a hands-on practice opportunity with peer and instructor feedback. We will have 4-H volunteers and a 4-H Teen Leader on hand to help with practice opportunities.



This workshop will be held at the MSU Extension Office at 705 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. All youth ages 12-19 years old are welcome. You do not need to be a previous 4-H member but must sign up in 4-H before attending.

Register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building>



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Project RED Adult and Youth Volunteers Needed

Project RED (Rural Education Days) will again be held from Tuesday April 22 to Thursday, April 24th at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Set up will take place on the afternoon/evening of April 22nd. The Washtenaw County MSU Extension 4-H Program, the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee and the Washtenaw Farm Council sponsor this program filled with educational experiences for 3rd grade students. Volunteers are needed for animal exhibits, group leaders, commodity displays, and other educational exhibits. We welcome adults and youth for these volunteer opportunities and can provide a letter to a school for youth volunteering. You do not need previous experience to volunteer at this event. Don't miss out on a chance to help with this wonderful community event!

Sign up now at: <https://forms.gle/uc1QCtnqUGZjfYao6>



## 4-H Ceramics Workshop on Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2-4 pm



Join us on Saturday, April 19th from 2-4 pm at the MSU Extension Office, 705 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor MI 48103 for a 4-H Ceramics Workshop where youth can paint 4-H branded ceramic items with [Little Gnome Studio](#). There will be a selection of different items to pick from including figurines, mugs, and other pieces. Youth will pick their items from this selection when they arrive. The cost of the items is \$22 a person and families can pay by cash or credit card to Little Gnome Studio when they arrive. We will have 2 hours to paint, but if families finish early, they can leave. The items will be fired and delivered back to the MSU Extension Office to pick up after the workshop.

This workshop is for youth 5-19 years old. Youth do not need to be previous 4-H members but must sign up for 4-H before they attend. Enrolling in 4-H is free! You can enroll online at 4-H Online or email or call Jenny Speyer at [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu) or 734-436-1362 for a paper enrollment form. Please complete this form for EACH youth you are enrolling.

**At this time, we are only opening this event to youth as we have limited space. If we have spaces left a few weeks before the event, we will open these up to 4-H volunteers.**

Register Here: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dp1oI7Ov6xsYcXY](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dp1oI7Ov6xsYcXY)



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Junior Livestock Cattle Hoof Trimming Event on May 3rd



Junior Livestock is once again organizing a cattle hoof trimming event on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. If you are interested in attending, please complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/3ZcStRGMHjegSyvk6> so they can get numbers for the event.

The deadline to complete the survey is **April 2nd**.

If you have questions about this event, please contact Kathy Grau, [kgrau3437@aol.com](mailto:kgrau3437@aol.com) or 734-353-0350 or Mary Hammer, [hammerfarm89@aol.com](mailto:hammerfarm89@aol.com) or 734-216-7048.

## Sign Up Now for 4-H Archery Starting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

The Washtenaw County 4-H Archery Club will begin meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. The club will meet each Tuesday from 6-8 pm until the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show. 4-H Archery is open to 4-H youth ages 8-19 years old, but limited to 25 youth, so sign up now. Youth must pre-register for this program and must be enrolled in 4-H Online before attending. No equipment is necessary to participate, but you may bring your own if you wish.



Recurve, long-bow, and compound bow under a 55 lb. draw weight are permitted. Additionally, a finger tab and arm guard. If you have questions, please contact Jenny Speyer, [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu).

Register now: <https://forms.gle/hp5sWPqpe6GSEzx29>

## 4-H Exploration Days Registration Opening on March 20th



Do you know a 12-19 year old interested in experiencing college life? Join us for 4-H Exploration Days from June 18-20<sup>th</sup> at MSU. This precollege program welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime. Youth stay in the dorms and eat in the cafeteria while attending sessions and engaging in exciting free time activities. This year there will also be career tracks where youth get to pick sessions related to career areas.

If you are interested in attending, check out the [session descriptions](#) and learn more on the website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/) Washtenaw County 4-H has scholarship funds for this event so please do NOT pay the full cost of the event when registering. This will allow staff to input scholarship funds.



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Weigh In and Tagging on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 AM

Weigh in and tagging for feeders, market goats, sheep, and swine to be exhibited at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 11 am at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Questions? Contact Amy Harris, [harr1976@msu.edu](mailto:harr1976@msu.edu).



Here are a few reminders about weigh-in/tagging rules:

- ALL cattle must have an RFID tag in their ear before they are transported. If you don't have the ability to tag the animal at home, please bring the RFID tag and tagger with you and we will get it in the ear at tagging.
- Animals MUST be tagged in at the spring weigh-in in order to be shown at the 4-H Youth Show.
- All males must be castrated before tagging
- All sheep and goats must have a Scrapies tag or tattoo in order to exhibit at the 4-H Youth Show
- Exhibitors wishing to exhibit in the commercial lamb class must provide a receipt of purchase at weigh in that is within the current market range for feeder lambs for market.
- Lambs cannot exceed 110 pounds at the spring weigh-in
- All market hogs must be tagged at the spring weigh-in, but they will NOT be weighed. Hogs are not allowed to leave the trailer.

## Swine Tagging Information for Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Participants

All Swine being shown at exhibitions, including fairs, jackpot shows and other events are required by state law to have an official ID in place. **As the exhibitor you are responsible for having the correct ID. The 4-H office has provided these tags in the past. We do not have any more of these tags, you will be responsible for obtaining the correct ID for your hogs this year.**

The official ID types are as follows: 840 tags or Premise Identification Number or PIN tags.

**To obtain official identification:** Obtain a Premise Identification Number (PIN) of the farm premises where the pigs are housed. Call MDARD at 888-565-8626.

Purchase official ID tags from the following locations (must provide PIN upon purchase)

United Producers, INC  
9534 Chelsea -Manchester Rd.  
Manchester, MI 48158  
734-428-8352

Napoleon Livestock Commission Company  
6810 W Brooklyn Rd.  
Napoleon, MI 49261  
517-536-4201

**840 Tags**  
(This is one example.  
See next page for more)



**PIN Tags**





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Saline 4-H Farmers Mancino's Fundraiser on April 2nd



Join Saline 4-H Farmers 4-H Club at Mancino's at 1323 E. Michigan Ave, Saline, MI on Wednesday, April 2nd from 4-9 pm for an evening of fun and pizza! 20% of all the sales that night will go to Saline 4-H Farmers 4-H Club to help pay for building new gates and purchase paint for the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.

Just show this [flyer on our facebook](#) to participate!

## Fun and Learning at Small Engine SPIN Club

The Washtenaw County 4-H Small Engine SPIN Club has been having a great time learning about small engines and now getting hands-on by taking apart small engines. This SPIN club is led by volunteers Greg Brown and Lin Harris and they are on session 3 of the 5. We love to see our 4-H'ers excited about engines and power!



## Thank You For Another Successful Project Galore!

Thank you to all the volunteers and families who attended Project Galore on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time with sessions including Hippology, Weaving Potholders, Watercolor Painting, Photography, Robotics, Cat, Dog, and Rabbit Showmanship, and Quilling. We had 38 youth who attended this event and volunteers and teen leaders who taught the sessions. We are excited to see if any of these youth enter projects in these areas at the 4-H Youth Show. Thank you also to the Still Projects Committee members who made this program possible.





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open



Apply now for the 2026 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities.

Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is March 31. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

### March 3: Adulting 101 – Get It Together: Tim and Organization Tips to Thrive

*Online*  
Learn practical tips to tackle schedules, beat procrastination and organize spaces to help you be successful now and in the future.  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/get-it-together](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/get-it-together)

### March 11: 4-H Give Green Day

*Online*  
Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day)

### March 11: Wild Spartans

*Online*  
Join 4-H staff for the "Wild Spartans" series for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session will explore conservation efforts in zoos with Seth Magle, director of the Urban Wildlife Institute at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-march-2024-2025](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-march-2024-2025)

### March 15: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

*East Lansing*  
Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-hippology-contest](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-hippology-contest)

### March 18: Mich. 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Cultivating Developmental Relationships with Youth

*Online*  
Explore how to build impactful connections with youth through developmental relationships. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice:

- **12 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-noon)
- **7 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-7pm)

### April 1: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards application deadline

*Online*  
This program provides 4-H members a learning experience where they can develop career skills by using their 4-H experiences to compile a portfolio similar to a professional application while receiving recognition for their 4-H involvement.  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-awards-application-deadline](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-awards-application-deadline)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one chaperone arriving in 2025; we are looking for families interested in opening their homes and hearts by hosting these individuals. Consider sharing the clover this summer and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime by hosting!

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids in mid-July and depart in mid-August, meeting host families for a 3.5-week stay. Online applications to host can be found at:

<https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>.

For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn at [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).



## MSU Extension launches 2025 Global Voices Essay Contest with MSU Global Youth Advancement Network

The Global Voices Essay Contest offers a platform for young people around the world to advocate for their communities and share their opinions and stories about local and national challenges. Michigan students in grades 9-12, and young adults ages 18-24, are invited to share their own stories, reflections and visions by writing and submitting a 600-900-word essay focused on community (defined as the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences and ideas that shape our state). Sub-themes for the essay contest include shared natural resources, heritage and home, bridges of unity, innovation for the future and other.

A panel of MSU, MSU Extension, and Michigan 4-H judges will review and select the winning essays, which will be published on the MSU Global Youth Advancement Network website and receive cash prizes!

The deadline for youth to submit their essay online is May 2. For more info please visit: <https://globalyouth.isp.msu.edu/programs-projects/global-voices/essay-contest/call-submissions-2/>

## Michigan 4-H needs your input!

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

Visit [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bqmeT5Dxtthvja](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvja) or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program. If you have questions regarding this survey, please reach out to Kathy Fischer at [fisch226@msu.edu](mailto:fisch226@msu.edu).

