



December 2025

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond
Ready**

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Fun Fact Spotlight!



**Did you know... 4-H isn't just about animals
and crops?**

**4-H started over 120 years ago in Ohio with
kids learning how to grow better corn. Today,
4-H members are building robots, flying
drones, coding apps, and even designing
experiments for space!**

**The program is in over 90 countries, helping
youth develop Head, Heart, Hands, and Health
skills all around the world.**

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop Series

This holiday season, join us for the 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop Series! Travel the globe with 4-H as we explore how different cultures celebrate the holiday season. Each workshop highlights a unique country or tradition through hands-on activities, crafts, games, and cultural learning experiences. Open to youth ages 5 and up, this series offers a fun and engaging way to discover global customs while fostering creativity, understanding, and connection. Participants can join one workshop or attend them all, each session features new traditions, foods, and crafts to enjoy!

Each session is free, educational, and packed with holiday spirit

Contact: Ashleigh Klein @ apelashl@msu.edu

MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator – Wayne County



Holidays Around the World: Hanukkah

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center
32150 Dorsey St, Westland, MI

Celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to youth ages 5 and up, this hands-on workshop explores the traditions and history of Hanukkah. Participants will hear the story of Hanukkah, create crafts, play dreidel games, and enjoy festive Hanukkah music.

Pre-registration is required by December 8.

Register Here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah>

Holidays Around the World: Christmas in Norway

Date: Saturday, December 20, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center

32150 Dorsey St, Westland, MI

Celebrate Christmas traditions from Norway with fun, hands-on crafts and festive activities like gnome making and cookie decorating!

Open to youth ages 5 and up, this workshop offers a creative way to learn about Norwegian holiday customs while making new friends and spreading cheer.

Pre-registration is required by December 15.

Register Here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas>





4-H Spark & Share Summit

A conference for 4-H volunteers and teens

March 7, 2026

Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center
Frankenmuth, Michigan

9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
\$75 (includes lunch)

Register by February 9th:
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026>

Participants may select up to 4 sessions from topics including science, arts and crafts, leadership, animal science, global education, and much more!!



MICHIGAN STATE
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Member Spotlight- Claiborne G.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

3rd place in my very first year of Poultry Showmanship!

How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

At 8 years old. I got involved because both parents were in 4-H.

What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

All my friends were in it. Getting chickens inspired me to show chickens. Also having my parents be in 4-H and being able to go watch shows really drove me to join.

What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

Animal handling and great new friends.

What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

That 4-H is really fun and you can make great new friends. It is very educational, and you can be around a lot of animals.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My first year I made new friends and got 3rd place in Poultry Showmanship!

What are your plans for the future?

I want to work towards showing dairy cows and steers. I want to keep improving at Poultry Showmanship. I hope to also be able to continue to be a protégé teacher.

Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?

I want to share how much fun I have had getting to show animals!





Member Spotlight- Paige L.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

Walk Trot Champion (6–7-year-olds) for the past 2 years.

How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

When I was five to show in fair and to meet other kids with horses.

What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

I love horses and I wanted to find other kids who like to ride too.

What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

New friends, memories and skills from our "bigs".

What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

If you want to meet other kids who have the same hobbies as you, this is the place to be.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

I was the Jr Fair Princess and we pie'd our leader, Melissa L. in the face!

What are your plans for the future?

Learn new things, make new fair memories and friends.

Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?

I am very passionate about horse rescue. I enjoy fundraising for my mom's friend's foundation called Mareworthy Charities. They save and find new homes for thoroughbred mares. I hope to someday adopt a horse from Mareworthy and compete in the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) representing Mareworthy. You can check them out and help too at Mareworthy.com.





Announcements

Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event

The 2024–2025 Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event is almost here!

When: January 31, 2026

Where: WCCCD Downriver Campus,
21000 Northline Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

Step right up for an unforgettable afternoon as we celebrate the Magic of 4-H! Join us as we honor the incredible achievements of our Wayne County 4-H youth and volunteers—from years of service to outstanding accomplishments that make our program shine.

This year's celebration will be filled with magic tricks, carnival-themed activities, carnival snacks, a silent auction, lunch, awards, and more! Dress in your brightest, most festive Carnival Chic attire to match the fun and vibrant atmosphere.

Don't miss this magical celebration of community, growth, and 4-H spirit!

🌟 Please RSVP by January 17, 2026: <https://forms.gle/DAY3y2eSKuGQXKhL9>

Celebrate The Magic of 4-H

2024–2025 Wayne County 4-H
Recognition Event

Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Downriver WCCCD Campus
(21000 Northline Rd, Taylor, MI 48180)

You are invited to celebrate the wonder, fun, and
friendship that make 4-H truly magical!

Apply for Awards by December 1, 2025:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/2024-2025-4-h-recognition-event>

Event Attire:

Carnival Chic — Bright, fun, and festive!

Scan the QR Code to RSVP or,
contact Ashleigh Klein at
apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408

RSVP By January 17, 2026



Announcements

Sale on Youth Business Guide to Success through Dec 24

 **Youth Business Guide to Success: Make the Most of Your 4-H Market Animal Project!**   

Ready to level up your 4-H project? This curriculum helps youth learn real business skills — from marketing and advertising to goal setting and budgeting.

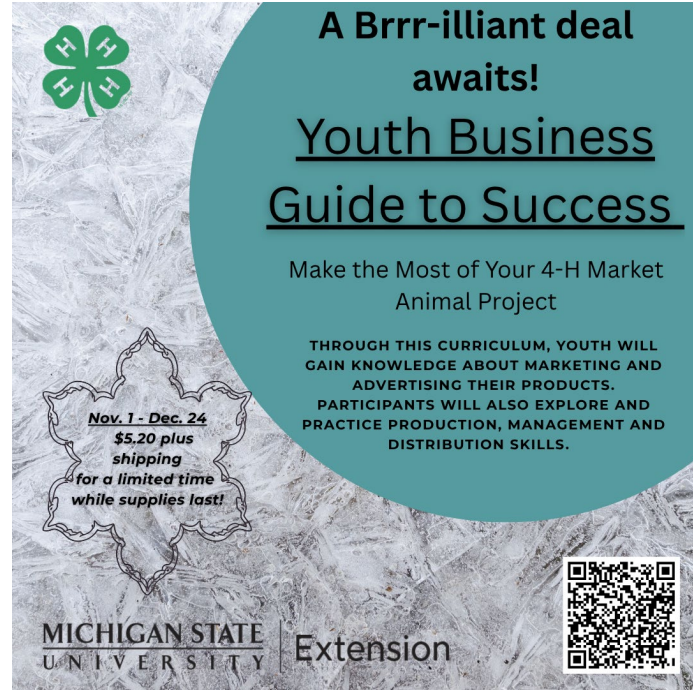
 **Available Now – Dec. 24**

\$5.20 + shipping (limited time while supplies last!)

Turn your market animal project into a business success story! 

Learn more and purchase at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to.../index



Looking for the perfect gift for the 4-H supporter in your life?

Give a gift that lasts all year long—the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate! Not only does it show off 4-H pride, but every plate helps fund programs that empower youth across the state.

Easy to order through the Michigan Secretary of State, this thoughtful gift sends \$25 back to support Michigan 4-H youth.

Spread holiday cheer and make a difference—order your 4-H plate today!

Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-Hplate





Announcements

4-H Rabbit & Cavy Expo and Show!

🐰 Join Us for the State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Expo and Show! 🐹

Youth participants can:

- ✓ Exhibit their rabbit and/or cavy
- ✓ Compete in exciting contests:
 - Showmanship (Pre-registration required by January 14, 2026)
 - Breed Identification
 - Photography
 - Skillathon
 - Educational Displays
 - NEW this year: Rabbit Hopping!

📅 Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026

📍 Location: Farm Bureau Livestock Pavilion at Michigan State University

🔗 Register by January 14 for Showmanship!

Register Here:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=A99D5CF559F61E59C6B43ACF57732CF607FE72C011018BE9008C4FC28AB47369>



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo

- Breed, Market, Fur Class Entry Fee: \$4.00
- Rabbit Hopping Fee: \$2.00
- Other Contests Entry Fee: \$2.00
(Photography, Educational Display, Breed Identification, Skillathon)

\$4

Entry Fee

Showmanship registration deadline
January 14, 2026

<p>Jan 24, 2026</p> <p>Enter animals day of Show 7:00 am-10:00am</p>	<p>MSU Pavilion</p> <p>for Agriculture and Livestock Education</p>
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Perpetual trophy for all Best In Shows!



State Rabbit and Cavy Show Web Page:
shorturl.at/bKwsV



SCAN HERE

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Announcements

4-H Winterfest 2026

Youth and adults who attend 4-H Winterfest will spend 2 days learning about exciting project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Winterfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Eagle Village in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands on sessions as well as teamwork adventures utilizing the Eagle Village facilities.

Who:

4-H Winterfest is a hands-on educational program that is open to youth ages 8 to 12 years old as of Jan. 1, 2026.

When:

Check In: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Program Starts: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, 11:15 a.m.

Program Ends: Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$120.00 - 4-H Members

\$75.00 - Gold Level Volunteer Adults

Includes: food, lodging, Winterfest swag, project supplies, and eagle village adventures.

Scholarships:

Click on this link <https://forms.gle/M52pg15VPF4XKd9AA> for the application for Wayne county participants. Scholarships may be available to Wayne County Participants, please apply via our application, then add the link.



4-H Winterfest

FEBRUARY 7-8, 2026

COST: \$120 FOR 4-H MEMBERS

LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE - HERSEY, MI

REGISTER TODAY:
[HTTPS://4HWINTERFEST2026.4HONLINE.COM](https://4HWINTERFEST2026.4HONLINE.COM)

Workshop 1 - Saturday	Workshops- Sunday	
Amaze Your Friends With Magic	Workshop #2	
Launch into Science	Cat Curiosity	Cat Curiosity
Broom Ball	Lego Science	Lego Science
Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts	Paper to Pulp	Paper to Pulp
Crafts Around the World: North America	Stop Motion Animation	Stop Motion Animation
Ice Dyeing	It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping	It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Growing Gratitude During the Holiday Season

The holiday season is an ideal time to help young people practice gratitude; a life-long skill linked to stronger well-being, resilience, and a more positive outlook. Gratitude doesn't deny that difficult things happen; instead, it teaches youth to recognize the good that can exist alongside challenges.

Here are meaningful and easy ways volunteers can nurture gratitude within their 4-H clubs this holiday season:

- Encourage thank-you notes or gratitude letters
- Writing thank-you notes is a simple way for youth to express appreciation for gifts, support, or acts of kindness. Younger members may benefit from a word bank or guidance with spelling, while older youth can personalize their messages.
- Add a brief "gratitude share" to meetings
- Begin or end each meeting by having youth name one thing they are grateful for. This simple practice creates a positive atmosphere and can be grounding during the busyness of the holiday season.
- Create a club gratitude jar
- Set out a jar and have youth write down things they appreciate throughout the month. These can be read together at the start of the new year or whenever the club needs a morale boost.
- Try a winter "walk and talk"
- Take a short walk outside and encourage youth to notice things in nature or the community they appreciate—winter scenery, holiday decorations, or small acts of kindness. This helps them develop the habit of noticing the good around them.

By intentionally creating space for gratitude, volunteers help youth develop a mindset that will enrich their personal well-being long beyond the holidays.

Read the full article here: "Growing Gratitude with Youth"

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/growing-gratitude-with-youth>





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Thriving Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 28 – December 14: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Local Tractor Supply Co.

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

December 2: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/

December 9: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-december

December 13: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8.!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah

December 20: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory [reporting guidelines](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) (www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.
2. Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file [DHS-3200](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) (available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) within 72 hours.
3. All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at ocr.isr@msu.edu.
4. Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.

Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!

Michigan Shop 4-H Store: Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store! Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>.



My Pottery Place: Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/.

Mickman Brothers: Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at 4hwreaths.com will benefit 4-H.

Twisted X: Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection.

Georgia Boot: Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at georgiaboot.com.

Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos.

View the updated manual at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual.