



4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY

November 2025



**Beyond
Ready**

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CONTACT US

[Richard Wooten](#)

MSU Extension – Wayne County
District Director

[Diane Wisnewski](#)

4-H Supervisor

[Laurie Rivetto](#)

4-H Educator

[Ashleigh Klein](#) [LaToya Jones](#)

4-H Program Coordinators

[Waverly Eubank](#) [Holly Sysol](#)

4-H Program Instructors

PHONE & EMAIL:

(734) 721-6576
(Western Wayne)

msue.wayne@msu.edu

WEBSITE:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/MI4HWayne>

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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 in grades 3–8, 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!

Holidays Around the World: Diwali

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Flat Rock Library

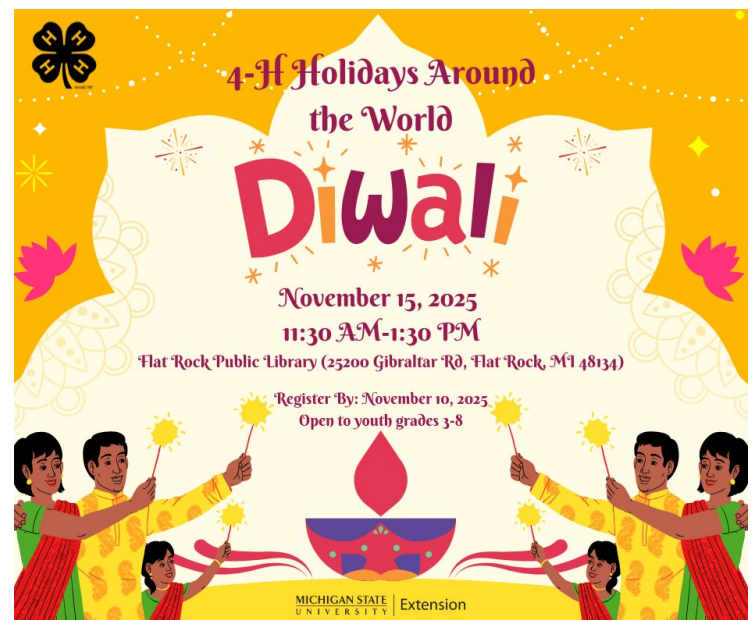
25200 Gibraltar Rd, Flat Rock, MI

Celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop invites participants to learn about the traditions and cultural significance of Diwali, one of India's most celebrated holidays. Youth will explore the story behind the holiday through fun, creative, and educational activities that highlight the themes of light, joy, and togetherness.

Pre-registration is required by November 10.

Register Here:

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





Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop Series Continued

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! Open to youth in grades 3–8, 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>



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 in grades 3–8, 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>

Each session is free, educational, and packed with holiday spirit — we hope you'll join us for one or all three!

Register early — space is limited!

Contact: Ashleigh Klein @ apelashl@msu.edu

MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator – Wayne County



Wayne County Upcoming Events

Cards and Carbs Fundraiser — Support Wayne County 4-H!

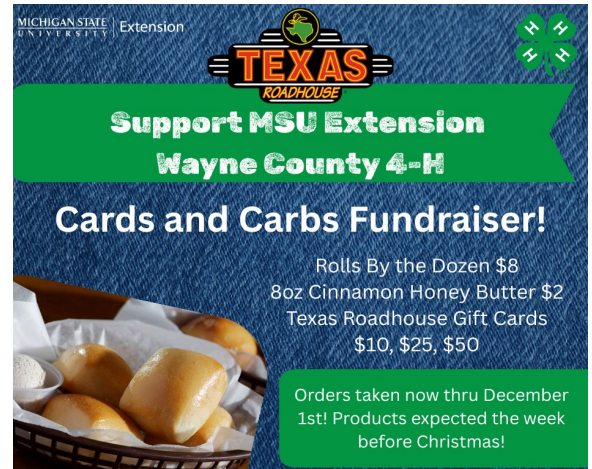
This November, Michigan State University Extension Wayne County 4-H is teaming up with Texas Roadhouse for a Cards and Carbs Fundraiser! Treat yourself (and your family) to delicious rolls, sweet cinnamon butter, and gift cards this holiday season — all while supporting local 4-H youth programs.

Frozen Rolls by the Dozen – \$8 each
 8 oz. Honey Cinnamon Butter – \$2 each
 Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards –\$10, \$25, and \$50

Your purchase gives Wayne County 4-H:
 50% of Rolls and Butter sales
 10% of your Gift Card sales

Order Details:
 Orders Due: December 1, 2025
 Orders ready as soon as December 17th, 2025

To Order: Contact your local 4-H Program Coordinator:
 Ashleigh Klein (Western Wayne) at apelashl@msu.edu or call 734-727-7408
 LaToya Cain-Jones (Detroit) at cainjone@msu.edu or call 313-494-4716
 Payment is due when placing your order



Save the Date! Join Us for Dine to Donate!

Mark your calendar for our Dine to Donate Fundraiser at

Texas Roadhouse
 (36750 Ford Rd., Westland, MI)

When: Thursday, January 8, 2026
 Time: 3–10 PM

When you dine in or take out, 20% of your total food purchase will be donated to Wayne County 4-H.
 Pro Tip: Purchase a gift card through our *Cards and Carbs Fundraiser* and use it to pay for your meal at Dine to Donate — that way, 30% of your total goes back to support our 4-H youth programs!





Member Spotlight- Lucy R.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

Last year I completed the Horse Protege Program.

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

Last year was my first year in 4-H. My friend, Paige, told me about her 4-H club and how much fun participating was. She talked me into joining!

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

I wanted to get back into horse showing after my favorite pony passed away. I thought doing it with a group of friends who also loved horses would be fun!

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

Confidence and friendship.

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

Just join and have fun!

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

Taking my Aunts horse to my first fair and showing him like she did!

What are your plans for the future?

Continue riding horses in 4-H and one day I hope to become a horse trainer!

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

4-H has given me an entire group of friends who also love horses! It's also given me a group of older kids to look up to and help me!





Volunteer Spotlight- Simon Anton



Where do you volunteer, and how did you get started?

The 4-H Club at Oakland Ave. Urban Farm in Detroit. We are a Robotics Club.

What has been your favorite or most fulfilling part of volunteering with 4-H?

My favorite part (as I'm sure most other volunteers share) is working with the young people. It's heartwarming to see them tackle new challenges and come out the other side smarter, stronger and more confident. Anytime a child believes in themselves more it's a win.

What volunteer projects do you most like to be a part of?

I love working with kids - so volunteer projects that support the youth are always going to be the ones I gravitate towards. I do work with another non-profit, Got Grief House, and we support kids, families and adults experiencing grief. I find this work particularly fulfilling - though it has its own emotional challenges.

Do you have any advice for other 4-H volunteers?

I think there are lots of people in the community who want to find opportunities to give back - and the 4-H club can be a great avenue for that. It's been inspiring to me to connect with professionals in Detroit who have robotics / technology skills that they'd be willing to share with the students. My advice would be to tap into some of these networks and invite guest lecturers to share their story with the youth. An engineer from Detroit gave a brief presentation to our Robotics club and afterwards a young man stood up and said, "I just realized I want to be an engineer when I grow up!" Those are the moments that stick in your mind as an educator. Sometimes it's a new voice in the room that can open an unexpected pathway for a young person.



4-H Club Spotlight

Way Cool Cloverbuds

The Cloverbud program is a special introduction to 4-H for children ages 5–7, focusing on hands-on, age-appropriate activities that emphasize fun and cooperation rather than competition. While many Wayne County 4-H community clubs welcome Cloverbuds as part of a mixed-age group, the *Way Cool Cloverbuds* offer unique programming designed exclusively for this youngest group of learners.

The club was originally chartered in Fall 2023 but faced a slow start with low enrollment and leadership changes. Despite these challenges, the vision of a dedicated Cloverbud club never faded. One parent, Amanda Longo, recognized the value of this opportunity for young children and stepped forward to carry the idea forward. Together with co-leader Melissa Rinke, Amanda relaunched the club in January 2025. Their persistence and passion transformed an uncertain beginning into a thriving group of enthusiastic Cloverbuds.

Throughout 2025, the Way Cool Cloverbuds enjoyed a wide variety of hands-on experiences that introduced them to 4-H and the world around them. They kicked off the year at the Plymouth District Library, where they learned the 4-H pledge, made clover crafts, and later returned to explore snow through snow globes, paper snowflakes, and even brought real snow indoors to play with. In the spring, members dove into nature and animals; planting flowers at the library, visiting the Ruch family home to care for chickens and collect fresh eggs, and traveling to Miner Equestrian in Northville to pet, groom, and feed horses.

Summer brought even more excitement with a trip to Plymouth Township Fire Station #1, where Cloverbuds toured the station, sat in the fire trucks, and learned about fire safety. Their final meeting at Plymouth Township Park included a special wool-dyeing activity led by Wayne County 4-H Program Coordinator Ashleigh Klein, tie-dyeing club t-shirts, and celebrating with a pizza party. In August, instead of meeting, families were encouraged to attend the Wayne County Fair, where several Cloverbuds proudly exhibited projects in community arts, equine, and poultry.

By the end of the program year, the club had grown to 12 registered members, with an average meeting attendance of 8–10 youth. Remarkably, 10 of these families were brand new to 4-H, showing the program's strong appeal in reaching new audiences.

As first-time leaders, Amanda and Melissa quickly learned that Cloverbuds are eager to share their ideas, and those ideas shaped the club's direction. Visits to the fire station and horse barn, for example, were planned directly from youth input. "Even the littlest 4-H'ers can provide input that is valuable," Amanda shared. "It's amazing to see them grow, learn, and thrive. Watching them try something new and succeed is so rewarding."

4-H Club Spotlight

Way Cool Cloverbuds Continued

Parents echoed this enthusiasm:

- *“My daughter loves 4-H... It is the perfect blend of educational activities and unstructured time for the kids to socialize.”* – Renee Wickliff
- *“The program gave our daughter opportunities to explore new interests and learn in a more interactive way... Meeting the firefighters and exploring the fire trucks had her talking about it for weeks.”* – Sara Reuter
- *“Cloverbuds has been a great way for my son to participate in hands-on activities and create new friendships. It’s one of his favorite activities!”* – Juliana Simms
- The Way Cool Cloverbuds’ first year is a testament to persistence, creativity, and the impact of age-specific programming. What began as an uncertain start has grown into a vibrant, welcoming place where Wayne County’s youngest 4-H members can begin their journey of discovery, friendship, and fun.





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

Join us for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our Wayne County 4-H youth and volunteers. From years of service to remarkable achievements, this event is all about recognizing the people who make 4-H shine. This year's theme is "Celebrating the Magic of 4-H!" Expect an inspiring program, opportunities to apply or nominate someone for awards, and plenty of memorable moments with the 4-H community. Mark your calendars—you won't want to miss it!

MSU Extension Wayne County 4-H Award Applications and Nominations Now Open!

Please visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/2024-2025-4-h-recognition-event> to find award applications for youth, adults, and clubs.

Youth Awards: Age is based on your 4-H age as of January 1, 2025.

- [4-H Member Community Service Award Nomination](#) (Self-Nomination Accepted)
- [4-H High Achievement Award Application](#) (To Be Done by Individual Applicants)
- [4-H Member Leadership and Personal Growth Award Nomination](#) (4-H Leader or Volunteer Nominations only)
- [4-H Project Award Nomination](#) (Self-Nominations Accepted)
- [4-H Member Sportsmanship Award Nomination](#) (4-H Leader or Volunteer Nominations Only)

Adult Awards:

- [Friend of 4-H Award Nomination](#) (4-H Member, Leader, Volunteer, or Staff Must Nominate)
- [4-H Leader/Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination](#) (Self-Nomination Accepted)

Club Awards:

- [Outstanding Achievement for a 4-H Club Award Nomination](#) (Self-Nomination Accepted)

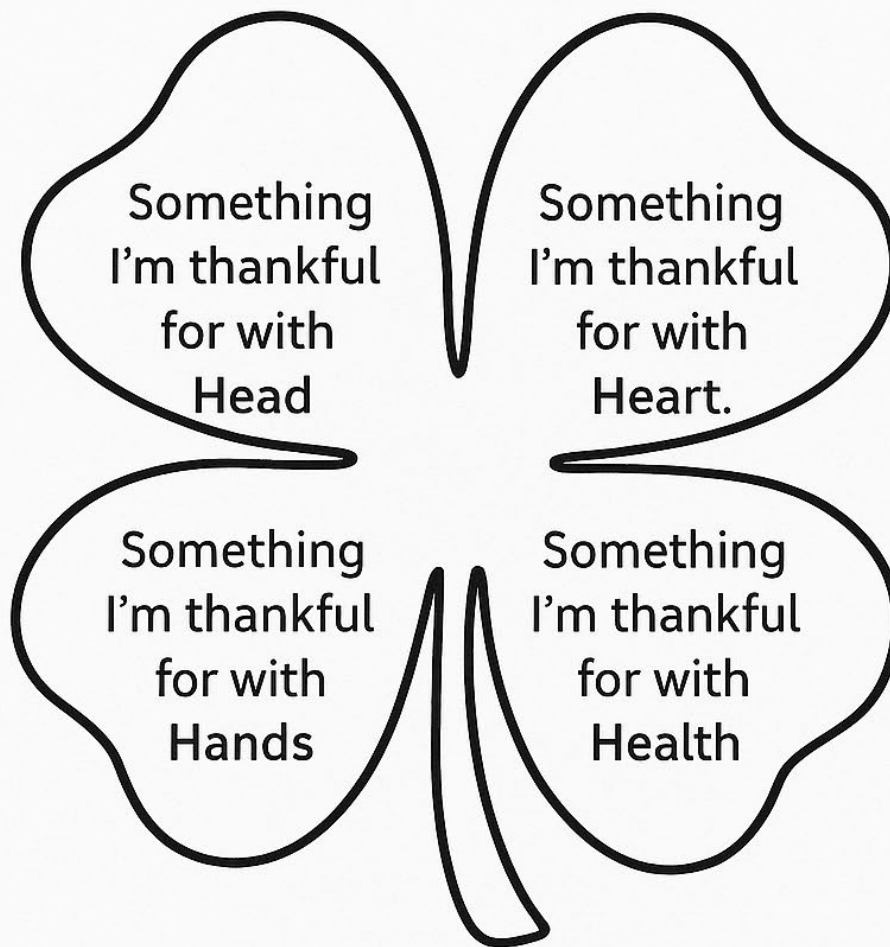
Questions? Direct them to Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu) or 734-727-7408.





Fun Stuff

4-H THANKFUL CLOVER



A large dashed rectangular box for additional notes or a signature.



Fun Stuff



GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

French Fried Onions

- 2 sweet onions, thinly sliced
- 2 cups buttermilk
- salt and pepper
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- vegetable oil, for frying

Green Bean Casserole

- 2 pounds fresh green beans, trimmed and cut in half
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large sweet onion, diced
- kosher salt and pepper
- 16 ounces cremini mushrooms, chopped
- 4 cloves minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 ½ cups chicken stock
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream
- pinch of nutmeg
- ½ cup grated parmesan

Instructions:

French Fried Onions

1. Place the sliced onions in a large bowl and cover them with the buttermilk. Let them soak while the oil heats.
2. Heat the oil in a large stockpot or saucepan. You want it to be about 375 degrees F. Place the flour on a plate with a big pinch of salt and pepper. Stir well.
3. Once the oil is up to temperature, take a few onion slices from the buttermilk and dredge them in the flour, coating them completely. Add them to the oil and fry until golden brown, tossing a few times, about 2 to 3 minutes total. Remove the onions and place them on a paper towel to drain excess grease.

Green Bean Casserole

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F
2. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Once boiling, add in the green beans. Blanch for 5 minutes, then remove the green beans and place them in a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking.
3. Heat the olive oil and butter large skillet over medium-low heat. Add in the diced onion with a big pinch of salt and pepper. Cook until softened, about 5 minutes.
4. Stir in the mushrooms. Cook until they soften too, about another 5 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
5. Stir in the flour to create a roux. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, until it smells fragrant and a bit nutty. Slowly stream in the stock, stirring the entire time. Cook for about 5 minutes, until the mixture is thickened and simmering.
6. Stir in the cream until combined. Stir in the nutmeg and the parmesan cheese. Turn off the heat. Add the green beans to the cream mixture and toss to coat. Pour the mixture in a 9x13 baking dish. Sprinkle on extra parmesan cheese. Top with the french fried onions.
7. Bake the green beans for 20 to 25 minutes, until the sauce is bubbly and warm.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



The 4-H Thriving Model and 4-H Beyond Ready work hand-in-hand to prepare youth for success. The Thriving Model focuses on how quality 4-H experiences help young people grow by building sparks, relationships, and a sense of belonging that leads to thriving. Beyond Ready builds on this foundation by helping youth take what they've learned and apply it school, careers and real life.

Together, they ensure that 4-H youth don't just gain skills, but also the confidence, adaptability, and resilience to use those skills in the future. Through this connection, young people are not only supported in their personal growth today but are equipped to be "beyond ready" for whatever comes next.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 10 – December 15: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

This parenting workshop is designed to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Caregivers of toddlers to teens will explore eliminating unwanted behavior, setting limits, teaching about consequences, giving effective feedback, promoting independence and developing character. Participants will meet for six week on Mondays.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-november-december-2025

November 11: Wild Spartans – Wildfire & Warriors: Science Where You Least Expect It

Online

Meet Michele Richards, natural resources and wildland fire program manager with the Michigan Army National Guard. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026

November 12: 4-H Chef Turkey Cheese Ball

Lenawee County MSU Extension Office, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will create a cheese ball that is perfect as a Thanksgiving appetizer.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-turkey-cheese-ball

November 13: Adulthood 101 – Conflict Resolution and Civil Discourse

Online

Participants will learn how to manage disagreements with respect and open-mindedness, paving the way for stronger, healthier relationships. Leave with strategies to approach conflict confidently, express oneself respectfully, and find common ground with others.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-toughtalks

November 15: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Diwali

Flat Rock Public Library, Flat Rock

Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop invites participants to learn about the traditions and cultural significance of Diwali, one of India's most celebrated holidays.

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

November 18: Mich. 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: So You Want to Be a Club Leader?

Online

Thinking about leading a club or want to refresh your leadership skills? Join to learn what it takes to be an effective and inspired club leader—from logistics and communication to culture and connection.

12-1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-so-you-want-to-be-a-club-leader-lets-talk-noon

7-8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-so-you-want-to-be-a-club-leader-lets-talk-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 28 – Dec. 14, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at www.TractorSupply.com during the campaign dates.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

You can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments, now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Join the 4-H For Good Challenge!

A simple act of kindness can spark a ripple of good — and you can be the spark! National 4-H Council is teaming up with Universal Pictures leading up to the release of *Wicked: For Good* on November 21 by celebrating the power of young people and communities and creating a wave of kindness.

Just like Elphaba and Glinda in *Wicked: For Good*, your choices can change the world. This challenge is open to everyone — youth, families, schools, workplaces, and community groups — and it's your chance to show how one good deed can inspire another.

Join the #4HForGoodChallenge in four easy steps:

1. **Do something good.** Big or small, every act counts. Help out, give back or simply show someone you care.
2. **Share your heart hands.** Snap a pic of your heart hand and write a short post about your good deed.
3. **Post it online.** Use the hashtag #4HForGood and tag 4-H.
4. **Challenge your crew.** Tag for friends and invite them to keep the good growing!



MSU Extension hosts successful third Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol



On October 8, MSU Extension hosted the third Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol to showcase the positive impact of the Michigan 4-H program and bring additional visibility to its effects. The event was held in the atrium of Heritage Hall – the Capitol Visitor's Center.

"We're immensely proud of the Michigan 4-H program, which has been shaping futures and transforming communities for more than 115 years," said Quentin Tyler, MSU Extension director. "We're grateful for the opportunity to showcase this remarkable program to our state leaders for the third consecutive year and to bring additional awareness to the life-changing impact of 4-H."

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was attended by legislators, stakeholders and members of the public. At the event, attendees visited information booths hosted by Michigan 4-H youth and staff. A brief program was held, featuring Tyler, as well as: Representative Jerry Neyer; MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz; Jackie Venton, Michigan Department of State Chief Operating Officer and a Michigan 4-H alumna; Logan Dole, Michigan 4-H youth from Clare County; and Danykah Muck, Michigan 4-H youth from Livingston County.

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Michigan4H.