



OCTOBER 2026

4-H Family News

Clare County



A message from Clare County 4-H

Thank you to all the club leaders who attended our recent Leader Update Meeting. Your dedication and support help make Clare County 4-H a success!

A special thank you also goes to the youth who completed County Award and Ambassador Award applications. We are proud of the time and effort you put into showcasing your accomplishments. Be sure to join us at the **Clare County 4-H Awards Banquet on November 4 at 6:00 p.m.**, where award winners will be announced.

Congratulations to our Honor Club winners! **Hides 'N' Hares** earned 48 points, and **Busy Bunny Raisers** earned 38 points, with each club receiving a \$75 award. **Show Sticks and Spurs** earned 10 points and received a \$25 award.

Finally, it's time to celebrate **National 4-H Week!** We hope you'll help us fill our Facebook page with photos, memories, and stories that showcase the impact of 4-H. Check out **page 5** to see how you can help us spread the 4-H spirit throughout our community!

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4-H Recruitment | 10-6-26 | 3:30-4:30 pm | MSU Extension
4-H Recruitment | 10-13-26 | 3:30-5:30 pm | PMDL, Clare
Trunk or Treat | 10-25-2026 | 2 - 4 pm | Clare County Fair
4-H Council Meeting | 10-28-26 | 6 pm | PMDL, Clare
4-H Awards Banquet | 11-4-26 | 6 pm | Clare County Fair

Notes from Fair:

Camping deposits can be taken October 1 to hold your spot.
Balance will be due July 17, 2027

Clare County Fair will be July 26-31, 2027. Home Arts Auction will be July 24, 2027, and Cloverbud Show will be July 29, 2027.

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H



Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

October 3: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

Online

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club

Online

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulthood 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management,

communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at: www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Labor Day Petting Zoo



On Monday, September 7th, the Hill Top 4H Club spent part of their holiday running the petting zoo at the Farwell Fair Grounds after the Labor day parade. There were goats, kittens, rabbits, chickens, a guinea pig, a duck, and a giant tortoise. Visitors were able to see, pet and learn about the animals, how to care for them and how they are important to 4H. This was a great opportunity to introduce people to animals that they may not have a chance to interact with on a regular basis. All of the animals were graciously provided by the McInnis family, the Cook family, and Carol Forkum from the Hide N Hares Club.

Mikayla Dunkle, age: 15 - Hill Top 4H Club

At our recent Clare County 4-H Council meeting, members elected officers who will help guide and support the program over the coming year. We are excited to welcome this outstanding team of dedicated volunteers and youth leaders.

Congratulations to **Michelle**, who has stepped into the role of **Council President** after serving as Secretary. Michelle's commitment to Clare County 4-H and her willingness to take on new leadership responsibilities will be a tremendous asset to our program.

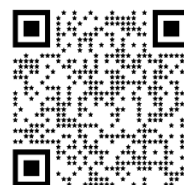
We are also pleased that **Jaylah** will continue serving as **Youth Vice President**. Her enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication to representing Clare County 4-H youth have made a meaningful impact, and we are excited to see her continue in this role.

A special welcome goes to **Christopher**, one of our newest Gold Volunteers, who was elected to serve as **Treasurer**. We look forward to the knowledge, energy, and perspective he will bring to the council.

We would also like to recognize **LeAnn**, who continues her service on the council and has another year remaining in her term as Treasurer.

We are grateful for each of these individuals and their willingness to serve our 4-H members, volunteers, and families. Together, this team will help shape the future of Clare County 4-H, and we are confident they will accomplish great things in the year ahead. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to creating meaningful opportunities for youth throughout our county.

4-H Council Elected Officers



October
Honor
Club
Credits



National 4-H Week

Alumni We Need You.



National 4-H Week is October 5-9! Help us celebrate by sharing a photo of yourself as a 4-H member, a photo of yourself today, and a short story about how 4-H influenced your life. We'll be featuring these stories on our Clare County 4-H Facebook page throughout the week to showcase the lasting impact of 4-H. Check out Michelle's story below and help us fill our page with 4-H memories, accomplishments, and success stories!

"Michelle started her 4-H journey in Montcalm County showing dairy, swine, and food projects. Now she's come full circle, working with MSU Extension in the Clare County Office to help youth across Michigan become beyond ready!"

Send your pictures to Renee email biseln@msu.edu or text them to her at 231-735-0067

Go Green Monday October 5

Let's paint the nation green! We're kicking off #National4HWeek with a bold splash of Michigan 4-H [TAG] spirit. Whether it's a green hat, shirt, face paint, or even green socks—show the world you're #4HBeyondReady on October 5. 🍀 🌿 Snap a pic in your best green gear, tag @4-H, @Michigan 4-H and help us flood social media with the power of Michigan 4-H. Let's light up every feed with your boldest green!

Thankful Thursday

We also need pictures for Thankful Thursday. We want to celebrate our leaders. If you have a picture of a leader helping a youth, we want it, this is our caption:

💚 Thankful Thursday is here! 🍀 Today, we're celebrating the incredible volunteers, educators, mentors, and leaders who make Michigan 4-H stronger every day. Their encouragement, guidance, and support help young people build confidence, discover new passions, and become #4HBeyondReady. Who has made a difference in your 4-H journey? Give them a shoutout in the comments and tag @Michigan 4-H using #National4HWeek.

Send your pictures to Renee email biseln@msu.edu or text them to her at 231-735-0067



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4-H Family News

Clare County



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**Beyond
Ready**