



September 2026

4-H Family News

Clare County



Beyond Ready

Welcome to the 2026-2027 4-H year!

As our members head back to school, we want to thank our volunteers, youth, and families for an amazing summer. Our 2nd Home Arts Auction was a great success, and the Cloverbud Show gave 10 young members the opportunity to shine with the support of 8 teen volunteer judges.

The Clare County Fair was the highlight of the summer. As my first fair as your 4-H Program Coordinator, I learned so much and was inspired by the dedication of our members, leaders, volunteers, and families. Thank you for making it a memorable experience.

As we begin a new 4-H year, now is the time to re-enroll and invite friends to join 4-H. We look forward to another year of learning, leadership, service, and fun with Clare County 4-H! Sincerely,

Renee Sanders

Clare County 4-H Coordinator

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Special Dates and Announcements

End of year paperwork | 9-1-2026 | MSU Extension

Award Applications | 9-23-2026 | 7 pm | MSU Extension office

Leader Meeting | 9-23-2026 | 6 pm | Pere Marquette District Library, Clare

Council Meeting | 9-23-2026 | 7 pm | Pere Marquette District Library, Clare

Honors Club Submission | 9-30-2026 | 11.59 pm pm | County website

All volunteers should plan to attend the Annual Leader Meeting on September 23. Following the leader meeting, we will hold the 4-H Council Meeting, where elections will take place for the positions of President, Vice President (Youth), and Secretary.

If you are interested in serving in one of these leadership roles and helping guide the future of Clare County 4-H, please plan to stay for the Council Meeting and consider putting your name forward for election. We encourage all interested members to get involved and help make a positive impact on our 4-H program.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting the new 4-H year with a focus on being Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

A new 4-H year is the perfect time for volunteers and youth to set the tone for growth, learning and readiness. Beginning the year with intentional activities helps young people build confidence, explore their interests, and understand how their 4-H experiences prepare them for life beyond the club.

Early goal setting, reflection and hands-on project work encourage youth to practice important skills such as communication, decision making and responsibility. Volunteers play a key role by helping youth make connections between what they do in 4-H and the skills they will need in future school, work and community settings.

By starting strong and reinforcing these ideas all year long, clubs can help ensure youth are truly Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

#BeyondReady

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner! Plan to stay after for the first meeting of the fall semester for MSU Collegiate 4-H!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception

September 20: Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival

Schomaker Farms, Saginaw

Join the Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival for a fun-filled afternoon at Schomaker Farms! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, learning, and community. The public is welcome!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-4-h-fall-festival

September 23: Adulting 101 – Are You Ready?

Online

Get ready for anything! This workshop will teach youth how to stay calm, make a plan and handle emergencies with confidence and safety.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026

October 2: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

University Club of MSU, Lansing

4-H donors and staff with 4-H responsibilities are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting

October 3: Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration

University Club of MSU, Lansing

Join us to celebrate and recognize Michigan's outstanding 4-H youth, alumni, volunteers, partners and staff. Register by September 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-legacy-celebration

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

For more than 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. Celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week! Learn more and find ideas of how to celebrate in your community online.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>

October 5: Go Green for 4-H!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H!

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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Re-enroll for the 2026-2027 program year!

Welcome to September and the new 4-H program year! Beginning Thursday, September 3, you may login to your family's 4-H Online (mi.4honline.com/) account and enroll your 4-H members for the 2026-2027 program year. All returning families should utilize the same email address to access their account as they have in the past.

If you do not remember your login email, do not create a new account, simply contact your county staff member (www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/county/) for assistance. Thanks for being a part of the 4-H community!



**How to Register with 4-H:
Returning Family**

1. Visit **mi.4honline.com**.
2. Log in to your account.*
3. Click "Enroll Now" for the returning member(s).
4. Update information.
5. Continue until you click the final SUBMIT button.
6. Add members if needed.

*If you need assistance accessing your account, contact your local 4-H staff; do not create a new account.

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National 4-H Week: October 4-10

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 4-10, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Join with 4-H'ers around the country in activating on two important initiatives:

Monday, October 5: Go Green!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H! Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag National 4-H, Michigan 4-H program, and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Thursday, October 8: Thankful Thursday

On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the mentors, educators and volunteers who are making positive impact on you people's lives in 4-H. Share who you're thankful for and celebrate how they are making a difference on Thursday, October 8! Share your 'Thankful' story on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Learn more about more ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week.

Wild Spartans returns!

Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration required:

www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:
www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Clare County News



Save the Date! Our annual Clare County 4-H Awards Night will be held on November 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the Event Center on the Clare County Fairgrounds. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments, leadership, and achievements of our 4-H members and volunteers. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special evening of recognition!

Awards Night Reminder

Our 4-H leaders have submitted their nominations for this year's Awards Night. If you received a nomination, congratulations! Being nominated is an honor and reflects the hard work, growth, and dedication you have shown through your 4-H experience.

Please take a few minutes to complete the awards application that was sent to you. Be sure to answer each question to the best of your ability, as your responses help the selection committee learn more about your accomplishments and 4-H journey. We look forward to recognizing our outstanding members at Awards Night!

Application Deadline is September 23.

4-H Re-Enrollment & Recruitment



It's time to re-enroll in 4-H Online for the 2026-2027 4-H year! Returning members should complete their enrollment starting **SEPTEMBER 3** and by December 1 to remain active and continue receiving club and county communications. All 4-H volunteers are also expected to enroll in 4-H Online this year as well.

Be sure to check out our upcoming 4-H recruitment events happening across the county. If you know a young person or family interested in 4-H, please encourage them to attend and learn about the many opportunities available. We look forward to welcoming new members, families, and volunteers to Clare County 4-H!



4-H Volunteer Corner

SPIN Clubs: Share Your Passion with 4-H!



Do you have a passion for knitting, cooking, sewing, cake decorating, science, photography, or a special craft? Have you ever wanted to share that skill with young people but weren't sure you could commit to being a year-round club leader? A SPIN Club (Special Interest Club) may be the perfect fit!

SPIN Clubs are short-term programs, typically meeting for about six sessions, that allow volunteers to teach a specific skill or hobby. They offer a smaller time commitment while providing a meaningful learning experience for youth. If you have a talent you'd like to share, we'd love to help you create a SPIN Club and inspire the next generation of 4-H members. Contact Renee to learn more about starting a SPIN Club in Clare County!

Council Officer Elections

Are you looking for a way to become more involved in Clare County 4-H? We will be holding Council Officer Elections following the Annual Leader Meeting on September 23. Positions open for election include President, Vice President (Youth), and Secretary.

Serving as a council officer is a great opportunity to help shape the future of our county 4-H program, share ideas, and represent the interests of our members and volunteers. If you are interested in serving in one of these leadership roles, please plan to stay for the Council Meeting and consider putting your name forward. Fresh ideas and new voices are always welcome!

4-H Club
Officers





4-H Volunteer Corner

Growing Clare County 4-H



As we look to grow the Clare County 4-H program, we need dedicated volunteers who are willing to help create opportunities for youth. I know some clubs may feel they are already at capacity, and that may be true. However, there are still many young people and families in our county who would love the chance to be involved in 4-H.

Did you know that a 4-H club only needs five members from at least two families and two active Gold Volunteers to get started? If you've been an inactive Gold Volunteer and have considered starting a new club, now is a great time to explore that possibility. Whether your interests are livestock, crafts, STEM, outdoor recreation, or another topic, there may be youth looking for exactly the opportunity you can provide.

The good news is that you don't have to start from scratch. We have a variety of 4-H project curricula and resources available to help club leaders plan meetings and activities. If you're interested in starting a new club or learning more about the support available, I'd love to have a conversation with you. Together, we can continue to grow Clare County 4-H and reach even more youth and families.

Honors Club

Monetary Prize Levels

Bronze	10 - 17 points	\$25
Silver	18 - 24 points	\$50
Gold	25 + points	\$75

Clare County 4-H Clubs can earn Honor Club points throughout the 2026-2027 4-H year!

To receive credit, simply complete the monthly Honor Club reporting form found at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/clare/clare_county_4_h/honor-clubs

Important Reminders:

- Submit one form at the end of each month.
- Designate one club leader to report activities and achievements for the club.
- Points will be tracked throughout the year and totaled at the end of August.

Reporting your club's activities is an easy way to showcase the great work your members are doing and earn recognition for your club's efforts throughout the year.

Questions? Contact Clare County 4-H Program Coordinator Renee Sanders at biselsr@msu.edu.

Don't forget to submit your monthly report and help your club earn Honor Club recognition!

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4-H Family News

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Ready**