



# 4-H Family News

July 2026

## Jackson County Connections



**COUNT DOWN  
TO FAIR!**

Fair is just around the corner! Stay informed and up to date by attending your club and association meetings, reading Facebook posts, and checking the Jackson County Connections newsletter and your email regularly.

Pre fair newsletter will be coming in next couple of weeks with all fair information.

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### WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/>

Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>



### STAY CONNECTED

• Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

• Jackson Co. 4-H Small Animal Assoc. Facebook Page:

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

• Jackson County 4-H Livestock Assoc. Facebook Page:

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

• Jackson County Horse Council Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232601997473213>

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# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Association Meetings Are A Great Opportunity To Meet With Superintendents To Discuss Fair Related Questions, Species Specific Info, & Expectations Packets.  
Hope To See You There!!

## July Meetings

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**  
Horse Council – MSUE Office

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**  
Small Animal Association  
MSU Extension Office

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**  
Livestock Association  
MSU Extension Office

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> & Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Summer Sewing Workshop

## July Meetings Continued

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 8-11am**  
Pullorum Testing (Poultry Kids)  
Jackson County Fairgrounds

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – ALL SPECIES**  
Fairground Setup/Clean up  
10am (Lg & Small)  
Jackson Fairgrounds

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm**  
4-H Council  
MSUE Office





2026 4-H Fair Schedule



**Sunday, July 26th**

Large Animal Set-up - Beef 10am, Swine 11am, Sheep 12pm  
 Small Animal Barn Set-up 10am

**Thursday, August 6th**

Still Project Judging 4-H Only Gumper Bldg 4pm-8:30pm

**Friday, August 7th**

Rabbit Check-in Sm Animal Tent 5-8pm  
 Poultry Check-in Poultry Barn 6-9pm

**Saturday, August 8th**

Dairy Check-in 8am-11pm  
 Horse Check-in 10am-1pm  
 Sheep Check-in 8am-10am  
 Goat Check-in 9:30am-11:30am  
 Beef Check-in 1pm-4pm  
 Swine Check-in/Weigh-in 6pm-9pm  
 Pocket Pets Sm Animal Tent TBA

**Sunday, August 9th**

Rabbit Showmanship Covered Arena 8:30am  
 Performance Covered Arena To Follow  
 Horse & Pony Outside Arena 10am  
 Dairy Pre Fair Mtg 10am  
 Sheep Covered Arena 1pm  
 Dog Show Covered Arena 5pm

**Monday, August 10th**

Dairy - 4-H and Open Showmanship & Performance Covered Arena 8:30am  
 Beef Showmanship Covered Arena 2pm  
 Market Covered Arena To Follow  
 Rabbit Costume Contest Sm Animal Tent 6pm

**Tuesday, August 11th**

Swine Showmanship Covered Arena 8am  
 Performance/Breed Covered Arena To Follow  
 Poultry Quality Poultry Barn 9am  
 Showmanship Sm Animal Tent To Follow

**Tuesday, August 11th continued**

Horse & Pony Outside Arena 9am  
 Cloverbud Show Covered Arena After Hog Show  
 Adult Showmanship Covered Arena To Follow

**Wednesday, August 12th**

Goats Showmanship Covered Arena 8:30am  
 Market Covered Arena To Follow  
 Costume Covered Arena To Follow  
 Horse & Pony Showmanship Championship Covered Arena 3pm  
 Awards Ceremony Covered Arena To Follow  
 Large Animal Sweepstakes Covered Arena 6pm

**Thursday, August 13th**

Large Animal Luncheon Covered Arena Noon  
 Lg Animal Auction Registration Covered Arena 12:30pm  
 Large Animal Auction Covered Arena 2pm  
 Swine Load Out 11pm

**Friday, August 14th**

Small Animal Sweepstakes Covered Arena 6pm  
 4-H Fun Day TBA

**Saturday, August 15th**

Large Animal Thank You Cards due 10am-Noon  
 Sm Animal Auction Registratio Covered Arena 10:00  
 Sm Animal Brunch Covered Arena 10:30am  
 Small Animal Auction Covered Arena 11:30am  
 Swine Tear Down 10pm  
 Load Out - Beef/Sheep/Dairy 11pm

**Sunday, August 16th**

Horse Load Out Ask Superintendents  
 Check Out  
 Goats/Poultry/Rabbits 9-11am  
 Still Projects (4-H Only) 9-11am  
 Pen Tear Down  
 Poultry 8am  
 Goats 9-11am  
 Rabbits 9-11am



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 4-H Volunteer Screening Process

**ALL** fair adult volunteers will need to be either a Gold or Silver Volunteer through our volunteer screening process.

**Gold Volunteer:** These individuals interact with youth and/or adult meaningful ways on behalf of MSU Extension. Club leaders, providing training, education, leadership or support to MSU Extension offices, programs, events providing training, education, leadership or support to MSU Extension offices, programs, events

**Silver Volunteer:** These individuals have no direct interaction with youth or vulnerable populations and no to low opportunity to form relationships with youth or vulnerable populations on behalf of MSU Extension. 4-H events at fair such as scooping ice cream, concessions, helping at auctions

Link to application: [https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/application\\_info](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/application_info)

## Jackson County 4-H 2026 Expectation Packets

[Poultry Expectation Packet](#)

[Rabbit Expectation Packet](#)

[Goat Expectation Packet](#)

[Dog Expectation Packet](#)

[Beef Expectation Packet](#)

[Sheep Expectation Packet](#)

[Dairy Expectation Packet](#)

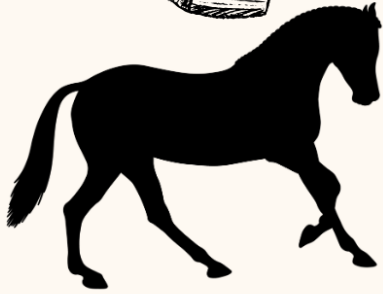
[Swine Expectation Packet](#)



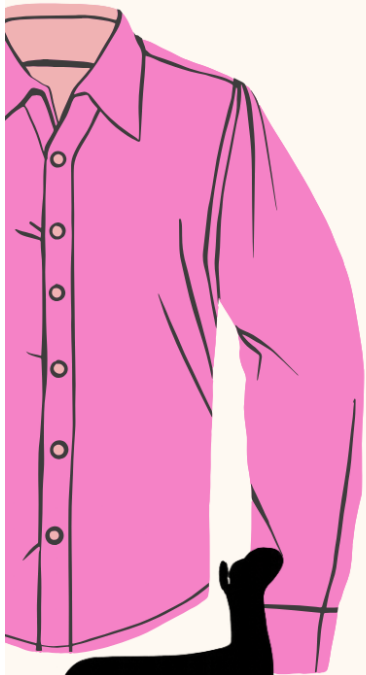
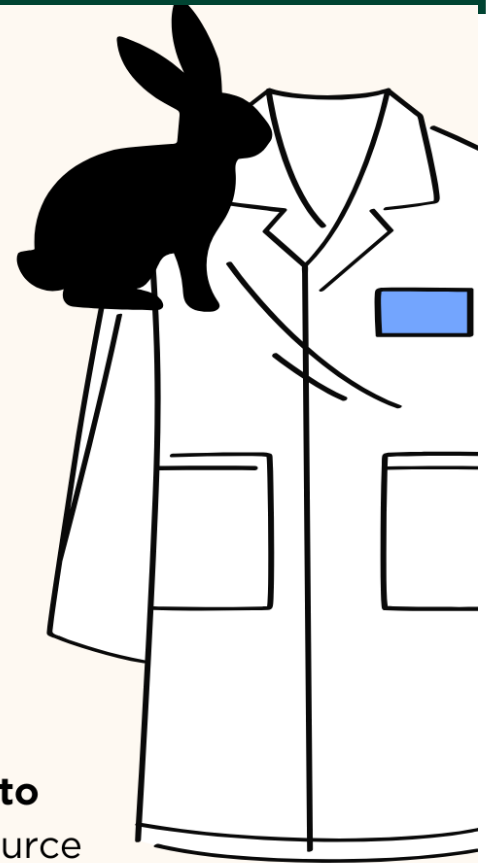
**Jackson County 4-H Exhibitors:**  
**Please take time to review your project expectations packet, where you'll find important details for each species.**

These can all be found on our MSU Extension website under

4-H [Jackson County Fair](#)



# 4-H Closet



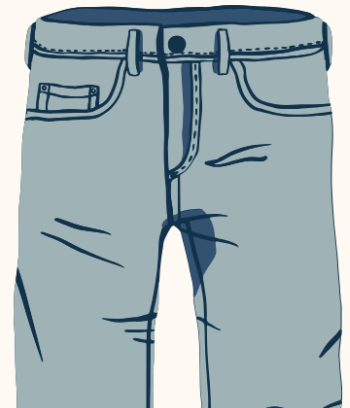
**Jackson County 4-H is excited to launch the 4-H Closet**, a new resource that helps families avoid buying new show clothes each year as youth grow. Donations of gently used, clean show clothing and equipment are being accepted at the MSU Extension Office. They will be available to all Jackson County 4-H members during the Jackson County Fair.

**Some items needed include:**

Long-sleeve white button-up shirts, show shirts, jeans, rubber boots & boots, belts, show equipment, and white lab coats.



**Together, we can support youth participation while easing costs for families.**





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready through the fair experience**



## Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

### July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

*Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing*

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days)

### July 16: Water Day

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day)

### July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

*Haithco Park, Saginaw*

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp)

### July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day)

### July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

*The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City*

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026)

### July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).



## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at [mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship](http://mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship).





# Fair Prep BECAUSE IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PREPARING

## How To Market Your 4-H Livestock Project



**Want to Rock Your 4-H Auction Experience?**

**Learn how to market your project like a pro, attract potential buyers to the auction, and write a thank you card that really stands out (because it should be more than just "thanks for supporting me")!**

**Check out these helpful links for tips, ideas, and inspiration to make the most of your 4-H journey!**



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/BUFF](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/buff)

[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SHEEP-GOATS](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/sheep-goats)



[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS/4-H-ANIMAL-PROJECT-MARKETING-RESOURCES/SMALL-ANIMAL](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/small-animal)

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth\\_business\\_guide\\_to\\_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/general-marketing-resources](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-h-animal-project-marketing-resources/general-marketing-resources)

- [SHOWMANSHIP/ SWEEPSTAKES PACKETS](#)
- [POULTRY](#)
- [DAIRY GOATS](#)
- [MEAT GOATS](#)
- [RABBITS](#)
- [DOG OBEDIENCE](#)
- [HORSE](#)
- [SHEEP](#)
- [MARKET BEEF](#)
- [SWINE](#)
- [DAIRY](#)



**JACKSON COUNTY FAIR 2026 DATES AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup>**