



June 2026

# 4-H Family News

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond Ready**



## Important dates and times to remember that are outside of regular fair locations and/or dates:

- July 1**            noon            YQCA Cert are Due!
- July 24**            Camping registration deadline
- July 25<sup>th</sup>**        9- noon        Barn Clean up-  
*Bring your rakes, shovel, gloves, tools and a good attitude! 4-H youth who work 2 hours or more in the Barn Clean up get a free pass to the Rodeo!*
- CORRECTION**
- July 27<sup>th</sup>**        6 pm            Carcass Live Evaluation
- July 29**            10 am          Carcass Competition
- July 30**            Mandatory Livestock Meeting
- July 31**            7 pm            Dairy Show
- August 1**        9-noon        Still Project Judging  
1 pm            Cat Show  
Campers may be dropped off
- August 2**        Overnight camping begins

More fair information can be found here:  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/fair-information](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information)

## CONTACT US

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269-383-8830  
[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>  
**Facebook Page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>  
Program-122047197873078

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## Tax Form Requirements for 4-H Auction Participants (W-9 and 1099-MISC Information)

### What do you need to know?

Beginning with the 2026 fair season, MSU Extension must follow Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations requiring livestock and still exhibit auctions to issue a 1099-MISC to any youth who receives \$2,000 or more in total payments from the sale of animals, still exhibits, or related activities within a calendar year. This handout explains what families need to know and how to prepare.

### Why is this happening?

We recently identified a gap in our reporting process and are taking steps to address it moving forward. To avoid placing an unnecessary burden on youth who participate in 4-H auctions, we will not apply the requirement retroactively.

Under federal tax regulations, auctions are required to issue a 1099-MISC form to any youth who receives \$2,000 or more in payments during the calendar year from livestock sales or related activities. To comply, we must collect a W-9 form from youth who meet or may meet this threshold. **This is a federal reporting requirement, not a new MSU policy.**

### What counts toward the \$2,000 threshold?

The IRS requires us to include all payments made directly to the youth when calculating this amount. This includes animal auction proceeds, add-ons, and still-exhibit auction proceeds. If the total payments made to a youth reach \$2,000 or more within a calendar year, a 1099-MISC form will be issued by the MSU Controller's Office (more information below).

### Does my child need to complete a W-9?

Counties conducting 4-H Auctions will require all 4-H youth to submit a W-9 before they are eligible to market their animals or still exhibits, ensuring timely processing. Requirements for completing W-9 forms and issuing 1099-MISC documents for auctions run by fairs or other organizations will be determined by those entities.

### How will W-9s be collected?

W-9 forms will be collected prior to the youth livestock auction through a secure system. The platform ensures that each submitted Social Security Number is digitally encrypted and accessible to an authorized state-level administrator for processing a 1099-MISC.

### Who sends the 1099-MISC?

The MSU Controller's Office will mail 1099-MISC forms directly to families by February 1, 2027, for income earned in 2026. Requirements for completing W-9 forms and issuing 1099-MISC documents for auctions run by fairs or other organizations will be determined by those entities.

### Will my child need to file taxes?

Tax filing requirements vary. **MSU and MSU Extension cannot provide tax advice, but families may consult a tax professional or IRS resources. Receiving a 1099-MISC does not automatically mean your child owes taxes.**

### What should families do now?

Be aware of the new reporting requirements for 2026, plan to complete a W-9 if your child participates in 4-H [auctions](#), and ask questions early.



**It's that time of year to sign up to help with 4-H activities during Kalamazoo County Fair!**

Adults who are volunteering need to be at minimum silver level screened through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process prior to July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Please use Sign Up Genius link below to help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-64661680-2026#/>


Not a MSU Volunteer yet? Start your volunteer application here!

[Login - Michigan State University Volunteers](#)

**Please be sure to complete ALL Authorizations and Signatures on the application! Incomplete applications *Can Not* be approved.**



# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BANK & TRUST

[www.smb-t.com](http://www.smb-t.com) | 800.379.7628 | Member FDIC | 

Portage Branch  
531 W Kilgore Road

## Southern Michigan Bank & Trust is proud to support 4-H!

4-H participants who visit the SMBT Portage Branch with an animal sponsorship request letter will be given a free feed bucket and a set of playing cards.\*

\*While supplies last.





## Kalamazoo County Parks Department is looking for local groups and organizations to get involved in the 2026 Fair!



### Exhibit at the 2026 Kalamazoo County Fair

The Fair is looking for vendors and community organizations to exhibit at the fair. It's a great opportunity to connect with families across Kalamazoo County!

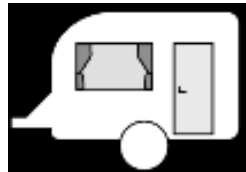
**Commercial Vendors:** Businesses and organizations looking to sell products or promote their services at the fair.

**Makers Market:** Selling or promoting a handcrafted or handmade item? The Maker's Market is the place for you.

If you or someone you know fits into one of these categories, visit [www.kalamazooountyfair.com](http://www.kalamazooountyfair.com) for more information and registration forms.

### Sponsor the Kalamazoo County Fair

We are expanding the fair to bring our community together in exciting new ways by building on cherished traditions while introducing fresh entertainment, interactive attractions, and enhanced family-friendly activities. We need sponsors to help with financial support to assist with event costs including all the new entertainment and activities. If you know of a business or organization that might be interested in sponsoring the Fair, please reach out to Mandy Eldred at 269-383-8778. Or visit [www.kalamazooountyfair.com](http://www.kalamazooountyfair.com) to see the 2026 sponsorship packages.



### **Fair Camping ( details on next page)**

Beginning May 1, you can call and make your camping reservations for the 2026 fair. Cost is \$189 plus \$5 reservation fee for the week (8/2-8/9). Septic pump-outs will be available on Wednesday 8/5 for \$45. Camping units may be dropped off on Saturday, August 1, but no overnight camping is permitted on Saturday night. All campers must be removed from the grounds by Sunday 8/9 at 12pm. **To make reservations call 269-383-8778**



# GET YOUR 2026 FAMILY FAIR PASSES NOW!

The fillable Family Pass form can be found on the Fair Page here:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/fair-information](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information)

Completed forms can be submitted to the Kalamazoo County Parks Department at the Expo center  
2900 Lake Street  
Kalamazoo MI 49048

or Emailed to Mandy at:

[mandy.eldred@kalcounty.gov](mailto:mandy.eldred@kalcounty.gov)



shutterstock.com - 2488038141

Passes will be available to pick up July 30 at Mandatory Meeting.



Each Kalamazoo County 4-H youth member that participates in barn clean-up day on **Saturday, July 25** will receive 1 free Rodeo ticket. Rodeo will be held on **Saturday, August 8 at 7pm.**

To earn the coupon, the 4-H youth member must volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours.

Each 4-H youth member must sign the attendance sheet provided by 4-H on clean-up day with **both arrival and departure times.**



## 2026 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Camping Fees & Information

**Beginning on May 1, 2026 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Camping Fees:            | Weekly Rate - \$189.00 per week (8/2-8/9)<br>Reservations made after July 24 are \$224 per week   |
| Advance Reservation Fee: | One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all reservations  |
| Septic Service:          | A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 5. |

**Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!**

**Deadline for Camping Registration**

**July 24, 2026**

**Camping units may be dropped off from 9am-3pm on Saturday, August 1.**

**Overnight camping is NOT permitted on Saturday, August 1.**

**Overnight camping begins on Sunday, August 2.**

**All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 12:00 pm on Sunday, August 9**

### **CAMPING POLICIES:**

- Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.
- Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.
- Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.
- Cancellations will be accepted until July 24, 2026. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 24, 2026 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 24, 2026.
- Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.

**AS A REMINDER: Golf Carts, Gators, ATV's (4-wheelers), UTV's (side-by-sides), ORV's, mini-bikes, go-carts and similar motorized devices are prohibited. Bicycles and Class 1 E-bikes (pedal assisted, up to 20mph) are permitted in the campground area only. Class 2 and 3 E-bikes and other electric motor devices are prohibited.**



## 2026 Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

### ENTER PHOTO AND VIDEO PROJECTS IN SHOWCASE

Michigan youth ages 5-19 as of Jan 1, 2026 are eligible to enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase and share their projects online. There is no fee to enter and 4-H membership is not required.

There are classes in livestock and animal showmanship, still exhibits, contests, educational and leadership, and more! Youth can enter multiple classes and receive positive and constructive feedback from evaluators. Youth can enter the same project in a local or county fair but cannot enter the same project in the in-person Michigan State Fair.

**The registration deadline is August 7, 2026.**

### SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Participants in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase also can apply for up to \$1,000 in post-secondary education scholarships.

Michigan youth, ages 8-19 years old as of Jan. 1, 2026, who submit a project in the virtual showcase are eligible to apply in their age bracket (8-11, 12-15 and 16-19). The deadline to apply for scholarships is Monday, August 10, 2026 at 4 p.m. EST.

The Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase Scholarship is provided by the Michigan State Fair Foundation and supported by the Bowman family.



### For more information:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>

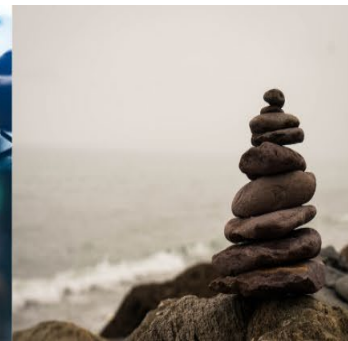
Questions, please contact Janelle Stewart at [stewa191@msu.edu](mailto:stewa191@msu.edu) or Laurie Rivetto at [rivettoL@msu.edu](mailto:rivettoL@msu.edu).

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## Michigan 4-H Adulting 101



### **Think Before You Click! - Wednesday, July 8 at 6 p.m. EST**

This workshop will focus on smart ways to stay safe online — from protecting your privacy to spotting scams and handling social media responsibly.

Stay connected, confident, and cyber-smart!

Look for the full list of Adulting 101 for 2026 here!  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>

**Next month:**

**Roadmap to a Smart Used Car Purchase –  
Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m. ET**

Are you hoping to buy a reliable used car on a budget? Are you nervous that you may spend good money on a car that is a “lemon”? Are you wanting to purchase a used car, but have no idea where to start? Whether you are new to the used car buying process or it has been a while since you made this type of purchase, this workshop will provide tips, resources and strategies to help you make an informed decision with confidence.



# Your Kalamazoo 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved.

It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn

what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects,

please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*.

([https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming\\_a\\_4\\_h\\_volunteer/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/))

Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at

[https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_home](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home)

prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in several projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to lead them!



ALONE  
WE CAN  
DO SO LITTLE.  
TOGETHER  
WE CAN  
DO SO MUCH.  
-HELEN KELLER



# 2026 4-H Fair Schedule



## Off site

- **Monday, July 27**, 6:00pm Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation - Pease Packing, Scotts, MI (Animals must arrive before 5:30pm)
- **Wednesday, July 29**, 10:00am Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements - Pease Packing, Scotts, MI
- **Friday, July 31**, 7:00pm Dairy Show - Vlietstra Dairy Farm, Kalamazoo, MI

## At the Fairgrounds

### **Saturday, August 1, 2026**

|                |  |                               |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 9:00 am – noon | Still Project Judging and Display Set Up | Main Expo Center and 4-H Barn |
| 1:00 pm        | Cat Show                                 | Main Expo Center              |

### **Monday, August 3, 2026**

|             |   |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 9:00am      | Horse Showmanship & English Performance Classes | Horse Arena     |
| 2:00-4:00pm | Livestock Practice                              | Livestock Arena |
| 4:00 pm     | Livestock Arena set up                          | Livestock Arena |
| 6:00 pm     | Rabbit Showmanship                              | Livestock Arena |

### **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**

|         |                                    |                                      |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | Horse Dressage and Jumping Classes | Horse Arena                          |
| 8:00 am | Poultry Show                       | Livestock Arena                      |
| 1:00 pm | Market Rabbit Show                 | Livestock Arena                      |
| 6:00 pm | Sheep Show                         | Livestock Arena                      |
| 6:00 pm | Fashion Review                     | Demonstration and Performances Stage |

### **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**

|         |                       |                 |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 am | Horse Western Classes | Horse Arena     |
| 9:00 am | Swine Show            | Livestock Arena |
| 4:00 pm | Feeder Calf Show      | Livestock Arena |
| 6:00 pm | Beef Show             | Livestock Arena |

### **Thursday, August 6, 2026**

|         |   |                 |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| 9:00 am | Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes            | Horse Arena     |
| 9:00 am | Goat Show                                       | Livestock Arena |
| 1:00 pm | All Species Showmanship clinic                  | Livestock Arena |
| 2:00 pm | Enduro- All Species Showmanship                 | Livestock Arena |
| 4:00 pm | Miniature Horse Showmanship                     | Horse Arena     |
| 5:30 pm | Livestock Family Pizza Party and Auction Set Up | Livestock Arena |

### **Friday, August 7, 2026**

|          |                      |                      |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Livestock Auction    | Livestock Arena      |
| 10:00 am | Horse Costume Class  | Horse Arena          |
| 1:00 pm  | Horse Fun and Games  | Horse Arena          |
| 1:00 pm  | Miniature Horse Show | Horse Arena          |
| TBD      | Horse Awards program | Horse Arena          |
| 7-10 pm  | 4-H Dance            | Livestock Show Arena |

### **Saturday, August 8, 2026**

|          |                                    |                         |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Dog Show                           | Main Expo               |
| 9:00 am  | Rabbit Agility                     | TBD                     |
| 10:00 am | Livestock Judging Contest          | Livestock Arena         |
| 12:00 pm | Horse Drill Team Demonstration     | Horse Arena             |
| 12:00 pm | THANK YOU NOTES TURNED IN DEADLINE | Project Superintendents |
| 2:00 pm  | Milk Drinking Contest              | Livestock Arena         |
| 3:00 pm  | Master Showmanship                 | Livestock Arena         |



# Kalamazoo COUNTY FAIR

August 4-8, 2026



We are continuing to round out the schedule for this year's Fair! We will have lots of new and exciting activities this year on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday! Enjoy daily attractions like Kiddie Land, classic carnival games, rock wall, mechanical bull, R/C truck rock course, mini golf, petting farm, and pony rides for all ages. And of course, we'll have all your favorite fair foods like elephant ears, french fries, & corn dogs! Our featured entertainment includes The Stone Age Show, The Steamers Thrill Show, and the Foam Fun Zone. The Community Stage will showcase local talent, princess sing-a-longs, and magic shows, while the Main Stage will feature karaoke during the day and a live band in the evenings. Wrapping up the week will be the Flying Star Rodeo on Saturday at 7pm.

For the complete  
event schedule visit:  
[www.kalamazooountyfair.com](http://www.kalamazooountyfair.com)



We are also partnering with the Best Damn Sport & Social Club of Kalamazoo to host a kickball tournament on Saturday. If you know anyone that wants to get a team together here's the registration link - [bit.ly/4e9eb1S](http://bit.ly/4e9eb1S) There will also be a family open play time from 1-3pm on Saturday if you want to join a less competitive game of kickball!



Reservations for camping are now open, you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center. Weekly rate is \$189.00 per week plus \$5.00 reservation fee (8/2-8/9).

You can also purchase your 4-H Family Fair admission pass when you reserve your camping. Fair admission will be \$40 per vehicle for the week and includes access to our featured entertainment and many of the activities. Please note that some attractions and the Rodeo will require separate tickets.

Call 269-383-8778 for reservations! Deadline for camping registration is July 24, 2026



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## to Our Amazing Volunteers and Our Coordinator!



|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Rhonda E | Leslie L   |
| Jamie M  | Eric L     |
| Andrew C | Theresa D  |
| Amber L  | Veronica B |
| Sawyer M | John H     |
| Beth V   | Brad E     |
| Justin F |            |

\*\*\*\*\*

## Poultry Project News

### **Happy Spring!**

*You need to attend 3 meetings to bring your birds to the fair .*

**We only have 1 more meetings scheduled - July 23rd.**

**If you are in the market project,** be sure to print out your market journal and fill in the appropriate details as your birds grow. Those can be found on the 4-H website (link below).

***You also should be working on recruiting buyers.*** The auction will be on Friday, August 7 at 10 AM.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock)



# From the Upper Peninsula to the Motor City — whatever you're trying to do, Extension does that!

## Money Management

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/money-management/index>

This unbiased education presents best practices to help people at any stage in their financial lives. Topics include Making Money Decisions, Creating and Managing a Spending Plan, the Importance of Saving and Investing, And Credit/Debt Management.

\* \* \*  
— — —



## Bee Keeping

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

Michigan State University Extension's free online course [Is Beekeeping Right for Me?](#) will guide you through the many considerations of getting started with beekeeping. This online course introduces you to beekeeping and suggests ways that you can help honey bees and all pollinators.





SAVE THE DATE

MICHIGAN

APPLE 

CRUNCH

October 15, 2026

**Mark your calendar! The 2026 Michigan Apple Crunch will be celebrated on Thursday, October 15!**

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

Look for the Crunch registration to be released in August along with an \*updated\* Crunch Guide and \*new\* Michigan Apple Crunch resources. Please make sure to follow the Michigan Apple Crunch Facebook page for the latest updates and to post pictures of your Crunch when you celebrate on October 15th.

We're grateful to [Michigan Apples](#) for partnering with [Michigan State University Extension](#) and the [Michigan Farm to Institution Network](#) for support of the Crunch this year!



## Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

[http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h\\_name.htm](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h_name.htm).

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

### Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an "H" on each leaf.
- The numeral "4" separated from a capital "H" with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover's stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement "18 USC 707" **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The "18 USC 707" should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

### Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H's reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H's can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H's can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H's can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H's can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

### Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the\\_clover\\_the\\_4\\_h\\_emblem\\_and\\_how\\_to\\_use\\_correctly\\_part\\_1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1)



### And Remember-

It is ALWAYS  
4 - dash - capital H  
Never 4H or 4h  
**Always 4-H**



**We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!**

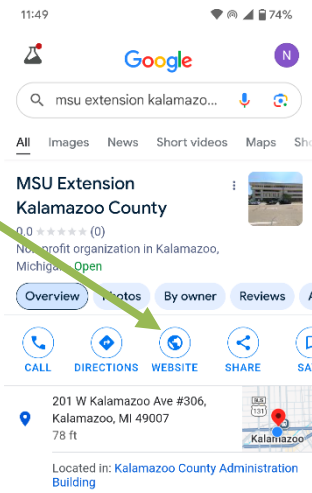
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

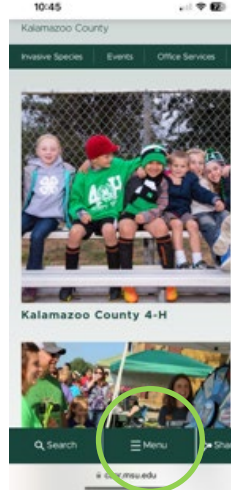
- 1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County
- 2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>
- 3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/index)
- 4 - Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen
- 5 - Click on project guidelines
- 6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



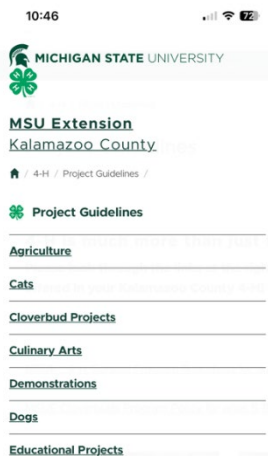
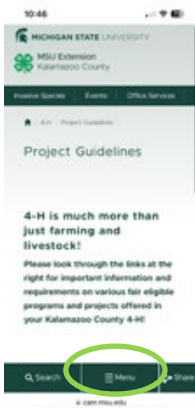
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



## Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

**Have fun!**



# 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).

