MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

November 2026

4-H Family News

Ogemaw

Happy November 4-H Families!

I cannot believe it's already November.
For me, November is a time to reflect on gratitude and everything to be thankful for. I have so much appreciation in this position;

I am thankful for every incredible 4-H youth who participates in our programs.
I am thankful for the wonderful volunteers who bring the knowledge and experiences to the youth in 4-H. (And myself because they honestly teach me too)
I am thankful for the amazing parents, grandparents, guardians, family/friends, and businesses who support the youth and 4-H programs in our community.
I am thankful for our awesome fair board for their support of 4-H and keeping some of the most beautiful fairgrounds in the state well maintained.
I am thankful for my caring coworkers for being so supportive and creating a great workplace environment.

I say this all genuinely from my heart. You all make 4-H what it is in our county, and it is such a pleasure to be surrounded by some truly wonderful people.

So, thank you **all** for everything that you do and the many ways you support 4-H.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Stephens

CONTACT US



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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Developing a growth mindset through 4-H

Beyond Ready

Learning often comes through challenges, mistakes and trying something new. 4-H helps youth develop a growth mindset by encouraging them to persevere, reflect and continue improving their skills over time.

Volunteers can reinforce this by celebrating effort, encouraging problem solving, and helping youth view setbacks as opportunities to learn. When young people learn that success comes from persistence and practice, they gain confidence to tackle future challenges. These experiences help youth become more resilient and better prepared for life beyond 4-H.

#BeyondReady

November 10: Wild Spartans – Migratory Fishes are Amazing!
Online
Splash into the underwater world to follow fish along their journeys with Karen Murchie, director of freshwater research at the Shedd Aquarium. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. Ask questions and learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-november

November 12: Adulting 101 – Paws, Claws and Commitment: The Realities of Animal Care
Online
Explore the true costs, responsibilities and lifestyle considerations of caring for animals—from vet bills and training to choosing the right pet for your space and schedule. Learn how to make informed decisions that honor both you and your future pet.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/realities-of-animal-care

November 17: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series
Online
Explore ways to be highly effective in raising kids to be successful in school and in life with this free online series. Parents of kids from toddlers to teens will explore: developing family routines, developing emotional control in your child, being a calm assertive parent, developing consistent rules and relationships, learning from mistakes, developing empathy and the ability to be thankful.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-nov-dec-2026

November 19: 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Growing Money Skills through 4-H
Online
Financial skills are life skills—and they're skills youth can start growing today. Join this webinar to discover easy, engaging ways to plant financial education into your 4-H club meetings, activities and events. Participants will leave with hands-on activities, discussion starters and ready-to-use resources that help youth build money management skills while having fun. Thanks to the support of MSUFCU, randomly selected attendees will receive a free financial education resource for their clubs.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-growing-money-skills-through-4-h

November 27 – December 13: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply Co. stores statewide
Embrace the holiday spirit and purchase a paper clover at Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)! The Paper Clover campaign will officially launch on Black Friday; support 4-H youth both online or in TSC stores for just $1!
www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, 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. 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 (a beef cow, lamb and dog), now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Michigan 4-H Foundation launches Beyond Ready Campaign to prepare youth for the future



At the Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 3, the Michigan 4-H Foundation announced the public launch of the Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready Campaign, a bold fundraising initiative with a goal of raising $12 million by 2032 to help prepare Michigan youth for the future.

"Today's youth face a rapidly changing world that requires resilience, adaptability and confidence," said Mary Draves, co-chair of the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "Michigan 4-H is uniquely equipped to support youth in developing these critical skills and more. The Beyond Ready Campaign will provide long-term, stable funding that allows Michigan 4-H to continue offering opportunities and experiences that prepare young people to face challenges and thrive, no matter what the future may bring."

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of 4-H participation. Young people involved in 4-H are more likely to develop leadership skills, contribute to their communities and gain confidence in their ability to succeed. The Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready campaign will help ensure future generations of Michigan youth can experience these same benefits by investing in the programs, people and possibilities that bring 4-H to life.

The campaign focuses on five priority areas: **4-H educational opportunities and skills development**; **Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens**; **health, well-being and belonging; emerging needs**; and **endowment investments**, including **county endowments** for localized impact. The campaign also includes a **planned giving goal of securing 40 planned gifts by 2032**, helping to create a lasting legacy of support for Michigan 4- H.

"Today's young people will soon lead our communities, workforce and future," said Joe Hune, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and co-chair of the Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "This campaign will ensure Michigan 4-H can continue to provide life-changing experiences, deliver innovative programs, support diverse learning needs, and help youth from all communities across Michigan become Beyond Ready for future success through 4-H."

The Oct. 3 public launch builds on strong momentum from the campaign's leadership phase. Already $7.3 million, nearly 62% of the $12 million goal, has been raised through more than 5,200 gifts from nearly 2,200 donors. Michigan 4-H alumni, volunteers, families, partners and friends are invited to join the effort to help build a generation that is Beyond Ready through Michigan 4-H.

Every gift to the Beyond Ready Campaign is an investment in Michigan youth and their future. There are many ways to participate, including one-time gifts, multi-year commitments, IRA gifts and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), gifts of stock, planned/estate gifts, or donations of property, grain or other assets. Together, these investments will help expand opportunities, build confidence, spark curiosity and prepare more Michigan youth to be beyond ready for life, leadership and success.

To learn more about the campaign or make a gift to invest in the future of Michigan 4-H, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/beyondready.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Ogemaw County 4-H Enrollment



Enrollment for the 2026-27 year will be closing by the end of the year. Our beef, sheep, goat, and swine clubs are at maximum capacity, and registration is closed for them. If you are still interested, please contact the office for more information on our waitlist.

steph544@msu.edu

989-345-0692

HOLIDAYS

Wednesday November 11th is Veteran's Day. Thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifices.

Please note: the county building is closed that day. MSU Extension staff will be working remotely.

MSU Extension will be observing the Holiday Thursday November 26 – Friday November 27th, returning to the office on Monday, November 30th.

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ogemaw 4-H Livestock Meetings

January 21, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

March 18, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

May 20, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

July 15, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

September 16, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

November 18, 2026 | 6:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

Ogemaw 4-H Council Meetings

January 21, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

March 18, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

May 20, 2026 | 7:00pm | MSU Extension Office 205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

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Happy opening day of bow hunting! Looking to see where land boundaries are? Pick up an Ogemaw County Plat book for $35.00. These are available at:

- MSU Extension: 205 S 8th Street, West Branch, MI 48661
- Ogemaw County Register of Deeds: 806 W. Houghton Ave, West Branch, MI 48661
- Ogemaw County Herald: 215 W Houghton Ave, West Branch, MI 48661
- City of Rose City: 410 N Williams St, Rose City, MI 48654



Through a new initiative with Tractor Supply and Starlink, you can help support 4-H'ers and provide more access to opportunity.
From Sept. 1 – Nov. 15, for every Starlink Kit purchased and registered at Tractor Supply, the first month's subscription will support 4-H.
In addition, customers receive $50 off each Starlink Kit purchased in store or online at Tractor Supply from September 15–November 15.
Reliable internet access opens doors to learning, leadership, career exploration, and connection – especially in rural communities. Together, we're building a future where every young person can be Beyond Ready.
Learn more: https://4-h.org/.../tractor-supply-and-4-h-collaborate.../



VOLUNTEER WITH MICHIGAN 4-H

Michigan 4-H is the youth development program of Michigan State University Extension. Through fun, hands-on educational opportunities, Michigan 4-H is helping to prepare a ready generation in a world of change. And critical to delivering these opportunities are volunteers - the most essential partner in the 4-H program.

Consider becoming a Michigan 4-H volunteer today and help to prepare the next generation. By giving your time, talent and skills, you can help ready youth for whatever the future holds. Give an hour a week, month or year - there are volunteer roles for any skill level, time commitment and interest area.

With your help, more kids will be ready to take on the world. More youth, more community, more ready!

Make a difference



Share your talent



Support your community





Enhance your skills



Grow your network



Pass on your interests

Ready to get started?

Volunteer experiences are available in every Michigan county with opportunities to engage at the local, state, national and even international level. To get started, simply scan the QR code or visit extension.msu.edu/4Hvolunteers. To connect with 4-H in your county, contact:

Ogemaw County MSU Extension

205 S 8th St West Branch, MI 48661

Program Coordinator: Stephanie Stephens

989-345-0692 or steph544@msu.edu

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Beyond Ready

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4-H MERCHANDISE

Looking to represent 4-H for our county? We are happy to provide merchandise for Ogemaw County 4-H! Explore our collection of stylish t-shirts and hoodies, available in a variety of colors and sizes for both youth and adults. Every purchase helps to promote and celebrate the local impact of 4-H. You can receive an additional 15% off your purchase by applying the code **15OFF4-HOC** at checkout. If you're looking to save even more, feel free to select in-store pickup with 313 Designs located at 313 W. Houghton Ave. STE A. West Branch, MI 48661. Don't miss out—grab yours today!

Shop Here: https://www.313designswb.com/shop/4-h/Y5YHVJHU7LCX5C2QZGFPSTSC

*Please note, we do not have these available for purchase in the office, they are available online only.

