MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

NOVEMBER 2026

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County

Volunteers Needed for Washtenaw County 4-H Holiday Tree Sale

Mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Tree Sale hosted by the 4-H Advisory Council on November 28th-29th and December 5th and 6th. The sale will be held at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds in Building G on each Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm and each Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.

This is a great opportunity to volunteer and support your 4-H program! Youth will help talk to customers, make change for customers, and help load up trees. One adult or parent is required for each shift to help our younger sellers. We also need volunteers for set up on Sunday November 22nd.

This great event supports Washtenaw County 4-H in many ways by funding scholarships, our recognition program, outreach, and more.

Sign up a 4-H'er or 4-H Volunteer here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949A5AC2EA2F49-67121074-2026

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

Ambassadors Meeting
November 11th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Advisory Council Meeting
November 12th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee Meeting
November 19th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Board/Association Meeting
November 24th at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Holiday Tree Sale
November 28-29th & December 5-6th at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

CONTACT US

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

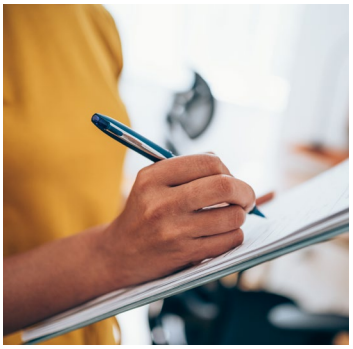
Washtenaw County 4-H Ada May and Webb Harwood Scholarship & Other Scholarships for 4-H Members



We are now accepting applications for the Ada May and Webb Harwood Memorial Scholarship. The applications is now available on our website and due on December 1st. This scholarship is for youth who have participated in either animal science or home economics projects during their time in 4-H or FFA. Youth show be incoming freshman or higher continuing their education at an accredited institution of high education.

Check out the application for the full list of qualifications.
Questions? Contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Superintendents Applications Open



Interested in taking on a role as a superintendent at the 4-H Youth Show? We are looking for folks who are passionate about a project area and providing positive educational opportunities for youth at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.

If you're interested, please look over superintendent responsibilities and the letter of intent. We ask that all letters of intent (new applicants and existing superintendents) be returned to the office by November 2nd.

There are plenty of opportunities available, including animal and non-animal barn specific superintendents! Questions? Please contact Amy, harr1976@msu.edu.

Teen or Adult Instructors Needed for Project Galore on February 7th



Still Projects Committee is planning for Project Galore on Sunday February 7th in the afternoon. Project Galore is an afternoon program where 4-H members get to attend a few introductory sessions on different projects (arts & crafts, STEM, food, etc.).

We are looking for instructors (teens, volunteers, or other adults) to teach sessions. Sessions can be 1 hour or 2 hours and should be hands-on and interactive. We are especially interested in sessions on watercolors, interesting arts and crafts, and anything else you think kids would be interested in!

If you are interested in teaching or know someone who might be, please contact Jenny at speyerje@msu.edu.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Interested in Joining our Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology and/or Horse Judging Teams?



Washtenaw County 4-H is looking for registered 4-H members (ages 5-19) to join our Hippology Team and/or Horse Judging Team! Both events at MSU don't have specific dates yet but are usually in mid to late March. Hippology is the study of all horse-related knowledge, including judging, anatomy, breeds, colors, care, equipment, tack, health and welfare, and riding disciplines. Horse Judging is your opportunity to become the judge and place horses based on conformation (halter) and performance (riding).

Both teams compete against other Michigan counties and senior divisions can qualify for the national contest. Cost is roughly $23 per member, per team. Optional study sessions will start in early February.

If you are interested in participating on both/either teams, please contact Angela Oakman by January 31, 2027 - email: angela_oakman@yahoo.com cell: 734-395-9714 (call or text). The Practice Horse Judging Workshop (TBD on the date of this event but it is usually in early February) is highly recommend for anyone participating on the Horse Judging team. Check out the MSUE website for more information.

S & L Bauernhof Brings Farm Fun & Education to Whitmore Lake Trunk or Treat





On October 25, S & L Bauernhof participated in the Whitmore Lake Trunk or Treat event, helping bring smiles, hands-on learning, and a little bit of farm life to more than 200 children in attendance.

Club members brought a wonderful variety of animals to help educate the public and spread joy, including a cow, a sheep, goats, a chicken, a bunny, a guinea pig, and a horse. Families enjoyed the opportunity to see the animals up close, ask questions, and learn more about their care and role on the farm.

The youth of S & L Bauernhof played an important role throughout the event, confidently handling the animals and proudly sharing their knowledge and skills with community members. Their participation showcased the leadership, responsibility, and communication skills they have developed through 4-H.

This event was a meaningful opportunity for S & L Bauernhof to represent 4-H, connect with local families, and share the joy of agriculture with the community.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Bits of Knowledge: Mini Equine Clinics Hosted by Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Board



These new and exciting clinics held before select horse board meetings will offer practical horse tips and equine education! The first session will be on Winter Horse Care on November 24th and start at 6:30 pm. Topics will vary throughout the year, ranging from show preparation and grooming tips to health and nutrition! These sessions are designed to provide useful information that you can use right away! All ages are welcome and you can also stay after for the Horse Association meeting!

Congrats to Our New County Board Officers



Congratulations to all the 4-H youth who were elected onto our countywide boards this fall. We love to see youth stepping up for these volunteer roles. Also thank you to our adults who are serving as mentors and facilitators for these youth. This includes:

Horse

- President: Aamenah Jamil of Hooves & Paws
- Vice President: Peyton Skeans Independent
- Secretary: Izzy Kharsa of Hooves and Paws
- Treasurer: Annikah Stalhandske of Revel Wranglers
- Corresponding Secretary: Gabby Crowe-Slater of Revel Wranglers
- Members at Large: Amelia Lorch of Hooves & Paws and Gianna DelBene of Pink Pony

Livestock & Dairy

- President: Grace Weidmayer of Country Expressions
- Adult President: Lee Blumenauer
- Vice President: Meghan McLennan of Saline 4-H Farmers
- Adult VP: Elissa Weidmayer
- Secretary: Evan Weidmayer of Country Expressions
- Adult Secretary: Liane Kurowicki
- Treasurer: David Prielipp of Country Expressions
- Adult Treasurer: Nicole Feldkamp

Still Projects

- President: Amy Sweet of S & L Bauernhof
- Vice President: Cheri Harteg
- Secretary: Jean Martin
- Treasurer: **VACANT**

Still Projects is looking for an Adult Treasurer willing to take on the role previously held by Pam Sarlitto. This committee does not have a lot of bank transactions but does need someone who can attend their meetings in August, October, December, February, April, and June. If you are interested, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Junior Livestock Committee: Come Join us for Another Year of Excitement, Fun, and Friendship!

Junior Livestock Committee is always looking for new members to join!

This past weekend, they had the opportunity to bring their petting farm, featuring some of their favorite animals, to Wasem Orchard in Milan. They were honored to be invited to participate in their trick-or-treat festivities as all the little ghosts and goblins came by to see the farm equipment and animals on display. What a fun day they had!





Each month, they take on a new adventure, whether it's a community service project, helping out within our own community or surrounding communities, or simply getting together to enjoy each other's company. They believe in giving back, making a difference, and having a great time along the way!

Why not come be part of the fun? Please consider joining this group. They would love to have you!

If interested, contact Kathy Grau, 734-353-0350, kgrau3437@aol.com.

Seeking Teens Interested in Working on 4-H County Awards



Are you interested in helping update our 4-H County Awards process? Want to look at ways to get more 4-H'ers to apply and nominate folks?

We need your help! If you are between the ages of 12-19 years old and want to attend 2-3 meetings to brainstorm and improve our awards process. These meetings will likely be in person at the MSU Extension Office, but we may consider zoom for some meetings.

If you are interested, please contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Erica Drake Honored as Outstanding 4-H Agriculture Volunteer



Erica Drake, of Washtenaw County, is among five outstanding 4-H volunteers honored with the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award in 2026. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of Michigan 4-H volunteers or groups that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development in the areas of 4-H beef cattle; dairy cattle; goats; horses; horticulture, crops and soils; poultry; rabbits; sheep; swine; and veterinary science project areas.

Drake is a fourth-generation farmer whose lifelong connection to agriculture began on her family's dairy farm in Washtenaw County.

A 4-H alumna herself, Drake gives back to the program in countless ways, helping young people discover the opportunities, skills and sense of purpose that agriculture can provide.

Drake serves in numerous volunteer leadership roles within Washtenaw County 4-H, including co-leader of the Country Expressions 4-H Club, assistant dairy superintendent, livestock auction superintendent and adult vice president of the Washtenaw County 4-H Livestock and Dairy Committee. Through these roles, she creates meaningful opportunities for youth to develop agricultural knowledge, leadership skills and confidence.

She helps coach the Washtenaw County 4-H dairy team, supports youth competing at state and national events, and regularly shares her expertise as a dairy educator during Project Rural Education Days, where she introduces thousands of students to modern agriculture and related career opportunities.



A dedicated mentor, Drake is known for encouraging youth to challenge themselves, pursue leadership opportunities and develop the skills needed for future success. Whether helping young exhibitors prepare their dairy projects, supporting scholarship applicants or mentoring youth leaders, she invests her time and energy in helping others grow.

Please congratulate Erica the next time you see her on this tremendous accomplishment!

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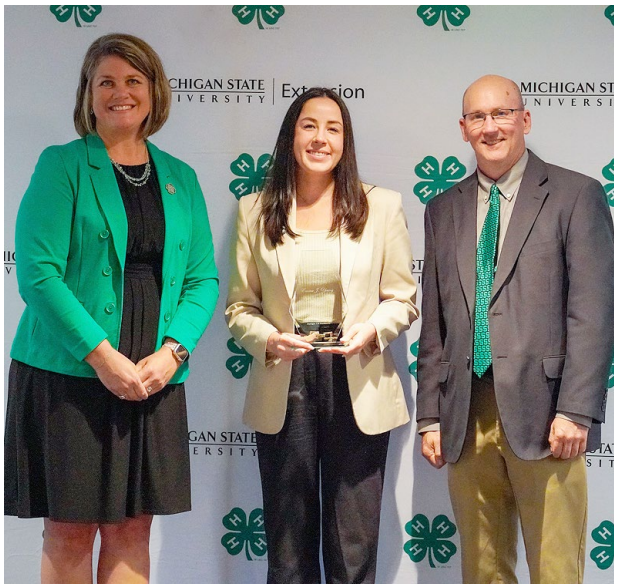
COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Emma Young Named Outstanding 4-H Alumnus



Washtenaw County 4-H alumnus Emma Young, of Detroit, is among nine 4-H alumni inducted into the 2026 class of the Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society. Young was recognized on Oct. 3 during the Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration hosted by Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan 4-H Foundation at the MSU University Club in Lansing.

The Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society honors former Michigan 4-H members whose professional leadership and community service reflect the ultimate outcome of 4-H membership – extraordinary use of an individual's head, heart, hands and health to make communities, the country and the world better places in which to live. This recognition is provided by Michigan 4-H Youth Development with support from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Young has emerged as a leader in public policy and public service, building a career dedicated to improving opportunities for Michigan's children, youth and families. As a graduate of MSU's James Madison College, she earned degrees in social relations and policy and international relations with a minor in Arabic. She has quickly distinguished herself as a trusted advisor and advocate.

Across five years serving Governor Gretchen Whitmer's administration, Young has earned four promotions, advancing from issue specialist to her current title as deputy director of policy. In this role, she oversees the development and implementation of the governor's policy agenda across key issue areas, including early childhood, K-12 and higher education. Her rapid progression of leadership and expertise has been recognized through appointments as a commissioner to both the Education Commission of the States and the Midwest Higher Education Compact.

Young's passion for public service was shaped by her Michigan 4-H experience. As an 11-year member of the Washtenaw County 4-H program, Young served as Rogers Corners Herdsmen 4-H Club president for two years and as Miss Congeniality of the Chelsea Community Fair. At the state level, Young served on the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council, represented Michigan at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., and participated in Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience before returning as a volunteer leader.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 **6:30 pm** - 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	12 **7pm -** Advisory Council Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 ELECTIONS **6pm -** Small Animal Committee Meeting	20	21
22 **6 - 8 pm -** 4-H Advisory Holiday Tree Sale Set Up	23	24 NEW **6:30 pm -** Horse Mini Clinic **7pm -**Horse Board/Association Meeting	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving Extension office closed	27 Start of Tractor Supply Co Paper Clover Campaign	28 **8 am - 5 pm -** 4-H Advisory Holiday Tree Sale
29 **10 am - 5 pm -** 4-H Advisory Holiday Tree Sale	30	31				

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Jenny and we will try our best to add it here!

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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.