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November 2026

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY

Beyond Ready

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Holidays Around the World



Save the date for the 4-H Holidays Around the World event on Saturday, December 12, 2026, at the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center in Westland. This free, open-house program invites youth and families to explore holiday traditions and cultural celebrations from around the globe through hands-on activities, crafts, games, stories, and more. Participants will travel from station to station with a passport, learning about different cultures and traditions along the way.

For more information visit: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/holidays-around-the-world

Volunteers are needed to host activity stations, engage youth and families, and help create a fun and welcoming experience, and share their holiday traditions. No special expertise is required, just a willingness to share, learn, and connect with others. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ashleigh Klein at apleashl@msu.edu.

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Member Spotlight- Cass B.



What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?
2nd place chicken showmanship, 1st place chicken showmanship, 3rd place goat showmanship (I think).

How and when did you get involved with 4-H?
I got involved in 4-H in middle school because my science teacher, Mrs. Wendy Jerome, was offering to bring kids to Pingree Farms to get some extra service hours for school. I went there a couple times for the hours and liked it so much that I signed up for 4-H!

What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?
What really drew me to the program was the animals. Growing up in Grosse Pointe, I never really got to see much wildlife outside of a petting zoo and being able to interact with the animals was something that I really enjoyed. This was especially true for chickens, which happen to be my favorite animals besides cats, although this is partly biased because I have a cat myself.

What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?
I have gained unforgettable knowledge that I would have otherwise been completely unaware of, such as how to care for an animal, how to show an animal, what it's really like to develop a connection with an animal, and things of the like. Furthermore, I have also gained a good number of friendships, and the knowledge of how to start conversations with strangers, which was something I used to, and sometimes still do, struggle with.

What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?
I would tell them to just do it. I'm very glad I did, and I could not name a single downside. Especially for those who are not frequently with farm animals, as it is a great opportunity to learn more about them.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?
My favorite memory of 4-H was my first time showing, which was with my chicken Nugget. I was so worried that I would forget something or not know what the judge was referring to when asking a question, but everything ended up ok, and I even got first place!

What are your plans for the future?
My plans for the future are to finish my last years in 4-H, and then hopefully go to college for architecture somewhere in Michigan.

Do you want to be featured under our member spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form https://forms.gle/U5nBbBYPS3YaNvqZ7

Announcements

Save the Date: Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event

We are excited to announce that the Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at the American Legion Carl E. Stitt Post in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. This year's theme is *"Celebrating a Sweet Year of 4-H!"*Join us as we recognize and celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our Wayne County 4-H community with an evening inspired by all things candy and sweets. Please save the date and plan to join us for this special celebration. Additional event details and registration information will be shared in the coming months.

In addition to recognizing our annual award recipients, the Recognition Event will celebrate many of the outstanding achievements that make Wayne County 4-H so special, including:

- **4-H member and volunteer years of service pin recipients**
- **4-H Exploration Days delegates**
- **Scholarship recipients**
- **Club accomplishments**
- **Special recognition award winners**
- **And many other outstanding youth, volunteers, and supporters who have made a difference throughout the 4-H year**

Wayne County 4-H Award Applications and Nominations Are Now Open!
Applications and nominations for the 2025-2026 Wayne County 4-H Awards Program are now being accepted. This is your opportunity to recognize the dedication, leadership, service, sportsmanship, project accomplishments, and overall impact of our youth members, volunteers, clubs, and community supporters.

Application Period: October 1 - December 1, 2026
Deadline: All applications and nominations must be submitted by December 1, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Award information and application links can be found here:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/2025-2026-4-h-recognition-event

All applications must be submitted through the online application system, unless paper applications are requested ahead of time. Links to each award and its application can be found below.
Please note: Some awards require a letter of recommendation to be submitted with the online application.
Be sure to have all materials ready before starting.
We recommend drafting your responses in a Word document before submitting online.

Please send questions or non-virtual applications to Ashleigh Klein at apelashl@msu.edu or mail/drop off to 33030 Van Born Rd, Wayne, MI, 48184. Awards will be presented at the Wayne County 4-H Recognition Program, and all nominees are invited to attend.

Announcements

Save the Date: Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event Continued

Youth Awards: Age is based on your 4-H age as of January 1, 2026.

- 4-H Member Community Service Award Applications
- 4-H High Achievement Award Application (To Be Done by Individual Applicants)
- 4-H Member Leadership and Personal Growth Award Nomination (4-H Leader or Volunteer Nominations only)
- 4-H Project Award Applications
- 4-H Member Sportsmanship Award Nomination (4-H Leader or Volunteer Nominations Only)
- The Carol Bohl Youth Award Fund Application (Youth Participating in Horse Projects)

Adult Awards:

- Friend of 4-H Award Nomination (4-H Member, Leader, Volunteer, or Staff Must Nominate)
- 4-H Volunteer of the Year Award Application (Self-Application Accepted)

Club Awards:

- Outstanding Achievement for a 4-H Club Award Application



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Announcements

☕ Sip for a Cause and Support Wayne County 4-H! 🎉

Coffee lovers, this one's for you! Our youth-led Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event Planning Committee is hosting a Coffee for a Cause Fundraiser to help support the annual Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event.

Every purchase helps our teen planners create a special event that celebrates the hard work, leadership, achievements, and dedication of our amazing 4-H members and volunteers. Whether you're brewing your first cup of the day or searching for the perfect gift, your purchase helps recognize the people who make Wayne County 4-H great.

Shop here: https://www.groupraise.com/oc/91865/5TFYPC

Thank you for supporting our youth leaders and helping us celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our 4-H community!



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Volunteer Tip of the Month

Plan Ahead for a Successful Club Year

Taking time to plan your club year can make a big difference for both members and families. Creating an annual club calendar helps keep everyone informed, increases family involvement, and ensures your club offers a balanced mix of educational, recreational, and community service experiences.

Involve youth in the planning process by encouraging them to share ideas, set goals, and help develop the club calendar. Giving members a voice in planning builds leadership skills, strengthens their connection to the club, and increases excitement for upcoming activities. Club officers can also play an important role by helping organize ideas, assigning responsibilities, and tracking progress throughout the year.

As you develop your calendar, be sure to include a variety of experiences, such as project learning, community service, leadership development, recreation, fundraising, and county or state 4-H opportunities. Sharing the calendar with families early allows them to plan ahead and often leads to increased support and participation.

For additional ideas and planning resources, check out:

- **Tips and Tools for Planning Your Club Year**
- **Do You Have a 4-H Club Calendar?**
- **4-H Club Meeting Wheel**

Quick Tip: A well-planned club year should include opportunities for learning, leadership, service, and fun. When youth help create the plan, they are more invested in making it a success!

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Success Story

During the 2026 Wayne County Fall Leader Training, 4-H volunteers participated in a visioning activity focused on the future of Wayne County 4-H. Volunteers responded to three prompts: "I dream a 4-H program that...", "I will build such a 4-H program by...", and "We will build a 4-H program by...“

Responses were collected from individual participants and compiled into a collaborative poem titled We Dream a 4-H Program. The poem captures volunteers' shared hopes for a welcoming, youth-centered program while highlighting their personal and collective commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for young people.

The activity encouraged reflection, dialogue, and shared ownership of the future of Wayne County 4-H. The resulting poem serves as both a vision statement and a reminder of the important role volunteers play in ensuring all youth have opportunities to learn, lead, grow, and thrive.

We Dream a 4-H Program

By Wayne County 4-H Club Leaders and Volunteers

I Dream...

I dream of a 4-H program where every young person feels safe and welcome.
That allows youth to show and raise livestock while expanding access to animals and hands-on experiences.
One that offers more education, more support, and more ways to keep kids engaged.
And a place where kids feel at home.
I dream of a 4-H program that is a place where both youth and adults can grow and blossom together.
Encourages youth to learn a variety of skills while developing their leadership abilities.
That brings the same joy and fulfillment I found through learning 4-H skills throughout our community.
I dream of a 4-H program that is youth-led, educational, and filled with active 4-H members.
Where kids can be kids together, proud and true, and where youth can grow and thrive. Where every project, big or small, helps youth discover what they can do.
I dream of a 4-H program that supports youth and is accessible to young people in my area.
Thrives in the city while helping young people connect with nature.
Connects youth with agriculture and helps them build skills for life.
And provides children in Detroit opportunities to engage with and care for farm animals.
I dream of a 4-H program that is built collaboratively, with members working together in harmony.
That is a community-inspired, youth-engaged program that is fun, meaningful, and welcoming.
I dream of a 4-H program that prepares youth to live their best lives and encourages young people to believe in themselves.
Enriches the lives of youth and helps them reach their full potential.
A program helps the youth in Wayne County become Beyond Ready for anything life throws at them.

Success Story Continued

I Will Build...
I will build such a 4-H program by discovering each individual's strengths and interests, nurturing their spark, supporting their goals, and creating a place where everyone belongs.
By fostering confidence, friendship, and strength, while helping youth learn that we all grow stronger together.
By promoting the 4-H program and sharing its value with more people.
I will build such a 4-H program by engaging each child and designing meaningful lessons and experiences.
By creating a safe place for fun, learning, and relationships.
By treating every child as my own.
I will build such a 4-H program by encouraging exploration and youth involvement, preparing kids to be independent and successful.
By chartering new clubs, and continuing to learn as a volunteer.
By sharing my skills with the same love and enjoyment as my grandma shared with me.
I will build such a 4-H program by creating opportunities for leadership and introducing youth to new experiences and skills.
By helping both kids and adults discover their spark.
I will build such a 4-H program by encouraging youth engagement and providing guidance along the way.
By keeping parents and guardians informed, maintaining consistent youth engagement, and ensuring that youth voices matter.
I will build such a 4-H program by encouraging more 4-H staff to attend our shows.
By playing the lotto so we can have a youth-led farm.
By building an urban 4-H farm with goats, horses, and rabbits
I will build such a 4-H program by exploring opportunities to connect with other clubs that have animals to share.
By creating clubs around youths' interests, listening to their needs and wants, and providing space for them to thrive.

We Will Build...
We will build such a 4-H program by welcoming other clubs to participate with us and creating a culture of shared opportunities that breaks down silos.
By asking youth what they want to learn.
By encouraging young people to tell their friends why they enjoy 4-H.
We will build such a 4-H program by opening our farm to kids.
By expanding outreach so more youth can discover all that 4-H has to offer.
By ensuring every leader shares the common goal of supporting youth and making decisions in their best interest.
We will build a 4-H program by creating opportunities where every young person can learn, lead, grow, and belong.
By networking, encouraging and empowering the next generation, and staying connected.
We will build a 4-H program by supporting one another and working together.
By encouraging, supporting, and celebrating this amazing gift.
By ensuring every environment is safe, accessible, welcoming, and positively driven.

Success Story Continued

We will build such a 4-H program by listening to youth voices and valuing their ideas.
By fostering a culture where every young person feels seen, heard, and encouraged to reach their full potential.
We will build such a 4-H program by creating pathways for youth to discover new interests, develop new skills, and pursue their passions.
By connecting young people with caring adults, meaningful experiences, and opportunities to lead.
We will build such a 4-H program by strengthening connections between families, volunteers, staff, community partners, and supporters.
By working together to ensure that all young people have access to engaging, high-quality 4-H experiences.
We will build such a 4-H program by embracing innovation while honoring the traditions that make 4-H special.
By nurturing curiosity, confidence, compassion, and a lifelong love of learning.

Together...
Together, if we each contribute our time, talents, ideas, support, and belief in young people, we will build a 4-H program where every youth feels safe, welcomed, valued, and inspired to learn, lead, grow, and thrive. Together, we will create a community of opportunity, belonging, and purpose where young people discover their spark, develop their potential, and become leaders who are Beyond Ready to shape the future of Wayne County and beyond.

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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.