



NOVEMBER 2023

4-H Family News

CALHOUN COUNTY



Program Coordinator Update

Hi! As I shared in last month's newsletter, I am the new 4-H Program Coordinator for Calhoun County. Here's a little secret, I did not grow up in 4-H. In fact, for a long time I thought that 4-H was just about animals. Boy, was I wrong!



I've since learned that 4-H is about animals...and so much MORE! This month, I'd like to take this space to focus on our 4-H Careers & Entrepreneurship program. This valuable program focuses on exploring careers and entrepreneurship, while also providing education on financial literacy and developing skills for the work force!

Do you want to explore different jobs and careers? Or maybe you want to learn life skills like professionalism in the workplace. Follow the 4-H Careers & Entrepreneurship program on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/4HCareers> or - if Facebook isn't your thing - visit them at https://www.canr.msu.edu/career_preparation/index.

Enrollment is now open for their "Balancing Act" course that focuses on self-care, time management and organization. Best of all - it's self-paced, so learning to take care of yourself won't add more to your already full plate!

Register online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/balancingact>

Do you have a program idea (or want to know if MSU Extension already offers a particular idea)? Let me know! You can email me at vargocre@msu.edu to share your thoughts, ideas, and questions!

Until next time!

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What's inside this newsletter?

- Read all about Giving Tuesday!
- Meet Happy Harvester 4-H Leader Jennifer Petch.
- Discover what the Happy Harvesters do in their club.
- What does the first H in 4-H mean?

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Re-Enrollment is now open!

Starting September 15th, 2023, families and volunteers will need to log into the 4-H online database at:
<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> to re-enroll for the new programming year.

- Any youth 5-19 years old as of January 1, 2024 will be able to enroll in the 4-H program
- **There is no fee to enroll in 4-H.**
- Adults who would like to be a volunteer will need to go through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to working with youth, unless it has been completed previously.
- VSP completion is required for both virtual and face to face programs. For information on this process please visit:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/msu_extension_volunteer_selection_process
- New members may join anytime during the year, but will not be able to meet fair participation requirements if enrolled after April 1, 2024
- **Re-enrollment is due no later than November 30, 2023.**

Do you need help with your enrollment? Check out the 4-H online family guide at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/File-Uploads/4H%20Online%20Family%20Guide%20-%20rev.%209-123.pdf





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Explore the globe with Crafts Around the World!



Curious about other countries around the globe? Like making crafts? The Michigan 4-H Crafts Around the World series provides lessons and instructions for youth to create simple crafts and increase cultural awareness.

In its latest piece, youth can learn about the European country of Norway while making a Norwegian gnome. In Norway, a gnome is called a nisse: a creature who lives in barns or homes, protecting the countryside and the people who live there.

View this activity at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/crafts-around-the-world-series-europe-norwegian-gnome-nisse.

View all the Crafts Around the World activities at www.canr.msu.edu/global_cultural_education/resources.

November 8: Adulthood 101 - Professionalism in the Workplace

Online

Participants will increase their awareness of what it means to be professional and gain tips on different aspects of the work environment to consider, including: shared workspace, relationships with coworkers, communicating and setting boundaries. This free online series is open to teens and young adults (17 and under) and youth development professionals, teachers and adults (18 and up).

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood10111-8-23

November 14: Wild Spartans – Careers in the Exotic Animal Industry

Online

Jump into the world of breeding and caring for amphibians and reptiles. Meet Zach Brinks, vice president of live operations at Josh's Frogs. Learn about his work and the education and career path he followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free online series is open to youth ages 12-19.

events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans20232024/

November 21: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Youth Engagement in 4-H Experiences

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can help to increase the level of youth engagement in their 4-H experiences. This series will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option for the convenience of volunteers.

12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-youth-engagement-in-4-h-experiences

7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-youth-engagement-in-4-h-experiences7pm

November 28: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving — and support 4-H! From 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. EST, Michigan 4-H supporters are invited to participate by giving their support financially or helping spread the word. Michigan 4-H has a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period. County 4-H endowments provide a perpetual source of income for county 4-H programs and every dollar is an investment in 4-H!

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension partners with legislators to host first Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol

On Wednesday, October 4, Michigan State University Extension hosted the first Michigan Day at the Capitol, in partnership with State Reps. Matthew Bierlein (R-Vassar) and Reggie Miller (D-Van Buren Twp.). The event, held at Heritage Hall, showcased the positive impact of the Michigan 4-H program and brought visibility to its efforts throughout the state.

“Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was a great opportunity to educate about and bring awareness to the 4-H program,” said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. “We truly appreciate Reps. Bierlein and Miller for their collaboration in hosting this event.”

Michigan 4-H is the flagship youth development program of MSU Extension and reaches nearly 100,000 young people ages 5 to 19 each year. Through various activities, clubs, groups, programs and events, 4-H’ers are offered hands-on learning experiences where they can explore their passions and interests while growing confidence, life skills and a sense of responsibility.

“Michigan 4-H is helping to grow youth in every county of our great state but we would like to reach even more young people with the life-changing program,” continued Tyler. “We hope that our event brings us closer to that goal by increasing the visibility of our 4-H program and all that we offer to youth in our state.”

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was attended by legislators, stakeholders and members of the public. At the event, attendees had the opportunity to visit informational booths hosted by Michigan 4-H youth and staff. A brief program was also held, with event hosts Reps. Bierlein and Miller delivering comments to the audience. Also providing comments were Tyler, MSU Interim President Teresa Woodruff, Genesee County Clerk Register of Deeds Domonique Clemons, who is a Michigan 4-H alum, and Lenawee County 4-H’er Lia Kurowicki.

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Michigan4H. To learn more about Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h.

Michigan 4-H license plate proposed

On Tuesday, September 26, legislation was unveiled that if passed, will create a new fundraising license plate that would generate support for Michigan 4-H. State Reps. Matthew Bierlein, of Vassar, and Reggie Miller, of Van Buren Township, sponsored the legislation which would allow for the creation and sale of a Michigan 4-H plate through the Secretary of State.

The plans would create the 4-H fundraising plate and establish regular disbursements from the license plate sales to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Led by a board of trustees, the foundation works in partnership with MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H Youth Development to support programs to prepare youth for meaningful and productive lives.

The bills were referred to the Michigan House Committee on Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure. On October 11, Michigan 4-H Foundation Director Abbey Miller and MSU Extension Associate Director Dr. Deanna East testified before the committee in support of the 4-H fundraising license plate legislation.



Reps. Miller (left) and Bierlein (right) with MSU Interim President Woodruff (center).



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Meet 4-H Leader Jenny Petch of Happy Harvesters

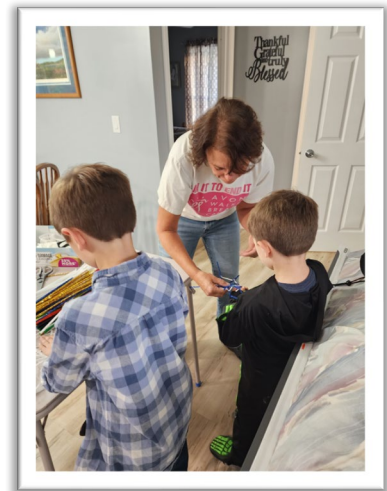


Becoming a 4-H leader was a natural next step for Jenny Petch as she was a member of the Happy Harvesters Club as a child in the early 90's, as well as the FFA (Future Farmers of America). During the Happy Harvesters Halloween Party on Oct. 27, she shared what made her want to become a 4-H leader. Jenny shared, "I love helping kids; I grew up with it." The skills she learned in 4-H have served her well as an adult, and she wants to share and encourage the next generation.

Taking care of animals and learning life skills such as sewing and communication through all the crafts served Jenny well into adulthood. She appreciated all that Happy Harvesters did for her over the years. "It did a lot. We used to do a lot of family-oriented things. We used to do a lot of caroling and community work as a group. I feel like this brought me out a little bit from being shy. I was in 4-H and FFA and working with animals, too. It was like a little community growing together. It was nice. I really like it, so that's why I came here to be a leader," said Jenny.

Getting trained as a leader was a challenge initially because of the pandemic, but she had experienced co-leaders to mentor her. "I took over during COVID, so we didn't really have a 4-H meeting time, so I have been working with Shelly (Densmore) and Sara (Mowry)." After she finished her online training, she began her leadership career three years ago.

Jenny knows what she wants the kids to walk away with as they grow up in Happy Harvesters. She believes it's essential for kids to participate in the decision-making process in their choice of activities. "We talk about the crafts and what we are going to do, look on the internet, and discuss it with the kids." Growing up in 4-H, she learned to work with others and follow directions, but she also knows self-motivation is an important skill. "I want them to learn to be a very independent person who can take all these skills with them through life. I hope they will develop lots of friendships that they will carry on."



It's a family affair! Jenny believes in all that 4-H has to offer and has her three children enrolled in the Happy Harvesters Club. For their Halloween party, Lilly, 11, works on decorating cookies that the club baked on Oct. 27. Eivin, 8, holds up a spider web he made for his Halloween decoration. Asher, 5, works with another Happy Harvester leader, Shelly Densmore, to make his spider web. The club also made donuts that they decorated with icing. Another fun activity was guessing items by touch in a mystery box.



Happy Harvesters Now and Then

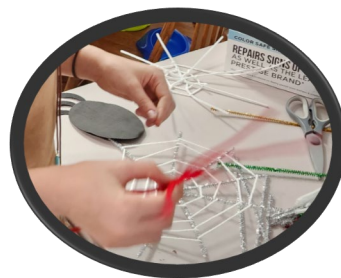
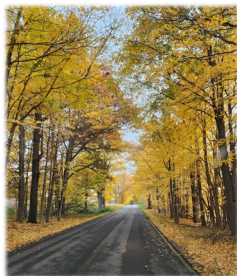


The 4-H Happy Harvesters group has been in existence for over 50 years. Currently, the group is listed as focusing on arts, crafts, and food, but as the leaders explained the expertise of the group is much more than those subjects. Shelly Densmore, one of the leaders of Happy Harvesters, said the pandemic hit the group hard but they are slowly rebuilding their numbers. Kids have a lot competing for their attention including sports. But Densmore, Jenny Petch, and Sara Mowry said that their group has flexibility and a variety of interests that kids can explore.

Jenny said there is a benefit to the skills that are learned in 4-H. “You can always take 4-H knowledge with you.” The club leaders encourage the kids to offer what areas that they would like to learn about whether it’s gardening, sewing, equine care, or art crafts. They used to do a lot of vegetable gardening and canning. Then the interest died off, and now crafting and cooking are coming in style again.

Flexibility is the key to the group and the future of 4-H. At the county fair this year, the Happy Harvester kids’ projects included tie-dyes, fairy gardens, recycling, macramé, Lego art, and natural resources like rock collections. Happy Harvesters is fortunate to have many leaders and advisors, so they can discover what members are interested in and mentor them in their goals including showing animals. Shelly said, “You can show a steer through our club. Right now, we’re working on getting someone who has vast knowledge on horses.” 4-H clubs are expanding a bit, so kids don’t have to travel to show an animal. Happy Harvesters will continue to offer crafts of all kinds. Their goal said Shelly, “If you want to show your horse and bake cookies, you can do it through Happy Harvesters.” The group meets in Ceresco, Burlington, and surrounding area depending on what the meeting is about and who is leading it, and any child from Calhoun County is welcome to join the group. The leaders agree the best part of their volunteer job is getting to share in the successes of their kid’s hard work.

Places you’ll see!



Games you’ll play!



A typical Happy Harvesters starts with the 4-H pledge, sharing information on 4-H, and then activities whether a fun craft or working on individual 4-H projects. And if you are looking for a smaller club right now the group size is about ten kids.

Contact Jenny Petch at 269-317-0000 for more information.

The first H in 4-H stands for Head – I pledge my Head to clearer thinking!

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4-H Family News

Calhoun County

