



JANUARY 2024

4-H Family News

Calhoun County



Happy New Year from Cressie Vargo

Welcome to 2024!

This has been a very busy month for me!

I've been working with 4-H Council to help schedule some upcoming events, so stay tuned for more information. Once event details are finalized, I will post them in 4-H Online for registration.

Speaking of 4-H Council – please check out Reporter Paige Thompson's article this month! Paige talks about what 4-H Council is and what they are up to. We do have openings for both youth and adults, so if you are interested in joining, please let me know!

Enrollments are still coming in at a steady pace – but if you know of anyone in your club that hasn't enrolled, please remind them to do so!

Share your stories with us! Help us promote 4-H by sharing stories and photos with us! You can send them to us, or even tag us on Facebook – Calhoun County MSU Extension/4-H.

Don't let time slip away, encourage someone to enroll in 4-H today!



What's inside

- A look at state events
- Learn about Calhoun's 4-H Tractor Operator program at the end of Jan.
- Find out if 4-H Council is for you!
- Meet Sara Mowry, Happy Harvester leader & More

Registration is now open for 4-H Capitol Experience!

Join us at the Michigan Capitol March 17-19 to learn more about state government, and how your voice can make an impact! More information available on our website at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Reserve your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals! 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy discounted tickets. In addition, Michigan 4-H guests will receive:

- A dual-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers item (details to be released shortly).
- An exclusive pregame on-field opportunity.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

Tickets are available in a variety of locations throughout the stadium, with prices ranging from \$27 - \$59. To order your tickets, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.

January 22: The Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

The Parent Talk System is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-webinar-series-january-2024

January 23: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Teaching Science When You Don't Know Diddley-Squat

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can utilize a series of science lessons from MSU Extension that can be taught with no science background and household materials. This series will provide 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.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-teaching-science-when-you-don-t-know-diddley-squat
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-teaching-science-when-you-don-t-know-diddley-squat7pm

February 17: 4-H Animal Science Career Quest

MSU Campus, East Lansing

Interested in a career working with animals? Learn more about career paths in animal science and veterinary medicine, as well as the MSU programs that can get you there! This program is a joint effort of Michigan 4-H, the MSU Department of Animal Science, and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. It is open to youth ages 12-19 and 4-H volunteers. Registration closes Feb. 1.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-career-quest-2024

February 20: Pantry Food Safety – It's Your Job

Zoom webinar

Pantry Food Safety - It's Your Job! is a training for staff and volunteers who work at food banks, food pantries, and other charitable food distribution sites. MSU Extension educators present food safety topics for volunteers and staff working in food banks, food pantries, and other charitable food distribution sites.

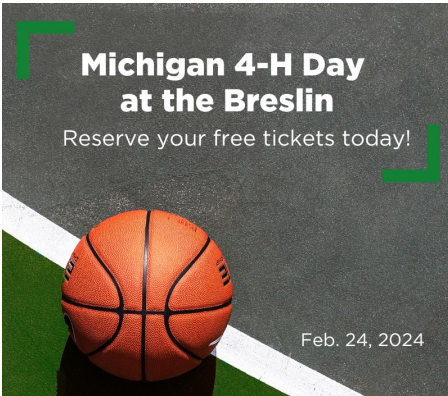
Attendees will learn how to handle food safely to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. The training identifies the food safety risks that are present and how to lower these risks. There is no cost to attend the training. Registration is required of each participant. This training can be viewed individually or in a group from a laptop, tablet, smartphone, or any device with internet access.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/pantryfoodsafety20feb2024>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



2024 4-H Day at the Breslin Center

MSU Extension invites 4-H members, families, volunteers and staff members to join them Feb. 24 for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin. This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU women’s basketball team takes on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.

The 18th annual event celebrates the 4-H and MSU Extension community. Attendance is free for MSU Extension friends, Michigan 4-H members and their families, MSU Extension and 4-H volunteers, as well as MSU Extension professionals. Make ticket reservations at extension.msu.edu/4HDayatBreslin2024.

“Our 4-H programs reach every county in the state and 4-H Day at the Breslin is a fun way to bring that community together for a day of comradery and celebration,” said Julie Chapin, director of MSU Extension children and youth programs. “We can’t wait to join with the youth, families, volunteers and staff that make these programs possible.”

4-H Day at the Breslin participants are encouraged to come early to partake in MSU Extension games and activities throughout the concourse. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Michigan 4-H will be showcased during the halftime show as a group of 4-H youth will lead the crowd in reciting the 4-H pledge.

Visitors to Breslin Center events must comply with MSU’s [clear bag policy](#). For more information on this event, contact your local MSU Extension office.

Resolve to have a great 4-H year

Adapted from: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/resolve_to_have_a_great_4_h_year.

As we start the New Year, how can 4-H clubs resolve to improve in the year ahead? Here are ten suggestions to make the upcoming year a successful one.

Resolve that:

1. Club meetings will start and end on time.
2. Business meetings will follow Robert’s Rules of Order and that all club paperwork, such as minutes, club inventory and financial statements, will be completed in a timely manner.
3. All members will take part in discussions and have a say in decisions that are made. Keep a chart with each members’ name and when they speak at business meetings.
4. The club meeting place will be a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for all club members.
5. Fun will be included in each meeting.
6. A learning activity will be included in each club meeting. Ideas include exploring a new 4-H curriculum, having members volunteer to do a demonstration, doing a show and tell about each members’ favorite project, or bringing in a guest speaker.
7. The club will pursue at least one community service project chosen, planned and celebrated by the club.
8. New members will have a buddy they may talk with about any 4-H questions.
9. The 4-H pledge will be said at every meeting.
10. Every club member will be recognized in some way to let them know they are cared about.





Calhoun County 4-H Tractor Operator Program

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HOW TO REGISTER:

Register in 4-H Online

Must be a current 4-H Member to enroll.

To register as a 4-H Member, visit: <https://v2.4honline.com>

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:

January 19, 2024

COST: \$50



WHO:

13-19 year olds

WHEN:

9 AM—12 PM

January 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24

March 2, 9, 16, 23 *Must attend all sessions*

LOCATION:

Stealy Farms
16300 13 Mile Rd.
Battle Creek, MI



PROGRAM SUMMARY:

The Calhoun County 4-H Tractor Operator Program (TOP) will teach youth tractor operation, along with safety, maintenance and repair. Successful completion of the 4-H TOP provides completion certificates to 13-19 year olds. 14-15 year olds may be eligible to receive a certificate of training from the US Department of Labor required for operation of a 20 PTO HP or greater, garden or agricultural tractor by youth employed on property not owned, leased, or operated by a parent or legal guardian.

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H Council News



The Role of 4-H Council by Paige Thompson

What is 4-H Council? The Calhoun County 4-H Council is a group of county 4-H members and adults in our community that work together to leave a positive impact on our community and spread knowledge of agriculture and leadership opportunities to the county's youth. Members of 4-H can join to be a part of deciding activities for the Calhoun County Fair, as well as discovering activities and volunteering opportunities in the community year-round.

What's new? This season, the Calhoun County 4-H Council is busy with many volunteering opportunities including providing food and refreshments at the Michigan Trappers & Predator Callers Fur Sale at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds on February 3, along with cleaning and revamping a community garden in downtown Battle Creek. For meetings, the group is growing team building connections through upcoming activities like rollerblading, canvas painting, and line dancing. New members are always welcome to join in on the fun!

Meet Sara Mowry Happy Harvester Leader and More!



Sara Mowry is a third generation 4-H alumni and has spent 13 years working as an adult volunteer. Although Sara lives in Tekonsha, she supports not only Happy Harvesters as a leader, but kids involved in other projects for other clubs such as the Beef Breeding Club. The face of clubs has changed in 4-H. Kids in one club can do crafts, show animals etc. When growing up, it was different for her. "When I was in 4-H, I was in six different clubs, but now 4-H has been restructured. I kind of stayed with two of them," said Sara.

The variety in 4-H taught her lots of skills, gave her new friends, and opportunity. As an adult, Sara has led a variety of projects involving all kinds of animals, horticulture, and floriculture. Sara explained, "I still have friends from all over the state that I have gotten through 4-H because I did a lot of different state activities as well on different councils and awards. I still use everything I have learned from cooking to canning." She got to visit other countries because of her 4-H participation, and she encourages

children coming up through the program to take advantage of these programs. "So, I have met kids from all over the world. One opportunity came through the 4-H State Dairy program."

The exposure from these opportunities and participating in the local groups built her character too. "It gave me a lot of drive and independence. It gave me confidence to build different skills. It me built me up as a person."

Sara enjoys seeing kids grow their skills and has even heard back from members that have benefited from her instruction and 4-H opportunities. "I have worked with some that have gone on to do lots of things with cattle and some that didn't even have an opportunity with cattle. Kids who are in the city or can't have them at home, we've gotten them opportunity to show and work with animals too and then they go on and do more things that we would never be able to," explained Sara.

The two generations of 4-H members and eventual leaders in her family have inspired Sara to pass on the same quality experience that she had in 4-H and to have fun doing it!

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