



MARCH 2024

4-H Family News

Calhoun County



Program Coordinator Update

It's starting to get really busy! We have a lot of different things going on around the county in 4-H! Clubs have started meeting regularly, the Tractor Operator Program is still going, and we even have a couple of SPIN Clubs happening in Battle Creek & Albion! (No – we aren't cycling – SPIN clubs are a **SP**ecial **IN**terest Club that meets short term).

Make sure to check out all of the upcoming events featured in this month's newsletter. There is something for everyone!

4-H Council Update

Activities the Council completed this month included a canvas painting with all Council members. This created great engagement and creativity while reviewing for the month of January. Also, the Calhoun County 4-H Council attended the Michigan Fur Trappers Association Fur Sale at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds on February 3rd. During this event the council provided food and refreshments for the participants at the sale for donation. Join us at our next meeting on April 4th at 7 pm at the County Building in Marshall.

What's Inside



- Play 4-H Woman's History Month Game
- Registration is open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp
- 4-H Exploration Days are coming! Are you ready?
- Meet 4-H Leader Scott Reid
- Information on several statewide 4-H events

CONTACT US

Cressie Vargo

4-H Program Coordinator

Email: vargocre@msu.edu

Sylvia Benavidez

Calhoun County Support Staff

PHONE & EMAIL:

(269-) 781- 0784

msue.county@county.msu.edu

WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/county/>

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Youth in Action Awards Applications Open



Apply now for the 2025 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives in the pillar areas of agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.

Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 15-19. The deadline to apply is April 1. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

March 3-May 4: JOANN 4-H Campaign

Stores across Michigan

While visiting your local JOANN store, you can support 4-H by adding a donation or rounding up at checkout. The funds donated will support the 4-H program with 50% going back to local 4-H programming and 10% supporting Michigan 4-H.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/joann-s-clover-for-kids-campaign

March 12: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 16: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

East Lansing

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024

March 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Group Management For 4-H Clubs and Groups

Online

Learn and share techniques to support a successful group setting and help spark youth engagement. 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-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups7pm

March 19: Keeping Your Money Safe

Online

Join this session to gain insights on researching and evaluating financial institutions (banks and credit unions) to make the best choice for your financial future.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/safemoney

April 28: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Comerica Park, Detroit

Watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals with other 4-H'ers! Michigan 4-H will be the Group Charity of the Game; discounted tickets available with a portion benefitting 4-H.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration is open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp!

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is an annual three-time national award-winning camp that mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 28 - August 3 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle. This pre-college program is for teens who will be age 13 to 15 during camp.

Campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees will also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, sailing, fossil hunting, archery, photography and evenings around a campfire. First-time campers also go charter fishing and learn to fillet their catch.



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$500 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.

4-H Exploration Days registration coming soon!

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan 4-H's largest pre-college program and could be the highlight of your summer—maybe even change your life! This exciting event is open to any Michigan youth ages 12 –19 as of Jan. 1.

4-H Exploration Days, scheduled for June 19-21, is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Michigan 4-H youth who participate have the opportunity to stay in MSU campus residence halls while attending classroom and field trip sessions.

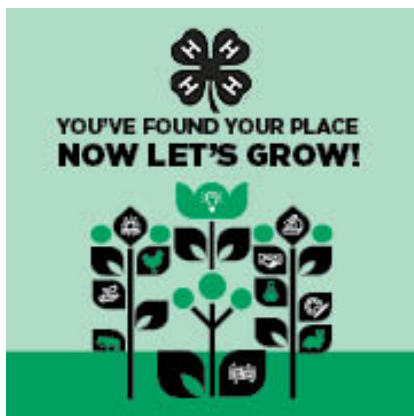
With more than 100 session choices held on and off campus, there are topics for everyone including animal science, business and entrepreneurship, international language and culture, performing and visual arts, and science, engineering, and technology. As youth gain important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication, they'll also have time for fun with free time activities such as skating, basketball and a dance.

Registration for 4-H Exploration Days will open March 25. The cost for the 2024 event is \$220. Check with your local 4-H program coordinator for additional information regarding county sign-ups and scholarships or visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days.

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Making your summer plans? Consider hosting a Japanese youth this summer through the States' 4-H International Exchange Program! Michigan will be hosting 18 Japanese youth and two chaperones. These visitors will quickly become a part of your family for their 3 ½ week stay (the last full week of July to the middle of August) and gain a fun American experience through your exceptional hospitality. In addition, your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new perspectives on their own country, too!

Host families must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match a host brother/sister (within three years of age), be a Michigan 4-H Gold-level volunteer, participate in a family interview as well as a home visit process. For more information contact Jan Brinn at brinn@msu.edu or John Wurm at wurmj@msu.edu.





Women's History Month – 4-H women making their mark in history



March is Women's History Month and 4-H Women have been trailblazing their paths in various fields. Each of the women below have indicated that doing projects in 4-H helped them set goals and learn how to achieve them.

Match up the women's names with the careers below - not necessarily pictured.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Aubrey Plaza | NASA astronaut who showed cattle in her youth |
| Julia Roberts | lead assistant coach for the Minnesota Lynx |
| Faith Hill | actress in 4-H much of her youth |
| Bonnie J. Dunbar | retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General from MI |
| Kate Smith | first time singing in public was at a 4-H luncheon |
| Wilma Vaught | comedian & actress; did sheep shearing in 4-H |



Photo credits: Upper left: Wikipedia, Upper right: stock government photo on Wikipedia, Lower left photo: seankjensen.com, lower right public domain photograph

Money Smarts Contest

The Show Your Money Smarts Contest is back for its sixth year! Young people, 13-19, learn how to keep your money safe and compete with other youth across the state of Michigan in this 30-question online challenge. High scoring youth will be entered into a prize drawing to win \$50 gift card. Start developing good financial habits at a young age and learn how to choose a financial institution that works for you! Learn more and sign up here to get money smart: <https://bit.ly/4-Hmoneysmart> Thank you to our generous sponsor, Michigan Credit Union League!

We have many resources to help youth prepare for this contest:

- March 19 from 6-7 PM Adulting 101 Keeping your Money Safe- <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/safemoney>
- March 25, from 7-8 pm Zoom Keeping Your Money Safe - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/keeping-your-money-safe-3-25>
- April 3, from 5-6 pm Zoom Keeping Your Money Safe- <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/keeping-your-money-safe-4-3>
- Self-Guided Learning Banking Basics
Course: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/banking-basics>
- Articles and resources around Financial Institutions:
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/banking>



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Meet 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Scott Reid



The 4-H Shooting Club is a family affair. Leader Scott Reid and wife, Julie, operate the club together and she is an instructor also. He shared, "We do this for fun. It's one of the things we do together. She enjoys doing it. We shot basically semi-pro for a number a years." They shot target and 3-D. However, the time demands for the sport got to be too much, so now they enjoy teaching 4-H children archery skills. "A couple of kids have gone to the 4-H National Shoot and have gone that far," said Reid. Every Sunday afternoon in the summer for about 13 weeks, he will be working with the kids of the 4-H shooting club. "I've been shooting archery for almost 50 years. Friends of mine were shooting, and it was something I wanted to get into, and it looked like fun. I was five, six-year-old when I first started shooting. And then I got it into at a deeper level, and I started using it as a hunting tool. I have hunted for years with archery equipment. Over the years, I have not hunted as much, but we've taken it to this level of teaching these kids archery. We're not trying to make professional archers out of them.

We're just trying to make kids aware of the equipment and what it is capable of, and what they can do with it. They've got to put effort into it to make it work."

Growing up in 4-H taught him, he shared, "If you put your mind to something, you can do whatever you want to do." He lives that motto, still today. In addition to 4-H, he works full-time at Eaton, and farms full-time, raising beef cows and buffalo. He's passing that work ethics to the kids. "We've had kids start out timid, not knowing about this archery thing, but by the end of the year they are shooting and having fun, made new friends, and they are communicating with the instructors a lot more openly than what they were initially by asking questions over the 13 to 14 weeks that we have our practices." Call Reid at 269-948-2772 to learn more or email him at scottmreid@eaton.com. (Courtesy photo)

4-H Kids Help Family Farm Struck by Tornado

When the Crow family farm just outside of Marshall was struck by a tornado on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, neighbors didn't waste time going to their aid and that included 4-H club members. 4-H Beef Club member Dillon Stemaly, 17, spent the following Saturday afternoon picking up wood, shingles, anything sprawled on the ground. He said, "I know the family and I wanted to help out."

Wendy Crowe, was overwhelmed that they, and over 100 people, came to pick-up everything from the remnants of their green house, chicken coop, dog kennels, and lumber. Some even brought heavy equipment to lift the heavier items. Many stayed as a bonfire was lit to get rid of destroyed materials.

Top picture: 4-H Club members Dillan Stemaly, Randi Miller, Jenna Litton, Lucas Crow, homeowner Wendy Crow and Kayla Lewis, an Equestrian team member who continues to work with 4-H.

Bottom picture: View of devastation at the Crow Family Farm after Wednesday morning's tornado. Courtesy photos.



Answers to Women's History Puzzle

Aubrey Plaza is a comedian & actress who did sheep shearing in 4-H, Julia Roberts is an actress who spent much of her youth in 4-H, Faith Hill had her first singing appearance in public at a 4-H luncheon. Bonnie J. Dunbar, a NASA astronaut spent her youth showing cattle, Kate Smith is the lead assistant coach for the Minnesota Lynx, showed sheep and was involved with sewing and cooking. Wilma Vaught is from Pontiac, MI. She is a former 4-H member who is also U.S. Air Force Brigadier General.

MSU Extension
Calhoun County
315 W. Green Street
Marshall, MI 49068

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H Family News

Calhoun County



4-H 
GROWS HERE