



AUGUST 2022

4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



HELLO & HAPPY AUGUST

I hope you all are recuperating after a successful fair week and enjoying the last few weeks of summer! The last month or so has been an exciting time for Gratiot County 4-H – we had 14 teens travel with the Exchange Club to Texas, we brought back Cloverbud Day Camp, we had members participate at the State Livestock Judging Contest, and we spent an entire week at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth. For many of you, fair week was an opportunity to exhibit the projects you have been working on throughout the past year. I commend you on your hard work and dedication. It was an honor to see so many of you succeed in your shows and even greater to witness the great sportsmanship happening in all of the barns. I'd like to wish good luck to those that have qualified and will be representing Gratiot County at state level events. We have 7 youth attending the State Horse Show and 1 youth attending the State Dog Show later this month. Don't forget that our new program year begins in September. Make sure to read the included information about 4-H Online enrollments and fall leader's updates. I look forward to working with all of you this upcoming year!

Sincerely,
Stacey Woggon
4-H Program Coordinator

4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENTS

The 2022-23 4-H program year begins in September! Families must re-enroll in 4-H Online each program year. There will be a brief shutdown of 4-H Online from August 31st through September 12th for system updates. Families will be unable to login to their profiles during this time. The system will re-open on September 12th for members to begin enrolling in the 2022-23 program year. At that time, returning members will choose the "enroll now" link from the family member list. New members will need to create a family profile before enrolling.



*** 4-H Online enrollment for 2022-23 begins September 12th ***

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Council Meeting	August 25, 2022 @ 7pm, Extension Office
GCFFY Fair Board Meeting	September 1, 2022 @ 7pm, Fair Office
2022-23 Enrollment Begins	September 12, 2022, 4-H Online
Fall Leaders Update.....	September 15, 2022 @ 7pm, Extension Office
Fall Leaders Update.....	September 17, 2022 @ 10am, Extension Office
National 4-H Week	October 2-8, 2022
Gratiot County 4-H Awards Banquet	October 23, 2022 (tentative)

4-H COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The ballot for council elections will be coming out this fall. We are currently looking for Gold Volunteers interested in serving on council. This is a great way to become more involved and provide direction for 4-H programs in Gratiot County. Anyone that would like to be on the ballot can submit their name and a brief bio to Stacey Woggon, 4-H program coordinator, at woggonst@msu.edu.

Questions about council can be directed to the Extension Office or any current council members.

Current council members include Kelly Becker, Brian Bloomquist, Jenni Derby, Nicole Gorsuch, Amanda Grigar, Jessica Hartman, and Kim Reisterer.

Your current teen reps are Julie Becker, Marissa Bloomquist, Miranda Bloomquist, Kali Gorsuch, Lauren Gorsuch, and James Muscott.

FALL LEADER'S UPDATES

As we move into the 2022-23 program year, we want to be sure all leaders have their questions answered and the resources they need to succeed. We'd love to hear your successes and challenges from the past year and brainstorm ideas for the year ahead.

For those interested in getting together with fellow leaders, Stacey will be hosting two fall leader update meetings. One on **Thursday, September 15th @ 7pm**, and one on **Saturday, September 17th @ 10am**. Both meetings will be held at the Extension Office. It is important that at least one administrative leader from each 4-H club is in attendance at one of these meetings. Additional leaders and volunteers are also welcome. Those unable to make the above dates, or those who would prefer to meet individually, are welcome to schedule an individual appointment with Stacey instead.

Leaders are asked to RSVP with their selected date:
<https://forms.gle/RiSXD7q35pszcN4S9>

We look forward to seeing you
 and appreciate all you do for the 4-H program in Gratiot County!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

EXCHANGE CLUB TRIP UPDATES

The Gratiot County 4-H State Exchange Club traveled to Texas for a weeklong exchange with Guadalupe County 4-H Exchange Club. The two clubs started communicating in the fall of 2019 with hopes of exchanging in 2020 and 2021, but their trips were delayed until this summer.

Fourteen Gratiot County 4-H members were matched with Guadalupe County 4-Hers and enjoyed getting to know each other and their families while they went on educational day trips and fun activities. Some of the events they embarked on were a day in San Antonio seeing the Alamo, a Riverboat tour, a day playing in the water at Schlitterbahn Water Park, exploring the USS Lexington and swimming in the Gulf of Mexico, a Canyon Lake boat cruise, and the CPRA Rodeo in Wimberley. The clubs also participated in the Seguin 4th of July parade, receiving an award for their float.

Club leader, Patty Macha, would like to thank everyone that bought pumpkin roles to support the club. "It is our only fundraiser, and it allows this trip and our hosting week to be fully funded," she said.

Plans are already underway for hosting summer of 2023 when the Guadalupe County 4-H Exchange Club members will travel to Michigan and tour the Great Lakes state.

If you are interested in joining this club in the fall of 2023 for the next 2-year rotation, contact Patty Macha at pmacha4246@gmail.com





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

CLOVERBUD DAY 2022



After a two year break due to COVID, Gratiot County 4-H Cloverbud Day returned on July 26th!

This year's theme was "Seeds & Bees." 29 4-H cloverbud members, ages 5-7, spent the day with us at the GCFFY fairgrounds. Craft projects included seed art mosaics, squishy bumblebee stress balls, beeswax candles, and tissue paper butterflies. Cloverbuds learned about the different types of pollinators and how they are vital to our ecosystem here in Michigan. They completed a pollination relay race game and also tried their hand at archery. We enjoyed hot dogs for lunch and cooled off at the end of the day with water games and popsicles.



Thank you to the Gratiot County 4-H Council for sponsoring this event. Each cloverbud was provided a \$10 scholarship to offset the cost of attendance. We'd also like to thank those that volunteered their time as a counselor or instructor for the day: Julie Becker, Marissa Bloomquist, Miranda Bloomquist, Tanner Lamey, Kayla Goward, Megan Goward, Lauren Gorsuch, Kami Paksi, Michelle Gibson, Kim Reisterer, Darren Fish, and Tony Miller.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST



Gratiot County 4-H members Kylee Anderson, Molly Lake, Eliannah Slavik, and Moriah Slavik participated in the Michigan State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the MSU Pavilion on July 13th. Great job ladies! Thanks for representing Gratiot County!!

BEEBE BEEF ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the BeeBe Beef 4-H Club on their 70th anniversary! All past and present BeeBe Beef members are invited to an ice cream social on Sunday, September 11th @ 4pm at Emerson Township Hall, a site where the club was first organized and many meetings were held. RSVP to beebebeef70@gmail.com with your name, email, and phone number. Please help us spread the word!



SHARE YOUR CLUB UPDATES TO BE FEATURED HERE



Please send any club updates and event photos to Stacey Woggon (woggonst@msu.edu) to be featured in our newsletter and on our social media. We look forward to sharing what you're up to!



GCFFY HIGHLIGHTS

4-H COUNCIL BOOTH



4-H Council hosted a booth on Saturday, July 30th outside the covered arena during still exhibit judging. Dairy products, including milk, cheese sticks, and GoGurt, were passed out along with granola bars and “4-H Grows Here” yard signs. Thanks to everyone who stopped by. We’d love to see you at upcoming council meetings!

FRIENDS OF 4-H BREAKFAST

4-H Council also hosted the “Friends of 4-H” Breakfast during fair week. Choices of breakfast burritos or pancakes and sausage were offered Monday through Friday from 7am-10am.

We’d like to thank the following donors for making this possible:

- Ithaca Lions Club
- Vanderploeg Holsteins
- Mibeloon Dairy
- Whitmore Farms
- Pine Crest Farm
- John and Amy Crumbaugh
- Flowers by Patty Macha
- Ruth and Eldon Aubin’s Hen Den
- Emily and Shane Rummer
- Jared and Sara Whitford
- Scientific Brake
- Eagle Valley Ag Risk Advisors
- In memory of Kevin Gadley
- Jim and Doreen Slavik





GCFFY HIGHLIGHTS

KID'S DAY BOOTH

Gratiot County 4-H hosted a booth for Kid's Day on Thursday of fair week. Families were able to try out hover ball inside the archery building and pick up 4-H promotional materials. We also handed out frozen GoGurt and cheese sticks, courtesy of 4-H Council. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, and a huge shout-out to the Non-Typical Shooters 4-H club for helping run hover ball.



CLOVERBUD PARADE & RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Cloverbud Parade took place Thursday afternoon of fair. Thank you to all of our cloverbuds who came out to show off their projects and to the Exchange Club for helping to organize. After the parade, 4-H Council recognized 44 cloverbud members who had graduated during the past two years and were unable to attend an awards ceremony due to COVID. Graduates received a certificate and 4-H water bottle filled with goodies. We ended the afternoon with an ice cream social. The ice cream was donated by the VanLoon Family – we appreciate your support!





GCFFY HIGHLIGHTS

AG OLYMPICS

Gratiot County 4-H hosted Ag Olympics on Saturday of fair week. We had 110 youth join us this year. Events included stick horse barrel racing, caterpillar balloon races, “feed the animal” bean bag toss, and a water relay sponge race. Participants enjoyed milk, cheese sticks, and GoGurt, courtesy of 4-H Council, after the events.

Thank you to all of the parents who stepped up to volunteer as timekeepers and to the following businesses for donating prizes:

- Alma Ace Hardware
- Healthies of Mid Mitten
- Serendipity Frozen Custard & Doughnuts
- Brush w/ Bravata
- Ralph’s Pawn Shop
- Hannah’s Rock & Gem
- Auto Zone
- Advanced Auto
- Family Farm

Our winning teams were:

- 1st place – team # 8
- 2nd place – team # 7
- 3rd place – team # 5





GCFFY HIGHLIGHTS

4-H SHOUT-OUTS

We asked our 4-H community to submit names of 4-H members who went above and beyond at the fair in exhibiting our targeted life skills in the areas of head, heart, hands, and health.

Congratulations to the following 4-H members who received a shout-out:

- Miranda Bloomquist – “She won dog record book, obedience, and rally after working hard and applying herself for many months”
- Abilene Gibson – “She volunteered everyday of the week in the North Gratiot Livestock Club ice cream bar. She used her hands to help scoop ice cream and used her head to perform math skills, making change for each customer.”
- Madyson Hartman – “Madyson was helping a young exhibitor get ready for her first year outside of clover buds get ready for the steers show... and at the end of the week when that same young lady was in tears over selling her ‘friend’ madyson helped her through her pain and tears. She told her stories of her own sadness selling and then took her to the fair dance to try to cheer her up. .. building a great lifelong friendship between them. Mady really had empathy for her Pain since she had the same last year”
- Brayden and Brock Bonga – “On the last day of fair, both boys went and watered all feeder calves. They don't have Feeders this year, but knew it was the last day and it being hot they would need extra water. They took an extra step for others animals health.”
- Miranda Bloomquist – “She used her rabbit knowledge to teach another, younger exhibitor to show a rabbit for sweepstakes.”
- Marissa Bloomquist – “She mentored young pee wees the entire week, caring for them, mentoring and being a positive influence.”
- Taylor Gager – “She saw my daughter didn’t know what to do in rabbits and stepped up to help her. Thank you Taylor.”
- Ellie Martyn – “She took 1000s of photographs for everyone for free! The photos are amazing and will be treasured for a long time”
- Ashleigh Devine – “Observed her helping younger 4-Hers carry water in the feeder barn. She also was encouraging to my daughter when she was upset after her market show.”
- Molly Lake – “Molly has taken younger 4-H members under her wing and ensured they had a great fair, a great experience and they were welcomed into the club with open arms!”
- Ellison Merchant, Trevor Lamey, Brock Ward – “These young 4-H members were cleaning the pig barn Monday morning and making lots of trips to dump the wheelbarrows. They worked together extra hard and were doing a great job. Some of these members did not even have pigs in the barn.”

Great job to all of these 4-H members! We’ll be doing a prize drawing at the fall awards ceremony.

We also wanted to note that there were a few additional names submitted; however, because those youth are not currently enrolled 4-H members, we do not have consents on file to publish their names. We do appreciate their hard work at the fair and would encourage them to enroll in 4-H this coming year.



GCFFY HIGHLIGHTS

FAIR PICTURES

Gratiot County 4-H member Ellie Martyn took photos at the fair all week long! These are available for free on the Gratiot County Fair for Youth Facebook page. Thank you, Ellie, for capturing these memories for the fair exhibitors. We've included a few samples below – photo credits to Ellie Martyn.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Are you a current or former 4-H'er?

Join us for the MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception

Sept. 7

5:30 - 7 p.m.



North lawn outside the Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension * 4-H GROWS HERE

Join MSU Extension for the fifth annual MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception on Wednesday, September 7.

All current or former 4-H'ers attending MSU this fall are invited to stop by the grassy area on the north side of the Morrill Hall of Agriculture from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

Members of the MSU Extension staff will be on site to interact with 4-H alums and free pizza and pop will be provided. Come to meet fellow 4-H'ers, network with staff and students and have fun.

Learn more canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception.

August 15-18: 4-H Money Chasers Goose Chase Game

GooseChase App

Get "fiscally" fit during this app-based scavenger hunt. Missions will be financial fitness based and great for youth/adult teams. Come join this FREE scavenger hunt based game. Win potential prizes and have fun!

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

August 15-19: MSU Tollgate Farm Outdoor Adventure Camp

MSU Tollgate Farm, Novi

Campers ages 12-14 can take survival camp to a whole new level and challenge themselves with exciting wilderness skill-building experiences. Try your hand at fire-building, wilderness first aid, outdoor cooking, shelter-building, climbing, and team-building trust initiatives. An optional Thursday overnight campout on the farm is included.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-outdoor-adventure-camp-2022>

August 19-21: Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

The Michigan 4-H State Horse Show is a 3-day event offering over 275 classes. 4-H members and their equine partners compete on a statewide basis!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/state-4-h-horse-show-2022>

August 20: Michigan 4-H State Dog Show

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna

The Michigan 4-H State Dog Show will provide classes in agility, obedience, rally, team, brace and showmanship. Spectators welcome!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-dog-show>

August 20: 4-H Bullseye Bash

Northern District Fair, Cadillac

Participate in the first Wexford County archery competition! This new event is designed to help 4-H members meet new friends, test skills, and provide positive experiences through friendly competition.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-bullseye-bash-at-northern-district-fair>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

2022 Michigan 4-H State Award winners announced



The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program recognized outstanding 4-H members during the opening session of 4-H Exploration Days on June 22. At the event, honorees had the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments with their fellow 4-H Exploration Days participants.

A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members and recognizes a level of excellence in learning, leadership and service. In total, 20 4-H members from 16 counties submitted applications to take part in this year's program.

"With tens of thousands of 4-H'ers across the state, the youth honored with 4-H State Awards are some of our most accomplished 4-H'ers," said Julie Chapin, 4-H state leader of Michigan 4-H and director of MSU Extension's children and youth programs. "Their commitment to bettering themselves

and their communities through service and extensive 4-H work make them true leaders in their clubs, counties and across our state."

Michigan 4-H State Awards were presented in 13 of the 19 available award categories that showcase the diverse array of 4-H knowledge, skills, and experience. Recipients of the 2022 awards are:

- **Beef Science:** Charlee Klink of Delta County (junior division)
- **Companion Animal Science:** Malachi Sims of Shiawassee County (senior division)
- **Dairy Science:** Sophia Nielsen of Ingham County (junior division)
- **Environmental Science:** Vishal Swamy of Oakland County (junior division)
- **Equine Science:** Jayleigh Williams of Lenawee County (junior division)
- **Food, Nutrition, Health Fitness:** Rebecca Thomas of Ionia County (senior division)
- **Gardening and Horticulture:** Brooke Richards of Macomb County (junior division)
- **Goat Science:** Caitlynn Pratt of Otsego County (junior division) and Audrey Martin of Midland County (senior division)
- **Leadership:** Alana Aulph of Monroe County (junior division)
- **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Noah Hecht of Saginaw County (junior division) and Alexis Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Sheep Science:** Jadyn Herzog of Allegan County (junior division) and Jaycie Brown of Livingston County (senior division)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (junior division) and Blake Towne of Van Buren County (senior division)
- **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Corinna Aulph of Monroe County (junior division)

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to 4-H members who are 13-19 years old with three or more years of 4-H experience. To qualify for the award, 4-H'ers must submit a written application that showcases the learning experiences, knowledge and skills they've acquired through their participation in 4-H, as well as their contributions to their local 4-H programs, clubs and communities. Submissions are reviewed by the Michigan 4-H State Awards selection committee. This group of volunteers, staff members and industry experts determine which members are selected as award finalists. All applicants receive written feedback from selection committees.

Senior delegates (ages 16-19) and groups then complete an interview using video conference technology. Completing a video interview provides an opportunity for 4-H members to practice real-world skills that are trending in the workforce.

In addition to a plaque, each 4-H State Award winner in the senior division will also receive a \$200 cash award; junior winners receive \$50 cash awards. These awards are made possible by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Mailing Panel

County Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H Family News

