



# 4-H Family News

Aug 2023

Kalamazoo County



Thursday, August 3, 2023

## Mandatory Exhibitor Meetings

The annual Mandatory Livestock meeting will be held at the fairgrounds on Thursday, August 3, 2022.

This is a time to get the final details about bringing your livestock to the fair, setting up and decorating the barns, and working together to help create a fun, inviting and clean environment for Everyone!

- 6:00 p.m. \* Poultry @ Poultry barn
- 6:15 p.m. \* Beef & dairy steer @ Beef barn
- 6:30 p.m. \* Rabbits @ Rabbit barn
- 6:45 p.m. \* Sheep @ Sheep barn
- 7:00 p.m. \* Dairy Feeder Calf @ Beef barn
- 7:15 p.m. \* Swine @ Swine barn
- 7:30 p.m. \* Goat @ Goat barn

## CONTACT US

**Veronica Bolhuis**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
(269) 383-8867  
[bolhuisv@msu.edu](mailto:bolhuisv@msu.edu)

Sam Lawrence  
Urban 4-H Program Coordinator  
(269) 383-8878  
[lawre353@msu.edu](mailto:lawre353@msu.edu)

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.  
Suite 306  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

## County Office Phone & Email:

269-383-8830  
[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE:

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

## Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>

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.



Dear Fair Kid,

Every year it seems to amazes me how quickly fair comes and goes. After many years of enjoying fair week I decided to give you a few words of wisdom to survive the week.

- Get OFF your phone and soak it in, the animals, the time with your friends, and even the food stand shift.
- Thank EVERY volunteer you see. It takes a lot of people to make the week go smoothly.
- Help the younger kids. They are always watching and looking up to you. Be the person they believe you are.
- Thank your parents! I'm sure you and your mom have already had the annual fight in the kitchen because your food project that you were suppose to practice months ago just isn't working out.
- Remember it is ONE MAN'S OPINION ON ONE DAY! 4-H & FFA is NOT just about the ribbons and check at the end of the week, but the lessons learned in the barn, kitchen, and sewing room.

•Be proud of yourself no matter what. Not many kids in the world can say they have an unbreakable bond with a 1300lbs animal, can sew a quilt, or even make the most delicious blueberry muffins.

This week will fly by and one day you'll wake up and all those weeks at the fair will just be a memory you hold tight in your heart.

Signed,

A former Fair Kid





## 4-H Fair Animal Schedule



### Friday, July 28, 2023

7:00 pm- Dairy Show @ Vlietstra Dairy Farm – Kalamazoo, MI

### Monday, July 31, 2023

6:00 pm- Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation @ Pease Packing – Scotts, MI  
(Animals must arrive before 5:30pm)

### Wednesday, August 2, 2023

10:00 am- Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements @  
Pease Packing – Scotts, MI

### Tuesday, August 8, 2023

9:00 am- Horse Showmanship & English Performance Classes @ Horse Arenas

9:00 am- Swine Show @ Livestock Show Arena

2:00 pm- Rabbit Show @ Rabbit Barn

Cavies and Critters Show (following Rabbit Show) - location TBD

Rabbit Showmanship @ Rabbit Barn

6:00 pm- Sheep Show @ Livestock Show Arena

### Wednesday, August 9, 2023

9:00 am- Horse Western Performance & Trail Classes @ Horse Arenas

9:00 am- Poultry Show @ Livestock Show Arena

2:00 pm- Feeder Calf Show @ Livestock Show Arena

6:00 pm- Beef Show @ Livestock Show Arena

### Thursday, August 10, 2023

9:00 am- Horse Dressage & Jumping Classes @ Horse Arenas

9:00 am- Goat Show @ Livestock Show Arena

### Friday, August 11, 2023

9:00 am- Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes @ Horse Arenas

1:00 pm- Livestock Sale – small animals followed by large animals @  
Livestock Show Arena

### Saturday, August 12, 2023

9:30 am- Dog Show @ TBD location

6:00 pm- Master Showmanship @ Livestock Show Arena

**Please Note-** At the conclusion of Master Showmanship on **Saturday August 12, 2023**, all livestock barns will be locked, and market animals loaded. Still projects are released **Saturday Evening 8:30-9:30 pm** and **Sunday Morning 8:30-10:00 am** – Please remember to pick up your notebooks and educational exhibits.

Barn clean-up will happen after the market animals have been loaded and barns are opened back up.



## Monday, August 7, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.-Noon Animals arrive at fairgrounds  
(Swine will be vet checked and weighed as they're unloaded)
- 12:30 p.m. Sheep and market goat weigh-in @ Livestock Arena
- 1:30 p.m. Beef and dairy feeder calf weigh-in @ Beef Barn
- 2:30 p.m. Show ring set-up for swine show @ Livestock Arena
- 4:00 p.m. Sheep show practice @ Livestock Arena
- 5:00 p.m. Swine show practice @ Livestock Arena
- 6:00 p.m. Beef and feeder calf show practice @ Livestock Arena



## Tuesday, August 8, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Swine Show @ Livestock Arena (Tear down swine gates following swine show)
- 2:00 p.m. Rabbit Show @ Livestock Arena  
Cavies & Critters Show (following rabbit show)
- 6:00 p.m. Sheep Show @ Livestock Arena (Beef / feeder calf practice following sheep show)

## Wednesday, August 9, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Poultry Show @ Livestock Arena
- 2:00 p.m. Feeder Calf Show @ Livestock Arena
- 6:00 p.m. Beef and Dairy Beef Show @ Livestock Arena  
Goat show practice in show arena following beef show

## Thursday, August 10, 2023 - @ Livestock Arena unless noted

- 9:00 a.m. Goat Show and Trail Classes
- 9:00 a.m. Photos for auction green boards due to superintendents (must be horizontal)
- 2:00 p.m. Enduro Obstacle Course - beef, dairy feeder calves, sheep, goats
- 5:30 p.m. Pizza and auction set-up (bring brooms, pails, rags)

## Friday, August 11, 2023 - all at Livestock Arena

- 8:00 a.m. Final auction set-up and bleacher wipe down
- 11:00 a.m. Rabbit Agility Competition – Outside of Rabbit Barn
- Noon Buyer Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Small Animal Auction – Rabbit, goat, poultry
- 2:00 p.m. Large Animal Auction – Beef, dairy beef, feeder calves, swine, sheep  
Auction clean-up (following auction)
- 8:30 p.m. Dance

## Saturday, August 12, 2023

- Noon Thank you notes due to superintendents
- 1:00 p.m. Human 4-H Shape Photo @ Grandstand area
- 2:00 p.m. Milk Drinking Contest @ Livestock Arena  
Livestock Judging (Following milk drinking contest) @ Livestock Arena
- 4:00 p.m. Rabbit Show Jumping – outside of the Rabbit Barn
- 6:00 p.m. Master Showmanship @ Livestock Arena

**Please Note-** At the conclusion of Master Showmanship on **Saturday August 12, 2023**, all livestock barns will be locked, and market animals loaded. Still projects are released **Saturday Evening 8:30-9:30 pm** and **Sunday Morning 8:30-10:00 am** – Please remember to pick up your notebooks and educational exhibits.

Barn clean-up will happen after the market animals have been loaded and barns are opened up.



## What I love about fair in the course of a day...

1. The stillness in the morning as kids one by one emerge from campers with their bedhead hair to check their animal's feed, water, and bedding before they meet their own needs.
2. The families sitting in the stands together supporting their kids as they show their animals. Grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins, friends... The results are the same whether they placed last or first, the look of pride on their faces. There is no yelling from the stands at the judge or dirty plays. You know which kid belongs to which crowd as every kid sneaks a peek to their family as the judge turns away.
3. People helping each other... experienced members and families helping the "newbies" learn how to ready an animal to show, fix a loose back number, parents running to the camper for an "extra" something that is needed. An older member helping a young member when an animal gets loose. (There is nothing better than a loose chicken and 20 kids work together without a word to catch a very agile bird). The congratulations from a competitor.
4. The fair food is always a treat but the sweetest is watching an elderly couple share a moment and an ice cream on a bench, a child giving the last of a cotton candy to a younger sibling that they bought with their own money, the whole family sitting together...
5. The high fives, the wiping of tears, the hugs, the friends walking side by side, the old fair friends reconnecting...

The world needs County fairs. It reminds us of the good in our world when so much negative is shown on media.

6. The stillness that returns as the general public leaves the grounds, kids playing football in the open spaces between campers, the laughter of friends and families sitting reviewing the days activities, kids wandering to the bathroom in their "jammies" before collapsing in a camper bunk, the teenagers sitting in lawn chairs playing cards late in the night...

We are all busy, but if you have a moment, just soak it all in.



## **Fair Week Admission Fees:**

4-H Family Passes are \$10.00 for the week.

General Public Weekly Pass (valid Tue-Sat) is \$20.00 per vehicle

## **General Admission Fees for Tuesday-Friday, August 8-11**

\$5.00 per vehicle

\$2.00 per person (vehicles with 8 or more persons)

\$2.00 per person (walk-in – 5yrs and under free)

## **General Admission Fees for Saturday, August 12**

- The fair will culminate with our family festival for the public on Saturday, August 12 that will offer fun entertainment and activities, plus hands-on demonstrations and educational activities for the community.

\$15.00 per vehicle

\$5.00 per person (vehicles with 8 or more persons)

\$5.00 per person (walk-ins – 5 yrs and under free)

Learn more here:

[https://www.kalcounty.com/parks/fair/4h\\_participant\\_info.htm](https://www.kalcounty.com/parks/fair/4h_participant_info.htm)



## Project Updates

### SWINE:

*The fair is finally here!*

**Can't wait to see you all soon at the fairgrounds with your pigs!**

Here are some important dates/reminders for the swine project:

**Thursday, Aug. 3 – 7:15 pm – Swine Mandatory Meeting**

**Saturday, Aug. 5 – 9:00 am-noon – swine notebook judging**

**Monday, Aug. 7 – 9:00 am-noon – swine weigh-in & vet check**

2:30 pm – show ring set-up for swine show

5:00-6:00 pm – optional swine practice in show arena

**Tuesday, Aug. 8 – 9:00 am – Swine Show**

**Thursday, Aug. 10 – 9:00 am – photos for auction due**

5:30 pm – all species pizza party & set-up for auction

**Friday, Aug. 11 – 8:00 am – final auction set-up**

**1:00 pm – Livestock Auction** (Buyer's lunch - noon-1 pm)

**Saturday, Aug. 12 – Noon – thank you notes due**

7:00 pm(ish) – End of Fair: animals hauled out / barn clean-up

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Pam (517-930-1297) and Mick (269-778-3767)

### POULTRY:

**Aug. 3rd** on your calendar for the MANDATORY Livestock Meeting at **6pm** - You MUST attend this meeting to come to the fair. Start collecting food safe plastic bottles – i.e.: juice bottles are great - to use for food and water containers in your fair cages. You will need 2 bottles per cage. We will demo how to convert them into feed/water dishes.

## Don't Forget!

- **Tuesday-** Live Clue - 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday-** Movie Night @ 8:30
  - Fun Game - 3:30-5pm. Relay games and much more!!!! (Near show arena) - lots of fun!!
  - Movie Night @ 8:30pm/dust (livestock arena)
- **Thursday** – Livestock family potluck (set up for Auction)
- **Friday** - Dance (Show arena) 8:00 pm – 10:30 pm
- **Saturday Events:**
  - Human 4-H shape event @ 1 pm
  - Milk drinking contest @ 2 pm





# Still Life Entries

**Still exhibits will be entered and judged Saturday, August 5, 2023: between 9:00am-12:00pm.**

Animal Science Exhibits  
All Animal Notebooks & Diaries  
Crops  
Gardening  
Foods  
Clothing & Knitting  
Home Economics  
Fashion Review, Demonstration and Performances - TBD.

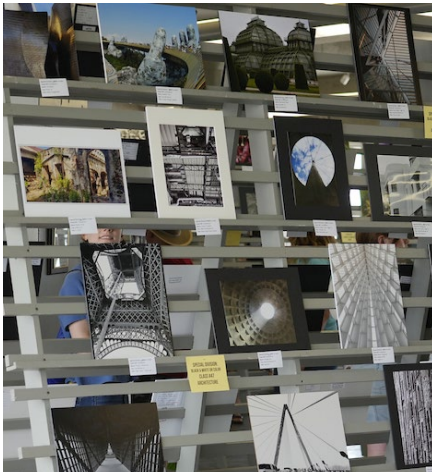
Arts & Crafts  
Photography  
Mechanical Exhibits  
Natural Sciences  
Sports/Leisure Activities  
Cloverbud  
Club Reports



There is no requirement to fill out a Project Record form for fair entries. This is done to encourage 4-H members to bring more projects to fair. Please help grow our fair with more!

*Still Exhibits may not be removed from display until the completion of the Fair. Ribbons will be forfeited if exhibits are removed before the time specified. Fair Management and MSU Extension staff will not be responsible for articles left after release time*

Still projects are released **Saturday Evening 8:30-9:30 pm** and **Sunday Morning 8:30-10:00 am** – Please remember to pick up your notebooks and educational exhibits.







## Come be part of our first attempts at Guinness Book World Records!

### 1. 4-H Human shape photo -Saturday August 12 at 1 pm

All 4-Hers, parents, alumni, friends, spectators are all invited to help us win this record! Meet us near the Grandstands to help us go for the Guinness book of world records for the largest number of humans in the shape of the 4-H symbol. Put on a green t-shirt and come help us win!



2. Soup can stacking - Everyone, bring a can or 2 of soup to help us break the record for the most soup cans stacked in 30 seconds. We are encouraging everyone to bring cans of soup for the effort. Then, we will donate them to a local food pantry. Previous record is 38 cans.



3. Sandwich Cookie stacking – Bring your sandwich cookies and help us set a new Guinness book of world record with the highest number of stacked cookie sandwiches stacked on 30 seconds. Please see further details on this event on the fair website. We are encouraging all 4-H clubs to submit donations. Record stands at 38 currently. We are going to need lots of cookies!

## Other Fun 4-H Games During the Fair-



- **Tuesday**- Live Clue - 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday**- Movie Night @ 8:30
  - Fun Game - 3:30-5pm. Relay games and much more!!!! (Near show arena) - lots of fun!!
  - Movie Night @ 8:30pm/dust (livestock arena)
- **Thursday** – livestock family potluck (set up for Auction)
- **Friday** - Dance (Show arena) 8:00 pm – 10:30 pm
- **Saturday Events:**
  - Human 4-H shape event @ 1 pm
  - Milk drinking contest @ 2 pm





## We need volunteers!

### Leaders Council Volunteer:

- \***Expansion and Review Committee** : 9 volunteers needed for this committee with a minimum of 3 youth volunteers
- \***Fair Planning Committee:** Need 1 teen volunteer
- \***Plan and organize 4-H events/activities** during the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair
- \***Fall Achievement/Awards/Leaders Banquet** - 1 volunteer needed
- \***Awards** Assist in selecting award recipients and evaluating the awards program
- \***Fundraising:** 1) Food Booth - 1 volunteer needed 2) Scrap -a-loo Scrapbook event – 1 volunteer needed 3) Assist with planning the fundraising event
- \***Nominating and Constitution:** 1 volunteer needed
- \* **Candidate Recommendation** for Leaders Council offices, annual review of by-laws and Policy and Procedures; recommend changes if required.
- \***Vehicle (4-H Bus):** 2 volunteers needed

### County Fair Volunteer Sign-up – Inflatables, Greeters/Exit survey & Fair Information Tent

Here's the link for the volunteer signup. Please share it with anyone interested. We still need quite a few helpers for the inflatables!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4caea823a1fe3-kalamazoo#/>

### 4-H -Fair Volunteers Needed:

**4-H Food Booth** - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-2023>

**4-H Information Booth** - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49A8AD22A2F49-4hinformation1>

**4-H Volunteer Events – Games, Performing Arts & Guinness Book of World Record Events**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49AFAE23AAF94-kalamazoo>

### Just Remember:

All of volunteers will need to go through  
***At least the silver level status in volunteer central***  
before being able to assist at the fair.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming\\_a\\_4\\_h\\_volunteer/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/)





## **Dairy Club Newsletter Info**

### **Beef/Feeder Calf Newsletter Info**

YQCA is needed by fair for all members that are selling livestock at the fair. Please send Veronica your certificate. Only option at this time is to obtain the certificate by doing an online class- here is the link:

<https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>

### **Important Cattle Related dates for Fair:**

#### **August 3- Pre- Fair Mandatory Meeting:**

Beef: Meet at the Beef/Feeder calf barn for a meeting at 6:15pm.

Feeder Calves: Meet at the Beef/Feeder calf barn for a meeting at 7pm

Don't forget to sign in- if you cannot come, you must make arrangements with Veronica at 4-H office@ (269)383-8830.

We will be decorating the barn in a Red/ White/ Blue theme this year- (check out Hobby Lobby and JoAnn's for post 4th July good deals!)

#### **August 5- Still Exhibit check in:**

Bring your required educational exhibit to the fairgrounds to be judged. Here is the link for the required record book – choose the record book for your 4-H age: Michigan 4-H Animal Market Project Record Books

It is considered the minimum- be creative! A profit and loss statement must be filled out and included in your educational exhibit for your calf to be sold in the auction.

#### **August 7- Calf check in/ Weigh in/ Showmanship clinic:**

You can check in your steers/calves into the Beef/Feeder Calf barn Monday, August 7- time: TBD-

**Kyle, Greg or Sara must look at your calf before the calf comes off of the trailer.**

Feeder calf weigh in will take place after the beef are weighed in.

We will have a showmanship clinic– time TBD

#### **August 9– Show day**

Feeder Calf show will be held at 2:00p

Beef show will be held at 4pm

Pizza party 6:00p

Set up for Auction 6:45p

#### **August 11- Auction 1pm**

**For your calf to be eligible to go through the auction:**

· You must have submitted a picture via Facebook/email/ mail to Kyle, Sara or Greg by earlier in the year (per project requirements),

· A picture of a clean calf/clean 4H member must be given to either Kyle, Sara or Greg on Tuesday of fair (to be given to your buyer),

You must have a profit and loss statement filled out per Project Record Book Requirements.

Dairy Feeder Calves must have weigh at least 370 lbs on Monday August 7 to go through auction.

#### **August 12- @ Noon THANK YOU NOTES DUE**

Please contact **Kyle** for Beef related questions and **Greg or Sara** if you have Feeder Calf questions!





# Shooting Sports dates for 2023 – *more on the way!*

## Events and Tournaments:

- August 13, 2023, [2023 Tri-CAT Event](#) (Tri-County Archery Tournament), Ypsilanti
- August 19, 2023, [2023 4-H State Shoot](#), Bellevue (Registration expected in late May-June)
- September 16, 2023, [Festival of the Pines Target and 3D Tournament](#), Lake City
- *Have an event open to members outside your county? Contact Laura for advertising support!*

## 2023 Re-certification process:

- October 15 – December 31: Recertifications accepted during this timeframe. Please await 2023 application prior to submission.
- December 31, 2023 – Final date Instructor Certifications expiring in 2023 may be used.

## Ambassadors

- August 2023 – National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Leadership Institute

**Questions?** Contact –

Jody Schultz - [schulzj@msu.edu](mailto:schulzj@msu.edu)

Mike George – Archery Instructor Email: [arch3rynut1@comcast.net](mailto:arch3rynut1@comcast.net)

Visit us on our [website](#).

Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports [Facebook page](#).





## MSU Extension Child and Family Development

MSU Extension has a wide range of free online classes, publications and handouts for parents and caregivers of children of all ages, as well as early childhood professionals, to help equip parents and caregivers with the tools to raise children and youth with positive social and emotional wellness so they can thrive in life.

**Help is just a click away!**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/child-family-development/>



You can also connect on the Facebook page at:

[MI Stronger Family - MSU Extension](https://www.facebook.com/mistrongerfamily)  
<https://www.facebook.com/mistrongerfamily>



**Show your Support!**

**4-H Grows Here** yard signs are available for purchase from the 4-H office for \$5.00 each.



# 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. 6**

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 sixth annual MSU Welcome Back 4-H Alumni Reception on Wednesday, September 6.

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 at [www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception).

### August 8: Bubble Day at the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

As we explore the wonderful world of bubbles we will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day)

### August 11: 4-H Children's Garden 30th Birthday Party

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

We will celebrate the garden's pearl birthday with activities and games. We will open the time capsule, eat cake and much more!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-30th-birthday-party](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-30th-birthday-party)

### August 13: Bee Palooza

*Michigan Horticulture Gardens, East Lansing*

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the insect pollinators around you? Join us for prizes, vendors, a bee petting zoo, face painting and more!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-beepalooza](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-beepalooza)

### August 13: Tri-County Archery Tournament

*Washtenaw Sportsman's Club, Ypsilanti Township*

Archers to the line! 4-H archers aged 9 and up are welcome to meet fellow competitors and test their skill. Registration is due Aug. 6.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/tri-county-archery-tournament](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/tri-county-archery-tournament)

### August 15: Kayaking Days Presented by Antrim County 4-H

*Paddles and Pedals, Bellaire*

Learn water safety, paddle techniques, navigation and receive introduction to stewardship of inland waterways. Open to youth in Antrim, Otsego, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Charlevoix counties.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/kayaking-days-presented-by-antrim-county-4-h](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/kayaking-days-presented-by-antrim-county-4-h)

### August 16: Adulting 101 – Eating Healthy on a Budget

*Online*

Preparing healthy food and staying within your budget does not have to be a challenge. Planning, preparing, and purchasing strategies will be shared so you can stretch your food dollars further.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-8-16](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-8-16)

### September 16: Festival of the Pines Archery Tournament

*Maple Grove Park, Lake City*

Archers to the line! 4-H members are invited to meet fellow competitors and test their skill

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/festival-of-the-pines-archery-tournament](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/festival-of-the-pines-archery-tournament)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## 2023 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, 22 4-H members from 15 counties submitted applications to take part in this year's program.

"All of our 4-H'ers across the state are amazing but the youth honored with 4-H State Awards are some of our most accomplished," said Julie Chapin, state 4-H leader for Michigan and director of MSU Extension's children and youth programs. "They have demonstrated their dedication to improving themselves and their communities through 4-H, service and more."



Michigan 4-H State Awards were presented in 13 of the 20 available award categories that showcase the diverse array of 4-H knowledge, skills and experience. Recipients of the 2023 awards are:

- **Beef Science:** Caleb Souva of Branch County (junior division) and Bridget Paidl of Menominee County (senior division)
- **Birds & Poultry Science:** Makayla King of Van Buren County (senior division)
- **Career Development:** Avery Stallman of Macomb County (junior division)
- **Companion Animal Science:** Stellamia Aerts of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Environmental Science:** Amanda Towne of Van Buren County (senior division)
- **Gardening and Horticulture:** Katie Miller of Eaton County (junior division)
- **Goat Science:** Dori Stuever of Huron County (senior division)
- **Leadership:** Makayla Chew of Midland County (junior division) and Alexis Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (junior division) and Morgan Bliesener of Ingham County (senior division)
- **Shooting Sports:** Justin Yarger of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM):** Peter Rambadt of St. Joseph County (senior division)
- **Swine Science:** Joseph Endres of Isabella County (junior division)
- **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Alana Aulph of Monroe County (senior 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.

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.