



Mecosta County

4-H Family News

May 2022

Welcome to May!

April showers bring May flowers! We are finally full force for spring and summer is right around the corner. Sometimes Spring feels like it is gone in a blink of an eye as winter tends to linger into April. Fair is vastly approaching so we are starting to get into high gear for those livestock and exhibit building projects. There will be a silent auction in the Exhibit Building for anyone who enters a static exhibit who would like to sell their project (example: woodworking, photography, quilting, etc). Be on the lookout for the registration form for the Exhibit Building to hit your 4-H Online emails soon!

Don't forget if you are showing in a market class, you must have the following requirements checked off to sell at the Mecosta County Fair auction sale:

3 hrs of community service by July 1, 2022 AND/OR 1 Educational Point by June 1, 2022

Attend ONE Junior Fair Board meeting between November 2021 and May 2022

Sincerely,

Jennifer Myers

4-H Program Coordinator

Contact Us



Jennifer Myers
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Mecosta County 4-H Council Shirt Fundraiser Sale



Design #1



Design #2



Design #3

Available in:

T-shirts (\$15 each)

Long Sleeve Shirts (\$20 each)

Hooded Sweatshirts (\$25 each)

Crew Neck Sweatshirts (\$25 each)

Contact a Council Member or the Extension Office to place your order today.

Money due at order. First order deadline is June 1st.

The Mecosta County 4-H Council is hosting a shirt fundraiser sale where proceeds will go towards providing funding for scholarships for high school seniors, My Last Bootprint, or statewide 4-H event scholarships. Order forms are available in the Extension Office. Color options for shirt material are heather gray, black, or Kelly green. Design #2 and #3 will have the 4-H clover on one shoulder. First round of orders are due June 1st with payment at ordering. Checks need to be made out to Mecosta County 4-H Council. We will be placing another order July 1st as well. Contact a Council Member or Extension Office with any questions.

Showmanship Clinic

Back Road Country Kids is hosting a Showmanship Clinic on May 14th from 9 am to Noon at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds. They will be covering the following species in no particular order listed below:

BEEF
DAIRY
DAIRY FEEDER
SHEEP
POULTRY
RABBIT
SWINE
GOAT
HORSES

The clinic qualifies as your one educational to be able to sell your market animal at the 2022 Mecosta County Fair. You must have AND/OR 3 hours of community service for auction. Community Service is due July 1, 2022. Educational is due June 1, 2022. You must attend one Junior Fair Board meeting between November 2021 and May 2022 for the 2022 fair.

Mecosta County Market Poultry and Rabbit Registration Form

Registration Deadline: May 27, 2022

Member Name: _____ Age (as of July 1): _____

Club Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Member Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Date Project
was in Possession

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Turkey</i> | |
| <i>Broiler Chickens</i> | |
| <i>Ducks</i> | |
| <i>Rabbit Meat Pen</i> | |
| <i>Rabbit Fryer</i> | |

NOTE: Each youth must pre-register their market poultry and rabbit projects to be eligible to sell the project at the Mecosta County Agricultural Fair Auction Sale. Turkey, Broiler, Meat Pen Rabbit, and Single Rabbit Project registration deadline is Friday, May 27, 2022.

Reminder: Photos are required for the Fryer Rabbit and Rabbit Meat Pen Projects. Two week photos are due to the office by 4:30 pm on May 27th and 6-week photos are due to the office by 4:30 pm on July 1st.

My signature indicates that the above animal(s) are under my care. I own them and I have correctly and honestly filled this form out to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a completed Record Book is required and I have read and understand the 2022 Mecosta County Fair Book.

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Dear 4-H youth and volunteers engaged in poultry projects:

On May 10, the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (MDARD) announced that they are [stopping all 2022 poultry and waterfowl exhibitions in Michigan](#) until such time that the state goes 30 days without a new detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic poultry. This decision is effective immediately and affects all poultry shows at county and regional fairs, as well as other local events within the 30-day window.

MDARD's decision is a precautionary measure made in the interest of animal and public health, as well to protect Michigan's poultry population. The comingling of animals from various flocks and facilities that occurs at these types of events provides an opportunity for diseases to spread quickly. As a result, it is for the health and safety of all birds that no avian species will be allowed to be displayed as part of any 4-H project, whether at a show, a club or group meeting, a petting zoo, or at any other event or venue. This includes but is not limited to chickens, pheasants, turkeys, quail, water fowl, guinea fowl and pea fowl, emus, ostriches, parrots and parakeets.

As of May 11, HPAI has been detected in 12 non-commercial backyard flocks and one commercial flock from ten different counties across both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The most recent detection was [announced on May 11](#) which means the stop currently extends through June 11. Each time a new case of HPAI is detected in domestic birds in the state of Michigan, the 30-day clock will reset. Visit [MDARD's avian influenza website](#) to find the latest listing of Michigan-detected domestic HPAI cases.

MSU Extension understands that the stop of near-term poultry shows and the uncertainty of later events this summer is difficult for the many 4-H youth and volunteers who have invested their time and talent into poultry projects. While unfortunate, MDARD's decision is in the best interest of all poultry owners and their birds in Michigan, including our 4-H families who participate in the poultry project.

MSU Extension is developing opportunities for 4-H'ers with avian-related projects to showcase their work, in the event live 4-H poultry shows are cancelled at fairs and exhibitions. Local 4-H staff will work closely with their community fair partners to determine which approved alternatives will be offered to county 4-H poultry participants. Please look for additional information in the coming weeks from your local 4-H staff to determine how the poultry show and exhibition stop will impact your local events.

Now more than ever, it is important for owners of poultry projects to implement preventative measures to protect their birds. This includes keeping animals contained in their own facilities, as well as:

- Preventing contact between domestic and wild birds by bringing them indoors or ensuring their outdoor area is fully enclosed.
- Washing your hands before and after handling birds as well as when moving between different coops.
- Disinfecting boots and other gear when moving between coops.
- Not sharing equipment or other supplies between coops or other farms.
- Cleaning and disinfecting equipment and other supplies between uses. If it cannot be disinfected, discard it.
- Using well or municipal water as drinking water for birds.
- Keeping poultry feed secure to ensure there is no contact between the feed/feed ingredients and wild birds or rodents.
- Separating birds that show any sign of illness and caring for them only after caring for healthy birds.
- Wearing clean clothing and footwear that has not been worn in a home coop into public venues such as fairs.

If you suspect a bird in your flock may be sick with avian influenza, contact MDARD immediately at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours). Signs of HPAI include unusual deaths, drop in egg production and significant decrease in water consumption.

As a reminder, the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) indicates the public health risk associated with avian influenza remains low. No birds or bird products infected with HPAI will enter the commercial food chain and poultry and eggs remain safe to eat when [properly handled](#) and cooked.

MSU Extension continues to work closely with MDARD and the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions to monitor the situation and will notify and advise 4-H families when important updates arise or when these activities can resume.

Thank you for your continued assistance in helping to protect Michigan flocks.

Sincerely,

Jacob Stieg
Michigan 4-H Poultry Project Point of Contact

Jake DeDecker
State Leader, Michigan 4-H

MECOSTA COUNTY 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---|-----------|---|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 4-H Council Meeting 6:30 PM @ MCSB PEP 6:30 PM @ CranHill Ranch | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Horse Leaders Meeting 7 PM @ MCSB PEP 6:30 PM @ CranHill Ranch | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Showmanship Clinic 9—NOON @ Mecosta County Fairgrounds |
| 15 | 16 Jr. Fair Board Meeting 7 PM @ MCSB | 17 PEP 6:30 PM @ CranHill Ranch | 18 | 19 Fair Board Meeting 7 PM @ Fairgrounds | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 PEP 6:30 PM @ CranHill Ranch | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 PEP 6:30 PM @ CranHill Ranch | | | | |

Support 4-H with the spring Tractor Supply Co. Paper Clover Campaign



Tractor Supply Company customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at checkout this April 27 -May 8. This applies to purchases made in stores and while shopping online at www.TractorSupply.com.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more regarding the campaign, visit <https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h>.

4-H Events and Workshops

May 1—28: Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters Walking Challenge

Across the state

Michigan 4-H alumni and supporters are invited to join a virtual walking challenge! Track and report miles walked for a chance to win prizes for you and your county 4-H program.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-alumni-and-supporters-walking-challenge

May 5: 4-H State Awards Preparation Training — Mock Interview and Tips

Online

Learn 10 tips for a successful interview, practice answering questions in small groups and get both positive and constructive feedback to prepare you for the 2022 4-H State Award process.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-state-awards-preparation-training-mock-interview-and-tips-may-5

May 7: Outdoor Survival Skills 4-H SPIN Club

Price Nature Center and Saginaw Field and Stream Club, Saginaw

Learn basic survival skills to help keep you safe in the outdoors during this three day SPIN club that will take place on May 7, May 12 and May 14.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/outdoor-survival-skills-4-h-spin-club

May 8: 4-H Grow Your Financial Garden Goosechase

Online

Grow your financial garden of knowledge as you gain money tips during this GooseChase app-based scavenger hunt! Win potential prizes and have fun!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-financial-garden-goosechase

May 9: Line Dancing Lessons with Lia

Montcalm County Fairgrounds Ash Building, Greenville

Join an evening of fun on your feet! Lia of Lia's Line Dance will teach you the basic steps of line dancing. This event is free and open to all.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/line-dance-lessons-with-lia

May 10: Wild Spartan Series

Online

Are you a Wild Spartan? Join this free monthly fisheries and wildlife research webinar series for families interested in exploring science, careers and conservation.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-may2022

May 10: 4-H State Awards Preparation Training — Mock Interview and Tips

Online

Learn 10 tips for a successful interview, practice answering questions in small groups and get both positive and constructive feedback to prepare you for the 2022 4-H State Award process.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-state-awards-preparation-training-may-10

May 14: Eaton County 4-H Pre-Fair Dog Fun Match

Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte

4-H dog project members and leaders are invited for a day of showing and fun hosted by Eaton County. Both youth and adults may participate in agility, obedience and showmanship classes.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/eaton-county-4-h-pre-fair-dog-fun-match

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2022-23 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2022-2023 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs, as well as recognize members of the 4-H community. All applications are due June 1.

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$500.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award (includes \$1,000 grant).** This award recognizes outstanding 4-H agricultural volunteers that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.

Tips for purchasing and bringing home livestock

Adapted from: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/tips-for-purchasing-and-bringing-home-livestock

Acquiring new stock is exciting whether you are building your herd or flock, or purchasing your annual 4-H project. These tips will help you manage their health and safety by making sure you know the questions to ask before purchasing and the preparations required to bring livestock home.

Assessing Animal Health and Treatment Documentation

When purchasing animals, you should know their history. Ask the following questions:

- When was the animal born?
- What specific vaccinations has the animal been given and when were they given?
- If necessary, was the animal properly castrated and what method was used?
- Have any other treatments been administered to the animal? If so, what is the slaughter withdrawal for the drugs given?
- Have any of the animals on the farm been ill or shown symptoms of illness?
- If acquiring a market animal, what is the approximate weight?

Considerations as You Bring Animals Home

Transporting. Secure a trailer. If you do not own a trailer, make arrangements with someone who can transport animals for you. Be prepared to pay someone to provide transportation, as a courtesy.

Unloading. Make sure that your facility is ready to house your new animals before they arrive. Have a pen identified for new animals to go into with fresh water and appropriate feed. (Feed should be similar to their previous diet; changing to a new diet should be done over a period of time.) Have a clear and direct path to the animals' new pen from the trailer. Make sure that all gates are open or closed, as appropriate, and secured.

Settling in. Quarantine, or separate, new animals for a minimum of 21 days. At minimum, try to avoid nose-to-nose contact, and comingling feeding and watering. Minimize stress on new animals during the quarantine period. If after 21 days, the newly acquired animals have not shown any symptoms of illness, it should be safe to comingle them into your existing herd or flock.

Comingling. Since each species has a social hierarchy, observe animals during comingling and separate if there is risk of injury. Over the course of a day, the herd or flock should settle into a routine that includes the new animals.

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp returns!



Save the date: 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is returning in person this summer! Hosted at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, this fun summer event will take place July 31—August 6.

Teens ages 13—15 will have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences that educate them about natural resources, environmental stewardship and more. Youth will also enjoy charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hiking through forests, wading through wetlands, exploring dunes and more!

Registration will open in early May and space is limited. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.