



Mecosta County

# 4-H Family News

December 2021

## Happy Holidays!

Hard to believe that it is 'tis the season! Wasn't it just Halloween yesterday? As I have rounded out my first month in Mecosta County I am still in the process of learning a lot of things. I have been able to meet a few of you throughout this first month at meetings and looking forward to attending more club meetings to meet everyone else. Michigan State University's President announced it is doing an extended holiday break at the end of the month for all employees. Therefore, the Extension office will be closed the last week of December. I will be intermittently answering emails that week while out of the office. Hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Myers*

4-H Program Coordinator

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# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4-H Enrollment Deadline	2	3	4 Beef Weigh-In 9-11 am @ Fairgrounds
5 Back Road Country Kids Meeting @ 4 PM TBD	6	7 4-H Council Meeting 6:30 PM @ MCB	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Extension Office Closed	25 Christmas Day 
26	27 Extension Office Closed	28 Extension Office Closed	29 Extension Office Closed	30 Extension Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve Extension Office Closed	

## UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

Mecosta County Extension Office is hosting an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest for the 4-H youth to participate in. Simply take a photo of you in your ugly Christmas sweater attire and email the photo with name, club, and age to Jennifer at [myersj50@msu.edu](mailto:myersj50@msu.edu) to be entered. Deadline for submission is 5 pm on **December 21st**. Extension staff will then choose their Top 3 favorite Ugly Christmas Sweaters that will get announced in the January 2022 newsletter. Top 3 finalists will win some 4-H merchandise. So do not miss out on the opportunity to partake in this fun contest. May the best ugly Christmas sweater win!



## BIG RAPIDS PARADE OF LIGHTS

Tamarack Town & Country 4-H Club participated in the Big Rapids Parade of Lights on November 20th in downtown Big Rapids. Club members had a blast decorating a float for the parade. Some 4-H'ers brought their goats and chickens to the festivities for the community to see. Some were even dressed for the occasion! What a great way for the club to come together to work as a team with the parade while also getting the word about 4-H out in the community. Great job kids, parents, and leaders! Looks like it was an absolute blast!



Does your club want to be featured in the monthly newsletter sometime? Simply share photos of a club event with details about the event to Jennifer at [myersj50@msu.edu](mailto:myersj50@msu.edu) to get featured.



# MECOSTA COUNTY BEEF WEIGH-IN



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2021**

9:00 - 11:00 am

Mecosta County Fairgrounds

Beef weigh-in is going to be Saturday, December 4th from 9 to 11 am at the fairgrounds. All cattle must be RFID tagged and be on a halter. Animals will get a fair tag at weigh-in. Registration form will need to be filled out at weigh-in. As of meeting in November, Fair Board is not planning to charge for tags, but just in case do bring cash.

## MECOSTA COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR BOARD

Mecosta County Fair Board has established a Junior Fair Board that composes of 8 board members with representation of each livestock specie and horses. The Junior Fair Board will serve much in the same way as the Junior Livestock Association board did. The Junior Fair Board will be meeting on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Mecosta County Building unless planned elsewhere.

The following youth are representatives for the following species:

**HORSES:** Elizabeth Underhill

**BEEF:** Kelsei Rushmore

**SHEEP:** Grace Kwiatkowski

**DAIRY:** Ruthie Doughty

**GOATS:** Olivia Marfio

**RABBITS/CAVY:** Hannah Koch

**SWINE:** Nayelie Monrroy-Surdam

**POULTRY:** Melanie Harkes

Congrats to these 4-H'ers for taking on this new role as peer leaders in the community! Look forward to see how you all make decisions that will help our county fair for all.

## STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

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### Submit your ideas to host a session at 4-H Exploration Days!

4-H Exploration Days is a team effort and we need you! We're seeking inspiring and fun educational sessions for the 2022 4-H Exploration Days event!

An exciting pre-college program for youth ages 12-19, 4-H Exploration Days bring together approximately 1,500 youth from across the state of Michigan. The 2022 event is slated for June 22-June 24, on the campus of MSU and now is your chance to get involved! We are looking for sessions and instructors that allow youth to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friends that can last a lifetime.



Sessions will be offered in 2.5, 3 and 6 hour time blocks on Thursday or Friday. Information on instructor roles and session times can be found on the 4-H Exploration Days website under at [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/Volunteer-Information/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/Volunteer-Information/).

Think outside the box for session ideas! Some great session topic areas in the past included: mental health/self care; a day in the life of a specific career path; recreational sports; art, culture, crafts, music, dance; animals and animal science; coding, website development and technology; and food, nutrition, basic cooking.

**The session proposal process is now open until December 15.** Notification will be sent by early 2022 regarding acceptance. Please submit your session ideas online at [msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0iFTMshS41iYerQ](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iFTMshS41iYerQ).

If you need assistance with the survey, have questions, or would like to brainstorm session ideas or ways to make a topic hands-on, please reach out to Laurie Rivetto at [rivettoL@msu.edu](mailto:rivettoL@msu.edu) and/or send an e-mail to: [4h.expodays@msu.edu](mailto:4h.expodays@msu.edu).



### Explore democracy at the 2022 Citizenship Washington Focus

4-H Citizenship Washington Focus is an exciting opportunity for 4-H youth ages 15-19 to spend a week in Washington, D.C. learning about the nation's government.

Participants will enjoy hands-on leadership workshops, meet with U.S. senators and representatives and tour historical sites. Featuring national experts and leaders, along with opportunities for career exploration, using your voice and building connections with teens from across the country, this is a can't miss experience for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan delegation will depart by bus on Saturday, June 25 and return on Friday, July 1. The first stop along the route is the 9/11 Memorial in Pennsylvania followed by an overnight stay in Gettysburg. On Sunday, the group will visit the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum, travel the battlefields with a licensed tour guide and see the Gettysburg Cyclorama Map of the Civil War before heading on to Washington, D.C.

Once in D.C., the group will stay at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Maryland. The cost for this trip is \$2,000 per youth, which includes transportation, lodging, conference costs and most meals. Spaces for this exciting event are limited, to learn more contact your local 4-H program coordinator or email Connie Lange at [langeec@msu.edu](mailto:langeec@msu.edu).

**Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!**

SHOP

amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

JOANN

Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.

Buy your 4-H essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (<https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0>) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (<http://www.joann.com/4-h/>) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.

**Shop the  
Michigan 4-H  
store this holiday  
season**



Just in time for the holidays, MSU Extension is excited to launch the first-ever Michigan 4-H pop-up shop!

Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council through Shop 4-H, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts. Visit the store online and find the perfect item for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! The shop is open to the public and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H.

To order items, visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>. The store will remain open beyond the holiday season to continue offering Michigan 4-H branded gear to the Michigan 4-H community.

## 4-H Events and Workshops

### December 6: Future Squad—Making a Connection in a Minute or Less

*Zoom Webinar*

Did you know that you make a great first impression in one minute or less with a great elevator pitch? Learn how in this interactive session for Future Squad members.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-6](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-6)

### December 7: Grow Your Money— Investing and Risk

*Zoom Webinar*

Young people have the advantage of time when it comes to investing. Start your path to wealth at a young age and learn how to make your money work for you!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-money-12-7](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-money-12-7)

### December 11: Mason County 4-H Sweet Sales Workshop

*West Shore Community College, Scottville, and Zoom Webinar*

Learn how to make candy and learn the financial skills to sell your own candy.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/mason-county-4-h-sweet-sales-workshop](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/mason-county-4-h-sweet-sales-workshop)

### December 14: Shiawassee 4-H Family Holiday Goosechase

*Online*

Use the Goosechase app to collect the array of items requested. Upload the images and receive points for each. Get the whole family involved! Just use your mobile phone and have your family help you.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/shiawassee-4-h-family-holiday-goosechase](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/shiawassee-4-h-family-holiday-goosechase)

### December 17: 'Tis the Season to be Scientific Virtual Challenge

*Online*

Mason County 4-H is hosting a virtual holiday and STEM-themed GooseChase scavenger hunt with prizes going to the top three finishers.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/mason-county-4-h-tis-the-season-to-be-scientific-virtual-challenge](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/mason-county-4-h-tis-the-season-to-be-scientific-virtual-challenge)

### December 20: 4-H Future Squad - Are You Paying Yourself First

*Zoom Webinar*

Putting aside money for the future can help you achieve your goals. Learn how to pay yourself first and create a saving habit in your life for both short-term and long-term goals.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-20](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-20)

### December 20: Lenawee Junior Master Gardener

*Lenawee Intermediate School District Center for a Sustainable Future, Adrian*

Do you love plants and gardening? Learn more about plants, soil, and gardening in a year with Junior Master Gardener. The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth

gardening program of the university cooperative Extension network.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-20](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-20)

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