

Berrien County 4-H Spotlight



The Berrien County MSU Extension Office will be closed on the following days. Please arrange for any pickup or drop offs prior to these dates.

Upcoming MSU Extension Office Closures

May 27, 2024

July 4, 2024

Volume 27 Issue 5

May - June 2024

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COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



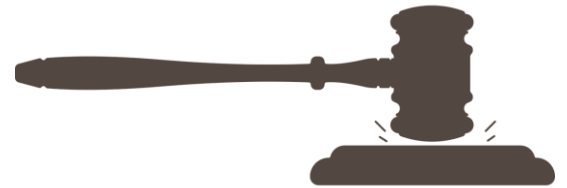
Upcoming Countywide Project Workshops & Kit to Go!

Registration is now open for countywide projects and project exploration kits. Pre-registration is required, and workshops are limited on a first come, first serve basis until full regardless of participation via self paced or in-person. All supplies are included unless noted during the registration process. Club Leaders may request Kit to Go's for their membership by directly contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Kit to Go! – Sold! Making the Most out at the Fair Auction

This kit is designed to assist you with preparing for your fair/exhibition auction. Grow the potential profit of your 4-H projects through a variety of marketing and communication strategies that will give you a leg up on your competition.

- **Date:** Registration is open, but limited to 100 kits on a first come, first serve basis until gone.
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2024, as well as Clubs, Groups, & 4-H Leaders
- **Register online at:** <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HSOLD/>
Limited to 100 kits on a first come, first serve basis until full.



4-H Countywide Project Birdhouse Build

Join us in learning about the woodworking project. Participants will be able to build and decorate a birdhouse to take home.

- **Date:** July 14, 2024
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2024.
- **Location:** Berrien County MSU Extension Office
- **Register online at:** <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HBirdsEyeView/>
- Limited to 20 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.



4-H Bowl A Rama – Connections Event

Join us as we come together for a night of fun-filled bowling. Bowling includes shoe rental and lane rental. Lanes can hold up to six (6) individuals. Please indicate on your registration form if requesting bumpers. Concessions will be available.

- **Date:** May 18, 2024
- **Cost:** Free
- **Who:** Open Berrien County 4-H families and their guests
- **Location:** Striker's Bowl
2705 Cleveland Ave.,
St. Joseph, MI 49085
- **Register:** Register by calling the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674 or online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HBowlARama/>



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association Annual Meeting



Save the date for the 58th Annual Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association meeting! Each club is required to send at least one (1) representative.

Date: May 20, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM EST.

Location: Berrien County Youth Fair – Berrien Springs, MI

Who: Berrien County 4-H Teen Leaders (Youth 13 years and up) and Leaders/Volunteers

Pre-register online through 4-H Online in the Events section at: v2.4honline.com or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Fall Leader Update



The Berrien County 4-H Annual Leader Update Training dates have been set. Don't waste time and mark those calendars now. Club Coordinators, project, and resource leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. It is important that each 4-H club/group is represented. Volunteers that are working on becoming new club leaders are also welcome. This is a valuable opportunity. Leaders only need to attend one time. Dates are as follows:

- September 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Buchanan Westerners
- September 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Berrien County MSU Extension

RSVPs are to be done through 4-H Online at:

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office.

Enrollment Deadline Approaching



4-H Online is now open for 4-H new year enrollments! Login today to submit your annual enrollment.

2023 – 2024 deadlines are as follows:

- January 1 – Returning Member Re-enrollment deadline
- June 1 – New Member deadline

Paper accommodations available upon request to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or can be found online at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/enrollment

Enrollment forms must be on file by the deadline dates listed above to be eligible for project complete, awards, scholarships, etc.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Berrien County 4-H Foundation

A message from The Berrien County 4-H Foundation to our 4-H Friends and Families

Do you know that 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan? Thousands of young people explore new interests and discover their passion through 4-H hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in science, healthy living and civic engagement. Perhaps you were one?

In the past year, one out of every 12 youth in Berrien County has participated in a 4-H program. These programs are backed by a community of 4-H volunteers and professionals. The Berrien County 4-H Foundation raises funds for our county 4-H.

This "Giving Tuesday," (or any time really) please help to reach even more youth. Your contribution, no matter what \$ amount, supports the growth of current and future leaders, youth who are confident and strong, curious enough to question and capable enough to find the answers, youth who stick to a job until the job gets done.

It's easy to donate via The Berrien County 4-H Foundation Facebook home page, or if you prefer, by mail to The Berrien County 4-H Foundation, 1737 Hillendale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series

A webinar series that will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support the Michigan 4-Hers. There will be a variety of topics offered throughout the year, with each topic offered twice as a daytime and evening option. Register to receive a virtual link online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>. Sessions include:

May 13: Preparing 4-Hers for Fairs and Showcases

Online

Time: Noon & 7:00 PM EST

As summer approaches, there are many opportunities for youth to showcase their skills and knowledge. 4-H volunteers have an important role in helping youth develop their interview skills, public speaking, presentation, and leadership skills as they participate in a variety of events and activities. Come attend this session to hear about some opportunities as well as techniques to prepare 4-Hers for fairs and showcase events.

May 22: Managing Risks For Volunteers

Online

Time: Noon & 7:00 PM EST

This session is Managing Risk For Volunteers: Our guiding principles state that youth are physically and emotionally safe; one step in this process is reviewing the media and medical authorization forms for the members engaged in your club. Join us to learn how to access, review, and keep this information safe while serving as a 4-H Volunteer.



It's that time of year again, Teen/Service 4-H Club will be hosting its annual 4-H Lemonade stand during the Berrien County Youth Fair.

They need club help, both Youth and Adults to assist during the week of the BCYF. Clubs may sign up for just one or multiple two (2) hours shifts. Clubs will earn a portion of the profits for that day.

If interested reach out to Bobbi Lawson at bobbilawson85@gmail.com or Freida Keefer at freida.keefer@yahoo.com for questions and shift sign up.

Shifts are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Each shift is required to have a Gold Level volunteers always present in the booth.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Top Honor to Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team

Congratulations and a round of applause to the members and coaches of the Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team. Recently, the team competed at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Judging Contest and each member placed in the top ten in their designated divisions. Members include Ginger H., Ellie K., Vivian M., Katie L., Ella M., Avery M. and Ellie K.

Team Coaches are Kaitlyn Miller and Tom Rossman of the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club. Results from the competition are as follows:



Back row- Tom R. (Coach), Katie L., Avery M., Ella M.,
Ginger H., Kaitlynn M. (Coach)
Front row- Vivian M., Ellie K.

Senior Novice Individual Overall

2nd Place- Ella M.

Senior Novice Reasons

3rd Place - Ella M.

Junior Regular Individual Overall

1st Place – Ginger H.

Junior Regular Reasons

2nd Place – Ginger H.

Junior Novice Team Overall

Berrien County

Junior Novice Individual Overall

1st Place – Avery M.

2nd Place – Vivian M.

8th Place – Ellie K.

Junior Novice Individual Reasons

1st Place – Avery M.

2nd Place – Katie L.

3rd Place – Ellie K.

6th Place- Vivian M.

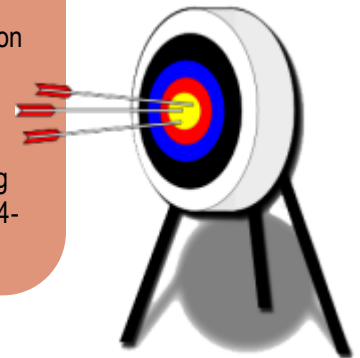
Junior Novice Team Reasons

Berrien County

2024 State Shooting Sports Tournament

The 2024 State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament will be held at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club on August 3!

This annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition with other 4-H members from all over the state. Registration will be opening soon and closes July 10. For registration information, tournament rules or additional information, visit 4-H State Shoot website at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_state_shooting_sports_tournament.



4-H Alumni & Cerny Memorial Scholarship

The Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association, Inc. announces two scholarship opportunities – the Alumni Scholarship and the Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship. The Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association, Inc. annually awards one or more scholarships, for a minimum of \$700.00 each. The Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship is also awarded annually for a minimum amount of \$700.00 and is offered independently of the Alumni Scholarship.

Although both scholarship are now awarded to one recipient in the same year, an eligible applicant can be awarded the Cerny Memorial scholarship one year and the Alumni scholarship another year. If you are planning to continue your education, we encourage you to review the requirements and if eligible, apply for these scholarships.

Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. EST. to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office. Interviews are scheduled for July 25, 2024 starting at 5:30 p.m. EST. Accommodations can be requested when submitting applications. Applications must be submitted in complete form by July 15, 2024. No late submissions accepted. Eligibility requirements and applications can be found online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



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 manage their health and safety by making sure you know what to ask before purchasing and how to prepare 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. Isolate or separate new animals for a minimum of 14 days. At minimum, try to avoid nose-to-nose contact, and comingling feeding and watering. Minimize stress on new animals during the isolation period. If after 14 days, the newly acquired animals have not shown any symptoms of illness, it should be safe to comingling 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.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2024-25 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2024-2025 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.





Raise a puppy. Change a life.

By being a volunteer puppy raiser, you and your family create life-changing moments, while helping a person who is blind or visually impaired regain independence.

WHAT DOES A PUPPY RAISER DO?

- > Devote 12-15 months of your time, energy and love to raising a puppy
- > Provide daily care, such as feeding and walking
- > Teach basic commands based on Leader Dog guidelines
- > Introduce the puppy to a variety of people and environments
- > Receive tons of ongoing support from Leader Dogs for the Blind

There are multiple puppy raising options to fit your lifestyle.

ONE HOUSEHOLD

This traditional way to puppy raise is perfect for families, college students, active singles, retired couples and empty nesters.

CO-RAISING (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RAISER)

This option is for someone who wants to share duties with a person from another household.

PASS-ALONG

One raiser has the puppy for the first six months and a second raiser has the puppy for the next six months.

- > Ideal for people who can commit only to a limited time raising a puppy
- > Individuals with pet weight/size restrictions or who may be more comfortable handling a younger, lighter dog can raise for the first six months, while individuals who prefer a dog that already has foundational behaviors may prefer raising the last six months.

CAMPUS PUPPIES

For college students raising on campuses approved by Leader Dog.

- > Must participate in campus puppy club and meet with assigned puppy counselor
- > All supplies, veterinary care and food paid by Leader Dog



To get more information, scan this QR code or visit LeaderDog.org and click on Volunteer.



LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND®





MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Cluck, Hop & Wiggle Show

Presented by Missaukee County 4-H

DATE & TIME:

Saturday, May 18, 2024
Show starts at 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION:

Missaukee Agr'l Youth Show
171 E Prosper Rd
Falmouth, MI 49632

COST:

\$2.00 entry fee
\$3.00 per class
Pay at the door in cash or
check payable to Missaukee 4-H
Advisory Board.

CONTACT:

Susan Beerens
Missaukee MSU Extension office
beerens@msu.edu
231-510-8701

REGISTER:

Scan QR code to register.
Registration ends May 5, 2024



DESCRIPTION:

This fun interactive show will include:

- Pullorum testing & Health Check 8 a.m.- 9:45a.m.
- Showing starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Rabbit and Poultry booths for making treats
- Rabbit agility available all day
- Concessions available
- Grand & Reserve Rossette and awards.
Prizes for all Cloverbuds.
- Open to all youth

Classes include:

Showmanship for:	Skill A Thon for:
* Chicken	* Poultry
* Duck	* Rabbit
* Turkey	
* Rabbit	
* Cavy	

Age Groups Are:

17-19
14-16
11-13
8-10
5-7 Cloverbuds

These ages represent the age you were on January 1, 2024.



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STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



National 4-H Annual Index Survey



The mission of National 4-H Council is to empower youth in 4-H programs to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults. To assess our success in this endeavor, we are conducting an annual study to measure the impact of 4-H on youth, and we invite your 4-H'er(s) to respond.

Michigan 4-H is looking for feedback from youth ages 13-18 regarding their experience in 4-H. Responses will be combined with other youth responses and will help us make sure future 4-H programs are really good. The survey will take about 15 – 20 minutes to complete.

If participating, please complete the survey by June 30, 2024.:

The survey can be found online at:

https://4hcouncil.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aYsiWmYMmnZtAGi

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact your local 4-H Office or contact Kathy Fischer (fisch226@msu.edu) with the Michigan State 4-H Office.

Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event

Date: Sunday, August 11, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Berrien County Youth Fair

Eligibility: Open to any Berrien County 4-H member who is 14—19 years of age and has completed the ninth grade. Maximum years of participating in the event is not to exceed five. Age/grade is determined as of January 1, 2024. Exhibitors must be enrolled in Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project by July 1, 2024.

Purpose: The Purpose of the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event is to identify and recognize the most versatile 4-H teen member and horse team in the Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project. The scholarship recognizes the outstanding 4-H horse and rider versatility combination at the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event.

2024 Gymkhana will be Cloverleaf Barrels

Amount of Scholarship: \$500.00 to Champion and \$250.00 to Reserve Champion. Member and horse must be pre-registered or post marked for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event by Monday, July 12, 2024

For eligibility, rules, requirements and application can be found starting on June 1 at:

- By calling the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674
- Online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h

For questions related to the Versatility Scholarship Event, contact Gail Freehling, Versatility Scholarship Event Chair.

Michigan Dairy Expo & 4-H Youth Dairy Days

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 15-19, 2024, at the Michigan State University Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lake State.

During the week, there are breed shows and showmanship contests for 4-H youth as well as open shows for dairy enthusiasts of all ages. In addition to cattle events, there are three additional contests young people may participate in: Dairy Management/Skillathon Contest, Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, and Dairy Quiz Bowl.

Complete entry information can be found in the book

at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2024-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days>



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



National 4-H Congress

National 4-H Congress is a five-day event that engages high school aged 4-H members in leadership, citizenship, global awareness, and inclusion. Youth will hear from nationally renowned speakers, which in the past have included a wide range of individuals, including Holocaust survivors, social entrepreneurs, Miss America, and civil rights leaders. Additionally, participants take part in breakout sessions on a wide range of topics, including communications, leadership, and STEM. Participants not only have the opportunity to participate in state-of-the-art educational workshops and hear from world-renowned speakers, but they also have the opportunity to network with other 4-H members from across the United States.

Beyond the conference, National Congress delegates attend educational tours, including the Georgia History Center, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park, Georgia Aquarium, and Coca-Cola Headquarters. Youth carry out community service projects throughout the Atlanta area which has included in the past programs in parks, community schools, and other community organizations.

- **When:** November 29 – December 3, 2024
- **Where:** Atlanta, GA
- **Who:** Youth aged 14-19
- **Cost:** Cost is approximately \$1800.00 - \$2000.00 with adjustments based on airfare.

County Scholarship: The Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program offers Berrien County 4-H'ers to receive a county level scholarship to apply towards registration fee approximately \$1650.00 - \$1850.00 making the registration cost after scholarship application of \$150.00. Scholarships are limited and filled based on an application process.

Registration: Application for the trip is due with a \$50.00 deposit to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office no later than August 1, 2024. Checks can be made payable to MSU. Notification of scholarship and trip selection will be done prior to August 10, 2024. Application for trip can be found online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships or can be requested by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

To learn more, visit the National 4-H Congress website at: <https://national4-hcongress.com/>

Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

The State 4-H Horse Show is an annual, three-day event that brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event.

Date: August 16 – 18, 2024

Where: MSU Pavilion

Who: Open to youth ages 13 and Up as of January 1, 2024.

For more show schedule, eligibility, etc. go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show-2024>

Berrien County Application:

- Submit a 300 – 500 word essay on the topic “Tell us about your show attire for one discipline and why you chose this outfit.” Make sure to provide details. Pictures may be included.
- Essays must be emailed or dropped off to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office..

Deadline for Application: July 1, 2024 – No late submission accepted.

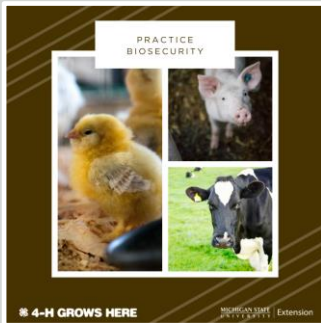
****Selected delegates will receive a registration packet that is due by July 15, 2024.**



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Livestock and poultry owners encouraged to heighten biosecurity



Recently, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in cattle, cats and commercial poultry flocks across the country and Michigan. MSU Extension and its state partners are continuing to monitor the situation and providing outreach to help mitigate the spread of HPAI. Livestock and poultry owners are strongly encouraged to take proactive measures to defend against additional outbreaks in Michigan. Check out the following resources helpful information on biosecurity:

- www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity
- www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms
- www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza
- www.canr.msu.edu/avian_influenza/

Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters Walking Challenge

May 5, 2024

Online

All Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters are invited to compete in a virtual Walking Challenge! We are encouraging all Michigan 4-H Alumni to get active and stay healthy!

Register online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-alumni-and-supporters-walking-challenge>

4-H and FFA State Meats Judging Contest

May 8, 2024

MSU Meat Lab

This annual contest allows youth to demonstrate their carcass evaluation and meats judging skills.

For more information go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-state-meats-judging-contest-2024>

Build and Protect Your Credit – An Adulting 101 Session

May 15, 2024

Zoom/Online

Learn why your credit matters, how to start obtaining credit and how to manage it.

For more information go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/credit>

Online Parent Talk System Series

May 15, 2024 – June 20, 2024

Zoom/Online

The Parent Talk System is a course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered at no cost.

For more information go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2024>

4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

June 26, 2024

MSU Pavilion

This annual contest allows 4-H and FFA youth to demonstrate their livestock evaluation skills.

Please note the date change for this contest for 2024; it is now two weeks earlier than years prior.

For more information go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-state-livestock-judging-contest-2024>

For more Michigan 4-H and Michigan State University Extension Events go to:

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



Berrien County MSU Extension
1737 Hillandale Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



4-H Spotlight

Berrien County 4-H Youth Development



Facebook – “Berrien County 4-H Youth Development”

Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

