



APRIL 2024

4-H Family News

Calhoun County



Program Coordinator Update



Even though I am new to 4-H, I am also a long-time volunteer with other organizations, and I know all too well that strange combination of exhaustion and exhilaration that come with volunteering.

One of my favorite quotes about volunteering comes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and is "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

You might not know this – but April is National Volunteer Month! This month, I'd like to take the opportunity to say THANK YOU to all our volunteers in 4-H. Thank you for choosing to give of your time and knowledge to uplift youth in our community.

You are appreciated!

In other news, registration for 4-H Exploration Days is open through April 19th. Register online at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information

You can also find a list of sessions there, but keep in mind the longer you wait to register the more likely it is that sessions will be full!

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding Exploration Days!

What's inside!

- Find out all about 4-H Alumni & Supporters Walking Challenge that starts on May 5
- Get the details on April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Working with Cloverbuds
- Meet the some of the 4-H Tumbleweed Riders and their leader Mary Stockel-Adams
- How to Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals on Sunday, April 28
- Tractor Supply's Paper Clovers are back! Find out when the campaign begins



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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign



From April 24 – May 5, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at checkout, both online and in stores.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more regarding the campaign, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign.

March 3-May 4: JOANN 4-H Campaign

Stores across Michigan

While visiting your local JOANN store, you can support 4-H by adding a donation or rounding up at checkout.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/joann-s-clover-for-kids-campaign

April 3: Keeping Your Money Safe

Online

Wondering how to safeguard your hard-earned cash? Whether you're saving for college, planning your next adventure, or simply building a nest egg, it's essential to make informed choices about where you store your money.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/keeping-your-money-safe-4-3>

April 10: Adulting 101 Series - Cover Letter and Resume Writing

Online

By attending this workshop, you can start or improve a resume or cover letter. Gain tips and tricks and be ready to apply for that opportunity!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/resumewriting

April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Working with Cloverbuds

Online

Come attend this session to learn and share techniques for working with Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) and project ideas that work well with this age group. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-working-with-cloverbuds
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-working-with-cloverbuds7pm

April 27-28: 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop

Charlevoix Rod and Gun Club, Charlevoix

Learn about Mich. 4-H Shooting Sports mission, policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up and more. Registration deadline: April 4.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-2024-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-workshop-for-adults-and-teens

May 8: 4-H and FFA State Meats Judging Contest

East Lansing

By participating, contestants show their ability to evaluate carcasses and identify meats. This contest will include individual and team competition.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-state-meats-judging-contest-2024





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Sign up for the Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters Walking Challenge!

Starting May 5, MSU Extension will host a 4-H Alumni & Supporters Walking Challenge, where participants will track their miles walked and compete for a top spot in the contest! Each week, top contestants will win a 4-H swag prize and the county who logs the most miles throughout the whole challenge will earn a \$100 cash prize for their county 4-H program. Random weekly winners will also be chosen amongst registered participants who have actively engaged in the contest during the previous week.

Miles walked/ran will be collected weekly through a Google form; this form will be sent upon completion of the registration. Each week, the top contestants will be based on the number of miles logged from Sunday to Saturday. Individuals will report their miles by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. ET. Submissions received later than Sunday by 11:59 p.m. ET will not be eligible for weekly prizes.

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



Michigan 4-H presents Show Your Money Smarts Contest



Join Michigan 4-H for a fun contest leading up to National Financial Literacy Month in April. Expand your knowledge and compete with other youth across Michigan to earn prizes in money management challenges.

Show Your Money Smarts Contest (13-19 years old)

Learn how to keep your money safe in this year's sixth annual online contest. Compete with other youth across the state of Michigan in this 30-question online challenge during the month of April and win prizes. High scoring youth will be entered into a prize drawing to win a \$50 gift card. Start developing good financial habits at a young age and learn how to choose a financial institution that works for you! Learn more at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/show-your-money-smarts-contest>.

Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers!

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals on Sunday, April 28. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff, and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game. A portion of every ticket sold on this link will be donated back to Michigan 4-H. Make sure to wear your favorite 4-H gear and support 4-H while enjoying a fun day with the 4-H community.

New this year, Michigan 4-H guests will receive:

- A dual-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers hat. Hats are redeemable on gameday in section 332.
- An exclusive pregame on-field opportunity. Timing and logistics of this opportunity will be released within a month of the game date.

Only tickets purchased through the Michigan 4-H link are eligible for these exclusive opportunities. This year, tickets will be available in a variety of locations throughout the stadium, with prices ranging from \$27 - \$59. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Meet 4-H Tumbleweed Rider Leader Mary Stockel-Adams

Mary Stockel-Adams is another leader who has dedicated much of her life to serving 4-H. She was active in 4-H as a youth until she was 21 and has been a leader for 40 years!

“When I lived in Connecticut, our leaders were like neighbors. I come from a very big family, there are ten kids. So, my parents wanted to get us involved in something that would teach us things, so we got involved in 4-H. Our leaders lived down the road and I was able to take in a horse and my sisters and brothers were able to take in animals too,” explained Mary.

Her dad decided to relocate, and she said the move was very difficult for her. “I was very involved in 4-H and the school FFA (Future Farmers of America). When she moved to Michigan, everything was brand new. “I was very shy.” Two girls began talking with her and found out she had a horse and invited her to Tumbleweed Riders and that began a life-long dedicated relationship with 4-H.

“That’s why it is so passionate to me because I think it made me who I am today,” said Mary who eventually became a leader of the Tumbleweed Riders.

Crediting 4-H with her love of animals, she currently works at a Veterinary hospital as a vet tech. She was also Marshall High School’s Equestrian Coach for 20 years. 4-H taught her the importance of volunteering so she gives her time to 4-H Council as well.

For anyone wondering if they should join 4-H, this is what being a member taught her:

Patience Honesty Truthful to being who you are Respect Leadership

As a youth, she often asked why are we doing things a certain way. “Now I realize why. So I can be here to support my family and friends, and help these youth to be stronger citizens, and have respect and leadership. Everything that 4-H provides.



COMMUNICATING WITH THE CALHOUN COUNTY OFFICE

MSUE Calhoun County Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday
1 – 5:00 pm



Can’t make those hours? Call Sylvia at the office to see how we can help. 269-781-0784

As we head into spring, things get busy at the Calhoun County Michigan State University Extension Office. 4-H Club activity boosts and Extension classes are in full swing.

When calling us be sure to leave a message and phone number if there isn’t an opportunity to talk with someone. We will get back to you.

If you **WANT** to receive emails from 4-H, make sure to log in to 4-H online and check your profile. There is a question that asks "Subscribe to Emails?" - make sure that is set to yes.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS (PART TWO)

4-H - All About Experiential Learning



4-H Clubs provide lots of opportunities to experience experiential learning. Experiential learning – or learning by doing – is at the core of what 4-H is about. Calhoun County is no different with clubs like Shooting Sports, Poultry Club, Companion Dog Club, as well as Creative and Expressive Arts.

Experiential learning happens outside of clubs, too. SPIN Clubs, or Special Interest Clubs, meet for six weeks and focus on a specific topic. While other programs, like the Tractor Operator Program, offer safety training, first aid skills and even driving experience to participants.

A few students and a teacher shared how this invaluable training changes the students' abilities and perspective on life.

Tavin Jones, 15, Marshall, said he enrolled in the Tractor Operator Program because it seemed like something fun to do and it turns out he was right. During their course they learned about safety, but what he liked best was the driving. Ivan Jackson, 16, Marshall, had exposure to tractors before, so he found the class easy. But the course reminded him of some of the challenges of driving a tractor, like being alert. He explained, "Watching out for stuff that might be in the way that you might think isn't in the way." Ivan believes he is a better operator now after taking the course and shared that all of it was fun.

Jeremy Blunt was the instructor for the course and said he has watched students communicate more and ask better questions with every lesson. He said, "They learn life skills of making good decisions and risk associated with it. They learn all the different components of a tractor and the risks associated with them. They learn how to drive in a confined space." The teenagers also developed more interpersonal skills and public presentation.

"As we go through class, I try to engage kids and keep them engaged so they step up, talk and answer questions, and get confidence. I asked them for volunteers to assist with this interview, and they would have never done that the first day."



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CALHOUN COUNTY



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