



DECEMBER 2022

4-H Family News

MECOSTA COUNTY



WELCOME LETTER HEADLINE

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Hard to believe December is finally here. It is almost like we blinked and 2022 flew right on by! Former 4-H'ers, enrollment is due for you all. So if you plan on showing at the 2023 Mecosta County Fair, head over to 4-H Online NOW to enroll. New enrollment deadline is March 31st.

The Extension Office will be closed December 23rd – January 2nd in observance of the holidays. I will not be available to respond to 4-H related Facebook Messenger messages or work emails during this time as I am planning to spend it with my family back in Indiana that I have not been able to spend time with for quite a few months.

I hope you and your family have a festive holiday season!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Myers

4-H Program Coordinator

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

				1 National Christmas Lights Day	2 Hippology Club Meeting 6:30 PM @ MCSB	3 Beef Weigh-In 9 – 11 AM @ Mecosta County Fairgrounds
4 National Cookie Day	5 World Soil Day	6 4-H Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM MCSB	7	8	9 Hippology Meeting 6:30 PM @ MCSB	10
11	12 Gingerbread Decorating Day	13 National Cocoa Day	14	15 National Re-Gifting Day	16	17
18	19	20 Go Caroling Day	21	22 National Cookie Exchange Day	23	24 Christmas Eve
25	26 National Thank You Note Day	27	28	29	MSU Extension Office Closed	
					30 National Bacon Day	31 New Year's Eve



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Beef Weigh-In

Weigh-in will be from 9-11 am on December 3rd at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds. Please make sure you have registration paperwork filled out prior to animals coming off the trailer. The whole RFID # is required to be written on the registration forms. No charge for fair tags again this year.

MECOSTA COUNTY BEEF WEIGH-IN



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2022
9:00 - 11:00 am
Mecosta County Fairgrounds

Holiday Photo Challenge

I am challenging all Mecosta County 4-H'ers to spend some time this Holiday season taking photographs. I am wanting to challenge each of you to take a photo of what the Holidays mean to you with a 5 word description. Simply email me your photo by December 31st to be a part of the challenge. Plus – if you decide you love your photo, you could enter it into the Exhibit Building at the Mecosta County Fair! Let me know if you have any questions. E-mail photos as an attachment to: myersj50@msu.edu with subject line Holiday Photo Challenge. Also please include your name and primary club in the email.



Mecosta County 4-H Fundraiser

The Mecosta County 4-H Council is doing a hooded sweatshirt and 4-H Beanie Hat fundraiser sale where proceeds will go towards providing youth scholarships for 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University in June of 2023. 4-H Exploration Days is a great opportunity for youth, ages 12-19 as of January 1, to explore their future, try new things and experience college life. It is a three-day event where youth gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime. Sweatshirts will be \$30 each for sizes S-XL and an additional \$3 for sizes 2XL and above. 4-H Beanies will be \$15 each. Payment, via cash or check, must be received by the Mecosta County Extension Office by December 10, 2022 for your order to be placed. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give the Extension Office a call at 231-592-0792.

Place order by following the link:
<https://forms.gle/jwAK5hmjatrQiDgz7>

Mecosta County 4-H Fundraiser



Sweatshirt Option #1



Sweatshirt Option #2

The Mecosta County 4-H Council is doing another fundraiser where proceeds will go towards 4-H Exploration Days scholarships.

Hooded Sweatshirts are \$30 each in size S - XL.

Sizes bigger 2XL and up are an additional \$3 per sweatshirt.

4-H Clover Beanie Hats (gray with green 4-H clover) will be \$15 each.

Order and money is due to the Mecosta County Extension Office by December 10, 2022.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shop the Michigan 4-H store this holiday season



Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store!

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 Michigan 4-H specific 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.

December 3: Family Holiday Craft Day

Arthur Center Church of God, Clare

Bring the family and get crafty! This event is \$5 per participant.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/family-holiday-craft-day>

December 13: Wild Spartans –Special Education to Wildlife Biologist

Online

Take a closer look at charismatic microfauna and hop along to uncover the hidden world of herpetology. Meet Erim Gómez, assistant professor of wildlife biology at the University of Montana. Learn about his field work and the education and career path he followed to get there. Youth will partake in a live Q&A. This free series is open to youth ages 12-19 years.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-december-2022>

December 14: Cloverbud Fun Night

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Kalamazoo

Join us for a day of games, activities and crafting fun!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cloverbud-fun-night-december-2022>

December 15 –January 2: Hunting & Wildlife Quiz Bowl

Online

4-H members are encouraged to test their knowledge of wildlife and natural resources in the 2022 Hunting & Wildlife Quiz Bowl. Ages 5-19 welcome to play.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/hunting-wildlife-quizbowl>

December 31: 2022 Re-Certification for Shooting Sports Instructors

Online

Deadline for instructor re-certification efforts. Policy and application available online.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2022-re-certification-for-shooting-sports-instructors>

January 7: 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshop

Four Square Sportsman's Association, Jeddo

Interested in leading shooting sports with a 4-H club? Become a certified instructor at this one-day, hybrid workshop! Registration deadline is December 15.

[4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshop - 4-H Shooting Sports \(msu.edu\)](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-workshop)





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Opportunity to teach at 4-H Exploration Days 2023

Annually, MSU Extension holds [4-H Exploration Days](#), a pre-college program for more than 1000 youth (ages 12-19 years old) from across the state. This exciting program allows youth to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friends that can last a lifetime. The 2023 event is set for June 21-23 on the campus of MSU.

This exciting event is a team effort and we need you! We're currently seeking inspiring and fun educational and free time session proposals. Think outside the box for ideas! Youth like sessions on career paths, cutting edge research/work, animals, life skills for their future, recreational activities and new and emerging activities/topics. Some of the areas requested by youth also include: robotics, drones, music, outdoor activities like biking, rappelling, kayaking and nature sessions.



Session and free time proposal requests are now open until December 5. More information on the adult instructor role and the youth co-instructor role, as well as details about proposal requirements, can be found at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/Volunteer-Information/.

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs
2023 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS
 Costa Rica · Japan · South Korea

Are you curious about daily life, culture, and youth programs in other countries?
 Travel abroad with States' 4-H and enter a world that most tourists rarely get to see.

Travel abroad with States' 4-H International Exchange Programs

Want to see another part of the world? Michigan 4-H is accepting applications for the Summer 2023 outbound international exchange program! Explore a new country and culture via an immersive international exchange experience.

Michigan 4-H has been in a partnership with States' 4-H International Exchange Programs for many years and through this collaboration, American 4-H youth have the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a month-long cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer

host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Enrich your 4-H experience and apply today to travel abroad in the summer 2023! Michigan 4-H is currently planning to offer trips to Japan, Costa Rica and South Korea. Visit <https://www.states4hexchange.org/> to learn more and apply by January 1, 2023.

Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!

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.

