



NOVEMBER 2024

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Join us for the 4-H Recognition Program



Join us on Sunday, November 10th from 2-4 pm for our annual 4-H Recognition Program at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. During this special annual event, we will recognize 4-H youth, volunteers, and community supporters from the 2023-24 program year. Join us to celebrate your Washtenaw County 4-H Program!

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Desserts, popcorn, and beverages will be served.

Invitations for winners will be going out this week but we encourage all 4-H members to attend and cheer on your friends, volunteers, and community supporters. We will also have the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau photo booth to take fun photos!

We will also be collecting donations for the Michigan Menstrual Movement, a 4-H project led by two 4-H'ers to provide free products to Ypsilanti Schools. You can find more information about this on page 4 of the newsletter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

4-H Recognition Program

November 10th from 2-4 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

Advisory Council Meeting

November 14th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Small Animal Committee Meeting

November 21st at 6 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Association Meeting

November 26th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

4-H Holiday Tree Sale

November 30th, December 1st, December 7th -8th at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds in Building G

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Volunteers Needed for the 4-H Holiday Tree Sale



Mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Tree Sale hosted by the 4-H Advisory Council. The Tree Sale will be held the two weekends following Thanksgiving: November 30th-December 1st, December 7th and 8th. The sale will be held at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds in Building G on each Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm and each Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. This great event supports Washtenaw County 4-H in many ways by funding scholarships and outreach. The sign up for 4-H'ers and 4-H volunteers to volunteer for shifts will be coming out soon!

Reminder: Youth who are not able to independently sell trees will need to have an adult come and help support them!

Harwood Scholarship Applications: Due on November 11th

The Ada May and Webb Harwood Scholarship application deadline is fast approaching! This Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarship is for current or former Washtenaw County 4-H members, Washtenaw County Youth, and Washtenaw County FFA members who are outstanding in Home Economics or Animal Science Projects. Applicants must be incoming freshman, as well as college sophomores,



juniors, and seniors continuing their education at an accredited institution of higher education (four-year institution, two-year, community college or trade/vocational schools all qualify). You can find more of the guidelines and requirements for this scholarship on the [application form here](#). We encourage youth who qualify to complete and submit an application! The deadline for submissions is November 11th.

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Superintendent Applications Due Nov. 1st



Are you or do you know an individual interested in taking on a role as a Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show superintendent? If you're interested, [please look over the volunteer expectations and the letter of intent](#). We ask that all letters of intent (from new applicants and existing superintendents) be returned to the office by Friday, November 1st. There are plenty of opportunities available, including animal and non-animal barn specific superintendents!

Not all previous superintendent intents are turned in yet however, we know that we will be looking for a herdsmanship superintendent, a poultry superintendent, but there could be more positions available! Questions contact Amy, harr1976@msu.edu.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H'ers Celebrate National 4-H Week at Board of Commissioners Meeting

On October 2nd, Washtenaw County 4-H attended the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Meeting to lead the pledge of allegiance and also teach our County Commissioners the 4-H pledge in honor of National 4-H Week starting on October 6th. We are grateful to the Board of Commissioners for making time during their busy meetings to accommodate us and also for their participation in reciting the pledge.



Thank you to 4-H members Shepherd Thompson and Amy Sweet of S & L Bauernhof 4-H Club and Vivienne Turri of Science, Animals, and Arts 4-H Club for volunteering to lead the pledges and speak in front of the County Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners meetings can be an intimidating place for a teen and they all shined with confidence.

Amy Sweet and Vivienne Turri are featured in the photo above with Commissioner Hodge. Shepherd, 4-H Program Coordinator Amy Harris, Vivienne Turri, and Amy Sweet are featured in the photo to the right.

We are proud to have such amazing young leaders in our county!

Submit 4-H Club Still Projects Ideas for Newsletter

As the weather gets colder, many of our 4-H clubs turn to Still Projects to keep our 4-H members engaged and learning. The Still Projects Committee would love to feature your clubs 4-H projects or activities in the Washtenaw County 4-H Newsletter. 4-H teens or volunteers can submit a short paragraph describing the project or a link to a curriculum. We also highly encourage photos if you have them. We are hopeful these ideas can help 4-H clubs come up with new projects that are of interest to their 4-H youth.

Project ideas can be submitted to Jenny Speyer, speyerje@msu.edu.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

National 4-H Grant for Michigan Menstruation Movement Project Based in Washtenaw County



In July 2024, two 4-H youth, Neha Pola and Zachary Mitcham participated in the 4-H True Leaders in Equity Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Zachary is a Washtenaw County 4-H youth and Washtenaw County Youth Commissioner. Neha is part of Wayne County 4-H but serves as a teen leader with Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti. At this leadership opportunity, participants were challenged to work together to ideate and champion equity-related projects that will grow 4-H in their communities. Zach and Neha submitted a grant

proposal with the help of Washtenaw County 4-H Volunteer Riley Annear and 4-H Staff member Brian Wibby and received a National 4-H Council grant for \$2,000 for their project. Their project, Michigan Menstrual Movement, aims to reduce period poverty and reduce the stigma around menstruation. Period poverty is the lack of access to safe and hygienic menstrual products. This issue can be partially attributed to financial hardships and is most common in impoverished communities. According to the United States Census Bureau, 13.4% of Michiganders live in poverty. For Ypsilanti, Michigan—a neighboring city of Ann Arbor home to 20,000 citizens—this number is more than doubled with 27.3% of Ypsilanti residents living in poverty. Additionally, one-in-four teens and one-in-three adults in the United States struggle to afford period products, especially teens of color and lower-income households.

To help reduce period poverty in Ypsilanti, Neha and Zach will be hosting drives at local businesses and community organizations where folks can donate cash or period products that will go to Ypsilanti Middle Schools. They will be working with other youth organizations and clubs in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti schools to staff these drives. Donated products will be placed in dispensers at schools for youth to access free of charge.

We also want to invite Washtenaw County 4-H families and volunteers to contribute by donating unopened menstruation products at our 4-H Recognition Program on November 10th. Families and volunteers can bring unopened products and 4-H staff will get them to Neha and Zach. All the products will then be distributed to schools in Ypsilanti.

If you have questions or would like more information about this project, please contact Jenny Speyer, speyerje@msu.edu, who is also working with Neha and Zach on this project.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

S & L Bauernhof Brings Joy to Trunk or Treat Event in Whitmore Lake



On October 20th, S & L Bauernhof contributed to the community spirit by participating in the Trunk or Treat event held in Whitmore Lake. This marked the 6th time the club participated in this community event, which saw over 300 children and families come together for an evening of fun and education.

S & L Bauernhof thrilled attendees with a selection of small animals, providing an interactive experience that was enjoyed by young and old alike. A pumpkin bowling station was also available, adding to the festive activities. The presence of these animals not only entertained but also offered a unique educational opportunity for families to learn more about farm life.

Proudly representing 4-H, the Club members embraced the chance to educate more families about 4-H missions and values. Their participation underscored the importance of community engagement and the joy of sharing knowledge.

Overall, the Trunk or Treat event was a success, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

What else has the S& L Bauernhof Club been up to this month?

On October 15th, Amy Sweet volunteered and represented S & L Bauernhof at the Treat of Agriculture event. She enthusiastically managed the pumpkin bowling station, ensuring the activity ran smoothly.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Fall Fun 4-H Club Projects & Events Around the County



Saline 4-H Farmers 4-H Club met this October to make cards for Veterans in anticipation of Veterans Day on November 11th.



Junior Livestock Members helped pass out flyers and promote 4-H at the Saline Trunk or Treat in Downtown Saline on October 23rd. Members dressed up and also decorated a farm themed trunk. As always, they had a great time!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign



To embrace the holiday spirit, the Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Paper Clover campaign has moved from its traditional October dates to November and December this year! Now from Nov. 29 – Dec. 15, TSC customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at www.TractorSupply.com during the campaign dates.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

New for 2024, you can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments, now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.



November 6: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Ways Volunteers Can Spark Big Dreams and Future Careers

Online

November is National Career Development Month! Learn easy activities to help youth explore career pathways and develop skills to be ready for the workforce. Explore tools and resources that allow youth to reflect and prepare for the next steps in their career journey. This session will be offered twice for the convenience of volunteers.

12 – 1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers

7 – 8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers7pm

November 12: Wild Spartan Series – Behind the Scenes in the Life of a Park Ranger

Online

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans will fly into the refuges that many migrating birds depend on for migration. Join us at 6:30 p.m. to meet Andrea Martinson, park ranger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Learn about her work, and the education and career path she followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25/

November 19: Adulting 101 - Cracking the Code to College

Online

The Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own. In this session, explore the admission and application process and get tips on writing your essay.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/college

November 21: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Positive Youth Development 101; Building Strong Relationships Through Every Stage

Online

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. In this webinar, we will explore the key stages of child and youth development and the common characteristics that young people share as they grow. Learn how to support and engage with youth effectively, recognizing that each young person develops at their own pace. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to foster meaningful connections with youth at every stage of their growth.

12 – 1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage

7 – 8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Starting the 4-H season off right: Suggestions for the year's first meeting

Adapted from an article by Michelle Neff at www.canr.msu.edu/news/starting-the-4-h-season-off-right-suggestions-for-the-years-first-meeting.

A new 4-H year has started and that means it is time to start thinking about the goals and plans for educational, inspirational and recreational activities for Michigan 4-H clubs! No matter what project youth are participating in, it is important to start the year off right!



MSU Extension has resources for volunteers to help lead and manage their 4-H club on the 4-H Club Development website, www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/index. A good start to the 4-H year will allow youth members, club leaders and parents to be clear about expectations and plans for the group and be excited for what will take place. Some tips to get you started include:

- Get to know youth and adults and share about 4-H! Clubs transition from year to year. There may be members new to 4-H, youth trying new project areas, and members who have left or transitioned to different activities. Make sure everyone knows each other with a fun icebreaker activity.
- Prepare a list of activities for the year. The 4-H year goes fast and there is a lot to do in a short period of time. Preparing a list of club activities for meetings is important to ensure youth are learning the life and technical skills of their 4-H project.
- Create a calendar. Once you have your activities picked out, it's time to plan when and where it will all happen!

MSU Extension hosts successful second Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol

On October 9, MSU Extension hosted the second Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol to showcase the positive impact of the Michigan 4-H program and bring additional visibility to its effects. The event was held in the atrium of Heritage Hall – the Capitol Visitor's Center.

"We were so excited to bring this event back in 2024," said Deanna East, MSU Extension associate director who served as the event emcee. "Michigan 4-H is certainly worth celebrating every day of the year and we are grateful for the opportunity to highlight this impactful program to our state's leaders."

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was attended by legislators, stakeholders and members of the public. At the event, attendees visited information booths hosted by Michigan 4-H youth and staff. A brief program featured East as well as: legislative host Representative Reggie Miller; MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz; Emma Young, policy analyst for Governor Whitmer and a Michigan 4-H alumna; Everett Howell, Michigan 4-H youth from Leelanau County; and Brianna Sierra, Michigan 4-H youth from Genesee County.



Mich. 4-H youth with Rep. Miller (fourth from left).

"The Michigan 4-H program serves an incredible number of youth each year but we hope to reach even more young people in the years ahead" continued East. "Elevating awareness of the program is one of our primary goals for Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol and we believe this event will help connect more youth with our program and all that Michigan 4-H has to offer."

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Michigan4H.