



MARCH 2024

# 4-H Family News

Cass County



## What does 4-H Mean to you?

We are 4-H members, but what does it mean to be a 4-H member? What is 4-H? What do you gain from being a member of a 4-H club? Have you been asked these questions, or questions like these lately?

I encourage you to think about your experience with 4-H whether you are a parent of youth involved in 4-H, a volunteer with 4-H or a youth enrolled in 4-H. What does your 4-H experience look like? What does being involved in 4-H mean to you?

I was sitting at my one of my daughters' basketball practices yesterday and one of the other moms said she wished her children could be in 4-H. I asked her what was stopping her from them joining a 4-H club. Her answer was because they didn't have room at their house to raise livestock or want to show animals. She thought this was a requirement of youth in 4-H. Cue my elevator speech...

For me, 4-H is a way for my children to belong to a club with like minded individuals at a young age. To learn life skills, what it means to give back to their community, to have healthy relationships with adults not in their family and to learn. Most of all it has given my children confidence. It is an outlet for them to learn skills that will stay with them for a lifetime!

-Hilary Hunt

"I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking, my **HEART** to greater loyalty, my **HANDS** to larger service, my **HEALTH** to better living. For my **CLUB**, my **COMMUNITY**, my **COUNTRY** and my **WORLD**." -The 4-H Pledge

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Bonnie McCarthy!**

North Red Hill 4-H Club, 59 years as a volunteer!!

Read more about Bonnie and her volunteer experiences on page 4.



## CONTACT US

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## WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/cass/>

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Apply to be a Counselor for Summer 4-H Camp!

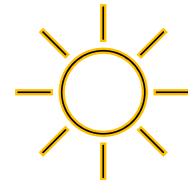
Do you enjoy both the "great outdoors" and working with younger 4-H members? Then 4-H has a great opportunity for you! Summer 4-H Camp is set for **June 10-12, 2024**, and we're looking for qualified 4-H teens to serve as **Camp Counselors**!

Following are the qualifications for serving as a 4-H camp counselor:

- ◆ Must be a currently enrolled Cass County 4-H member.
- ◆ Must be 15-19 years old by January 1, 2024.
- ◆ Prior experience working with youth 8-12 years of age desired, but not required.
- ◆ Must be available to attend training on Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14 at Amigo Centre in Sturgis. If there is a conflict, please note that on your application.
- ◆ Must be available to work full time at Summer 4-H Camp. This includes participation in camp set-up starting at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 9 and continuing through the release of campers at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12.

**Note:** Summer 4-H Camp officially starts on Monday, June 10 at 9:00 a.m. with registration of campers.

Email Hilary Hunt [hustonhi@msu.edu](mailto:hustonhi@msu.edu) for an application. **Applications are due March 22, 2024.**



## Summer 4-H Camp:

Cass County 4-H Program will be partnering with St. Joseph & Branch Counties 4-H Programs to provide an overnight Summer 4-H Camp experience for youth ages 8-12. In order for youth in our county to participate in the camp our county needs to provide teen counselors. The number of counselors selected will impact the number of youth we will be able to have participate in the camp. Scholarships will be available for counselors and partial scholarships will be available to campers. More information, including registration will be available in April.

## YQCA Certification:

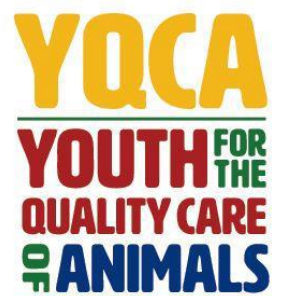
All youth exhibiting swine at the Cass County Fair must complete the YQCA Certification.

Youth aged 7 must complete the certification through an instructor led class. Youth aged 8-18 may choose to complete the certification through an instructor led class or online. Exhibitors older than 18 must complete the course online.

To register for instructor led or online course: <http://yqcaprogram.org>

Cost: \$3.00 for YQCA on-site, \$12.00 for YQCA online

Once completed please send certificates to Hilary Hunt: [hustonhi@msu.edu](mailto:hustonhi@msu.edu)

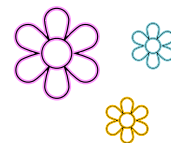


## Exploration Days Chaperones:

Are you interested in attending 4-H Exploration Days at MSU June 19-21, 2024 as a Chaperone for Cass County youth? Please contact Hilary!



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS



Spring

## EGG-STRAVAGANAZA:

Cass County 4-H is egg-cited to be partnering with the Cass County Parks Department and The Friends of Cass County Parks for this year's Spring EGG-STRAVAGANAZA at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Thousands of soft candy filled eggs will be hidden through the fields of Lawless Park! We have an "eggs-emplary" line-up of activities this year including an inflatable slide, face painting, crafts, wagon rides, bunny barrel-car ride, Whitney's Magic Minis & More, and a nice warm bonfire. The Easter Bunny will also be making a special appearance for photo opportunities and interactions with participants.

### Event Details:

**Dr. T.K. Lawless Park, Cass County, MI**

*15122 Monkey Run St, Vandalia, MI 49095*

**Saturday, March 23, 2024, Noon – 2 p.m.**

\$2 per person or 1 canned good per person (donated to local food pantry)

**Activities:** Egg Hunt (ages 2-10), appearance by the Easter Bunny, Inflatable Slide, Whitney's Magic Minis & More, Solar Telescope Demo, Bunny's Barrel-Car Ride, Wagon Rides, Zip Line, Crafts, Face Painting, Bonfire & Refreshments Available



## Volunteers Needed:

We are looking for adult and teen youth volunteers to help at the Spring EGG-STRAVAGANAZA on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Volunteers will primarily assisting youth with crafts. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Hilary to sign up.

Email: [hustonhi@msu.edu](mailto:hustonhi@msu.edu) or phone: 269-445-4458.



### Spring EGG-STRAVAGANAZA

**March 23, 2024**  
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
**Dr. T.K. Lawless Park**  
\$2 per person OR 1 canned food item per person

**Fun for you...and your entire family!**

We will have THOUSANDS of eggs in our "Scramble" for ages 2-10  
Ages 2-4 12:30 p.m. (approx.)  
Ages 5-10 1:30 p.m. (approx.)

Refreshments available for purchase

Sponsored by:  
Cass County Parks and Recreation  
The Friends of the Cass County Parks  
Cass County 4-H Program

**Activities:**  
Inflatable  
Whitney's Magic Minis & More  
Games  
Craft  
Face Painting  
Bonfire  
Solar Telescope Demo  
Wagon Ride  
Bunny's Barrel Car Ride  
Special Visitor

Scott Wyman, Director  
scottwy@cassco.org  
269-445-4456

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or on the County of Cass website

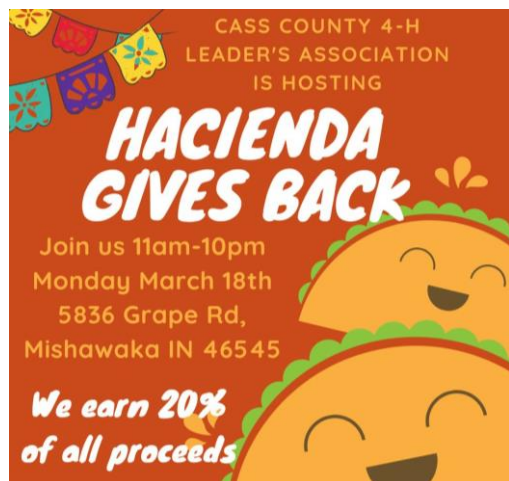




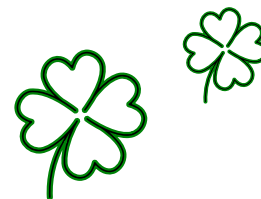
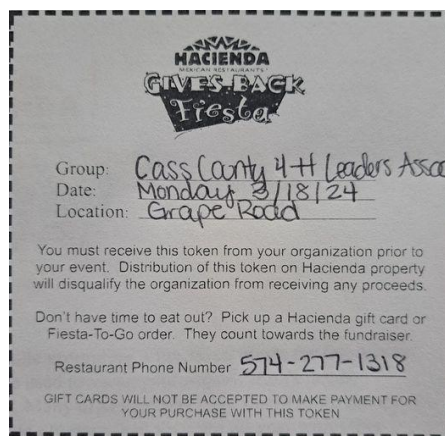


# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Cass County 4-H Leaders' Association



**Dine in for Dollars** - Cass County Leaders' Association is raising funds to support various projects, events, and provide scholarships for Cass County 4-H Youth. March 18, 2024 11am-10pm: Hacienda in Mishawaka, IN give back event 20% of purchase will be donated back. Refer questions to: [cass4hleaders@gmail.com](mailto:cass4hleaders@gmail.com) Must show token (below).



**Still Exhibit Workshops** – led by Deb Ridenour. The first still exhibit workshop was held on February 11, 2024. Youth learned how to decorate cupcakes, created diamond dot crafts, beaded animal key chains and perler bead crafts. There will be at least two more still exhibit workshops in the coming months. Contact Deb for more information: [deb.casscounty4hla@gmail.com](mailto:deb.casscounty4hla@gmail.com)

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Name:** Bonnie McCarthy  
**Club:** North Red Hill 4-H Club  
**Years as a volunteer:** 59

**What do you find most rewarding as a volunteer?**

*"The kids they keep me young!"*

**What is the best advice you have received?**

*"Try your best in all you do."*

**What is your favorite 4-H memory/experience?**

*"Teaching leather at MSU Exploration Days and being selected as one of the outstanding leaders."*

**What is your favorite movie?**

*"The Sound of Music"*

**What is your favorite treat?**

*"Hershey Kisses"*

**What is your least favorite color?**

*"Yellow"*



Above: Youth learning how to decorate cupcakes at the still exhibit workshop on February 11, 2024. Big thank you to Tracey Simpson from Bee Sweet Bakery for taking time to teach our youth!



# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## March

- 3 – JoAnn 4-H Campaign Begins
- 6 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 6:30 pm
- 10 – Cass County Fair Board Meeting, Cass County Fairgrounds 7:00 p.m.
- 12 – 4-H Give Green Day
- 15 – Youth Draft Horse Sign Up Due
- 17 to 19 – 4-H Capitol Experience – Lansing
- 18 – Dollars to Dine at Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, Mishawaka 11:00 am – 10:00 pm
- 19 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 6:30 pm
- 20 – Cass County 4-H Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, Kincheloe Room – 7:00 p.m.
- 23 – Silver Spurs 4-H Club Tack Swap, Cass County Fairgrounds 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 23 – Spring EGG-STRAVAGANZA Dr. T.K. Lawless Park, Noon -2:00 p.m.
- 25 – Registration for 4-H Exploration Days Opens 7:00 p.m.
- 28 – Cass County Leaders Association Meeting, Kincheloe Room – 6:00 pm

## April

- 2 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 10:00 am
- 9 – Cass County Fair Board Meeting, Cass County Fairgrounds 7:00 p.m.
- 17 – Cass County 4-H Horse Leaders' Association Meeting, Kincheloe Room – 7:00 p.m.
- 18 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 6:30 pm
- 20 – Horse Vaccination Clinic, Cass County Fairgrounds, more info to come
- 25 – Cass County Leaders Association Meeting, Kincheloe Room – 6:00 pm
- 28 – Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Have events to add? Please email Hilary: [hustonhi@msu.edu](mailto:hustonhi@msu.edu)



## Animal Possession Dates:

April: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Dairy Feeder

May 1 – Dairy, Goats, Horses, Sheep, Swine

May: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – Beef Breeding Stock, Beef Feeders

June 1 – Breed Rabbits

June 15 – Dogs, Cats

July 1 – Market Rabbits

July: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Poultry

## Validation Dates:

### Sheep:

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May

### Market Goats:

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May

### Swine:

First Saturday in May

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

### Beef Feeder Calves:

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May:

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

### Dairy Feeder Steers

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April:

10:00 am – 1:00 pm





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Youth in Action Awards Applications Open



Apply now for the 2025 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives in the pillar areas of agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.

Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 15-19. The deadline to apply is April 1. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

### 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. The funds donated will support the 4-H program with 50% going back to local 4-H programming and 10% supporting Michigan 4-H.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/joann-s-clover-for-kids-campaign](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/joann-s-clover-for-kids-campaign)

### March 12: 4-H Give Green Day

*Online*

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day)

### March 16: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

*East Lansing*

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024)

### March 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Group Management For 4-H Clubs and Groups

*Online*

Learn and share techniques to support a successful group setting and help spark youth engagement. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. 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-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups)
- **7 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups7pm)

### March 19: Keeping Your Money Safe

*Online*

Join this session to gain insights on researching and evaluating financial institutions (banks and credit unions) to make the best choice for your financial future.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/safemoney](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/safemoney)

### April 28: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

*Comerica Park, Detroit*

Watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals with other 4-H'ers! Michigan 4-H will be the Group Charity of the Game; discounted tickets available with a portion benefitting 4-H.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Registration is open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp!

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is an annual three-time national award-winning camp that mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 28 - August 3 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle. This pre-college program is for teens who will be age 13 to 15 during camp.

Campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees will also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, sailing, fossil hunting, archery, photography and evenings around a campfire. First-time campers also go charter fishing and learn to fillet their catch.



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$500 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_great\\_lakes\\_natural\\_resources\\_camp/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/).

## 4-H Exploration Days registration coming soon!

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan 4-H's largest pre-college program and could be the highlight of your summer—maybe even change your life! This exciting event is open to any Michigan youth ages 12–19 as of Jan. 1.

4-H Exploration Days, scheduled for June 19-21, is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Michigan 4-H youth who participate have the opportunity to stay in MSU campus residence halls while attending classroom and field trip sessions.

With more than 100 session choices held on and off campus, there are topics for everyone including animal science, business and entrepreneurship, international language and culture, performing and visual arts, and science, engineering, and technology. As youth gain important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication, they'll also have time for fun with free time activities such as skating, basketball and a dance.

Registration for 4-H Exploration Days will open March 25. The cost for the 2024 event is \$220. Check with your local 4-H program coordinator for additional information regarding county sign-ups and scholarships or visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days).

## Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Making your summer plans? Consider hosting a Japanese youth this summer through the States' 4-H International Exchange Program! Michigan will be hosting 18 Japanese youth and two chaperones. These visitors will quickly become a part of your family for their 3 ½ week stay (the last full week of July to the middle of August) and gain a fun American experience through your exceptional hospitality. In addition, your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new perspectives on their own country, too!

Host families must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match a host brother/sister (within three years of age), be a Michigan 4-H Gold-level volunteer, participate in a family interview as well as a home visit process. For more information contact Jan Brinn at [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu) or John Wurm at [wurmj@msu.edu](mailto:wurmj@msu.edu).

