



FEBRUARY 2024

4-H Family News

Cass County



Hello 4-H Families!

Hello, I am so excited to be your new 4-H Program Coordinator, Hilary Hunt! I am a graduate of Michigan State University ('05) in Family Community Services. I am from Lawton, where I live on our family farm with my husband and three children, aged 3, 6 & 9. We primarily grow wine grapes but also have a U-Pick farm with strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, cut flowers and sunflowers.

I am fairly new to 4-H, as I was not involved in 4-H growing up, but have become involved now that my children are active in 4-H. My oldest two are both club officers and I am a swine project leader for their club in Van Buren County. My oldest daughter has shown rabbits, swine, sheep and many still projects. This will be my middle daughter's first year showing animals and she plans to show swine & sheep.

In my spare time I really enjoy reading, crafting and watching sports – football and basketball are my favorites. I can also be found watching my kids play sports and often end up coaching their youth sports teams – rocket cheer, basketball, soccer and t-ball.

I am looking forward to meeting you all! Please reach out if I can be of assistance to you or your club.



Sincerely,
Hilary Hunt

DID YOU ENROLL?

Have you enrolled in 4-H online?

If not, please go to:

<https://v2.4honline.com/>



4-H Leaders must also be current in Volunteer Central. Leaders that are only signed up on 4-H Online are NOT considered leaders.

<https://msu.Samaritan.com/>



CONTACT US

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Leaders & Seniors Awards – Winter Dreams - January 20, 2024



Congratulations to our Cass County Seniors:

Abigail Asmus, Ella Boulanger, Emily Carlisle, Sophia Dalton, Justin Dohm, Shannon Durden, Brenna Farmer, Blake Hartsell, Daniel Haskett, Sydney Herring, Rianna Jankoviak, Timothy King, Evan Kniss, Riley Reed, Ella Richmond, Mackenzie Schuur, Mason Smego, Kyla Sparks, Ella Teague, Robert Tharp and Paul Thomas

We are so very proud of you!

Any seniors unable to attend may stop by the MSU Extension Office and pick up their cords.



Congratulations to our Outstanding Leaders of the Year:

David Accoe

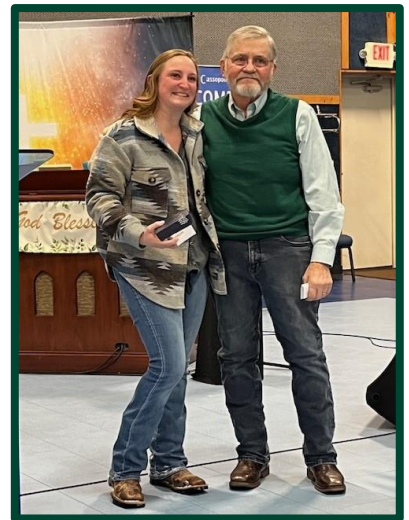
&

Karlee Thornburgh



You are amazing!

And a BIG thank you to all of our leaders, you are all very much appreciated!



Become a Volunteer

Parents, do you want to do something extra with your child at their 4-H meeting or event? Do you have a skill that you would like to share with others? Do you just like to help wherever is needed?

Become a volunteer!



There are many ways you can volunteer through 4-H. Go to <https://msu.samaritan.com> and begin the process to become a volunteer!





Local Events

Instructor Lead YQCA Certification Classes

- Wednesday 3/6 - 6:30 pm
- Tuesday 3/19 - 6:30 pm
- Tuesday 4/2 - 10:00 am
- Thursday 4/18 - 6:30 pm
- Monday 5/13 - 6:30 pm

All classes will be held in the Kincheloe Room, next to the MSU Extension Office – 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031

Youth must be registered at least 2 days prior to the selected workshop, youth must also complete the pre-test prior to attending the class.

Contact Hilary Hunt with questions.



Still Exhibit Workshop

Sunday, February 11 – 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Vandalia Community Center Youth Building 18043 E State St, Vandalia

RSVP to Deb Ridenour: deb.casscounty4hla@gmail.com

Crafts to include:

Diamond Dotz, Perler Beads, 3-D Perler Beads, Bead Animal Keychains

Cupcake decorating workshop with Ms. Traci Simpson from Bee Sweet Bakery (cupcakes supplied & donated at no cost to participant)

YQCA Classes



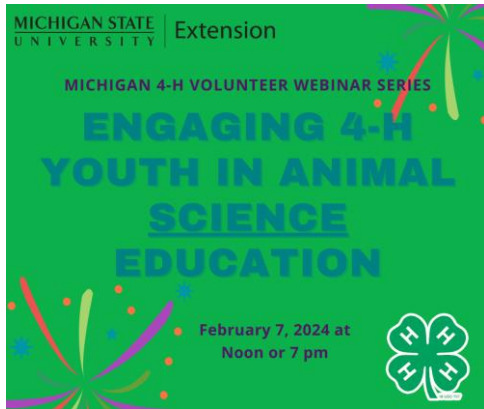
All youth exhibiting swine at the Cass County Fair must complete the YQCA Certification.

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

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

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





4-H Volunteer Webinar Series

Join Michigan 4-H on February 7th at Noon or 7pm for Engaging 4-H Youth in Animal SCIENCE Education. Animal science projects are a 4-H favorite! Join us for information about the curriculum and resources available to volunteers to engage 4-H youth in their communities in animal science education. This webinar will also include announcements about statewide 4-H animal science offerings for 2024.

For more information and registration visit:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>

Cass County Leaders' Association



The Cass County Leaders Association meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 6pm in the Kincheloe Room (next to the MSU Extension Office). They would love to have your club represented at a meeting and encourage leaders attend. Teen leaders are also encouraged to attend, contact the Leaders' Association Board Members for more information: cass4hleaders@gmail.com

Look for information on upcoming Cass County Leaders' Association fundraisers! Follow them on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/casscounty4hleaders>

- Dollars to Dine, first event is March 18th at Hacienda in Mishawaka
- Flamingo Flocking to return in May

Save the Date for 4-H Exploration Days!

June 19 – 21, 2024

Michigan State University, East Lansing

This MSU precollege program welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime.

Registration will begin on March 25th at 7:00 pm!

For more information visit: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/





COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 11 – Still Exhibit Workshop with Deb Ridenour, Village of Vandalia Youth Center – 2:00 pm
- 22 – Cass County Leaders Association Meeting, Kincheloe Room – 6:00 pm
- 24 – 4-H Day at the Breslin – East Lansing 12:30 pm entry, 2:00 pm game time

March

- 6 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 6:30 pm
- 17 to 19 – 4-H Capitol Experience – Lansing
- 18 – Dollars to Dine at Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, Mishawaka 11:00 am – 11:00 pm
- 19 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 6:30 pm
- 28 – Cass County Leaders Association Meeting, Kincheloe Room – 6:00 pm

April

- 2 – YQCA Class, Kincheloe Room – 10:00 am
- 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

Have events to add? Please email Hilary: hustonhi@msu.edu

Looking ahead

Animal Possession Dates:

April: 3rd Saturday – Dairy Feeder

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

May: 1st Saturday – Beef Breeding Stock, Beef Feeders

June 1 – Breed Rabbits

June 15 – Dogs, Cats

July 1 – Market Rabbits

July: 1st Sunday - Poultry

Validation Dates:

Sheep:

1st Saturday & 1st Sunday in May

Market Goats:

1st Saturday & 1st Sunday in May

Swine:

First Saturday in May

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Beef Feeder Calves:

1st Saturday in May:

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Dairy Feeder Steers

3rd Saturday in April:

10:00 am – 1:00 pm





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get free tickets for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin!



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on February 24! Join with other members of the 4-H community for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin. This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU women's basketball team takes on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.

Attendees will also enjoy 4-H games and activities around the concourse. Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. In addition, Michigan 4-H will be showcased during the halftime show as a group of 4-H youth will lead the crowd in reciting the 4-H pledge.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

For more information and to get tickets, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin.

February 7: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Engaging 4-H Youth in Animal Science Education

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can utilize curriculum and resources to engage 4-H youth in animal science education. 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-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education7pm

February 12: Fostering Happy and Healthy Relationships

Online

The 4-H Adulting 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own through free online sessions. Join this session to explore healthy relationship models that can enhance your future and current bonds.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/relationships-1

February 13: 4-H Wild Spartans – Seeing the Forest for the Wildlife

Online

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will wade with waterfowl and explore forests. Meet Jeremiah Heise, ecosystem program manager with the U.S. Forest Service, learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. This free series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024feb

March 2: Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

This one-day workshop is designed for 4-H teens and volunteers in beef, sheep, goats and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of sessions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024

March 6 and 9: Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon

Online

This competition tests both youth and adult competitors' knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices in various categories. Competitors can choose to compete during the week or on the weekend. Registration closes Feb. 29.

www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 17-19, in Lansing. The three-day event, open to high school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts, and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on agriculture, civil rights and youth advocacy, crime and law enforcement, education and teacher retention, environment and natural resources, health, or jobs and the economy/infrastructure.

The cost to register in 2024 is \$365, which includes meals and lodging at the Quality Inn University in Lansing. Contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. Scholarships may also be available through your local Farm Bureau office. To register or learn more, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Make a difference for food security with World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 9 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare and submit a 2-to-5-page research paper about a developing country and one of 20 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October.

There is no cost to participate in the WFP MIYI. For more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/.



Apply for a Michigan 4-H State Award!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years), junior state award (13-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the age of the 4-H member. Additional details about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>.

Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.