



Benzie County

# 4-H Family News

February 2021

## February News

Life continues on, and new things are coming to Benzie County 4-H! Keep an eye out for registration for Session Two of Pippin's Pantry 4-H SPIN Club and a Virtual Skill-a-thon for Livestock! The Virtual Skill-a-thon is a regional event that tests 4-H youth (and adults) on their knowledge of animal husbandry from Cavies & Rabbits all the way through Horses. The top 10 youth from each Region will be invited to compete on the State team!!!!

The Manistee Co. 4-H Livestock Council is looking for two (2) Benzie 4-H Livestock Members who participate with their Club at the Manistee County Fair to serve as Youth Ambassadors on the Council to provide valuable perspective as participants of the program. Must be 13 years of age and active in 4-H Online. Contact Ali Olson if interested.

If you have not done so already, please register in 4-H Online, especially if you intend to participate in virtual programming or in any Livestock projects. If you are a Benzie 4-Her that participates at the Manistee County Fair, please keep an eye on your emails for important Showmanship and Fair information!

Sincerely,  
Allison Olson  
4-H Program Coordinator

## Upcoming Events and Special Announcements

- › Early Registration for Pippin's Pantry: DIY Dog Treats is February 10.  
[https://events.anr.msu.edu/Pippins\\_Pantry2/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/Pippins_Pantry2/)
- › Manistee County 4-H Livestock Meeting: February 18 at 7:00 PM (EST) via Zoom
- › Exploration Days has been moved to a Virtual Platform for 2021.
- › Virtual Livestock Skill-a-ton registration will be announced soon, please keep an eye on your emails for the registration link and information.
- › The Manistee 4-H Livestock Council has a new resources page! Check it out!  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/manistee/4-h/manistee-county-4-h-livestock-council>

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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Coming soon: virtual  
4-H Capitol Experience  
Youth Summit**



Save the date for the 4-H Capitol Experience Youth Summit, March 13, 17 and 20!

This fully virtual event will have opportunities for youth engagement, networking, sharing ideas, meeting with decision makers, learning about careers in and around policy, and learning the basics about government.

Youth will select issue groups, which will become small group learning cohorts throughout the event.

Sessions will be held:

- March 13, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- March 17, 4—6 p.m.
- March 20, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

This event is open to youth in eighth grade through age 19; registration will begin in February. The \$20 cost to attend will include a mailed conference kit to enhance the virtual experience. Scholarships are available.

## 4-H Events and Workshops

February 1-28: Cooking with Kristi

*Online*

This six-part on-demand video series will provide participants with access to instructional cooking videos and a private Facebook group. Youth will learn kitchen safety and sanitation, recipes for tasty and economical foods, and cooking techniques and terms.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking-with-kristi](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking-with-kristi)

February 2: Life of the Straits Winter Edition

*Zoom Webinar*

The program will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays through Feb. 9. Each session will share information on amazing features of the Straits of Mackinac and the wonderful winter activities you can enjoy there. This program is ideal for youth 8-12 years but is open to any family.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/life-of-the-straits-winter-edition-2021-feb-2](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/life-of-the-straits-winter-edition-2021-feb-2)

February 9: Wild Spartans Series—Working with Honeybees

*Zoom Webinar*

Join each month to meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In February, attendees will hear from an entomologist and learn what the buzz really is about bees!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-february)

February 13: MSU Tollgate Farm Homegrown Gardening Series

*Zoom Webinar*

Interested in starting a vegetable garden for the first time or are you an experienced veggie gardener looking to explore new ideas? All levels of experience are welcome at this new series designed to encourage and support home vegetable gardeners! Sessions will be held monthly.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-feb-13](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-feb-13)

February 18: MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Virtual Winter Series

*Zoom Webinar*

This youth-led series, occurring monthly, is a safe place for past, present, and future MSU Tollgate Farm stewards and stewards-in-training to connect or reunite as a community and to explore resiliency and growth as youth leaders.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-feb-18](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-stewards-virtual-winter-series-2021-feb-18)

February 20: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Baked Corndogs

*Zoom Webinar*

Participants will learn how to prepare a healthier version of a corndog.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-baked-corndogs](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-baked-corndogs)

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

### Update on Michigan 4-H programming

*A message from MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer and Jake DeDecker, state leader of Michigan 4-H Youth Development*



To say that 2020 was difficult is an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic and the losses and life changes that came along with it took its toll on many of us. At MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H, we felt the pain that comes with cancelling events and pivoting exclusively to online programming.

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone—inside or outside Extension—who isn't eager to get back to face-to-face programming. We understand that our Michigan 4-H families are missing incredible experiences and connections that were built through in-person gatherings and programs.

We are making plans to resume face-to-face programming, and we look forward to engaging 4-H'ers, their families and volunteers. Our staff is working diligently to chart a path toward resuming in-person programming when the threat to public health caused by COVID-19 greatly diminishes. Though it is premature to cite a specific date, we are eager to see you all at the events, club meetings, competitions and fairs we all have grown to love.

In the meantime, we are committed to bringing high-quality virtual programming to residents and communities with varying needs throughout the state. We encourage 4-H'ers and clubs to continue meeting via zoom and engage in the many virtual educational programs offered by 4-H. For more information on virtual programs and resources or help setting up 4-H club meetings, contact your 4-H program coordinator or visit MSU Extension Remote Learning and Resources web page at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/rlr/>. Thank you for all that you do. We hope to see you soon.



### World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute applications due April 1

**AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
become inspired and prepared as the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

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. On May 6, youth will join

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas related to global food security with experts and other Michigan youth while learning how university faculty and staff members, researchers and students are working to address world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the April 1 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a two- to five-page research paper about a developing country and how it is affected by one of 20 key factors that impact food security. At the online event, youth will present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. They will also participate in an interactive session with global challenge experts to learn more about topics related to global food and food security.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be considered as possible delegates to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, or virtually, in October. For more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi/). Registration will open on March 1; registration and papers are due by April 1.

**TIME Magazine  
selects 4-H'er as  
"Kid of the Year"**

**TIME**

Congratulations to Colorado 4-H'er Gitanjali Rao, TIME Magazine's Kid of the Year! At age 15, Gitanjali is the first 4-H'er to ever be selected for the honor.

Gitanjali earned the distinction for her efforts to address a range of major problems. Utilizing STEM, she has worked on issues that include contaminated drinking water, opioid addiction and cyberbullying. It is her belief that young innovators such as her hold the key to solving world problems.

Read more about Gitanjali's 4-H story and experiences in her interview with TIME:

<https://time.com/5916772/kid-of-the-year-2020/>