



Benzie County

4-H Family News

May 2021

Moving into May

So many exciting things are happening this Spring for 4-H. New families are joining, new Clubs are forming, and the opportunity for an in-person 4-H Event has been approved! You heard right, May 15, six 4-H families have the opportunity to give back to the community through service in-person by signing up for a time slot to come clean up the Arboretum Trail in Wellston with 4-H's latest community partner, Dublin Heights Sportsmen's Club. We are hoping that not only will this be the first of many more in-person 4-H events in coming days, but the beginning of new 4-H projects and education opportunities for Benzie 4-H youth in Shooting Sports and Outdoor & Recreation! Come be a part of this exciting day by signing up [here](#). MSU Community Compact must be followed to participate.

Exploration Days registration is open now! Sign Up for your own unique summer adventure! The Exploration Days team has put together an amazing schedule of opportunities for us to choose from (yes MSUE Staff get to attend to!). I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Ali Olson
4-H Program Coordinator

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Important Dates

› **May 15: Arboretum Trail Clean Up with DHSC and 4-H** Contact Ali Olson for more information or follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aafa723abf8c34-arboretum>

› **May 28: Exploration Days Registration Closes**

Cost to attend is \$20, if youth are in need of a scholarship to attend, please contact the Manistee MSU Extension Office.

› **June 18: Registration of Show & Market Livestock are Due! (Manistee County Fair Participants ONLY)**

MANAGING YOUTH STRESS



The novel coronavirus pandemic has been stressful for everyone. Families and youth are navigating new challenges, including social distancing, uncertain health outcomes and “a new normal.” These new stressors may spill over into their relationships and compound other stressful conditions in the family.

MSU Extension's “Managing Youth Stress” document shares warning signs, ways to help and resources for stressed youth and parents of stressed youth. View or download the factsheet at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/managing-youth-stress.

4-H Events and Workshops

May 5—26: Shiawassee Small Animal Online Workshop

Online

Join us each Wednesday in May for a small animal workshop! Great for 4-H youth, parents and volunteers, the May 5 presentation will focus on goats, May 12 on poultry, May 19 on rabbits and May 26 on biosecurity and animal health.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/shiawassee-small-animal-online-workshop

May 1—29: Michigan 4-H Horse Programs' Virtual Communications Contest

Online

Youth ages 5-19 have the opportunity to demonstrate their communication skills and earn prizes through various contests including public speaking, demonstration, infographics and photography. Entries must be submitted during the appropriate contest time frame.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2021-mi-4-h-horse-program-s-virtual-communications-contest

May 8: MSU Tollgate Farm Homegrown Gardening Series

Online

Interested in starting a vegetable garden for the first time or an experienced veggie gardener looking to explore new ideas? Join this new monthly series designed to encourage and support home vegetable gardeners! The May session will focus on growing fun with kids.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-homegrown-gardening-series-2021-may-8

May 11: Michigan 4-H Virtual Meats Judging Contest

Online

Evaluate carcasses and identify meats online in both individual and team competitions. The contest will include three beef classes, three pork classes, identification of 20 retail cuts, beef yield grade, quality grade of beef, two classes with questions, and one set of oral reasons.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-virtual-meats-judging-contest

May 11: Wild Spartans Series—Conservation & Management of Tribal Natural Resources

Online

Learn about researching and protecting species with cultural significance and discover how one Michigan tribe is preserving the natural world. Doug Craven, natural resources director for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, will share his field work, education and career path.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-may

May 21: MSU Tollgate Farm Virtual Sustainable Stewards Series

Online

Explore climate science and climate change with PhD candidate Lindsey Kemmerling as she shares climate science basics to help build your knowledge and understanding. Explore your own carbon footprint and engage in conversation about how you can make a difference.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-virtual-sustainable-stewards-series-may-21

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

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2021-22 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2021-2022 season. Open to 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff, the grants and awards support local 4-H clubs and county programs, as well as recognize members of the 4-H community. All applications are due June 1.

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H Shooting Sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$350.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award (includes \$1,000 grant).** This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of 4-H agricultural volunteers that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.



The 4-H After-School Robotics Club in Iosco County received a \$1,000 Michigan 4-H Legacy Grant to use VEX Robotics as a tool to help club members develop life skills.

Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters Walking Challenge



The MSU Extension 4-H Alumni Engagement Committee is excited to share a fun engagement opportunity for alumni and supporters!

Starting May 2, MSU Extension will host a 4-H Alumni & Supporters Walking Challenge, where participants will track their miles walked and compete for a top spot in the contest! Each week, top contestants will win a 4-H alumni swag prize and the county who logs the most miles throughout the whole challenge will earn a \$100 cash prize for their county 4-H program!

Learn more and register at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-alumni-and-supporters-walking-challenge.

Save the Date

2021 MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS: EXPANDED

June 22-24, 2021

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Plug into 4-H this summer with 4-H Exploration Days 2021-22: Expanded

Make plans to attend an exciting summer opportunity and choose your own adventure with 4-H Exploration Days: Expanded. This MSU precollege program has something for everyone, ages 12-19!

From June 22 - 24, youth from across Michigan can participate in this fun and engaging virtual learning experience that offers more than 60 different topics. Attendees will also hear from keynote speakers Justin and Alexis Black, authors of *Redefining Normal*, and come away with new energy and a desire to make a difference.

Registration for this event will open May 1 and close May 28. The cost to attend is \$20 and all youth will receive a swag bag, with the option to order their own 4-H Exploration Days: Expanded apparel. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days.