



MARCH 2023

4-H Family News

Cass County



Spring is in the air...

Welcoming March with open arms, this 4-H Program Coordinator is ready for spring!!! Just a little bit longer, but I can feel it! Hard to believe March is here, February was a blur for me here with lots of sickness with the kiddos and minor surgery for myself – sorry if I was pretty much incognito...but March is a new month and we are ready to get going!

If you haven't been thinking of different still projects that you would like to try for the fair this year, or just to try – now is a great time to start thinking about that. If you don't know where to start here are some ideas: string art, diamond dots, candle making, bead craft/needle work, rubber stamping, wood working, homemade soap, photography...I know many of you are online a lot – take a stroll to Pinterist for some more ideas to try. If you don't know how to do something, but really want to learn and you don't have a project leader in your club – contact me at 269-445-4458 or at withamlo@msu.edu and I can find someone that will help. Don't be afraid of new things...you might just like it if you try it!

Rennie



Monthly Photo Challenge!!!

As you could gather from my welcome letter, I have spring fever. I hear wonderful birds just singing away in the mornings right now. Your challenge for this month is to take a wonderful picture of those beautiful feathered friends and send them to me at withamlo@msu.edu Please include your name, 4-H club you're in, if you can what type of bird it is and the town the picture was taken in. I will upload those onto our Facebook Page as they come in!



CONTACT US

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TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW,
YOU NEED TO TRY NEW
THINGS AND NOT BE AFRAID
TO BE WRONG.

Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*



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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Swine Exhibitors



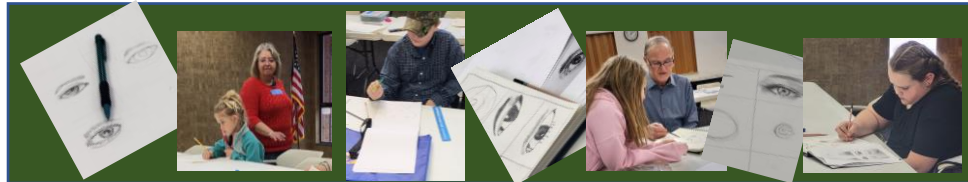
Reminder that ALL swine exhibitors MUST complete their yearly YQCA certification to be able to exhibit at the 2023 Cass County Fair. Please go to <https://yqcaprogram.org> and register for one of the in-person classes, or complete it online. Prices are on the website and you must pre-register for the in person classes. If you are taking an in-person class, you must also complete the pre-test before the class date. These classes are limited in number and dates, do not wait until the last minute to register. All class dates are listed on the site and are open to registration.

All in person classes are held at the Cass County MSU Extension Office at 120 N Broadway, Cassopolis, MI and are at 6:00pm.

Remaining dates: 3/27/2023, 4/24/2023, 5/22/2023, 6/5/2023

Deadline to submit your certificate to withamlo@msu.edu is June 17, 2023 – if you do it online you still must email your certificate to Rennie.

Mini Drawing Course Wrap Up



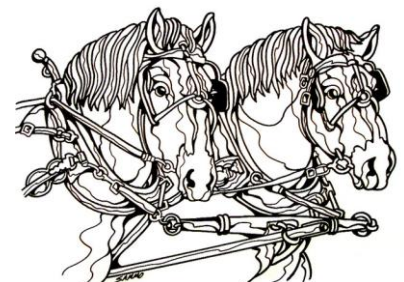
The six week mini drawing course will be finished their last class for the course on February 11th. Youth learned and worked with Cass Area Artists on creating portraits. Throughout the course, they had multiple guest speakers come in and work with them and show them skills to help create that master piece. They worked on different sketching techniques and shading, worked on eyes, then noses and mouths, ears and then were able to work on putting it all together. What a great group of youth we had and some very talented artists! Keep your eyes out for future art classes!



Draft Horse Program



Attention any youth who is interested in showing draft horses at the 2023 Cass County Fair, needs to make sure they sign up by March 31, 2023. You do not need to own your own draft horse to show! Please click the link to sign up. Keep your eyes open for more information for clinics and workouts at the beginning of April. If you have any questions, please contact the MSU Extension Office.



Sign up link:

<https://forms.gle/fvmZbfxGuCkrFkHt5>



A huge congratulations goes out to our graduating seniors of 2023, our county medal winners, our horse honoree trophy winners, our leaders and our 2022 outstanding leaders! On January 28, 2023 we held our Recognition Banquet at the Church of Cassopolis. Thank you to all those who attended and to Cass County Leaders' Association for the wonderful dinner and to Jones Rough Riders 4-H Club for providing the dessert!



2022 Horse Honoree Trophy Winners: (from left to right) Khloe Miller – Sylvia Fetter Western Honoree ; Lila Borsman – John and Gloria Sobieski Pony Honoree

Not pictured: Madelyn Glass – Scott Teter Gymkhana and Caruso Stephenson Ranch Honoree; Madison Weedon Friends of 4-H English Honoree



2022 Outstand Leaders: Michelle Schuur Creative Kids 4-H Club and Terri Fryman – 4-Kids 4-H Club



Leaders Recognized:
Bianca May – 5 years of service;
Leslie Vargo – 25 years of service



Cass County Medal Winners: (from left to right) Izzie Kennedy – Jr. Goat, Johannah McDonald – Jr. Goat, Madison Hershberger – Sr. Judging and Sr. Horse, Josie Lock – Livestock Master, Makayla Dopkowski – Danforth Award
Not Pictured: Brianna Stockwell – Key Club Award and Danforth Award



2023 Seniors: Back row (from left to right) – Conrad Burger, Makayla Dopkowski, Josie Lock, Alex Shenfeld, Conner Weston
Front row (from left to right) – Quianna Murray, Grace Strukel, Austin Towne, Harmony Dohm, Christian Collins

Any seniors that were unable to attend may stop at the MSU Extension Office and pick up their cords. The office is closed from 11:30-12:30pm everyday for lunch.



Volunteers

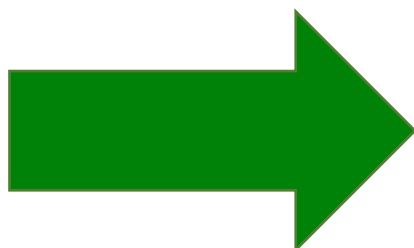
WELCOME...

New 4-H Leaders 2023

Julie Robinson – 4-W 4-H

Zoe Scott – Jones Rough Riders

If you are a current project volunteer and would like your name and contact information to go out to our 4-Hers who are looking for help in a project area, please email Rennie at withamlo@msu.edu with your contact information and the projects you lead so we can have a contact list to help our youth out.



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 love to share with others? Do you just like to help where-ever there is need? Have you thought about becoming a volunteer??? There are so many ways that you can volunteer in 4-H, head over to <https://msu.samaritan.com> and start the process to become a volunteer.

Types of Volunteers

Gold Volunteer: These individuals interact with youth and/or adults in meaningful ways on behalf of MSU Extension. This includes providing training, education, leadership or support to MSU Extension offices, programs, events or sub-organizations such as a 4-H club, an Extension Master Gardener class or association.

Silver Volunteer: These individuals have no direct interaction with youth or vulnerable populations and no to low opportunity to form relationships with youth or vulnerable populations on behalf of MSU Extension. Exempt from this rule are those with minimal interaction, such as parking attendants or people handing out ribbons or opening gates (see [MSU Extension Volunteer Definitions](#) for more information regarding roles not requiring screening). Note that a Gold volunteer or MSU Extension employee must be present anytime youth and adults are interacting together and accessible to Silver volunteers at events.

MICHIGAN 4-H VOLUNTEER WEBINAR SERIES

February 28th
Building the Value of
Your 4-H Club

March 16th
Creating a
Welcoming 4-H Club

April 13th
Energizing Your 4-H
Club Meetings



**ALL TRAININGS
OFFERED 12-1PM EST
AND 7-8PM EST**

REGISTER HERE:

[www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/
mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-
series](http://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series)



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Exploration Days Info

What's It All About?

About 2,000 youth (ages 12-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually.

This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life!

4-H Exploration Days registration goes from mid-March through April with session assignments made on a first-come, first-served basis. As you select your session choices, be sure to watch for age restrictions! **Age requirements for sessions are based on your age as of January 1.**

This MSU pre-college program is designed to:

- Increase responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase communication, team-work, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Increase college exploration and access to the [Michigan State University](#) campus and its resources.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.
- Give youth opportunities to try things that aren't available in their county.

•What's it like?

- There'll be more than 100 session choices held on and off campus. You'll choose two or three for your three-day stay.
- You'll live in a Michigan State University dorm and eat in the cafeteria—just like MSU students do.
- Sessions are taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members and other experts.
- It's not all sessions! There's plenty of time for fun, including skating, souvenir shopping, exploring, bowling, basketball—even a great dance Thursday night.

• **The 2023 cost is \$220.** For more information, please see the [Registration Information](#) page.

- The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. You may wish to check with your county MSU Extension office to see if scholarship funds are available.

• **Registration opens Tuesday, March 21 at 7pm.** Registration books that show all of the sessions and details on everything happening during Exploration Days will be available online and from county Extension offices in March.

• Registration deadlines (usually the end of April) vary by county, so check with your county MSU Extension office. Don't wait until the deadline though, because popular sessions fill up fast!

• Contact the 4-H staff in your [county MSU Extension office for](#) more information on 4-H Exploration Days, and any specific details pertaining to your county's delegation.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

News from Cass County Leaders' Association

For those of you unaware of what Cass County 4-H Leaders' Association does, let's take a moment to explain. Leaders' Association consists of current gold volunteers (leaders) in Cass County, representing each 4-H Club. They meet monthly to come up with new programming ideas and ways to better our county's 4-H program. Through the fundraising that Leaders' Association does, they are able to provide scholarships to state programs like Exploration Days, Citizenship Washington Focus, Capitol Experience, along with senior scholarships, and more. Without the support of our Leaders' Association, there are many things that we would not be able to do.

What can you do to help?

How can you help Leaders' Association? There are a few of ways.

- 1.) If you are a current gold volunteer, ask your club key leader to see if you have club representation at the meetings. If not, volunteer to attend the monthly meetings. They are the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00pm at the MSU Extension Office at 120 N Broadway in Cassopolis (the old courthouse by the stoplight).
- 2.) If you are NOT a gold or silver volunteer, consider being one. If you don't want to lead but would like to help out at an event they put on, think about becoming a silver volunteer.
- 3.) If you are not sure on becoming a volunteer just yet, the best support you can give to Leaders' Association is to make sure your child is participating in county wide fundraisers and programs that Leaders' Association hosts. If you have any questions, please contact the MSU Extension Office

Keeping up with Leaders' Association



To keep up on events, programs and fundraisers that Leaders' Association is doing, please go to their Facebook page and join.

**Cass County 4H Leaders' Association
- Michigan**



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 13th – CC Leaders' Association Restaurant Fundraiser 11am-10pm Taphouse on the Edge, South Bend, IN <https://www.groupraise.com/events/243328-cass-county-4-h-leader-s-association-at-taphouse-on-the-edge>
- 18th – Cass County Fair Livestock Exhibitor Educational Meeting @ 9:30-noon, Cass County Fairgrounds
- 21st – Exploration Days registration opens @ 7pm
- 27th – YQCA training @ 6pm, Cass County MSU Extension Office – pre-registration required
- 25th – Silver Spurs 4-H Club Tack Swap 10am-3pm @ Cass County Fairgrounds
- 31st – Deadline for draft horse sign up

April

- 1st – Cass County Parks and Recreation Egg-Stravagansa @ noon – 2pm, Dr Lawless Park
- 9th – Horse Vaccination Clinic 9am-noon @ Cass County Fairgrounds
- 15th (3rd Saturday) – Dairy Feeder Steer Validation 10am-1pm @ Cass County Fairgrounds
- 24th – YQCA training @ 6pm, Cass County MSU Extension Office – pre-registration required

May

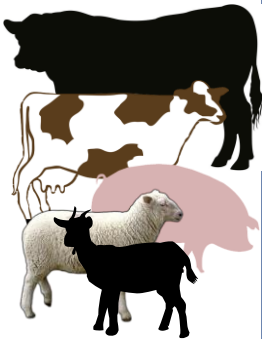
- 6th – (1st Saturday) – Swine Validation @ 8am – 1pm, Cass County Fairgrounds
- 6th (1st Saturday) – Market Goat and Sheep validation @ 9am-1pm, Cass County Fairgrounds
- 7th – (1st Sunday) – Market Goat and Sheep validation @ 1pm-3pm, Cass County Fairgrounds

We will be having a livestock exhibitors educational meeting on **March 18th, from 9:30 AM to Noon, at the Agnes Gregarek building. This free event is open to ALL Cass County Fair exhibitors.**

Educational sessions will cover introductory information over finding/selecting, raising and exhibiting livestock at the county fair. Each session will be 30 minutes long followed by 15 minutes for questions and a short break. There will be prize drawing giveaways for those in attendance for each session and overall prize drawings awarded for exhibitors attending every session.

The **schedule** is as follows:
 9:30 - 10 AM - General Informational Session including Livestock Judging and Skillathon
 10 - 10:30 AM - Market Sheep & Market Goats
 10:45 - 11:15 AM - Cattle (Beef & Dairy Feeder & Market Steers)
 11:30 AM - 12 PM - Swine

We are excited to offer this multispecies educational meeting to you and hope to see you there!



Animal Possession Dates

April

Dairy Feeder Steers (3rd Saturday)

May

1st – Dairy, Goats, Horse, Sheep, Swine

Beef Breeding Stock and Beef Feeders – 1st Saturday of May

June

- 1st – Breed Rabbits
- 15th – Cats, Dogs

July

1st – Market Rabbits

Poultry – 1st Sunday of July

Gold Volunteers needed for conservation/plant/outdoor programs

Contact Rennie if you are interested at withamlo@msu.edu or at 269-445-4458

Spring EggStravaganza
 April 1, 2023
 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:
 Inflatables
 Games
 Craft
 Face Painting
 Bonfire
 Wagon Ride
 Special Visitor

Scott Wymen, Director
scottw@casco.org
 269-445-4458

Club Spotlight Spot

If your club is doing, or has done something cool – send that info in to me and we spotlight that! We would love to see what you all are doing!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Win prizes with 4-H Money Contests



Money, money, money! In honor of Financial Awareness Month held each April, MSU Extension is coordinating two contests with an opportunity to win... money!

Youth ages 9-12 can write a short essay of 300 words or less for a chance to win a \$100 gift card in the Cash Composition Contest.

Youth ages 13-19 can participate in a 30-question online challenge for a chance to win a \$25 gift card in the Show Your Money Smarts Contest.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts. Prizes for the contests are generously sponsored by Extra Credit Union and the Michigan Credit Union Foundation.



March 2: Build Your Future - Career Education for Youth

Online

Adults who work with youth are encouraged to join this webinar session to learn ways to implement career education and workforce development skills with youth!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/build-your-future-mar-2

March 10: 4-H Teen Fun Night

The Northern Center & Fox Den Restaurant, Houghton Lake

Teens from Roscommon and surrounding counties are invited for a night of video games, basketball, board games, cards, food, fun and making friends.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-teen-fun-night-march-2023>

March 11-12: Tollgate Farm Maplefest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Identify and tap a maple tree, tour the sugar shack, explore fun maple-themed activities, take a wagon ride, taste maple sap, syrup and sugar, and explore maple tools and technology. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, coffee, cocoa and real maple syrup in the historic 19th-century barn.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-tollgate-farm-maplefest

March 14: Wild Spartans Series - Upland Bird Conservation

Online

Meet Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Education and Outreach Manager Marissa Jensen. Learn about her field work and the education and career path she followed to get there.

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

March 16: Adulting 101 – Paycheck and Taxes

Online

Understanding why and how taxes and other items are deducted from a worker's paycheck is an important step toward gaining financial knowledge. Explore what taxes are and why we pay them. See how taxes affect your salary vs. your take home pay.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting3-16-23

March 18: 4-H Hippology Contest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Participants will be able to demonstrate their experience and knowledge gained in horse judging, quiz bowl, speeches and practical horse management. Register by March 3.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/mi-4-h-hippology-contest





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

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 old), junior state award (13-15 years old), senior state award (16-19 years old) and group awards (13-19 years old). The application process and selection is determined by the age of the 4-H member.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found online 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.



MICHIGAN 4-H VOLUNTEER WEBINAR SERIES

February 28th
Building the Value of Your 4-H Club

March 16th
Creating a Welcoming 4-H Club

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REGISTER HERE:

www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series

Register for Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series!

Join Michigan 4-H for an online webinar series that will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers.

There will be a minimum of six topics offered throughout the year, with each topic offered twice (once as a daytime and once as an evening option). Everyone who attends at least four of the live webinars will receive a certificate at the end of the series.

The session dates and topics for the first three months are:

- **Building the Value of Your 4-H Club:** This session will focus on the key components of creating a club environment and how that leads to positive outcomes.
 - February 28, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Creating a Welcoming 4-H Club:** This session will allow you to learn new strategies as well as share methods that have worked for you.
 - March 16, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Energizing Your 4-H Club Meetings:** Learn quick and engaging activities to make your next meeting both fun and functional. Have fun and learn ways to help everyone participate at their own comfort level.
 - April 13, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series.