**4-H Exploration Days 2018 News**

**June 20-22, 2018, on the campus of Michigan State University**

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

The Exploration Days registration book and forms are now available online or you can pick one up at the MSU Extension office after March 5th.

County staff will begin registration starting **March 13**. You are strongly encouraged to turn your registration form in **prior** to that date, as our office staff registers participants online in the order that they are received. Many of the sessions fill up the very first day. **The deadline to register is Friday, April 27th**, but usually by that date, most of the popular sessions are already filled, so **DON'T WAIT!**

The 2018 cost has been set at $165. There is an additional $20 4-H participation fee for youth not yet enrolled in 4-H. The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions, and a t-shirt. A deposit of $80 is required at the time your registration form is turned in to the Calhoun County MSU Extension office. The balance due is required no later than the Orientation Meeting date on **Tuesday, May 29th**. Youth must be age 11 by January 1st of the year they wish to attend 4-H Exploration Days. 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 1st of the current year.

**Website:** [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/infoT/4_h_exploration_days](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/infoT/4_h_exploration_days)  Contact the 4-H staff in Calhoun County at 269-781-0784 for more information on 4-H Exploration Days, and any specific details pertaining to your county’s delegation. **Orientation: Tuesday May 29th,** at the Fredonia Township Hall, 8803 US Highway 27 S, 6:30-8:30pm

**4-H Council Corner**

**Hello, 4-Hers!**

**Being part of 4-H Council is FUN!**

The 4-H Council members are planning a Lock-In for March that ages 12-19 years olds are invited to!

We will play games, get to know each other and of course **EAT PIZZA**! I think there might even be ice cream there - you will have to come yourself to check it out! This is a way to see all your ‘fair friends’ during another time of the year and make new ones that you can look forward to spending Fair Week with. **Hope to see you there!**

**The Lock-In is:** March 24 from 6:00 - 10:00 at the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S Marshall, Marshall, MI **This is FREE** for all Calhoun County 4-Hers ages 12-19 years old and their friends.

James Ruedisueli, 4-H Council Reporter

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**Contact Us**

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**2018 Theme:**

**Youth: Find Your Element!**

**Important Dates to Remember**

- **4-H Exploration Days Registration Deadline:** April 27
- **New 4-H Enrollments Deadline (to show at Fair):** May 1st
- **Fair Entry Form Deadline varies please see Club Leaders**
- **Calhoun County Fair:** August 12 - 18
Calhoun County Local Scholarships

Youth Pork Quality Assurance rollover information

For many years, the Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) Plus Program has been the core quality assurance certification program for youth who sell and exhibit their swine, including many Michigan 4-H'ers.

In 2015, it was decided that the YPQA Plus program would be completely redesigned into an overarching, all-species quality assurance program known as the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Program.

Youth with a current YPQA Plus certification will remain certified until the expiration date has passed; there will not be an extension for youth certifications. YPQA Plus certifications, as well as YQCA certifications, will be accepted by and could be required by processors and certain fairs and livestock exhibitions.

For more information about YPQA rollover visit: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/youth_pork_quality_assurance_program_rollover_information

4-H Beef Club Scholarship: To assist students who will attend a school of higher learning and who has been a member of the Calhoun County 4-H Beef Club. **Deadline is June 1st.** Please contact Mr. & Mrs. Mike Flynn of the Calhoun County 4-H Beef Club.

**Burrell E Henry College Scholarship:** To assist Calhoun County students who will attend Michigan State University and are accepted in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, including the Ag Tech Program, or pursuing a career in Veterinary Medicine or other opportunity in the field of agriculture or family and consumer science related careers. **Deadline for application is April 1.**

**Calhoun County 4-H Swine Club Scholarship:** Two yearly scholarships of a minimum of $300 will be awarded to a high school senior or high school graduate continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year in which they are applying and must be enrolled as a Calhoun County Youth Swine Exhibitor at the time of application. Applicants may not be older than 19 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. **Applications are due March 1.** Previous recipients are not eligible. The applicants will be judged on livestock participation, leadership, and citizenship. The scholarship is administered by the Homer Area Community Foundation and will be paid to the accredited institution in the name of the recipient. Recipients must apply the entire scholarship towards their education at a technical school, college, or university. Go online to: http://www.homeracf.org/grant-opportunities Applications can be turned in at the MSU Extension office by close of business, or mailed (with postmark on or before March 1st) to the Homer Area Community Foundation at P.O. Box 201, Homer, MI 49245.

**Furu Family 4-H Legacy Scholarship:** Implemented to honor the Don & Virginia Furu family. Applicants must be a current or past year member of a Calhoun County 4-H Club who has exhibited at the Calhoun County Fair and High school senior who is currently accepted at a college or technical school or currently enrolled in post-secondary or a technical training program. Applicant must have a minimum high school grade point average of 2.5; and previous recipients will not be eligible in future years. **The deadline is June 30th.** A complete application must be received on or before this deadline. Applications must be available by and could be required by processors and certain fairs and livestock exhibitions.

**LaVern Smith Memorial Scholarship:** Applicants must be a member of a 4-H Club or a Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter within Calhoun County, Michigan. At the time of application for this scholarship, applicants must be either a senior in high school or a high school graduate enrolled in a technical school or college. Applicants must be available for an interview if requested by the selection committee. Previous recipients are not eligible. **Deadline for application is April 1.** Mail or fax applications to MSU Extension Office, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068. For details, contact the MSU Extension Office or your local FFA Advisor.

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**Michigan 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Project Scholarship** To apply you must be a high school senior for 2017-2018 and currently enrolled in 4-H. You must have been enrolled in a 4-H rabbit/cavy project for at least three years and have financial need. Award amount: Varies, two to four given annually. **Deadline is November 1st.** For more information and an application: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships#Ml4HRabbitCavySchl
Tractor Operator Program Underway

The Calhoun County 4-H Tractor Operator Program (TOP) is a nine week course. It teaches youth tractor operation, along with safety, maintenance and repair.

Michigan State University Extension offers the Tractor Operator Program through the 4-H Youth Development Program. Successful completion of the 4-H TOP provides completion certificates to 13-19 year olds. 14-15 year olds may be eligible to receive a certificate of training from the US Department of Labor required for operation of a 20 PTO HP or greater, garden or agricultural tractor by youth employed on property not owned, leased, or operated by a parent or legal guardian.

The deadline to register has passed but we wanted to highlight this very interesting and educational program. To learn more about this program and other 4-H programs please contact Kathy Fischer, 4-H Program Coordinator at the MSU Extension Office: Ph) 269-781-0784 and watch for emails.

Mini Whinnies and Livestock 4-H Clubs Ice Skating Event

On January 21 the Mini Whinnies and Livestock 4-H Clubs gathered together to go ice skating. Who knows maybe we have future Olympic Skaters in our midst!!!
**Statewide Calendar of Events**

### 4-H Workshops & Events

**March 8:** Junior Master Gardener volunteer training at the MSU Children’s garden. So, if you have volunteers, teachers, preschool programs or other community partners interested in gardening and plant science this workshop is for you. For more info and registering click here: https://events.anr.msu.edu/JMGChildrensgarden2018/.

In addition to the MSU workshop the same workshop will be held on **March 14** in Kalamazoo at the fairgrounds. To register for the Kalamazoo Junior Master Gardener training: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_junior_master_gardener_workshop_kalamazoo

**March 17-18:** Challenge U 4-H Funfest
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/challenge_u_4_h_funfest
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Three Livestock workshops in Ingham County

**March 18:** Goat Workshop

**March 24:** 4-H Beef & Dairy Market Project 101

**March 25:** Swine Bootcamp

Please RSVP by March 12 Glenda Weiss at weissgle@anr.msu.edu or (517) 676-7303

Ingham County Fairgrounds, Mason, MI

**March 25:** 4-H & FFA State Horse Judging Contest
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_ffa_horse_judging_contest
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

**March 31:** Southeast Michigan 4-H Target Archery Shoot
Springfield Oaks County Park Activity Center, Davison

This first annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition. Register by March 17.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/2018_southeast_michigan_4_h_target_archery_shoot

**April 7:** 4-H Hippology Skills & Communications Contest
http://www.canr.msu.edu/ans/extension/horse_youth_programs/
MSU Campus, Anthony Hall, East Lansing, MI

**April 14:** Norma Agnew Memorial 4-H Hairy Horse Show
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/norma_agnew_memorial_4-h_hairy_horse_show
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

**April 14:** State 4-H Goat Expo
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=6549761B2168714F
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/state_4_h_goat_expo1
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

**April 15-18:** 4-H Capitol Experience
http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/
Michigan State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan

**June 25-29:** The Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp for youth (13 to 16 years of age as of January 1, 2018) who are interested in exploring animal and veterinary science related projects and activities. Registration information is coming soon! View promotion and application materials on the 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp webpage. Michigan State University campus and beyond!

**August 5 - 11:** 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp
Open to youth ages 13-15. Link for online application: https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=02B2D330861D46B4 The camper fee is $375 for Michigan 4-H members and $395 for youth who are nonmembers. The fee includes meals and snacks, lodging, a T-shirt, and program and activity fees. Camp is held at Camp Chickagami, Presque Isle, MI http://www.campchickagami.org/
Young teens have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences as they go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, wade through wetlands, explore dunes and more!

Applications are due by May 1, but space is limited so early application is encouraged.
Website: www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/events/4_h