Eaton County 4-H
Welcome Packet for new families
Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to 4-H, the youth development program of Extension! 4-H provides youth with positive learning experiences that help build character, while developing knowledge and skills that prepare them for the future.

I hope that your experience with Eaton County 4-H provides your family with a positive experience that you will look back on and remember for years to come. Participation in 4-H should be educational as well as fun for the whole family. I know that 4-H is a large program and can be difficult to navigate, especially for new families; and I hope that this guide will give you the information you need to find your way around.

As you become more and more involved with 4-H, you will continue to have new opportunities – even beyond Eaton County – because 4-H events occur at the county, state, national, and even international levels! All the fun starts at the club level. I encourage you to become very active with your 4-H club. Throughout the year, I ask that you keep in mind that the majority of 4-H experiences are made possible by volunteers. Volunteers and 4-H staff will do their best to make the experience positive for your family. Throughout the year, you and your family may also be asked to lend a hand; please remember that many hands make light work, so if everyone pitches in a little the job will be done quickly. I understand that families are very busy, but any amount of help your family provides is appreciated to make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the experience.

If you have any questions throughout your 4-H journey, you can always reach out to the Extension office by calling 517-543-2310 or reach me via email at oosterh6@anr.msu.edu.

Sincerely,

Kristy Oosterhouse
4-H Program Coordinator
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4-H is the youth development program of our nation’s Extension system. The Smith-Lever Act formalized Extension in 1914 to expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) partnership with land-grant universities to apply research and provide education to communities. 4-H programming is delivered locally and operated at the state and national levels through a partnership between county governments, the Extension at the state’s land grant university (in Michigan, through Michigan State University Extension), and the USDA.

**Location and Contact Information**

551 Courthouse Drive, Suite One  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
Phone: (517)543-2310  
Fax: (517)543-8119  
Website: [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/eaton](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/eaton)  
Email: [msue.eaton@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.eaton@county.msu.edu)  
4-H staff email: [oosterh6@anr.msu.edu](mailto:oosterh6@anr.msu.edu)

Our office is located in the 551 Building near the county courthouse, the first building you will see after turning from Cochran Rd onto Courthouse Drive. Our suite is the first suite on the left when entering the building. If you attend association/committee meetings, many are located in the Public Meeting Room (PMR), which is down the stairs to the right of the entrance.

**Office Hours**

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Our office is closed during county holidays.

**County Staff**

Don Lehman, District 8 Coordinator  
Anne Pease, Office Manager  
Kristy Oosterhouse, 4-H Program Coordinator  
George Silva, Crops & Soil Extension Educator  
Becky Henne, Health and Nutrition Extension Educator  
Katie Courtade, 4-H Supervisor  
Heather Dyer, Health and Nutrition Program Instructor
Non-Discrimination: 4-H clubs cannot discriminate by means of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

4-H Age: A 4-H member’s age is determined by whatever age he/she will be during the 4-H year. The 4-H year begins on September 1, but 4-H age is determined by the age that the child will be on January 1 of that following year. For example, a youth born on January 20, 2000 would have a 4-H age of 17 for the program year that runs September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018. Youth that have a 4-H age of 5 – 19 years of age may join the 4-H program. Youth that are 4-H age 5 – 8 years old are considered Cloverbuds, which only participate in non-competitive settings (please select the “Introductory 4-H Projects” project area in 4-H Online). 4-H members are ages 9 – 19 and participate in both non-competitive and competitive settings.

Participation Fee: All 4-H members are required to pay a $20 per member participation fee annually (families with three or more 4-H members are only responsible for paying $60 per family). This fee helps to enable the development of new programming and curriculum. $5 of every fee remains with Eaton County to develop programs locally. The remainder is used statewide to cover all enrolled 4-H members and volunteers with supplemental accident insurance, support centralized volunteer screening, and expand our grant program. Fee waivers/scholarships are available for 4-H families who will experience a financial burden in paying this fee. There is a form to apply for a fee waiver/scholarship; contact the Extension office to obtain the form. Some clubs or projects may have an additional fee.

Stay in the loop!

Make sure you are connected to Eaton County 4-H through the following means:

- Make sure your 4-H Online email address is current! Most communication is done via email through 4-H Online, including sending out our bimonthly newsletter.
- Visit our website regularly at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/eaton
- Follow Eaton County 4-H on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/EatonCounty4H and Twitter https://twitter.com/EatonCo4H
- Please make sure your projects are updated in 4-H Online. We do send project-specific emails only to those participants enrolled in certain project areas as relevant.
- Fair information, including the fair book, can be found on the fair website at: http://www.eatoncountyfair.com/
The $20 participation fee is only paid once. If you are enrolled through 4-H in another county, you will pay the participation fee through your primary county. If you are involved in more than one club, you will pay the participation fee through your primary club. Be sure to communicate where you have paid the fee with your administrative leader and the Extension office!

**Enrollment/Reenrollment:** 4-H members and volunteers must enroll and reenroll each year. Returning members and volunteers must reenroll by November 15 and new members must enroll by March 15 to be eligible to show at fair as a 4-H member. Enrollment begins in September. All enrollments and reenrollments occur via 4-H Online, our online database. More information about 4-H Online and the link to register can be found at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment). Please note that you are not considered a 4-H member until you have enrolled or reenrolled in 4-H Online (including correct authorizations, club, and project participation) AND your participation fee has been verified by the Extension office. Only members and volunteers need to enroll in 4-H Online.

**Volunteers:** Any adult that wishes to enroll as a volunteer with 4-H must complete the Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to enrolling in 4-H Online. This includes filling out and returning the completed packet of information located at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment) to the state office, a background check, reference check, interview, 4-H Volunteer e-Learning Course, and an in-person orientation. All volunteers have one year from the date your first paperwork is turned into the office to complete the process; volunteers who do not complete the process within a year will be required to restart the process. Volunteers who are inactive (have not completed reenrollment by the county deadline) will be required to go through VSP again prior to being considered an active volunteer.

**4-H Clubs:** Clubs must complete paperwork and be registered with the Extension office to be considered a 4-H club and allowed to use the 4-H name and emblem. Clubs must consist of at least five members from two or more families, have at least one registered adult volunteer, and meet a minimum of four times per year. More information regarding starting a club can be found by calling the Extension office.

**Financial Guidelines:** Each club, volunteer, member and parent is required to follow the financial guidelines for Michigan 4-H clubs. You can find the 4-H Financial Guidelines for Volunteers and the 4-H Financial Guidelines for Treasurers books linked on our website at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_club_resources](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_club_resources). Please contact the Extension office with any questions.

Fundraisers – All 4-H fundraisers must have a completed fundraising authorization form submitted to the Extension office at least two weeks prior to the start of the fundraiser. A follow-up report form must be completed and submitted no more than 10 days following the
event. Only authorized 4-H groups may use the 4-H name and emblem in fundraising for that authorized 4-H group and all funds raised using the 4-H name and emblem are considered 4-H funds. This means that fundraisers for personal use may not use the 4-H name or club name.

### 4-H Pledge

I pledge....

My head to clearer thinking
My heart to greater loyalty
My hands to larger service
My health to better living
For my club, my community, my country and my world.

The 4-H pledge, which should be said at the beginning of every club and association meeting, addresses all four areas of youth development (cognitive, emotional, social, and physical). You should work with the youth to help them memorize the 4-H pledge.

### 4-H Emblem

The 4-H emblem is a four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf, which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The 4-H emblem (commonly called the 4-H clover) is protected by law from commercial and unauthorized use. Due to this protection, only chartered 4-H clubs and organizations are authorized to use the 4-H clover in publications and advertising. The clover must also always been seen with the 18 USC 707 trademark (with few exceptions). There are also very strict policies regarding how you may use the clover in documents, apparel, etc. (for example, text or images cannot be placed over the clover). For further explanation of these policies, visit [http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem](http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem).

### National 4-H

[http://www.4-h.org/](http://www.4-h.org/)

4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, empowering six million youth in the U.S. and is part of the Cooperative Extension system of land-grant universities.
National 4-H provides a wealth of resources, including curriculum and activities as well as fund development, for local 4-H programs. They coordinate National 4-H Week, which occurs in October each year, along with the 4-H National Youth Science Day that occurs that week. They partner with Tractor Supply Company to host the Paper Clover Campaign (customers can donate $1 to their local 4-H program at each TSC store) each fall and spring.

National 4-H also runs the 4-H Shop, which is your go-to source for 4-H gear, including curriculum, apparel, club supplies, and more. Visit https://shop4-h.org/ to find all that they offer!

Michigan 4-H Youth Development operates under Michigan State University Extension. The program creates non-formal, educational opportunities to help youth thrive in a complex and changing world. There are seven guiding principles that provide the foundation for educational methods, activities and events that positively affect the lives of Michigan’s youth. These are:

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
4. Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
5. Youth develop skills that help them succeed.
6. Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism.
7. Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.

Michigan 4-H provides a wealth of resources and activities around a variety of project and topic areas, including animal science, arts, careers and entrepreneurship, citizenship, leadership, community service, environmental and outdoor education, global and cultural education, healthy youth, life skills, science and technology, volunteering, and mentoring.

Youth can apply for different awards and scholarships at the state level. Scholarships include the Michigan Rabbit/Cavy 4-H Scholarship for those involved with the rabbit/cavy project area, Michigan State University 4-H Scholarship for high school seniors who have applied to MSU, Michigan State University Pre-College Program Scholarship for students in 8th, 9th, or 10th grade who attend an MSU pre-college program (such as 4-H Exploration Days, 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp, 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp, or 4-H Capitol Experience), and Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarships.

Did you know?

The 4-H Motto is “TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER”
This expresses a continual goal of excellence—to always strive to build on our goals and skills.
The Michigan 4-H Foundation is a non-profit fundraising organization that solicits, manages, grans and stewards support from private individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations to support Michigan 4-H Youth Development programs. Gifts made to the Foundation support:

- 4-H volunteer training at a reduced cost
- County 4-H volunteer recognition
- State 4-H youth awards and recognition
- College scholarships for 4-H youth
- County and state 4-H grant opportunities
- Creation of new curriculum and learning materials
- Development of new and current 4-H programs
- Development and maintenance of Kettunen Center, Michigan’s 4-H volunteer training center
- Development and maintenance of the Michigan 4-H Children’s Gardens at MSU

State 4-H Workshops and Events

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events

There are many statewide 4-H workshops and events that 4-H members can attend throughout the year. Visit the website linked above to find more information about each event.

4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp – Occurs at the end of June at MSU and is for youth interested in exploring animal and veterinary science projects and activities. Open to youth ages 13-16 and involves a competitive application process to attend (applications are due in April).

4-H Capitol Experience – Occurs in March at the State Capitol and surrounding area and is a four day conference to prepare youth for active citizenship, focusing on civic engagement and public policy.

4-H Exploration Days – The most popular 4-H event! Occurs in June at MSU and is for youth ages 11-19. Spend three days on MSU’s campus, experiencing life like a college student and attending fun workshops and events with over 2,500 youth from across the state. Registration begins in March; you will want to register ASAP when registration books are available as sessions fill up very quickly (some within the first 15 minutes that registration opens for staff to enter them).
4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp – Occurs in August at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle for youth ages 13-15 (8th – 10th grade). Experience all that our great lakes have to offer as you go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, explore dunes, and more. There is an application process that is due in May.

4-H Renewable Energy Camp – Occurs in July on MSU’s campus and is a five day camp for youth 13-19. Youth explore ideas, research and opportunities around renewable energy (biofuels, solar, and wind energy).

4-H Mentoring Weekend – Occurs in July for adults and youth who are in a formal mentoring program (does not have to be a 4-H run program). This three day weekend full of fun workshops takes place at the Kettunen Center.

4-H Family Fun Weekend – Occurs in August at Kettunen Center for parents and youth ages 5-8.

4-H Visual Arts, Crafts, Sewing and Textiles Workshop – Occurs in October at the Kettunen Center. Open to youth ages 12 and older and volunteers, this event features a variety of workshops focused on the visual arts, crafts, sewing and textile projects.

4-H Youth Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular – Occurring in January at the Kettunen Center, this event focuses on youth leadership, civic engagement, global citizenship and international cultures.

4-H Winterfest – This event for 8-12 year olds occurs in February. Youth get to participate in a variety of workshops and explore the Kettunen Center winter activities.

4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop – Occurs in February at the Kettunen Center, youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about veterinary science.

4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop – Occurs in February at the Kettunen Center, youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about a variety of topics related to beef, sheep and swine project areas.

Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference – Occurs in March, youth ages 11-18 can attend this event to learn about dairy management.

4-H Robotics Workshop – Occurs in March at the Kettunen Center, youth ages 13 and older and volunteers can learn about a variety of topics and projects related to robotics.

Did you know?

There are many scholarships available to attend statewide workshops and events. The Eaton County 4-H Council offers a scholarship of up to 50% of registration fees (for more information, visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/4_h_advisory_council). Some events even offer their own scholarships. Call the Extension office to find out more about scholarships for the event you want to attend!
The 4-H year runs from September 1 – August 31. Our county calendar of events can be found on the link above. Below is a sample of a typical program year in Eaton County 4-H:

September:
- Clubs usually hold their reenrollment meetings in September or October. Reenrollment information is given out at the Fall Mandatory Leader Update meeting this month and is due in November.
- Nominations and elections for club and association/committee officers are also usually held in September or October.
- Fair book changes are due to fair board on September 1. Be sure to discuss changes with the superintendent in charge of the department.

October:
- National 4-H Week is usually the first full week in October. Events during this week usually include the 4-H National Youth Science Day and the Tractor Supply Company fall paper clover campaign.
- 4-H Council votes for new officers and the fair theme.

November:
- Reenrollment information and county award nominations are due around November 15.

December:
- State 4-H award forms for members age 13-19 are available (usually due in February or March).
- 4-H Scholarship information available.

January:
- Planning meeting for Style Revue.
- 4-H Shooting Sports club meetings begin in January and there is a mandatory meeting for all participants.
- Beef tag-in occurs this month.

February:
- Volunteer Recognition Celebration occurs. Sponsored by 4-H Council, this event celebrates the achievements of our volunteers and also youth selected to receive county awards.
- Usually 1-2 countywide winter workshops (craft, science) are held this month.

March:
- 4-H Exploration Days books are available (sign up early!).
- New member enrollment deadline is March 15 to be able to attend fair as a 4-H member.
- Spring Mandatory Leader Update meeting is held to provide information about fair.
- Eaton County Fair book is usually available by the end of March.

April:
- Hog tag-in is due by the end of the month.
- Lamb weigh-in occurs this month.
- Junior Livestock Association holds the Buyer’s Workshop at its April meeting for youth who are selling in the JLA sale.
- Fairground cleanup begins.
- 4-H Exploration Days registration deadline is this month.

May:
- Barn space request forms due to specie superintendents.
- Fair entry forms due to the Fair office (not the Extension office)
- Booth space request for the Grey Building due to the Fair office
- Eaton County 4-H Pre-Fair Dog Match occurs this month.
- Small Animal Association holds their Buyer’s Workshop for youth selling in the SAA sale.
- County Shooting Sports Tournament
- Cloverbud Camp registration begins for 5-8 year olds.
- All swine members need to make sure they have current PQA (Pork Quality Assurance) certification by the end of this month.

June:
- Style Revue for those in the sewing and textile projects (wearables) is usually this month.
- 4-H Exploration Days occurs at MSU.
- Camping forms are due to the fair office (usually turned in by club, so be sure to turn them in to your administrative leader!).
- Fair entry changes need to be made by mid-month to the Fair office.
- 4-H Shooting Sports county banquet and awards ceremony.
- Cloverbud Camp for youth 5-8 years old occurs at the end of the month.
July:

- Eaton County Fair (usually second week)
  - Non-livestock judging takes place the Saturday before fair begins; members can begin getting wristbands for the week at the fair office after non-livestock judging
  - The JLA sale is on the Thursday of fair week
  - The SAA sale is on the Saturday of fair week

August:

- 4-H Open House

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**Eaton County 4-H Associations and Committees**

Eaton County 4-H has a variety of associations and committees to guide certain project areas and events. Participation is highly encouraged and many offer great leadership opportunities for youth!

**Expansion and Review Committee**

The 4-H Expansion and Review Committee evaluates the demographics of the 4-H program and the county to determine how the 4-H program serves the population. The committee also determines areas of need and implements expansion efforts to these areas. The committee meets twice per year and includes 10-15 individuals, including 5 youth, from a variety of community and 4-H roles.

**4-H Council**

4-H Council is the association that helps to oversee activities for the county 4-H program. Meetings are the first Monday of the following months at 7:00 pm in the PMR: October, November, January, March, May, and August. 4-H Council is run by an adult and youth board. All clubs are encouraged to send representatives to this meeting to have a voice in shaping our county program.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/4_h_advisory_council](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/4_h_advisory_council)

4-H Council oversees the following activities:

**Eaton County 4-H Endowment** – Eaton County is participating in a campaign to raise funds for an endowment through the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The goal is to raise $20,000, which will
be matched 1:1 by the Michigan 4-H Foundation for a total goal of $40,000 in an endowment fund. These funds will provide annual support for current Eaton County 4-H programming, future 4-H program enhancements and other areas of need to advance the delivery of 4-H in Eaton County. More information can be found at http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/countymatch/.

**Scholarships** – 4-H Council will reimburse youth for up to 50% of registration fees for educational workshops for youth who attend state events. For specific requirements, see the 4-H Council website.

**County Awards**
Learning, completing a project and recognition are important parts of the 4-H program. Recognition enhances the member’s self-esteem, increases his or her motivation to learn, to become more involved in 4-H, to accept new responsibilities and set new goals. Youth can be nominated by their 4-H leaders for county awards. There are Young Achiever (4-H age 9-11) and County Medal (4-H age 12-19) awards in different project areas as well as special awards. Visit the website for more information.

**Volunteer Celebration** – This is the county’s annual recognition banquet. Volunteers are recognized for years of service and youth are awarded the county awards. Usually held in late January/early February.

**Food Shack** – 4-H Council organizes the food shack at fair each year as their main fundraiser. All clubs are expected to help work a shift during fair as the funds raised go to support 4-H Council activities in all areas of the county program.

**Junior Livestock Association (JLA)**
JLA provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the beef, sheep, and swine project areas. JLA also coordinates and holds the JLA Sale at fair for beef, dairy beef, sheep, and swine. Meetings are the second Monday of the following months at 7:00 pm in the PMR: October, December, February, April, June, and August.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/junior_livestock_association

Did you know?
Many of our associations and committees offer leadership opportunities for youth and teens! 4-H Council, JLA, SAA, HDC, and JDA have youth boards. Voting for youth boards occurs at each association’s first meeting in the fall of each year. Youth are also encouraged to be involved in and take a leadership role with committees!
**JLA Sale:**
The JLA Sale occurs the Thursday of fair week for youth selling swine, sheep, beef, and dairy beef. Sale rules can be found on the website linked above under the JLA Bylaws. There is a buyer’s workshop held during the April JLA meeting that is very beneficial for first year sellers and covers information from sale forms to approaching buyers. Here are a few things to note about the sale:

1. There is a longer JLA Sale Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the website posted above. Please review that document in addition to the information below.

2. Premiums are amounts that buyers would like to give to youth without purchasing their animal (sometimes also referred to as “add-ons”). If your buyer would like to give you a premium, there is a minimum amount of $10. There are two different premium forms—one to use if the buyer will turn in the premium before the sale and one that the buyer will use during the sale. Premium forms to use before the sale are available starting at the April JLA meeting and must be turned in to the Extension office the Friday prior to fair. Premium forms that the buyers use during the sale must be turned in by the Friday following the sale (which is the very next day) by noon. No late premiums will be accepted.

3. JLA takes a commission off of each transaction (premium or animal sale). The commission varies depending on if the animal was a grand/reserve champion and varies by specie. This commission is used to pay for any trucking of animals, check-off fees, and auction fees. GreenStone Farm Credit Services does not receive any of this commission—they generously donate their services as a fiduciary.

4. Sale checks for youth who sell in the sale take approximately 30-45 days following the sale. Please be patient after fair; we will always send an email when checks are ready. We cannot cut the youth checks until we receive enough payments from buyers to cover the checks. Thank you notes to buyers must be turned in (with postage and addressed) before you can pick up your check. We will not mail checks.

5. It is highly encouraged that you talk to potential buyers (both animal and premium) prior to fair week.

**Small Animal Association (SAA)**
SAA provides educational opportunities for youth involved in birds and poultry, rabbits and cavies, and goats. SAA also coordinates and holds the SAA Sale at fair for those species. Meetings are the first Thursday of the following months at 7:00 pm in the PMR: September, November, January, March, and May.
SAA Sale:
The SAA Sale occurs the Saturday of fair week for youth selling rabbits, goats, and poultry. Sale rules can be found on the website linked above under SAA Bylaws. There is a buyer’s workshop held during the May SAA meeting that is strongly recommended for those that wish to sell in the sale. Here are a few things to note about the sale:

1. There is a SAA Sale Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the website posted above.
2. Premiums are amounts that buyers would like to give to youth without purchasing their animal (sometimes also referred to as “add-ons”). There are two different premium forms—one to use if the buyer will turn in the premium before the sale and one that the buyer will use during the sale. Premium forms to use before the sale are available starting at the May SAA meeting and must be turned in to the Extension office the Friday prior to fair. Premium forms that the buyers use during the sale must be turned in by the end of the sale. No late premiums will be accepted.
3. SAA takes a 10% commission off of each transaction (premium or animal sale). Each animal can also be resold once. 100% of funds from the resale will go to SAA. These funds are used by SAA to cover sale expenses and provide educational opportunities for youth. GreenStone Farm Credit Services does not receive any of these funds—they generously donate their services.
4. Sale checks for youth who sell in the sale take approximately 30-45 days following the sale. Please be patient after fair; we will always send an email when checks are ready. We cannot cut the youth checks until we receive enough payments from buyers to cover the checks. Thank you notes to buyers must be turned in (with postage and addressed) before you can pick up your check. We will not mail checks.
5. It is highly encouraged that you talk to potential buyers (both animal and premium) prior to fair week.

Did you know?
You can receive text message reminders about 4-H meetings! When you enroll or reenroll in 4-H Online, add your cell phone to the appropriate box, check that you would like to receive texts, and add your carrier from the drop down menu. Text messages are only sent for those association/committee meetings that are related to the projects you add in 4-H Online.
**Horse Development Committee (HDC)**
HDC provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the horse project. HDC also occasionally coordinates and holds shows (combination of speed and pleasure) throughout the summer and organizes the county’s State 4-H Horse Show selection of delegates. HDC meetings are the third Thursday of the following months at 6:30 pm in the PMR: September, November, January, March, April, May, June, and July.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/horse_development_committee](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/horse_development_committee)

**Junior Dairy Association (JDA)**
JDA provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the dairy project. Meetings are held in October, May, and the species meeting during the Eaton County Fair.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/junior_dairy_association](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/junior_dairy_association)

**Dog Committee**
The dog committee provides educational opportunities for youth involved in the dog project and holds the Pre-Fair Dog Show in May. The annual committee meeting is held in October/early November and a spring informational meeting is held in February or March.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/dog_committee](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/dog_committee)

**Personal Appearance (Style Revue) Committee**
This committee provides opportunities for youth involved in the clothing and textile projects and holds the Style Revue. Style Revue is an annual fashion show for youth to show off wearable items constructed by sewing, crocheting, knitting, or other categories such as recycled garments and original design. Participants model their items before judges and are judged on poise, stage presence, construction of garment, and appearance. Meetings usually occur in October or November and February or March.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/style_revue_committee](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/style_revue_committee)

**Cloverbud Camp Planning Committee**
This committee plans and oversees the annual Cloverbud Camp that occurs in June. Cloverbud
Camp is a day camp at the end of June packed full of fun activities for our cloverbud members (youth ages 5-8 years old). Meetings are usually held in February, April, May, and June.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/cloverbud_camp_committee

Eaton County 4-H Clubs

There are several different types of clubs within the 4-H structure.

Community clubs involve members of a variety of ages and interests. These clubs meet year-long and have general club meetings which may be held on a monthly basis that all club members attend and include club business and educational activities. These clubs may also hold project-specific meetings throughout the year under the guidance of their project leader.

Project clubs focus on one specific project area. These clubs meet on a weekly or monthly basis with more than six meetings per year and focus mostly on project work.

SPIN clubs also focus on a specific project area like project clubs; however, these clubs are short-term in length (usually one hour per week for six weeks). Past clubs have included LEGO robotics, junk drawer robotics, cloverbud robotics, cooking, nutrition, and entrepreneurship. Offered SPIN clubs vary throughout the year, so watch the newsletter or the county calendar for more information.

4-H members may be involved with more than one club as fits their needs (most often, members in a community club also join a project club or SPIN club, or may be in two community clubs that focus on a different range of projects).

The current list of Eaton County 4-H community and project clubs, along with a contact person, contact information, location, and project areas is located at

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment

Eaton County 4-H County Programs

There are a variety of countywide programs offered each year to 4-H and non-4-H members. These can vary from one day workshops to a short program or camp. These programs have a small fee to help cover the costs of the program and you will need to register for the programs. Current offerings can be found at

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/4_h_events_calendar. Examples of county programs held in the past:

Examples
• Cloverbud Craft Workshop
• Spring Break Workshops (crafts and science activities)
• Robotics Camp
• Start a Business Series (4-H entrepreneur project)
• Summer Workshop Series (crafts, science, cooking)

**Eaton County 4-H Projects and Life Skills**

Based on the experiential learning model (doing an activity, then reflecting on the activity and applying knowledge learned), youth in 4-H participate in specific program areas through the learn-by-doing approach. These specific program areas are known as projects. Youth will select the projects they want to work on with the support of an adult volunteer leader. You can find the list of available projects for Eaton County 4-H at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_enrollment) (note that many of these correspond to entry classes for fair). Note that not all projects are available in all clubs depending on the volunteers in the club. Guidelines for some of these projects to help you with where to start and progress in a project can be found at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_club_resources/project_guidelines](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_club_resources/project_guidelines).

In addition to gaining the valuable content knowledge of the project the youth works with, the 4-H model also teaches members critical life skills, including practical skills such as goal-setting, critical thinking, and record-keeping, as well as personal and interpersonal skills such as leadership, teamwork, character, communication, self-esteem and responsibility. Iowa State University Extension has a Life Skills Model that connects the various life skills to the four H’s within 4-H. This model can be found at [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/explore/lifeskills](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/explore/lifeskills). All 4-H projects can be connected to many of these life skills.

**Eaton County Fair**


The Eaton County Fair is the largest event each year where 4-H members have the opportunity to showcase the projects they have been working on all year. The Eaton County Fair is run by the Eaton County Agricultural Society, which is spearheaded by the Fair Board, a group of 15 volunteers who manages the fair and the fair grounds. Fair board meets the third Monday of every month at Kardel Hall on the fairgrounds and their annual membership meeting is in October.
Here are a few things to note about fair:

1. All youth who wish to exhibit at fair as a 4-H member must be enrolled in 4-H by March 15.
2. The answers to most questions can be found by looking in the fair book, which is available online at the website linked above. This will include the schedule for fair, general rules, camping rules, livestock regulations, and class entry information. Fair book changes must be submitted to the fair office by September 1. The fair board committee reviews changes with superintendents, approves, and compiles the fair book. This process can be lengthy and it may take until March or April until the current year’s fair book is released.
3. Superintendents are those that are in charge of a particular project area(s) at the fair. Please remember that they are volunteers! They also hold a wealth of information about their project area and are most likely to know answers to questions regarding their project area. Each animal species has its own rules and policies (located in the fair book or on barn duty/pen or stall fee forms). Those are posted under the appropriate species link on the fair website, but please contact your superintendent for further information. Contact information for each superintendent can be found in the fair book.
4. Your club will be responsible for the following shifts before and during fair. Club sign-up for these shifts occurs at the spring leader update meeting. Please help your club fulfill the shift duties!
   a. Fairground cleanup: Each group that exhibits at fair is asked to complete a cleanup shift in the spring (to be completed in April).
   b. Grey building: Each club that has a club booth in the grey building during fair is asked to complete a shift to interact with the public in the grey building, answer questions, and to ensure the safety and security of the projects in the building.
   c. Food shack shift: Every 4-H club is expected to complete a shift at the 4-H Council food shack during fair, helping to cook and serve the food to customers.
5. All projects that you would like to exhibit at fair must be submitted via an entry form to the fair office in May. The entry form is located at http://eatoncountyfair.com/pageserver/fair-book. You can only submit changes to entry forms until mid-June.
6. Only youth and families who are exhibiting livestock animals may camp at fair. Clubs camp together, so please talk to your administrative leader on how your club does its camping. Camping forms are turned in all at once by your club administrative leader to the fair office.
7. Youth who are exhibiting projects at fair may receive a free wristband for entry into the fairgrounds during fair week. These wristbands are given out starting the Saturday of non-livestock judging at the fair office, on Sunday of fair week during select hours at the back 4-H office, and on Monday of fair week at the fair office. Registered 4-H volunteers
also receive a free pass for entry into the fairgrounds during fair week which can be picked up during the same times as youth wristbands. See the fair book for more rules.