December at a Glance

Dec 1: Tri-United Christmas party, Room B, Fairgrounds, 6:30-8:30 PM
Dec 7: Oshtemo, Portage Club meetings
Dec 8: Countywide cat project meeting, Room B, Fairgrounds, 7PM
Dec 10: Scotts Club meeting
Dec 11: Climax, Fulton, Galesburg Club meetings
Dec 14: Richland Club meeting
Dec 15: Rabbit agility, Room B, Fairgrounds, 6:30PM
Dec 17: Hickory Corners Club Meeting
Dec 25 & 26: MSU Extension offices closed

Teen Club Informational Meeting

The Kalamazoo County Interstate Exchange club will be having an informational meeting in early January. The date is still being firmed up and will be e-mailed out. The club is a two year commitment—one year the youth will travel to another state and one year their family will host youth from the other state. All members of the family (18 and above) will need to go through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process. The club has been contacted by both Virginia and South Dakota to exchange with. Pizza and pop will be provided. Please contact Deb Ellinger at 269-838-8193 or Veronica at Bolhuisv@anr.msu.edu with questions.
Drone Club (Quadcopter Racing) Starting Dates Set

Thank you everyone for your patience as the quadcopter racing program looks for a home. The program will resume as the dates below indicate at The KZOO Maker space located at 1102 E Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. The meeting will run from 4pm to 6pm and each class topic is listed below. Look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting!

January 6
4-H rules and values & Drone Safety

February (3 or 10)
Safety, Building, and sim piloting *awaiting available date*

March 3
Building/Betaflight, sim piloting

April 7
Careers and practical applications, Agriculture drone presentation

May 5
Building/Betaflight, sim/whoop piloting

More dates to be added soon.

Kalamazoo County Beekeeping & Pollinator club

The club has had their first meeting and the group decided to have their upcoming meetings the 4th Tuesday each month, 6:30PM. They will be meeting at the Great Lakes Bee Supply at 47 West Michigan, Galesburg, MI 49053. Some of the topics they will be covering:

- Beekeeping & other pollinators
- Native bees
- Crafts with bees wax
- Community service & entrepreneurial projects
- A pollinator garden will be built at the fairgrounds

Contact Wrinton Graham for more information — wrifton@greatlakesgeneralstore.com or at 269-615-7073
Feeder Calves

A few of the club members had a great time making pies (a big thank you to Ann Hollistor and Jill Carlson for helping!!!) and going to the North American International Livestock Expo.

We toured the stables and watched a couple races at Churchill Downs. On Saturday we went to the expo – sheep, beef, draft horses, and cowboy mounted shooting (our favorite!) were on display. We also experienced the rodeo (there was even an exhibitor from Kalamazoo!!). A great time was had by all! Would anyone be interested in checking out the Canadian Royal Livestock Show in 2018? Here is a link: http://www.royalfair.org/ Serious interest only please- you will need pre-pay for the hotel.

Calves are coming! Please see the Project requirements for more details but a quick reminder that they can be born between January 1 and February 28 for 4-Hers and January 1- March 31 for Cloverbuds. Beef calves must be born between Jan 1 and May 30.

We will be having a meeting Thursday, January 25 at 7pm in Room B at the Expo Center. Hope to see you all there! Please join the “Kalamazoo County 4-H Feeder Calf Club” page on Facebook!

Beef

There will be a beef weigh-in at Pease Packing in Scott’s on Saturday, December 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. Please contact Scott or Shelby if you have questions.

Dairy

I am looking forward to a great year in the Dairy Project- there are a lot of new faces that have signed up! Please join the “Kalamazoo County 4H Dairy Club” page on Facebook. We will have a meeting at Vlietstra Dairy Farm on January 16 at 6:30 pm - please contact Sara VanDyk for directions. Let her know if you have questions (Sara call/text 269.720.7215).
Michigan 4-H Day
at the
Breslin Center
January 20, 2018

What: Celebrate MSU Extension’s 4-H youth with the MSU Women’s Basketball team as they take on the Indiana Hoosiers.

When: January 20, 2018. Southwest Harrison Gate will open for 4-H and MSU Extension guests at 2:30 p.m. Game time is scheduled for 4:00 p.m.

Why: To celebrate Michigan 4-H youth, 4-H volunteers and 4-H programs!

Who: 4-H youth and their families, 4-H volunteers, and MSU Extension staff with their families.

Cost: Tickets are FREE for the guests listed above.
Tickets are available through your county MSU Extension office.

Transportation & parking: FREE for school buses, all other buses are $20. Cars are $5. Contact your county Extension office to confirm if transportation may be coordinated.

Attire: Show your pride by wearing your green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

Extras:
• Hear fellow 4-H'ers lead the 4-H pledge.
• Explore the wide range of 4-H programming with games and activities on the concourse.
• Take photos with Sparty.

Get in the game!
Let your 4-H leader know you (and how many of your family members) want to attend, or contact your county Extension office.

For more information:
msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_day_at_the_breslin_1
Contact your county MSU Extension office OR email Jane Love at lovejan@anr.msu.edu

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SAVE THE DATE
CHALLENGE U 4-H FUNFEST

When: Saturday, March 17 2018, 9:30 a.m. through Sunday, March 18, 2018, 11:30 a.m.

Who: 9 -13 year olds as of January 1, 2018

Where: Kettunen Center
14901 4-H Drive
Tustin, MI 49688

What: Youth and adults who attend 4-H Challenge U funfest will spend 2 days learning about exciting project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Challenge U funfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Kettunen Center in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands-on sessions that will engage youth in learning about themselves, food, and being active.

Cost: Youth Registration Cost : $70
Chaperone Registration Fee: $70*
Registration fee includes: Three meals, overnight housing, all session supplies for four action packed sessions.

Registration information will be available January 2018!

For more information contact:
Michelle Neff (989) 539-7805
hydemic@msu.edu

* Chaperones need to go through proper screening to attend so plan accordingly.
**4-H Mark of Excellence Award**

It’s that time of year to start thinking of applying for the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award. The “Mark of Excellence Award” is a recognition opportunity designed for 11 & 12 year old 4-H members. Each county can select two essays as winners, the winners will receive a certificate and a medal. Participants are encouraged to attend 4-H Exploration Days in June.

To participate, each member writes a 500 word essay titled “Because of 4-H I can...” All essays must be submitted to the county MSU Extension office by February 1. Additional information about the award can be found at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_awards_and_recognition_program](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_awards_and_recognition_program). Please let the 4-H staff know if you have further questions.

**Grandparents University – Scholarship Opportunity**

Grandparents University will be held June 26-28, 2018. This intergenerational program provides an opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren (ages 8-12) to come together for a three-day educational experience, while spending time together on the Michigan State University campus.

Participants of Grandparents University enjoy the whole college experience of living in the residence halls, attending classes across campus and sampling the many highlights of MSU. Grandparents University gives alumni a chance to relive their college days while exploring campus and creating lifelong memories with their grandchildren.

There are a limited number of scholarships available due to the generosity of previous participants. Scholarship applications are due no later than January 8, 2018. Scholarships cover the registration rates for one adult and one child, including:

- Four special Grandparents University classes and related materials
- Two nights lodging in Holmes or Akers Hall
- Unique evening programs
- Seven meals in MSU’s award-winning dining services (Tuesday lunch through Thursday lunch)
- Campus transportation
- A lifetime of memories

Scholarships do not include travel expenses or other costs incurred by participants.

To learn more, visit the [Grandparents University website](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_awards_and_recognition_program).

**4-H Day at the Breslin**

Tickets will be available at the 4-H office after the first of the year at a first come, first serve basis. If you would like to reserve some please contact Veronica at bolhuisv@anr.msu.edu.
STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Workshops
December 7: 4-H Treasurers Training
Dowagiac Union High School, Dowagiac
Being a 4-H treasurer is an important role. 4-H youth treasurer’s learn valuable life skills to benefit their future.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_treasurers_training

December 12: 4-H Alumni Engagement Training
Northstar Cooperative Building, East Lansing
This session will highlight meaningful ways to maintain relationships and steward 4-H alumni. Topics will include: 4-H alumni as 4-H volunteers, 4-H donors and 4-H advocates.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/alumni_engagement_training

December 13: Ready to Go Volunteer Training Toolkit Train the Trainer Workshop
MSU Federal Credit Union, East Lansing
Ready to Go: Volunteer Training Toolkit provides mentoring program staff with activities you may customize, support for using the curriculum and a toolkit.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/ready_to_go_volunteer_training_toolkit_train_the_trainer_workshop

January 8: Michigan 4-H Embryology Staff, Teacher and Volunteer Training—Bay County
Bay County Fairgrounds, Bay City
This training is designed for educators who would like to learn how to implement an embryology program through classroom activities or 4-H SPIN Clubs.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4-h_embryology_staff_teacher_and_volunteer_training-bay_county

Other 4-H Events
January 20: 4-H Alumni Tip-Off Reception
Spartan Stadium, East Lansing
4-H alumni will gather before 4-H Day at the Breslin for networking, refreshments and games.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_alumni_tip_off_reception

January 20: 4-H Day at the Breslin
Jack Breslin Student Events Center, East Lansing
Join us for the 13th annual celebration of MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development at the MSU Women’s Basketball game.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_day_at_the_breslin_1

January 27: 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing
This one-day event is open to participants aged 9 to 19 by Jan 1 of the current year.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_rabbit_and_cavy_show
SHOP 4-H Online and support Michigan 4-H!

Get ready for the holidays by buying your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store. Ranging from 4-H apparel to 4-H flashlights, you can find the perfect gift for every 4-H member, volunteer, parent or staff person. As you share the 4-H spirit this holiday season, you’ll also be supporting Michigan 4-H. The SHOP 4-H Online Store is giving five percent back to Michigan 4-H when you shop using this link: https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0.

2018 4-H State Award applications process now open!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H 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. Final candidates for the junior, senior and group level awards in each project area will be selected to participate in the State Awards program during 4-H Exploration Days in June where final selection and announcement of winners will take place.

The application can be found at http://bit.ly/2xWk3VO and is due Feb. 1, 2018. For more information, contact Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@anr.msu.edu.

4-H Day at the Breslin tickets available

Free tickets are now available at your county Extension office for 4-H Day at the Breslin. Gather with 4-H friends, families, volunteers and staff to cheer on the MSU women’s basketball team as they take on the Indiana Hoosiers at 4 p.m. Jan. 20, 2018 at MSU’s Jack Breslin Student Events Center. Make sure to come early, doors open at 2:30 p.m., to browse booths set up around the concourse showcasing various Michigan 4-H programs and events.

4-H alumni and their families are also invited to a special pre-event activity at Spartan Stadium, beginning at 1:30 p.m. To learn more, visit msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_alumni_tip_off_reception.

4-H Pledge Posters now available!

Whether you are a new or longstanding club, learning the 4-H pledge is an important step for all 4-H members. Help new members learn the pledge by downloading a free 4-H pledge poster available at msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_pledge_posters. The colorful pledge posters can also be used for displays that can help with recruitment of youth and volunteers.

If you have any questions regarding the 4-H pledge posters, contact Jodi Schulz at schulzj@anr.msu.edu.