



MAY 2024

4-H Family News

Cass County



Almost Summer, Almost Time for Fair

Wow! Its May, almost time for summer, and summer brings fair season! It's a such a busy time of year, I encourage you to make sure you are ready.

Be sure to check animal possession dates and validation dates. Make sure you are registered in 4-H online and register for the fair (registration deadline is June 17). If you need help with fair registration there will be two days you can stop by the fair office for help, Wednesday, June 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 8 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

It is also a great time to start getting buyer letters written and sent out to potential buyers. Are you struggling with what to include in a buyer letter? Page three of the newsletter will give you a few helpful pointers.

Wishing you all the best this season!



2024 Cass County Fair "Let the Games Begin!"

Fair Registration is OPEN!

<https://mycasscountyfair.com> to register now through June 17, 2024.

Reminder: To participate as a 4-H member you must also be actively enrolled in 4-H online! You must enroll yearly!

<https://4honline.com>



Follow on Facebook for updates and information:

Cass County Fair: <https://www.facebook.com/casscountyfairmi>

Cass County 4-H: <https://www.facebook.com/CassCountyMichigan4HYouthDevelopment/>

CONTACT US

Hilary Hunt
4-H Program Coordinator

120 N. Broadway Street
Suite 116
Cassopolis, MI 49031

PHONE & EMAIL:

269-445-4458
hustonhi@msu.edu

WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/cass/>

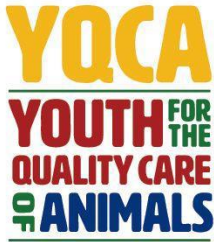
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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

YQCA Certification



All youth exhibiting swine at the Cass County Fair must complete the YQCA Certification.

Youth aged 7 must complete the certification through an instructor led class. Youth aged 8-18 may choose to complete the certification through an instructor led class or online. Exhibitors older than 18 must complete the course online.

To register for instructor led or online course: <http://yqcaprogram.org>

Cost: \$3.00 for YQCA on-site, \$12.00 for YQCA online

ONE instructor led class left for the year: May 13 – 6:30 p.m. (pre-registration required)

Once completed please send certificates to Hilary: hustonhi@msu.edu

Horse Leaders' Association

The Horse Leaders' Association will be putting on a light horse clinic on June 2 & 3 at the Cass County Fairgrounds look for an email with registration information soon! Save the date for the Cass County 4-H Horse Leaders' Open Horse Show being held June 22 & 23 at the Cass County Fairgrounds. See page 4 of the newsletter for the show bill!

Leaders' Association

The next Dine in for Dollars Fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Caruso's Candy & Soda Shop – 130 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047. They have generously agreed to donate 20% of all ice cream, food and drink sales to support the Cass County 4-H Leaders' Association to help provide programming for the county 4-H youth.



Still Exhibit Workshops

Sunday, May 19th:

Join Deb Ridenour and other leaders on May 19, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. for a still exhibit workshop focused on tin punch and creating projects with duct tape. The workshop will be held at the Vandalia Youth Center – 18035 State St., Vandalia, MI 49095. Contact Deb with questions: 574-215-6337 or email: deb.casscounty4hla@gmail.com

Sunday, June 9th:

In collaboration with the Cass Area Artists the Kids 'N Kids 4-H Club would like to welcome any 4-H youth to participate in a workshop on Sunday, June 9, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. at the Vandalia Youth Center – 18035 State St., Vandalia, MI 49095. Two workshops will be facilitated: **Gift Wrapping** aligned with the Cass County Fair Theme "Let The Games Begin" and various bow – making techniques as well as **Creating a Weather Cloud Poster** using cotton balls.

If you are planning to attend please RSVP by May 31, 2024 to Deb Ridenour via text 574-215-6337 or email: deb.casscounty4hla@gmail.com



Cass County News

Thank You letters are important too!!

Remember, you should also be sending out thank you cards too! It's a good idea to pack a few extra thank you cards, stamps and envelopes when getting ready for the fair. You should be sending thank you cards to anyone that sponsors a trophy/award you receive and anyone that purchases an exhibit or animal of yours at the auction. Judges and auctioneers also appreciate thank you cards as well! Send these right away so you don't forget to mail them!



Tips for Writing Buyer Letters

Writing a buyer letter does not need to be intimidating. A buyer letter is really just a way to introduce a potential auction buyer to you, your project and give them information about the sale. If you are sending the letter to business/person that has bought one of your animals before this is also a great time to thank them again for their support of you and your 4-H projects. Remember your letter isn't the only one they will get so do not wait until the last minute to send out letters. If the businesses are local, you might even consider hand delivering your letter and meeting your potential buyer in person. Remember to shake their hand, introduce yourself and have a quick speech prepared about your project!

What you should include in a buyer letter:

1. Information about yourself
2. Information about your project & club
3. The fair dates & auction date & time
4. Personalize the letter – handwritten and signed
5. Consider adding a photo of you and your animal(s)/project
6. Thank the potential buyer for their support





Cass County 4-H Horse Leaders Open Horse Show



Cass County 4-H Horse Leaders Open Horse Show

June 22 & 23, 2024

Cass County Fairgrounds

Judge: Adam D'Agostino

590 N S O Keefe St. Cassopolis, MI 49031

Contact: Nikita Mehaney (269) 858-8419 or Leslie Vargo (574) 286-5413

*Haul-ins Allowed Friday after 11am- To reserve stalls please text Nikita with # and name

Saturday, June 22 - Start time - 8:30AM

1. Junior Horse Halter (2 & under)
2. Non-Stock Halter
3. Stock Horse Halter Geldings
4. Stock Horse Halter Mares
5. Pony Halter-Under 56"
6. Color Class
7. Pee-Wee Showmanship, 8 & under
8. Showmanship, 9-11
9. Showmanship, 12-14
10. Showmanship, 15-18
11. Showmanship, 19 & over
- Break-
- Leadline Class
12. Pee-Wee Horsemanship/Eq. W/T, 8 & under
13. Pee-Wee Pleasure W/T, 8 & under (English or Western)
14. English Equitation Walk/Trot, All Ages
15. English Equitation, 9-11
16. English Equitation, 12-14
17. English Equitation, 15-18
18. English Equitation, 19 & Over
19. English Pleasure Walk/Trot, All Ages
20. English Pleasure, 9-11
21. English Pleasure, 12-14
22. English Pleasure, 15-18
23. English Pleasure, 19 & Over
- Break-

Gymkhana not to start before 4pm

24. Pole Bending, 9-11
25. Pole Bending, 12-14
26. Pole Bending, 15-18
27. Pole Bending, 19 & Over
28. Pee-Wee Cloverleaf W/T, 8 & under
29. Cloverleaf, 9-11
30. Cloverleaf, 12-14
31. Cloverleaf, 15-18
32. Cloverleaf, 19 & Over
33. Flag Race, 9-11
34. Flag Race, 12-14
35. Flag Race, 15-18
36. Flag Race, 19 & Over
37. Speed & Action, 9-11
38. Speed & Action, 12-14
39. Speed & Action, 15-18
40. Speed & Action, 19 & Over
41. Key Hole, 9-11
42. Key Hole, 12-14
43. Key Hole, 15-18

44. Key Hole, 19 & Over

IF THE PREVIOUS CLASS ENTERS THE RING, NO ENTRY FEE WILL BE REFUNDED. 1 MINUTE GATE HOLD WILL BE ENFORCED.
 *Anyone seen and will be evicted from the grounds for abuse of an animal, abusive language, or disruptive behavior toward the Judge, Show Officials, Exhibitors, or other Guests. Show Officials reserve the right to evict anyone. *Warning Under the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act an equine activity is not liable for an injury to, or death of, a participant resulting from the inherent risk of the equine activity. The Cass County 4-H Horse Leaders Council will not be held responsible for theft, loss, or injury to the livestock, exhibitor, or spectators. MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.

Stalls - \$55/each Camping - \$30/day
 Classes - \$7/class *except for Double Horsemanship \$5/rider
 Office Fee - \$2/rider & horse combo
 High Point - \$2 *classes will not count for highpoint until highpoint fee is paid

Sunday, June 23- Start Time - 8:30AM

45. Walk/Trot Trail
46. Trail, 9-11
47. Trail, 12-14
48. Trail, 15-18
49. Trail, 19 & Over
50. Ranch Trail, All Ages
- Break-
51. Western/Ranch Horsemanship Walk/Trot, All Ages
52. Western Horsemanship, 9-11
53. Western Horsemanship, 12-14
54. Western Horsemanship, 15-18
55. Western Horsemanship, 19 & Over
56. Ranch Horsemanship, 9-11
57. Ranch Horsemanship, 12-14
58. Ranch Horsemanship, 15-18
59. Ranch Horsemanship, 19 & Over
60. Western/Ranch Pleasure Walk/Trot, All Ages
61. Western Pleasure, 9-11
62. Western Pleasure, 12-14
63. Western Pleasure, 15-18
64. Western Pleasure, 19 & Over
65. Ranch Pleasure, 9-11
66. Ranch Pleasure, 12-14
67. Ranch Pleasure, 15-18
68. Ranch Pleasure, 19 & Over

Fun Classes

69. Egg Ride
70. Water Ride
71. Double Horsemanship (\$5.00 per rider)
72. Bareback Horsemanship, 14 & under
73. Bareback Horsemanship, 15 & over

Highpoint Divisions:
 *All Around Performance 15 & over (includes gymkhana & fun classes)
 *All Around Performance 14 & under (includes gymkhana & fun classes)
 *Walk/Trot Performance All Ages (includes gymkhana & fun classes)
 *Gymkhana 15 & over
 *Gymkhana 14 & under



*Age will be as of Jan. 1, 2024. *NO STALLIONS ON THE GROUNDS
 *2024 COGGING TEST WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES
 *EVERYONE must wear an S.E.I approved Helmet in ALL Gymkhana classes *Judges decision is final. Classes can be split or combined at Judge or Show Committees discretion. *4-H Safety Rules Apply to ALL Participants *Cloverbuds MUST wear approved helmets. *Combination of Horse and Rider in walk/trot classes cannot be shown in canter classes. Exhibitors 8 & under MUST show in Pee-Wee and cannot cross over to 11 & under.



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 1 – Cass County Fair Registration Opens
- 4- Dine in for Dollars – Caruso’s Candy Kitchen, Dowagiac 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 4 – Swine Validation 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Fairgrounds
- 4 – Goat Validation 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fairgrounds
- 4 – Sheep Validation 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fairgrounds
- 4 – Beef Feeder Calf Validation 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fairgrounds
- 5 – Market Goat Validation 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fairgrounds
- 5 – Sheep Validation 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fairgrounds
- 13 - MI 4-H Volunteer Webinar Prepping 4-Hers for Fairs & Showcases, Noon & 7:00 p.m., zoom (page 7 to register)
- 13 – YQCA (preregistration required), 6:30 p.m. – MSU Extension Office, Kincheloe Room
- 14 – Cass County Fair Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. – Fairgrounds , Gregarek Building
- 15 – Cass County Horse Leaders’ Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m. – Kincheloe Room
- 15 – Adulting 101 Series: Build & Protect Your Credit, zoom (page 7 to register)
- 19 – Still Exhibit Workshop 3:30 p.m. – Vandalia Youth Center
- 22 – MI 4-H Volunteer Webinar Managing Risk for Volunteers, zoom (page 7 to register)
- 23 – Cass County Leaders’ Association Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Kincheloe Room

June

- 1 & 2 – Cass Co Horse Leaders Association Horse Clinic (registration coming soon)
- 2 – Breed Rabbits Validation
- 9 – Still Exhibit Workshop 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Vandalia Youth Center
- 17 – Cass County Fair Registration Closes
- 22 & 23 – Cass County Horse Leaders Association Horse Show

Animal Possession Dates:

April:

3rd Saturday – Dairy Feeders

May:

1st: Dairy, Goats, Horses, Sheep, Swine

1st Saturday: Beef Breeding Stock, Beef Feeders

June:

1st: Breed Rabbits

15th: Dogs, Cats

July:

1st: Market Rabbits

1st Sunday: Poultry

Validation Dates:

April:

3rd Saturday: Dairy Feeders

May:

1st Saturday: Beef Feeders

1st Saturday: Swine

1st Saturday & Sunday: Sheep

1st Saturday & Sunday: Market Goats

June:

1st Sunday after June 1st: Breed Rabbits

July:

1st Saturday after July 4th: Market Rabbits





Leaders' Association Fundraiser

Cass County 4-H Leaders' Association

IT'S FLOCKING SEASON!

You'll be tickled pink

Flamingo Flocking for 2024

May 17th – June 14th

For a donation, we will flock one of your family, friends, neighbors and colleagues in Cass County.

All funds support programming for Cass County 4-H youth.

Remember, this fundraiser is meant to be fun and not ill-willed. Choose your intended flocking yard carefully. There is so much going on in the world today, this is not meant to add any stress to anyone's life.

How to contact us:

- Call or text 269-414-0938 or 574-215-6337
- Email cass4hleaders@gmail.com
- Send a message through the Leaders' Assn Facebook page @casscounty4hleaders





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Livestock and poultry owners encouraged to heighten biosecurity



Recently, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in cattle, cats and commercial poultry flocks across the country and Michigan. MSU Extension and its state partners are continuing to monitor the situation and providing outreach to help mitigate the spread of HPAI. Livestock and poultry owners are strongly encouraged to take proactive measures to defend against additional outbreaks in Michigan. Check out the following resources helpful information on biosecurity:

- www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/biosecurity
- www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity-for-dairy-and-beef-cattle-farms
- www.canr.msu.edu/news/small-scale-and-backyard-poultry-owners-should-remain-vigilant-to-protect-against-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza
- www.canr.msu.edu/avian_influenza/

April 24 – May 5: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Your Local Tractor Supply

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

May 5 – June 1

Across the state

All Michigan 4-H alumni and supporters are invited to compete in a virtual walking challenge! Get active, stay healthy, and win prizes for you and your county 4-H program!

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

May 13: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Preparing 4-H'ers for Fairs and Showcases

Online

Attend this online session to hear about opportunities as well as techniques to prepare 4-H'ers for fairs and showcase events. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- 12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-preparing-4-hers-for-fairs-and-showcases
- 7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-preparing-4-hers-for-fairs-and-showcases7pm

May 15: Adulting 101 Series - Build and Protect Your Credit

Online

By attending this workshop, you can learn why your credit matters, how to start obtaining credit and how to manage it.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/credit

May 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Managing Risk for Volunteers

Online

One step in keeping 4-H'ers safe is reviewing the media and medical authorization forms for members engaged in your club. Attend this session to learn how to access, review and keep this information safe while serving as a 4-H volunteer. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- 12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-managing-risk-for-volunteers
- 7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-managing-risk-for-volunteers7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2024-25 grant cycle

Awarded annually, the Michigan 4-H Foundation recently opened their grant and award opportunities for the 2024-2025 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 \$500.** 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 outstanding 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.



Tips for purchasing and bringing home livestock

Adapted from: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/tips-for-purchasing-and-bringing-home-livestock

Acquiring new stock is exciting whether you are building your herd or flock or purchasing your annual 4-H project. These tips will help manage their health and safety by making sure you know what to ask before purchasing and how to prepare to bring livestock home.

Assessing Animal Health and Treatment Documentation

When purchasing animals, you should know their history. Ask the following questions:

- When was the animal born?
- What specific vaccinations has the animal been given and when were they given?
- If necessary, was the animal properly castrated and what method was used?
- Have any other treatments been administered to the animal? If so, what is the slaughter withdrawal for the drugs given?
- Have any of the animals on the farm been ill or shown symptoms of illness?
- If acquiring a market animal, what is the approximate weight?

Considerations as You Bring Animals Home

Transporting. Secure a trailer. If you do not own a trailer, make arrangements with someone who can transport animals for you. Be prepared to pay someone to provide transportation, as a courtesy.

Unloading. Make sure that your facility is ready to house your new animals before they arrive. Have a pen identified for new animals to go into with fresh water and appropriate feed. (Feed should be similar to their previous diet; changing to a new diet should be done over a period of time.) Have a clear and direct path to the animals' new pen from the trailer. Make sure that all gates are open or closed, as appropriate, and secured.

Settling in. Isolate or separate new animals for a minimum of 14 days. At minimum, try to avoid nose-to-nose contact, and comingling feeding and watering. Minimize stress on new animals during the isolation period. If after 14 days, the newly acquired animals have not shown any symptoms of illness, it should be safe to comingling them into your existing herd or flock.

Comingling. Since each species has a social hierarchy, observe animals during comingling and separate if there is risk of injury. Over the course of a day, the herd or flock should settle into a routine that includes the new animals.



Michigan 4-H is looking for feedback from youth ages 13-18 regarding their experience in 4-H. You will be receiving a survey and information in your email through 4-H Online. Please take some time to help us improve Michigan 4-H and our county programs by completing the survey. The survey can be accessed here or from the email you will receive. For questions, contact Kathy Fischer at fisch226@msu.edu

National 4-H Annual Index Survey:

https://4hcouncil.co1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_aYsiWmYMmnZtAGi

It's graduation season! Looking for a unique way to honor your graduate? Consider sponsoring a brick in their name and it will become a permanent part of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens.

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/bricks/>

SPONSOR A BRICK

at the Michigan 4-H
Children's Gardens



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4-H Family News

Cass County

