



Hillsdale

4-H Family News

December 2021

Engaging and Re-Engaging Your Buyer Throughout the Year.

Happy Holidays! I wanted to pause and remind our 4-H livestock exhibitors that the next couple months are an ideal time to connect or re-connect with buyers. It is very important to thank your buyer and the other people who have helped you with your project throughout the year. It is especially important for your future years in a 4-H market project to thank your buyers sincerely. Your 4-H project is more than just raising, feeding, showing, and selling an animal. The project is about learning life skills. An essential life skill is the communication of gratitude. I strongly suggest that you keep in touch with your buyers through the year. You should consider sending a . . .

Thanksgiving Card

Christmas Card

Stopping by their place of business with a note and a small holiday gift

Sending a postcard of you and your animal

Also, a holiday break from school is a great time to start a rough draft of your buyer's letter that you will send later in the year. Here are some do's and do not's.

Do's	Do Not's
Write a rough draft and get your parent's to proofread	Send your rough draft without your parents checking it
Get the name, position title, and proper address of the contact	Never send a letter "To Whom It May Concern" or "Dear Buyer"
Be personal, warm, and inviting	Use a cold short form letter
Use proper greeting Dear Mr. Jones	Never address the person by first Name - Dear Bob
Check your spelling	Forget to use spell check
Be gracious "Please" and "Thank you"	Never make demands
Use Sincerely to close	Do not use Fondly or Regards. Keep it all business
Sign your letter and include contact information	Forget to sign your letter and include contact information

If you would like further ideas, please feel to reach out (craftsmi@msu.edu)

Resource: University of Florida, IFAS Extension

Contact Us

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Web Site
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outreach/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/)

Facebook
[Hillsdale County MSU
Extension](https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleCountyMSUExtension)

Instagram
[Hillsdalecountymsuetension](https://www.instagram.com/Hillsdalecountymsuetension)



INFORMATION AND MEETINGS

Holiday Schedule

The MSU Extension Office will be closed for the following holidays.

Thursday, November 25 -
Friday, November 26
Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 23 -
Friday, December 24
Christmas

Thursday, December 30 -
Friday, December 31
New Year's

DEC
Dec 8, 6:00 p.m. Horse Leaders Meeting
Dec 9, 6:30 p.m. Small Animal Sale Committee
Dec 13, 7:00 p.m. Junior Livestock Meeting
Dec 15 Hillsdale County 4-H Awards Applications Due
Dec 20, 7:00 p.m. 4-H Advisory Council

JAN
Jan 6, 7:00 p.m. Large Animal Sale Committee
Jan 10, 7:00 p.m. Junior Livestock Meeting
Jan 12, 6:00 p.m. Horse Leaders Meeting
Jan 14 2022 Fair Youth Premium Book Changes Deadline for Committees
Jan 17, 7:00 p.m. 4-H Advisory Council
Jan 26, 7:00 p.m. Hillsdale County 4-H Awards and Recognition Program
Jan 29 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show

Feb 3, 6:00 p.m. Youth Division Fair Advisory Meeting
Mar 20 – 23 Capital Experience
Mar 26 *The Basics: Protecting Your Equine Investment* workshop
June 22 – 24 4-H Exploration Days
June 25 – July 1 Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

Community Club Leaders

Please remember to return the 4-H club forms. Also, be sure that you are guiding your students in enrolling through [4-H Online](#) and that you are current in your annual compliance in Volunteer Central. Forms can be found on the [Hillsdale County Extension News: Documents \(msuehillsdale.blogspot.com\)](#). The most important form is the club registration.

Premium Book Changes

All committees are expected to submit any changes for the 2022 Hillsdale County Fair Youth Division Premium book no later than **January 14** to Michael Crafts (craftsmi@msu.edu). He will then submit changes to the Youth Division Fair Advisory Committee by February 1. It is wise to have most of your committee work done before the end of the calendar year so that the process can move forward. YDFA will then present to the Hillsdale County Fair Board.

Join the 4-H Council

The 4-H Council is currently seeking new members! The 4-H Council meets once a month. Their role is to help build and support the Hillsdale County 4-H Program. Your input and ideas are needed. Contact any of the current 4-H Council members or Michael Crafts at the Extension Office, or simply attend an upcoming 4-H Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for , December 20 at 7:00 p.m., at the MSU Extension Office.

Happy Holidays!



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Michigan 4-H Exploration Days Youth Scheme Team

Would you like to be a voice to help influence Michigan 4-H's Exploration Days? Expo Days is a premier 4-H overnight experience held at Michigan State University that attracts about 2,000 youth to campus. Whether you have been actively involved in 4-H since age 5 or are new to the program and have never attended Exploration Days, we would love to have you apply to help craft Exploration Days 2022. The Scheme Team is made up of youth ages 13-19 from across Michigan who will help plan, promote, and support MSU Extension 4-H Exploration Days in 2022. Youth members will attend virtual meetings approximately once per month through July and may choose to be on additional subcommittees. Members will be selected from those who complete and application, are currently enrolled as Michigan 4-H members and respond to committee communications. The application can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/Ddoza52D3QFtSp5C6> and must be submitted by midnight on December 1, 2021. Questions? Contact Liana Pepin at deisenro@msu.edu



4-H Capital Experience

4-H Capitol Experience is an annual 4-day conference that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. Up to 100 teens from around the state converge on Lansing, Michigan to experience state government in action and learn how they can influence policy issues. Participants interact with legislators, state agency staff, lobbyists, and other resource people to learn how policy is made. They will also learn about public access to information, campaign financing, ethics/conflicts of interest, government accountability to the public and lobbying disclosure. For more information check out the [website](#).

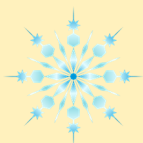
State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show

The State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show will be held on January 29, 2022, at the MSU Pavilion (4301 Farm Lane) in East Lansing. This one-day event is open to participants aged 8 to 19. To enter, exhibitors must be Michigan 4-H members and own the rabbits or cavies they enter. Youth may enter as many breeds as they wish. Spectators are welcome. Additional educational competitive opportunities: breed identification contest, educational poster, photography. Check out the [website](#).



We want to welcome the following individuals who were elected as officers of the Hillsdale County 4-H Horse Leaders Committee.

4-H Horse Leaders Committee	
President	Deb Stumpf
Vice President	Katelyn Osborn
Secretary	Karla Adams
Treasurer	Rachael Brighton



The Basics: Protecting our Equine Investment

We have scheduled Tom Guthrie for a workshop entitled *The Basics: Protecting Your Equine Investment* here in Hillsdale County for Saturday, March 26, 2022. Tom Guthrie is a statewide equine extension educator for Michigan State University. Tom's role is to develop and provide statewide accessibility to educational programming within the Michigan equine industry. We are excited about offering this opportunity to the 4-H community. The workshop will be held at the Michigan State Extension office here in Hillsdale.



WORKSHOPS

4

Tis the Season to be Scientific

How fast would Santa's sleigh have to travel to visit every house? What's the atomic weight of a sugar plum? What STEM-related degree is required to be an Elf? All of these questions and more are going to be yours to answer over the holiday break with the Mason County 4-H "Tis the Season to be Scientific" Virtual GooseChase challenge. Sign up and take part in a series of holiday and STEM-related missions and earn points towards some sweet prizes! To sign up, participants will have to create a GooseChase account with their parents' help. Login information will be sent out two days prior to the start of the event. Registration is now open!

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SeasonScientific/>



Join Us Online

**4-H TIS THE SEASON TO BE SCIENTIFIC
HOLIDAY-STEM THEMED
VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT**

Dec. 17 thru Jan. 5, 2022

🌱 4-H GROWS HERE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Hop
on over
and
check
this out!

**TOWN & COUNTRY
4-H CLUB
PRESENTS**

**JANUARY
15
2022**

**4-H
RABBIT
SHOW**

Entry Fees:
\$3 per class
\$1.00 Fur/Wool class
\$1 Showmanship
\$1 Cloverbud (limit one animal)
Coloring Contest is FREE!

**Ingham County
Fairgrounds
Main Arena
700 E Ash St
Mason, MI 48854**

Showmanship:
Cloverbud 5-8 yrs old
Junior 9-11 yrs old
Intermediate 12-14 yrs old
Senior 15-19 yrs old
Ages of of 1/1/2022

All recognized breeds eligible for show. All breeds will be judged by the ARBA Standard of Perfection. Trophies for top 15 breeds, rabbits & cavies.

FOOD VENDORS • BAKE SALE • ANIMAL RAFFLE • SILENT AUCTION

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Doors Open at 7:00 am

Show Superintendent
Penny Jackson
517-202-1618
pjj74@yahoo.com
Interested in being a vendor? Contact Me!

ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY **8 AM** SHOW STARTS AT **9 AM**

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Made with PosterMyWagon

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hillsdale County 4-H Recognition and Awards Program

Our recognition and awards program will be on January 26th at 7:00 p.m. 4-H members will be recognized for their achievements and accomplishments. Applications will soon be available on the blog spot and need to be returned by December 15. A few of the awards are listed below.

4-H Young Person's Achievement Award
Susan Trausch Memorial Award for Crafts
County Award Medals
County Award Medals
4-H Hillsdale County Key Club Award
"I Dare You" Leadership Award
Frank Proctor Memorial Award
Susan Trausch Memorial Award for Rabbits
Scholarships for regional and national 4-H events



4-H State Awards Process and Trainings:

A 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member. 4-H State Award winners become part of an elite group of 4-H youth who have demonstrated the highest level of excellence in learning, leadership, and service.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program provides 4-H members a learning experience where they can develop career skills by using their 4-H experiences to compile a portfolio similar to a professional application while receiving recognition for their 4-H involvement. The application process will help youth build their skills in communication, literacy, record keeping, and marketability. The application will require youth to reflect on their past 4-H experiences and provide thoughtful responses. 4-H State Awards recognize youth for their engagement and learning in the 4-H program, focusing on the skills they have gained. Once completed, a 4-H State Awards portfolio may be a useful tool that can be referenced when completing future job, college, or scholarship applications.

Have you ever thought about applying for a 4-H State Award but you just do not know where to start or maybe you have submitted an application in the past but you need suggestions on your cover letter or resume? Consider joining a virtual training. Each training will start at the stated time, their will be a short video played around that topic and then staff will stay on to answer specific questions. Training begins January 19. Registration is required, registration will stay open through each event. Check out the [website](#).

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Media Superintendent

Kayela Gimenez will serve as the new Media Superintendent for the Hillsdale County 4-H program. She is currently a project leader for the Litchfield 4-Clover Club and a member of the 4-H Council. She has two children active in Hillsdale County 4-H. We want to highlight the events and activities that are happening in your club or program. If your club or program will be doing an activity, community service project, or anything you would like other 4-H members, leaders, and community members to know about, please contact her. She would love to come to your event, take photos, get more information, and share it through the Hillsdale County 4-H social media channels. Her email address is kayelagimenez@gmail.com



**Shop the
Michigan 4-H
store this holiday
season**



Just in time for the holidays, MSU Extension is excited to launch the first-ever Michigan 4-H pop-up shop!

Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council through Shop 4-H, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts. Visit the store online and find the perfect item for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! The shop is open to the public and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H.

To order items, visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>. The store will remain open beyond the holiday season to continue offering Michigan 4-H branded gear to the Michigan 4-H community.

4-H Events and Workshops

December 6: Future Squad—Making a Connection in a Minute or Less

Zoom Webinar

Did you know that you make a great first impression in one minute or less with a great elevator pitch? Learn how in this interactive session for Future Squad members.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-6

December 7: Grow Your Money— Investing and Risk

Zoom Webinar

Young people have the advantage of time when it comes to investing. Start your path to wealth at a young age and learn how to make your money work for you

www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-money-12-7

December 11: Mason County 4-H Sweet Sales Workshop

West Shore Community College, Scottville, and Zoom Webinar

Learn how to make candy and learn the financial skills to sell your own candy.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/mason-county-4-h-sweet-sales-workshop

December 14: Shiawassee 4-H Family Holiday Goosechase

Online

Use the Goosechase app to collect the array of items requested. Upload the images and receive points for each. Get the whole family involved! Just use your mobile phone and have your family help you.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/shiawassee-4-h-family-holiday-goosechase

December 17: 'Tis the Season to be Scientific Virtual Challenge

Online

Mason County 4-H is hosting a virtual holiday and STEM-themed GooseChase scavenger hunt with prizes going to the top three finishers.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/mason-county-4-h-tis-the-season-to-be-scientific-virtual-challenge

December 20: 4-H Future Squad - Are You Paying Yourself First

Zoom Webinar

Putting aside money for the future can help you achieve your goals. Learn how to pay yourself first and create a saving habit in your life for both short-term and long-term goals.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-20

December 20: Lenawee Junior Master Gardener

Lenawee Intermediate School District Center for a Sustainable Future, Adrian

Do you love plants and gardening? Learn more about plants, soil, and gardening in a year with Junior Master Gardener. The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the university cooperative Extension network.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-squad12-20

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

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Submit your ideas to host a session at 4-H Exploration Days!

4-H Exploration Days is a team effort and we need you! We're seeking inspiring and fun educational sessions for the 2022 4-H Exploration Days event!

An exciting pre-college program for youth ages 12-19, 4-H Exploration Days bring together approximately 1,500 youth from across the state of Michigan. The 2022 event is slated for June 22-June 24, on the campus of MSU and now is your chance to get involved! We are looking for sessions and instructors that allow youth to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friends that can last a lifetime.

Sessions will be offered in 2.5, 3 and 6 hour time blocks on Thursday or Friday. Information on instructor roles and session times can be found on the 4-H Exploration Days website under at www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/Volunteer-Information/.

Think outside the box for session ideas! Some great session topic areas in the past included: mental health/self care; a day in the life of a specific career path; recreational sports; art, culture, crafts, music, dance; animals and animal science; coding, website development and technology; and food, nutrition, basic cooking.

The session proposal process is now open until December 15. Notification will be sent by early 2022 regarding acceptance. Please submit your session ideas online at msu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iFTMshS4liYerQ.

If you need assistance with the survey, have questions, or would like to brainstorm session ideas or ways to make a topic hands-on, please reach out to Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu and/or send an e-mail to: 4h.expodays@msu.edu.



Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!

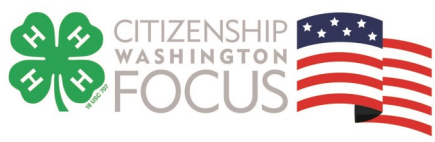


Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.

Buy your 4-H essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (<https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0>) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (<http://www.joann.com/4-h/>) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.



Explore democracy at the 2022 Citizenship Washington Focus

4-H Citizenship Washington Focus is an exciting opportunity for 4-H youth ages 15-19 to spend a week in Washington, D.C. learning about the nation's government.

Participants will enjoy hands-on leadership workshops, meet with U.S. senators and representatives and tour historical sites. Featuring national experts and leaders, along with opportunities for career exploration, using your voice and building connections with teens from across the country, this is a can't miss experience for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan delegation will depart by bus on Saturday, June 25 and return on Friday, July 1. The first stop along the route is the 9/11 Memorial in Pennsylvania followed by an overnight stay in Gettysburg. On Sunday, the group will visit the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum, travel the battlefields with a licensed tour guide and see the Gettysburg Cyclorama Map of the Civil War before heading on to Washington, D.C.

Once in D.C., the group will stay at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Maryland. The cost for this trip is \$2,000 per youth, which includes transportation, lodging, conference costs and most meals. Spaces for this exciting event are limited, to learn more contact your local 4-H program coordinator, Michael Crafts at craftsmi@msu or email Connie Lange at langec@msu.edu.

YIELD: 20 MEDIUM ORNAMENTS

Super Easy Homemade Cinnamon Ornaments

This step-by-step tutorial how super easy it is to make cinnamon ornaments for your Christmas tree at home.

They smell amazing and look beautiful!

Ingredients

- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 1/2 cup ground cinnamon (look for the cheap, off-brand stuff, you aren't gonna eat it)
- 2 tablespoons craft glue, optional (I think this makes the ornaments a bit more sturdy, but you can do without it)
- Mixing bowl
- Drinking straw
- Plastic wrap
- Rolling pin
- Baking racks and baking sheets
- Cookie cutters
- Sandpaper
- Oven, food dehydrator, or just a spot out-of-the-way (for drying)
- Glitter, puffy paints, rhinestones, etc. for decorating, optional
- Ribbon or hooks for hanging



Instructions

Mix the applesauce, cinnamon, and glue in a mixing bowl. You'll probably need to stir with your hands, as a spoon won't get the job done. Add more applesauce or cinnamon if needed - you want the dough to be a touch dry, but it still needs to hold together when you roll it out. When the dough can be formed into a ball, you are done mixing. Wash your hands.

1. Place 1/3 of the dough between two sheets of plastic wrap, and use the rolling pin to roll the dough to 1/4" - 1/3" thick.
2. Remove the top layer of plastic wrap and use cookie cutters to cut out ornaments. Repeat with the remaining dough.
3. Use the straw to poke holes for hanging in each ornament.
4. There are three methods that work for drying the ornaments:

Baking

Pop the ornaments on a baking rack on top of a baking sheet in a 200° oven for about 2-1/2 hours until the ornaments are dry and hard. This is the fastest method, but it also results in a little bit of curling and bubbling.

Food Dehydrator

Place the ornaments on the racks of a food dehydrator, and dry at the highest setting for about 6 hours.

Air Dry

You can easily just put these ornaments on baking racks and dry them in an out-of-the-way place. This method takes a few days, and obviously works best in dry climates (I wouldn't try this method at the beach house in Florida).

To Finish

When the ornaments are completely dry and cooled, buff the edges with fine-grit sandpaper (optional). Decorate however you'd like, then string the ornaments on a ribbon. Write the year on the back with a Sharpie.