



GENERAL INFORMATION

Exploration Days Update

"Like" Gratiot County 4-H on [Facebook](#) and check us out on our [website](#)!

And the winner is.....this year Miss Cailin Mikek took home State Award Winning honors in the Sheep Award Area at the 2011 Exploration Days State Awards Celebration. Her leadership, promotion and public service within the sheep industry and through her 4-H project were all judged at the regional and state level. After undergoing a group and individual interview, she represented Gratiot County with pride, bringing home top honors.



Emily Cole and Olivia Waldron also proudly represented Gratiot County. Emily received honors in Poultry. Olivia was among the best of the best in Folkpatterns. We are extremely proud of all our delegates who put in time, enthusiasm and commitment to their projects above and beyond. Congratulations girls!



Exploration Days also saw 29 4-H members and five adult chaperones, along with over 2500 other Michigan 4-H'ers on the campus of MSU! Youth chose from 200 courses including fishing, sailing, scrapbooking, livestock and starting their own business. They were able to try things not available in our county while being independent and responsible through managing time, making good decisions and working as a team.

A HUGE thank you to Aileen Waldron for overseeing the crew while on campus and to Lori Mikek for being the Exploration Day guru from doing everything from registration to room assignments. It was an amazing three days!!!

Welcome Shawnee County 4-H'ers

Over the next week, Gratiot County 4-H'ers are hosting the Shawnee County, Kansas 4-H'ers. Last year, our members visited Kansas. Now it's our turn to show them the beautiful state of Michigan! The Pioneer Research Center in Ithaca, an overnight trip to Mackinaw Island, riding the dunes at Silver Lake and enjoying some time in Midland at Dow Gardens... just some of the cool places our members will be enjoying this week. Keep up with their daily adventures on the [Gratiot County 4-H Facebook Page](#)!

Join the Gratiot County 4-H Exchange Club

The Gratiot County 4-H State Exchange Club is accepting up to 10 new members for the 2012-2013 exchange. You must be between the ages of 13 and 18 and able to fulfill the 2 year commitment. If you have any questions about the program, contact Patty Macha at 989-763-4246. Applications are due by Saturday, August 6 2011. Applications can be submitted to the 4-H office.

Summer Camp – **CANCELLED**

Clover Climber Camp – DUE July 15th!

Five and eight year olds will be experiencing some major science blast projects at the 2011 Clover Climber Camp Monday, July 25 at the GCFFY Fairgrounds! Registration forms can be found on the [county 4-H website](#). Cost is \$20 and includes a t-shirt, draw string bag, meals and supplies!

We're also looking for

- Camp Counselors (15 years and older)
- Adult Chaperones
- Two Lifeguards (this is a paid position)

ANIMAL PROJECTS:

PQA Plus Training LAST CHANCE

If for some reason you were unable to attend any PQA Plus scheduled trainings, you may contact the MSUE Office. You will need to come to the office between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. by July 15. Youth will watch the video and fill out paperwork, but will only be given a ONE YEAR PQA certification. Please contact the MSUE Office to schedule your appointment.

Dog Project Information

Pups-R-Us, a club for all 4-H'ers with a dog project, meets every Monday evening at 6 p.m. the Redbird Training Center. For more information email Katie at mccuneka@anr.msu.edu

State 4-H Events

For registration information please email Katie at mccuneka@anr.msu.edu

- State 4H Judging Contest – July 15. Registration postmarked by July 1.
- MI 4-H DOG SHOW: August 20th. [Show Catalog](#)
- Several Horse Shows held at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth fairgrounds. Look at the upcoming schedule at www.gcfffy.org for full show bills.

Additional Upcoming Events

Michigan Ag Expo Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteer hours? Want to start building your promotion section of your State Awards portfolio? May you've always wanted to attend the Michigan Ag Expo, but haven't yet? The planning committee is looking for volunteers to help at various locations throughout the event. Last year we took a group of youth down – and would offer the same opportunity. Volunteers get a free lunch and t-shirt, and should be 14/15 or older. Adult leaders, parents and members are encouraged to volunteer for the following shifts:

Tuesday, July 19
Morning 8:30-1:00
Afternoon 12:30-5:15

Wednesday, July 20
Morning 8:30-1:00
Afternoon 12:30-5:15

Thursday, July 21
Morning 8:30-12:30
Afternoon 12:00-3:00

Anyone interested can contact Katie at mccuneka@anr.msu.edu.

Get Connected!

Have you "liked" the [Gratiot County 4-H Facebook Page](#)? What about the [Gratiot County Fair for Youth](#)? Lots of information and reminders can be found on Facebook – take a second and go like us right now! Then head over to the two websites you should be checking out regularly. www.gratiotcounty4h.weebly.com and www.gcfffy.org !!

Finally, check out the new Michigan 4-H Website. Great to work through and keep up with state wide events and resources! <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/home>



*GCCFFY DUE
DATES:*

*June 15-
Fair
Registrations
Due*

GRATIOT COUNTY FAIR FOR YOUTH

Fair Royalty Deadline – EXTENDED

Fair Royalty applications are EXTENDED until 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 8 (FIRM and in hand). Interviews will be held on Tuesday, July 12. In the junior application packet, it still mentions an essay which is no longer part of the process, please ignore this part. Applications are available at the [GCCFFY website](http://GCCFFY.org).

Club Display

Complete information will be e-mailed with leaders by this Friday, July 1. Information will include an exhibitor list, club display contest guidelines, dates and score sheet example.

Achievement Booth Exhibitors:

If you have signed up or are interested in signing up to complete an Achievement Booth at the fair please give me a call or send me an email so that we can discuss your project. This is a new project area so we need to discuss the logistics of booth set up, etc. Contact me no later than July 15th. Thank You ~ Aileen Waldron 989-330-0578, awtrucking@rural-net.com.

Flower Beds

Please have your beds cleaned up and looking pretty no later than JULY 13th! Our fairground is the site for this year's Rural Urban Day Celebration and we want to make a good impression for all the visitors in attendance. If you have any questions or need help with your flowerbed, PLEASE don't hesitate to call me Aileen Waldron at 989-330-0578.

Horticulture & Floriculture

With the challenging spring we have had be sure to remember the classes for flower or vegetable specimen sampler. If on entry morning you can't find 3 vegetables or 3 flowers that match, don't worry! Just bring one good specimen from three different varieties of flowers or vegetables to be displayed as one entry. We will make the necessary paperwork changes when you enter your project at the fair. Any questions, just let me know 989-330-0578. Thanks! Aileen Waldron

Record Books

All record books can be found online at www.gccff.org. It's a wonderful educational tool to learn information for showmanship questions and gain knowledge within your industry.

Parking Passes

Parking Passes are available for presale this year at a reduced rate from those purchased from the gate. Weekly passes purchased from the fair at the MSU Extension Office are \$12.00. and will be available early June. At the gate they cost \$15.00. Daily passes will still be available and can be purchased for \$5.00 at the MSU Extension Office or upon entry to the fairgrounds.

Livestock Fair Superintendent Contact Information

Have a question on a rule in the fairbook? Want to know more about check in procedures? Any questions or concerns you have can be directed to the superintendent in the project area you're exhibiting in. For a full list of these dedicated volunteers please click [here](#).

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