



GENERAL INFORMATION

Gratiot County 4-H Website Published

We now have a county website. Please check it out at www.gratiotcounty4h.weebly.com. It is still under construction, but you can see what information will be shared. Currently, all Monday Memos have been uploaded and youth interested in joining 4-H can now find information online. Please feel free to share this website with potential members! We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gratiotcounty4h.

4-H Community Service Resource

The Leaders' Council Community Outreach Committee has created a survey for all community groups to fill out and request potential community service opportunities to our 4-H clubs. If you know of an organization, business or agency who would like to be a part of our community service resource please send them the survey at www.growinggratiot.weebly.com.

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

Grants Available

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has recently request grant proposals for a variety of projects – all due July 1st. Topic areas include:

- Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants for Innovative/New Programming - Total of two (2) \$1,000 grants are currently available.
- Dow Chemical County 4-H Youth Conservation Council Grants - Currently five (5) grants valued at \$1,000 in training, curriculum and financial support are available.
- 4-H On-Target Shooting Sports County Grant - Two (2) \$500 grants are available.
- NorthStar Cooperative 4-H Dairy Science Grant - Two (2) \$500 grants are available.
- OMEDA Youth Tractor Safety Education Grants - Two (2) \$250 grant awards are currently available.
- Ousterhout Regional or District Teen Leadership Training Grant - One (1) \$500 grant is available.
- Michigan 4-H Outbound International Travel Grants (New This Year!) - Four (4) \$500 travel scholarships are available for 2011 travel experiences.
- 4-H Educational Garden Grant - Currently two (2) \$1,000 grants are available.

For full details please click [here](#).

Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award

The Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award [Nomination Packet](#) is now available with nominations due by Friday, July 1, 2011 to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of Michigan 4-H volunteers or groups that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development in the areas of:

- Beef cattle
- Dairy cattle
- Goats
- Horses
- Horticulture, crops and soils
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

The \$1,000 volunteer tribute grant, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Endowment Fund, can be used for 4-H volunteer training, to purchase supplies and curriculum materials, or to enhance 4-H agricultural programming locally or statewide.

ANIMAL PROJECTS:

Central Summer Classic – June 5 at GCFFY grounds

The Central Summer Classic Registration Flyer has been added to our [county website](#). Please check out the link and pass it along to all your members showing goats, sheep and swine! The skill-a-thon is open to anyone -they do not have to participate in the show - so please encourage your members to come and try it out if they'd like practice! Great way to prepare for fair!

Harvey's 4-H Seminar:

The fair is right around the corner and we are here to make sure you are prepared. On May 21, Harvey's Ag Solutions will be hosting a 4-H Seminar from 9-11 a.m. in Carson City. This fun filled seminar features interactive stations where you can learn about your animals, see showmanship do's and don'ts, learn more about your feed, and much, much more! This seminar is geared mainly toward pigs, sheep and cattle, but everyone is welcome. 4-H'ers of all ages are sure to have a blast!! Click here for a [Flyer](#). RSVP to AHassenger@harveymilling.com.

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

PQA Plus Training Dates Announced

Clinton County MSU Extension will be registering all Gratiot County 4-H members who need to be certified and/or recertified for PQA Plus. Please call their office directly.

Gratiot County Session: Tuesday, May 24 at 7 p.m. at the Gratiot First Presbyterian Church 495 Charles Avenue, Alma, MI, 48801-1401. Register call 989.224.5242

State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

The contest will be held on Friday, July 15, 2011 at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing. Entry deadline is July 1, 2011. For full details please pick up a packet at the MSUE Office or email Katie at mccuneka@anr.msu.edu

Livestock Judging Clinic for ADULTS

If you are interested in becoming a livestock judge, you will want to look into the 4-H Livestock Judging Clinic in Kalamazoo on May 21st. The purpose of this workshop is to identify potential judges who are willing to judge small numbers of animals during 4-H

competitive events. The information presented will also be helpful to leaders who want to increase their knowledge & improve their skills. This is a clinic for adults who would like to potentially serve as judges – it is not a youth livestock judging clinic to help youth prepare for judging contests. [Registration and Information.](#)

State 4-H Events

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

- MI Beef Showcase and Spartan Spectacular Hog Show as well as the annual B&B Jr Sheep Show – June 10-12 and June 18-19. [Registration Forms](#)
- Milk Marketing Tour – June 16-17. Registration is due May 27
- State 4H Judging Contest – July 15. Registration postmarked by July 1.
- MI 4-H Dairy Days Entry Information and MI Dairy Expo premium book. All cattle entries and Dairy Days event registration are due June 24, 2011

Shooting Sports

If you are interested in joining the South Gratiot Shooters 4-H Club please contact Daymond Grifka for full information at (989) 862-0612.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Currently Gratiot County 4-H has a \$1600 grant to purchase archery equipment. Due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to send a volunteer to the 4-H Certification Training in April. If you are willing to provide leadership in youth archery programs – PLEASE let Katie, Daymond Grifka or Monte Malek know as soon as possible for full details. We do not want to lose this money for our program!

Clare County Archery Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th at the Clare Rod and Gun Club. You do not have to be in a 4-H Shooting Sports Club to participate. For more information go to: <http://bit.ly/go7dyb>

Tuscola County Wildlife Forever 4-H Archery Club is holding their 3rd Annual County Shoot on June 11, 2011 at the Tuscola County Archers located at 2305 Bruisee Road in Caro. A flyer is available at <http://bit.ly/hUvZ48> Please share with your counties. Thanks.

Additional Opportunities

Cooking for Crowds – Volunteer & Teen Workshop

“Cooking for Crowds” is designed for non-profit groups that prepare food for their organization or for the public as part of food fundraisers. Learn to prevent the conditions during planning, purchasing, storage, preparation and service that may lead to a foodborne illness outbreak at your next food fundraiser. **Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Gratiot County Commission on Aging 515 South Pine River, Ithaca Cost: \$10.00** for first participant from an organization (will receive 115 page manual for the group) and \$5.00 for each additional participant from the organization (no manual included). Full flyer at: <http://bit.ly/jDzrGj>

State Wide Science Fair Opportunity

The Arthur Berkey Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Science Fair recognizes middle and high school students who are studying the application of scientific principles and emerging technologies in agriculture and natural resources. Participation begins at the local chapter/club level and progresses to the state level held at the 2011 Ag Expo on the campus of MSU in July, and for FFA members the national level. State Winners receive a cash prize. Call for proposals are due June 1. For more information click: <http://bit.ly/dSxulC>

Ready for an international experience?

Open your home to an exchange student and open your lives to the world! Families have an opportunity to host a Japanese exchange student July 23 to August 19, 2011. One Japanese student will be matched per family based on the host sibling's gender, age and interests. There are also opportunities to host adult chaperones for 2 or 4 weeks. Families who host chaperones are not required to have children in the home. For more information click: <http://bit.ly/hXuyF7>

Additional Upcoming Events

- CIRCLE B 4-H CLUB HORSE SHOW May 14th [Show Bill & Information](#)
- MI 4-H GOAT SHOW June 25th at MSU in the Livestock Pavilion. [Show catalogs](#)
- GREAT LAKES & NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP: This camp is held at Camp Chickagami along Lake Huron in the NE corner of the lower peninsula on July 31st-August 6th. [Registrations](#) & deposits are due by May 16th. Must be 13-15 years of age.
- MI 4-H DOG SHOW: August 20th. [Show Catalog](#)
- INGHAM 4-H HOSTS HORSE SHOWS: [Show bills](#) for the 2011 Ingham County 4-H summer horse show circuit.

GCFFY DUE
DATES:

May 16 –
Sheep &
Swine Pre-
registrations

June 15-
Fair
Registrations
Due

GRATIOT COUNTY FAIR FOR YOUTH

Fairbooks Available On-line & at the MSUE Office

Stop in the MSUE Office to pick up a hardcopy of the fairbook. Or click [here](#) to look at the fairbook and access all registration forms online. Please remember registration forms are not in the fairbook. They are online or available in hard copy at the MSUE Office.

Fair Authorizes a New All-Purpose Livestock Barn

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth Board of Directors authorized the construction of a new livestock barn to be located on the north side of their Alma Fairgrounds. The fair is expecting a 51% increase in youth exhibitors bringing market feeder steers this coming year.

"A group of fair volunteers heard last month the number of feeder steer registrations we received and decided the fair should take action," states Brian Gardner, GCFFY's Fair Coordinator. "This group has already secured donations to cover a large percentage of the cost of construction of the new building."

The donations were kicked off by a generous lead gift given by an anonymous donor. "I am not surprised by this level of support," says Darcy Martyn, GCFFY's Board President. "It shows the support our community has in the fair and the kids who exhibit there."

The fair is building a 60 foot by 112 foot pole barn adjacent to the existing swine barn. The new barn will immediately provide the fair with much needed animal exhibition space. The new building fits within the fair's plan to provide space for agricultural based education programs, camps, clinics, and workshops for youth and volunteers outside of the traditional fair week.

"The new building will be going up quickly" Martyn states. "We need to have this facility up and ready by our fair which begins on July 31."

"The mission of the fair is to provide youth an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments," Gardner states. "This mission resonates with our community and our community appreciates the incredible benefits a strong traditional fair experience can provide. I am always humbled by the level of support we received from our supporters although I have learned not to be surprised."

Anyone wanting additional information on this new building project or the Gratiot County Fair for Youth is encouraged to contact the fair office at (989) 875-5292 or info@gcffy.org.

Poultry Order Information

Just a reminder ALL Poultry for Broiler, Cornish and Duck projects must be ordered by May 16th. Please click [here](#) to download a detailed information sheet on ordering.

Alpaca Information – Nancy Rogers, Sup't.

Shearing season for sheep, alpacas, goats and angora rabbits is just around the corner. Please remember when shearing to save out 1 ounce of fiber for the fleece/fiber division in the still exhibits. All you need to do is make sure it is at least 2 1/2" long, skirt it (clean out debris, not washed), place it in a clear gallon baggie and label it. Very easy and it is amazing to see all the fiber producing animals in Gratiot County.

Then use some more of your great fiber to make something for the fiber arts division for still exhibits. Your project needs to be made with at least 50% natural fiber. The sky is the limit with the talented young people we have in Gratiot County.

Be sure to see the Fleece and Fiber division in the fair book for rules and details. If you have any questions feel free to contact Superintendent Nancy Rogers at alpacafamilyfarm@yahoo.com.

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Gratiot County**
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