



# CLOVER CHRONICLES

October 2025

Isabella County

## Inside this issue:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Club Corner                       | 2 |
| New Fair Class                    | 2 |
| Small Animal News                 | 3 |
| 4-H Calendar<br>Sponsorship Form  | 3 |
| TSC Fall Paper Clover<br>Campaign | 4 |
| Statewide Calendar                | 5 |
| Statewide 4-H News                | 6 |
| Coordinator's Corner              | 7 |
| 4-H Calendar                      | 8 |



## October 6: Go Green!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H State spirit! A simple, cohesive way for youth, professionals, volunteers, alumni and supporters across the country to celebrate their 4-H programs being Beyond Ready. Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN, on Monday, October 6! Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag Isabella County, Michigan and National 4-H and use: #IsabellaCounty4H #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek



## Petting Zoo

Isabella County 4-H has been invited to participate in a petting zoo at Crestwood Village in Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, October 18, from 2 PM - 3:30 PM. All well behaved animals are welcome - dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits, goats, and pocket pets. Please contact Diane Gaw at (989) 506-7750 or Liz if you can participate or if you have questions.

## Still Exhibit & Small Animal Auction Checks

Checks will be handed out at the 4-H Recognition Banquet on Thursday, October 9 to exhibitors or parents (siblings cannot pick up checks) after the program.

## 2025-2026 4-H Club Enrollments

All 4-H club enrollments (<http://v2.4honline.com/>) are due October 31 for members and leaders who are re-enrolling in Isabella County 4-H.



## CLUB CORNER

**Aim High** - We welcomed two new families to our club - one had been in the club as a former long-term member, now bringing her daughter into the 4-H program! We also are in the process of developing a mentor team for current families to work alongside newer families to help with the transition into 4-H and the learning curve some of us who have been in the program for a long time take for granted. At our October meeting, we will have representatives from Commission on Aging presenting their efforts to us and sharing how our projects and involvement have helped many in the community over the years.

**Western Spurs** - At our fall meeting we are welcoming new members, electing our new officers, recognizing members accomplishments at the fair and state shows and making a plan for activities to come. We are so excited to see the growth and development of all our members!! We will be decorating Rosebush Manor again for Christmas and laying wreaths on veteran's gravesites throughout our surrounding area this December.

## Fair Banner Update

New rule for next year - youth can win this more than once now. If you have won this in the past, you can re-enter this project area.

## New Fair Class - 4-H Calendar Cover

There will be a NEW class added to the still exhibit project list. Youth can enter 1 of your drawings, paintings, or photography projects to be judged for the calendar cover. It can be entered in the project area and calendar cover class.

## Got a Hobby/Interest? Share It With Us

If you are interested in teaching 4-H Members your hobby/interest, please let Nonie or Liz know. We would like to compile a list of people interested in teaching the kids new things so club leaders have resources for their meetings.

## Join 4-H in the CMU Homecoming Parade

Saturday, October 25

Isabella County 4-H is excited to be part of the CMU Homecoming Parade, and we want **YOU** to join us! Walk alongside our 4-H Royal Ambassadors as we showcase 4-H pride and spirit. We're inviting 4-H members and families to help pass out candy and share 4-H information along the parade route.

**Line-Up:** Lot 22

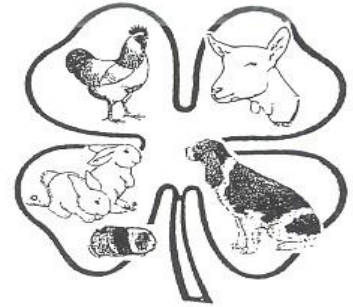
**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Dress:** Wear your club shirt or something green to show your 4-H pride!

**RSVP:** Email Liz Antvelink at [antveli3@msu.edu](mailto:antveli3@msu.edu) by Oct 24<sup>th</sup> if you are interested.

## Small Animal News

- Reminder - there will not be a banquet this year. Members who sold in the Small Animal Auction can pick up their checks at the Recognition Banquet on October 9, at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, at 6:30 PM. (if you are unable to attend, checks can be picked up from the Extension office the week of October 13)
- If you have not yet done so, send a thank you note to your specific buyer. Just a simple, personal comment will mean a lot for those that so faithfully support the auction every year.



## Fair Trophy & Ribbon Sponsors

Thank you to all of the 2025 trophy sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring any trophies or would just like to make a small donation to go towards the ribbons, please let Liz know and she will pass your information on to the appropriate superintendent.

## 4-H Calendar Sponsorship Form

The Isabella County 4-H Council is making preparations for the 2026 4-H calendar. The calendar will be distributed to over 500 families in Isabella County. Calendar pages will feature artwork and photography done by 4-H youth. Local and state 4-H events and community events will be put on the calendar making it a useful tool for Isabella County families.

Will you help sponsor this calendar with an advertisement?

\_\_\_\_\_ Half Banner (2 3/4" by 3 1/8") for \$125

\_\_\_\_\_ One Quarter Banner (business card size) for \$75

Contact the Extension office by October 15 if you are interested.

## Scholarship Opportunity

***\*\*Applicants must be seniors in high school or enrolled in post-secondary education***

The Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE) is pleased to announce their scholarship program. The organization will offer up to six scholarships in 2026 valued at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be involved with a fair, festival or a MAFE associate member. Winners will be recognized at the 2026 MAFE Convention in January.

For an application, visit:

[mifairs.com](http://mifairs.com) or [2025 Scholarship Application Form](#)

Applications are due November 3.

## Seeking Adult & Teen 4-H Council Representatives

This is open to any Gold volunteer leader of the Isabella County 4-H program who has completed at least one year of volunteer service and is currently enrolled as a volunteer leader. Adult leaders will vote on adult 4-H Council members at the Recognition Banquet on October 9.

### What is the Isabella County 4-H Council?

The 4-H Council is the main decision-making body for the county 4-H program. It is responsible for working with the paid staff to support county 4-H program planning, administration and policy making. Monthly meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and are open to all 4-H leaders and interested people.

Please email your nominations to Liz (antveli3@msu.edu) by October 3.

Link to Teen Representative application: [http://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella\\_county\\_4\\_h/newsletters-and-forms](http://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/newsletters-and-forms)



## Tractor Supply Fall Paper Clover Promotion

***This is a great community service opportunity!***

Help is needed (youth and adults) to work the table at the store for the fall Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Campaign that will run Nov. 28 - Dec. 14. TSC is a HUGE supporter of 4-H! Clubs are encouraged to do a fundraiser at the store (need to notify Victoria at TSC first).

Isabella County 4-H Council will sponsor a \$25 TSC gift card drawing for anyone that works a shift. Everyone that works will receive a ticket for working that will be collected and a winner will be drawn. You will receive a ticket for the drawing **each time** you work a shift.

Plan your shift in advance and sign up at the Extension office if you or your club are interested in participating in the promotion at the store.





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Why 4-H? This is a question asked many times of our youth and adults. What made you want to get involved and what keeps you coming back?

This is the SPARK of 4-H and serves as one of the four developmental context areas of the Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development. We strive to reach our members where they are and help them grow through the 4-H program.

To do this, we need to know what your spark is...

- Is there a specific project that brought you here?
- Is there a project you would like to see us add?
- Did you show up because you had friends in the program?

Reach out to your local 4-H staff to share your ideas.

### October 4: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

*Tollgate Farm, Novi*

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2025>

### October 5-11: National 4-H Week

*Nationwide*

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>

### October 6: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth With Skills for Life

*Online*

Life doesn't come with a manual—but 4-H comes pretty close! Join Michigan 4-H State Leader Jodi Schulz for a fun and practical look at how volunteers can help young people build the skills they need to be Beyond Ready. This session will be offered twice:

- 12 p.m.: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life)
- 7 p.m.: [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm)

### October 14: Wild Spartans – Helping Others Help Nature

*Online*

Join 4-H staff for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This session will feature Trish Brockman, and ecologist with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., who will help to explore the world of helping threatened and endangered wildlife. Open to youth ages 12-19.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026>

### October 23: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Officers in Action: Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles

*Online*

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. Learn how to support club officers in meaningful ways that promote responsibility, teamwork and real-life leadership skills. This session will be offered twice.

**12-1 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon)

**7-8 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm)







# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Do you know someone deserving of the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year?

Can you think of someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic, or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2025 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive\\_event\\_resources](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources)



## Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Hey, leaders of tomorrow - if you're age 12-19 and ready to grow skills, make friends, and become beyond ready for your future, join the 4-H Future Squad!

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club that was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the fifth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2025 through May 2026, virtually through Zoom. Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Club meetings for the 2025-2026 year will take place on a variety of days of the week. Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail. This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>

## 4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4\\_h\\_scholarships](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships)



## ***Coordinator's Corner – October 2025***

October is always an exciting month in 4-H, and this year brings an important change to share. At our recent Administrative Leader meeting, I announced that nationally the slogan **4-H Grows Here** is being sunset, and we are moving to the new brand **Beyond Ready**. This shift reflects the skills and confidence our youth gain through 4-H, preparing them not just for today, but for whatever comes next.

Before we jump into National 4-H Week, I also want to shine a light on the true backbone of our program - our leaders and volunteers. While many are winding down from the busy days of summer, our club Administrative Leaders have been working tirelessly throughout September. In September, they attended an Administrative Leader meeting I hosted where we discussed the requirements to maintain our 501(c)(3) status for 4-H. This isn't simple work - it means carefully preparing paperwork, organizing bank statements, submitting reports, and making sure every detail is in place so our program continues to thrive. It takes time, energy, and a lot of dedication. Their efforts often go unseen, but they are absolutely vital to the success of Isabella County 4-H.

I cannot stress enough how much we owe to these volunteers. They give countless hours—time that could be spent with family, resting, or pursuing their own interests—because they believe in the mission of 4-H and in the youth of this county. They ensure that clubs are organized, that finances are in order, and that opportunities are available for every young person who wants to be part of 4-H. Their work builds the foundation that allows our kids to grow, learn, and shine. Please take a moment to thank your leader or volunteer. A simple word of appreciation or a quick note can mean more than you know. Their sacrifices and generosity are what keep Isabella County 4-H strong and vibrant.

Now, as we step into National 4-H Week (October 5–11), let's make it a true celebration of everything 4-H stands for. This is our time to proudly share the spirit of learning, service, and community. We would love to see everyone wearing green on **October 6th** to kick off the week and showing your 4-H pride online using the hashtag **#isabellacounty4h**. Together, let's fill our county with clovers, smiles, and stories of how 4-H makes a difference. We will also be recognizing our incredible leaders and volunteers, our newest 4-H alumni, county medal award winners, and so much more. I am especially excited for our **Recognition Banquet on October 9th at 6:30 PM**, where we will gather to honor and celebrate the people who pour so much heart into making 4-H possible.

And of course, don't forget - re-enrollments for the new 4-H year are due **October 31st**. Be sure to log into 4-H Online to complete your enrollment and get ready for another great year!

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all you do to make Isabella County 4-H *Beyond Ready*. This October, let's lead with gratitude, celebrate with pride, and continue building a program that changes lives.

Sincerely,



Liz Antvelink  
4-H Program Coordinator, Isabella County

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



<https://www.facebook.com/IsabellaCounty4H/>

## **REMINDER**

***All member and volunteer re-enrollments for the 2025-2026 4-H year are due by October 31, 2025!***

# **SAVE THE DATES**

**National 4-H Week**  
October 5 - 11

**4-H Recognition Banquet**  
October 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Parish Hall

**4-H Re-enrollment Deadline**  
October 31

**TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign**  
November 28 - December 14

**Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair**  
July 18-25, 2026

## **Isabella County 4-H Calendar**

|                 |  |         |
|-----------------|--|---------|
| <b>Oct 5-11</b> | <b>NATIONAL 4-H WEEK</b>   |         |
| 7               | Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church                          | 6:30 PM |
| 9               | 4-H Recognition Banquet @ Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Mt. Pleasant | 6:30 PM |
| 28              | 4-H Council @ Lincoln Twp Hall                                   | 6:30 PM |
| 31              | 4-H Re-Enrollment Deadline!                                      |         |

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Monica Jean, Field Crops Educator  
Eric Karbowski, District 6 Director  
Kara Lynch, Food Safety Educator  
Misty Oebel, Farm Stress Educator