



CLOVER CHRONICLES

September 2025

Isabella County

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4-H Recognition Banquet

Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Mt. Pleasant

All 4-H families are invited to help us recognize accomplishments of 4-H youth and leaders. Dinner is provided by 4-H Council. We will be handing out Still Exhibit Auction & Small Animal Auction checks to members after the program. (if you are unable to attend, checks will be mailed out in mid-October)

Please RSVP to the Extension Office by October 1.

Fair Wrap-Up

It was a great 2025 fair! THANK YOU 4-H families, 4-H Council, 4-H leaders, fair superintendents, teen superintendents, fair board members, fair awards coordinator, and all the donors and sponsors! We appreciate your help and efforts! Without the many volunteers involved, this opportunity would not exist. Thank you everyone!

Still Exhibit Thank You

I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone that came out and helped with barn set-up on Thursday and tear down on Sunday. Without all the great volunteers of Isabella County, our fair wouldn't be as wonderful as it is. Hope to see you next year! *Becki Crampton, Superintendent*

Still Exhibit Auction Thank You

Yet again, we have been amazed at the awesome projects the kids have made to enter into the Still Exhibit Auction and the amazing support of the Buyers. Each year keeps getting better and better. Thank you to the 4-H members, parents, buyers, Pioneer Auction and crew, and last but not least, the Still Exhibit Auction Committee and Volunteers. Thank You ALL for another great year! *Becki Crampton, Auction Chairperson*

Petting Zoo

Isabella County 4-H has been invited to participate in a petting zoo at Crestwood Village in Mt. Pleasant. The date is 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.



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CLUB CORNER

Pony Creek - At our July meeting we had a potluck at Halls Lake. We went over the newsletter, food stand schedule, still exhibit building, and handed out forms for fair. We also talked about decorating the barns. Everyone is looking forward to fair!

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 4th 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

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.

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.

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?

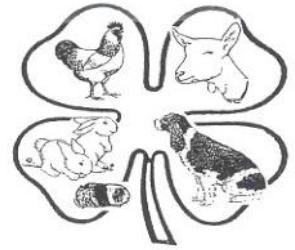
_____ Half Banner (2 3/4" by 3 1/8") for \$125

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

Contact the Extension office by October 1 if you are interested.

Small Animal News

- Thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after fair week in the small animal barn. Your assistance is greatly appreciated by all of the superintendents. It takes a lot of hands to accomplish everything that needs to happen for our once-a-year event.
- 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 will be mailed out in mid-October)



State Shooting Sports Tournament Results

The State Shoot was held on August 2 at the Saginaw Field & Stream Club. We had 8 youth attend the event. Below are the results.

INDIVIDUALS:

Jonathan Cole - 3rd place Sr. Skeet
Kyle Croll - 6th place, Trap
Noah Devantier - 2nd place, Sr. Archery Unsighted
Maci Pniewski - 1st place, Beg. 3-D Archery
Aiden Fletcher - 6th place, Trap
Landon Kenny - 4th place, Jr. Skeet
Jamison Sommer - 5th place, Jr. Skeet
Delaney Tait - 7th place, Jr. Skeet

TEAMS:

Skeet Team (Jonathan Cole, Landon Kenny, Jamison Sommer, & Delaney Tait) - 3rd place
Trap Team (Kyle Croll & Aiden Fletcher) - 6th place

Congratulations to all participants!

Attention Field Crops Project Members

Early reminder - all crops that you plan to bring to the fair next year must have a completed crops project record form.

2025 Fair Board and Livestock News

The Fair Board would like to congratulate all Exhibitors at this year's Fair!! Thank you to all the volunteers before, during and after the fair. Without all the volunteers our fair could not be possible.

The Livestock Producers would like to thank all the **2025 BUYERS** that came out to support the 4-H and FFA Livestock Youth at our Livestock Auction. **THANK YOU** to the Superintendents and volunteers that helped during fair set-up, the shows and tear down. **THANK YOU** to the sale clerks, J Catering, Ric's Food Center, Moore Tent Rentals, Isabella County Farm Bureau and to our auctioneers Scott Sykora, John McConnell and Colt Johnson and ringmen Charlie Anderson and Leroy Yoder. **THANK YOU** to the animal haulers for getting the animals delivered after the fair. **THANK YOU** to Matt Graham for hauling the saw dust in and to John Mogg Trucking for hauling during the fair and after clean-up.

The Beef checks were mailed a few weeks ago, the Swine, Feeder and Sheep checks should be mailed the first part of September. If you have any questions about your check or need buyer information, give Deb a call at 989-400-1082.

We look forward to the 2026 Fair (July 20-25) and our Livestock Sale on July 23!

2025 Large Animal Auction Averages:

Swine	Average w/ Champions	\$8.12
Swine	Average w/ out Champions	\$8.01
Beef	Average w/ Champions	\$4.60
Beef	Average w/ out Champions	\$4.53
Sheep	Average w/ Champions	\$12.38
Sheep	Average w/ out Champions	\$12.33
Feeders	Average w/ Champions	\$7.06
Feeders	Average w/ out Champions	\$6.71

Fair Banner 2025

This year's fair banner winner was Jaylah Kequom!

Now is a great time to start planning for next year and designing next year's Fair Banner. Drawings will be due July 1, 2026 for judging.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wild Spartans Series returns



Starting in October, the Wild Spartans Series is back! Join 4-H staff as they take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! Follow along to climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet natural resources professionals, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there.

Monthly sessions will begin in October and be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Each 30-minute session will feature 1-2 guest speakers. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration is required: www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026.

September 11: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Planning with Purpose: Designing Your Best 4-H Year Yet Online

This webinar will guide volunteers through seasonal planning, setting goals and aligning club activities with youth development outcomes. This session will be offered twice.

- 12 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-noon
- 7 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-planning-with-purpose-designing-your-best-4-h-year-yet-7pm

September 17: Adulting 101 – Professionalism: Communicate, Dress & Deliver with Confidence Online

Participants will learn the essentials for thriving in any professional environment—from effective verbal and written communication to dressing the part and following through on commitments.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2025>

September 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Friendly but Firm: Boundaries that Make Volunteering Better Online

Learn how to say “yes” with intention, “no” without guilt, and keep your 4-H experience fun, respectful, and drama-free. This session will be offered twice.

- 12 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-noon
- 7 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-friendly-but-firm-boundaries-that-make-volunteering-better-7pm

September 20: 2025 Michigan 4-H Dog Show

Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Corunna

The 4-H State Dog Show is an annual, single-day event that brings together 4-Hers from counties across Michigan. Spectators welcome.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-state-4-h-dog-show>

September 20-21: Fall 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification for Adults and Teens

Shiawassee Conservation Association, Owosso

Learn about 4-H shooting sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use, and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/fall-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-certification-for-adults-and-teens>

October 3: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

Henry Center for Executive Development, Lansing

4-H donors are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-foundation-annual-membership-meeting>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

2025 Michigan 4-H State Award winners announced

The Michigan 4-H State Awards program recognized outstanding 4-H members during 4-H Exploration Days on June 18. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members and recognizes excellence in learning, leadership and service.

In total, 38 4-H members from 15 counties submitted applications for this year's program. Recipients of the 2025 awards are:



- **Achievement:** William Rogers of Washtenaw County
- **Beef Science:** Emma Verbeek of Delta County (junior division)
- **Birds and Poultry Science:** Avery Mastej of Van Buren County (junior division)
- **Civic Engagement and Service:** Brandon Fisher of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Companion Animal Science:** Taylor Johnson of St. Joseph County (junior division) and Makenzie Rehberg of Monroe County (senior division)
- **Dairy Science:** Adrienne Balchik of Gogebic County (junior division) and Harper Jane Adkins of Washtenaw County (senior division)
- **Equine Science:** Lillian Wasson of Oceana County (junior division)
- **Food, Nutrition, Health and Fitness:** Vivienne Turri of Washtenaw County (junior division)
- **Gardening and Horticulture:** Trent Simons of Otsego County (junior division)
- **Goat Science:** Aleah Simpson of Houghton County (junior division) and Alison Borowski of Alpena County (senior division)
- **Leadership:** Zoe Rorick of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Rabbit and Cavy Science:** Lyla Lapaugh of Eaton County (junior division)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** John Jinks of Monroe County (junior division)
- **Sheep Science:** Morgen Schmidt of Monroe County (junior division) and Owen Plum of Lenawee County (senior division)
- **Swine Science:** Taylor Trattles of St. Joseph County (junior division)
- **Visual, Performing and Expressive Arts:** Verina Duncan of Eaton County (senior division)

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to 4-H members who are 12-19 years old with two or more years of 4-H experience. To qualify, 4-H'ers must submit a written application that showcases the learning experiences, knowledge and skills they've acquired through 4-H, as well as their contributions to 4-H communities. Submissions are reviewed by a selection committee. In addition to a plaque, each 4-H State Award winner in the senior division received a \$300 cash award, junior winners received \$100 cash awards, and achievement award winner received \$500. These awards are made possible by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

National 4-H Week: October 5-11

For more than 115 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. From October 5-11, we will celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The theme of this year's National 4-H Week is "Beyond Ready." This theme celebrates how 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Learn more about ways you can celebrate during National 4-H Week at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week>.

Coordinator's Corner – September 2025

As youth head back to school, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible summer Isabella County 4-H has had.

This June, three of our youth attended 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University. I had the privilege of joining them and helping with two classes: *Introduction to Meat Evaluation for Beginners*, which explained USDA grading, and *Unlock the Power of Languages*, which highlighted how language and culture connect communities. As you plan for the 4-H year, I highly recommend putting Exploration Days on your calendar for your youth. Participants must be 12–19 years old, and there is even a pre-college scholarship opportunity for those interested in MSU. We are also continuing to seek volunteers to help make this event a success!

We also welcomed 43 youth to Coldwater Lake 4-H Camp, where the beautiful setting made for lasting friendships and hands-on learning. And, of course, the highlight of the summer—the Isabella County Fair—was a success thanks to the dedication of our youth and volunteers. I continue to be inspired by the hard work that youth put into every project and grateful to the leaders who guide, mentor, and support them. From setting up barns to managing auctions and everything in between, your efforts do not go unnoticed. A special thank you also goes to the Isabella County Fair Board for their ongoing partnership and commitment to creating a positive experience for our youth.

In the 2025–2026 4-H year, Isabella County 4-H is proud to report:

- 506 Club Members
- 77 Cloverbud Members
- 154 Gold Level Volunteers
- 138 Silver Level Volunteers

While fair is a highlight, it is just one part of what 4-H offers. Our Shooting Sports program provides opportunities to learn both competition and safety skills, emphasizing responsibility and teamwork. We are currently seeking instructors and helpers—please contact me if you are interested in joining this effort.

We are also excited about a new youth Master Gardener initiative in partnership with the Discovery Museum and MSU Extension. This project is especially meaningful to me, as it connects youth to healthy eating, gardening, and self-sufficiency—skills that make a real difference in daily life.

Looking ahead, we have several opportunities to celebrate and support 4-H:

- National 4-H Week – October 5–11. Watch for updates on special activities.
- Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign – November 28–December 14. Proceeds help keep camp and program costs affordable. Youth and volunteers are encouraged to sign up for a table shift at our local Tractor Supply to share about 4-H with the community.

This is the first of what I hope will become a regular monthly Coordinator's Corner to keep you informed about the exciting programs and opportunities happening in Isabella County 4-H.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and support of our youth.

Sincerely,



Liz Antvelink
4-H Program Coordinator, Isabella County

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



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

SAVE THE DATES

Administrative Leader's Meeting
September 3 at 6:00 PM

National 4-H Week
October 5 - 11

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

TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign
November 28 - December 14

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

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

Sept 1	County Building Closed	
2	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
3	Administrative Leader Meeting @ Isabella County Commission on Aging	6:00 PM
23	4-H Council @ Lincoln Twp Hall	6:30 PM
26	Annual Financial Summary Reports (AFSR) Due @ Extension office	
Oct 5-11	NATIONAL 4-H WEEK	

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"Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the MSU Extension office at (989) 317-4079 at least 7 days prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this time will be met when possible."

Liz Antvelink, 4-H Program Coordinator
antveli3@msu.edu

Nonie Gross, Secretary
Monica Jean, Field Crops Educator
Eric Karbowski, District 6 Director
Kara Lynch, Food Safety Educator
Misty Oebel, Farm Stress Educator
Sabrina McGee, SNAP-ED CNI