



CLOVER CHRONICLES

July 2026

Isabella County

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Still Exhibit Auction

Saturday, August 1 at 6 PM

Buyers will be able to start getting their numbers at 5 PM. Youth need to report to the Still Exhibit Building at 5:15 PM for a brief meeting and to pick up their numbers. This year we will be doing a random draw, not alphabetical. Final descriptions of projects need to be emailed to Becki at ic4hstill Exhibitauction@gmail.com by July 24 to be included in the sale bill.

Still Exhibit Project Reminders

- All projects will be released on **Sunday, August 9 from 8 AM - 10 AM**. Projects will not be released early. If you cannot pick up your project, PLEASE make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you. This also includes projects that were purchased in the auction.
- **Any Still Exhibits left in the barn will be discarded.**
- Trophies will be with projects on Sunday morning at release.

Barn Set-Up Dates

Beef - (completed by Superintendents)

Swine - Tuesday, July 28, 6 PM

Dairy - Tuesday, July 28, 6 PM

Dairy Feeder - Wednesday, July 29, 6 PM

Sheep - Thursday, July 30, 6 PM

Horses - Thursday, July 30, 6 PM

Goats - Thursday, July 30, 6:30 PM

Still Exhibit Barn - Thursday, July 30, 3 PM - ?

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help with set up in the Still Exhibit Building on Thursday, July 30 from 3 PM - 7 PM. We will have lots of heavy lifting to do. Help is also needed to tear down on Sunday, August 9 from 8 AM - 10 AM.

If you can help, please email Becki at ic4hstill Exhibitauction@gmail.com and let her know you're available.



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CLUB CORNER

4ever Friends - For our June meeting, we worked on class registrations and sampled our food prep kids goodies, it was a very filling night. Our small animal members are working on showmanship. Horse members enjoyed the pattern day at the fairgrounds. We are gearing up for fair and getting our stall decorations done and finishing our still exhibits in July.

Hooves & Hearts – Many of our members have been attending the small animal clinics and spending extra time working with their animals and projects. It's been wonderful to see our returning exhibitors helping newer members learn the ropes. We look forward to seeing everyone at our July meeting!

Pony Creek - At our June meeting we discussed important dates for fair and various other items such as fair sign up, camp-both summer and day camps, fair set up. Our leader provided what shifts we are scheduled to work during fair week. Finally we discussed as a group the decorating ideas. Our next mtg will include our club picnic.

Western Spurs - Our club met in June to go over the ins and outs of fair registration deadlines, animal requirements, discussed club decorations for the 250th Anniversary theme, took club shirt and sign orders and then wrapped up the meeting with a group break out project to collaborate on decoration ideas. Horse practices started in June as well, every Monday (weather permitting) and are open to any Isabella County 4-H horse members and are taught by Aftin Ruhle. If you have questions, call or text (989) 621-7260. Our next meeting will be our annual club cookout and pool party which is always a fun time.

Livestock, Horse & Small Animal Entry Times

The following animals will check-in on Sunday, August 2 at the below times:

Swine - 8 AM - 10 AM

Dairy Feeders - 11 AM - 1 PM

Horse - 1 PM - 3 PM

Beef - 3 PM - 4 PM

Sheep - 5 PM - 6 PM

Poultry, Rabbits & Goats - 4 PM - 6 PM

Horse Practices

Join Western Spurs 4-H Club every Monday (weather permitting) for horse practice. These are open to any Isabella County 4-H horse member and are taught by 4-H leader Aftin Ruhle. If you have any questions, please call or text (989) 621-7260.

Project Record Sheets

Listed below are the individual project record sheets that are required for 4-H fair projects, unless noted otherwise. Project areas not listed require a general **Project Record Sheet**. All of these record sheets are available at the Extension Office, from your Administrative Leader, or [online](#).

Crops

Flower/Vegetable Gardening

Personal Appearance

Recipe Cards - for all food projects

Horse (optional)

Livestock (optional)

Small Animals

Small Animal News

Small Animal Showmanship Clinics:

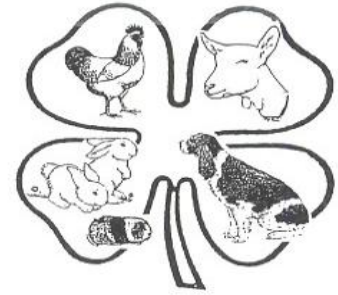
Thursday, July 9

Wednesday, July 15 (Small Animal Meeting after)

All clinics are held in the Small Animal barn at the fairgrounds, from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

*****Clinics will be cancelled if temperatures reach 85 degrees or higher, it is a good idea to plan to attend the earliest available date. We will post on Facebook no later than 3 PM if we have to cancel.***

- Poultry Members - to continue keeping the fair birds safe of Avian Influenza, NO live birds will brought to the clinics. We will utilize fake birds to teach showmanship.
- Rabbit members ages 8 - 19 should come to as many clinics as possible -- there is a lot to learn in a short amount of time and we usually have several kids at a table with one person helping. These are not one-on-one teaching sessions. If you do not yet have the rabbit showmanship guide, contact the MSU Extension Office and have the steps roughly learned before the clinics, as that will be much easier to understand the instructors. Also, each individual rabbit member 8 - 19 years old will need to do a final verification of fair class information and auction choices with the rabbit superintendent at one of the last three clinic dates listed, please plan accordingly.
- If members/leaders have any questions, please reach out to the species-specific superintendent. Educational information and other details/reminders will be available to clinic attendees. We highly encourage members to attend at least one of the clinics so there are no surprises at fair check-in. Because clinics will be cancelled if temperatures reach 85 degrees or higher, it is a good idea to plan to attend the earliest available date. That also gives time for solving any issues that may be noted when animals are seen at the clinics.
- Cloverbuds are welcome to attend if they choose, but because they are not judged and our teens do their evaluation, these clinics are not geared towards 5 - 7 year olds. There will be a lot of instruction and special one-on-one teaching during fair week specifically designed for this age group.
- Goat area/pen set up will be Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 PM



Cat Showmanship Clinic

If you are interested in receiving additional **instruction in cat showmanship**, we will schedule a clinic in July to help you build your skills.

Please contact Mary Anne Tompkins (Cat Superintendent) at 989-948-0535 if you are interested.

We encourage anyone looking to improve their showmanship to take advantage of this opportunity!

Dog Classes

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Classes will be held at 6 PM at the Small Animal Barn at the Fairgrounds.

Bring dogs, leash and treats. Youth must wear tennis shoes. Youth are **required** to attend at least eight classes each in obedience, showmanship and agility to compete at the fair this year.

For more information, call or text Diane Gaw (989) 506-7750.

New This Year!

We're excited to introduce a **NEW** recipe card for all food exhibits at the fair!
(this will be displayed during fair week instead of the actual exhibit,
except for decorated cakes and canning).

Be sure to include a picture of your finished product.

Food Preparation Recipe Card

Exhibitor's Name: _____

4-H Club: _____

4-H Age: _____ I AM A: ☐ JUNIOR (8-11) ☐ INTERMEDIATE (12-14) ☐ SENIOR (15-19)

Recipe Name: _____

Ingredients:

Instructions: (you may use the back of this page if necessary)

Place 4x6 picture here

Fair Board News

Your Fair Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing everyone and watch each of you show your projects!

Be sure to check our website for any updates: www.isabellacountyfair.com

Set-ups, check-ins and weigh-in times are there for your information.

Postings are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Isabellacountyfair

CAMPING NEWS

Camper permits will be ready July 1st for you to pick-up at the Fair Office. **Important information is included about camping lot sizes. This information should be checked before you set up your campers.** Be sure to call ahead to make sure someone is in the office (989-773-9070). You may pick up your side-by-side vehicle permit at that time, if you did not send the insurance information showing at least \$300,000 liability we will need it before pick up. Weekly parking permits are also available at \$20 each.

AMUSEMENTS

Amusements will be open by 4 PM on Monday and each day after at 1 PM. There are no early purchases for wristbands. Daily specials are Monday – Thursday \$25, Friday & Saturday \$30. We are very happy to Welcome T J Schmidt & Company as our Amusement Company. Exciting rides and many food vendors!

Fair Information & Notes

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Still Exhibits will be entered on Saturday, August 1 from 9 AM - 12 PM
- Still Exhibits will be released on Sunday, August 9 from 8 AM - 10 AM.

REMINDER - **ALL** Still Exhibits must be picked up on Sunday, August 9. If you cannot pick up your project, PLEASE make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you. Any Still Exhibits left in the barn will be discarded. This also includes projects that were purchased in the auction.

- Large Animal Project Records must be turned in at the 4-H Still Exhibit Building on Monday, August 3 between 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. The superintendent will be present to accept project records and check off member's names from the species list, so we know you have turned in your records. Records that are to be judged will be separated from the others and judged on Monday afternoon.

Animal Care - All animals should be fed and watered each day by 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Your responsibility for your animal does not end after the animal is sold. Clean pens/stalls give a favorable impression to the public.

4-H Award Information

Outstanding 4-H Member & Chet Brown Applications Available

Applications are now being accepted for this year's Outstanding 4-H Member and the Chester Brown Memorial Leadership Development Award. Applications are available on the MSU Extension website at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/newsletters-and-forms or at the Extension office. Completed applications are due at the Extension office by July 15.

Food Stand and Still Exhibit Building Notes

There are a few things each family should remember...

- Still Exhibit Building shifts must include 4 people, with a minimum of 2 adults.
- Still Exhibit Building will be closed if a club does not show up to work their shift and there is nobody to guard the doors.
- Food Stand shifts must include 8 or more adults and 10-15 members.
- Plan to stay for your entire shift. Don't break it into two shifts.
- Each family is to bring one fruit baked pie to the food stand at the start of their shift or 10 pies per club.
- Please report for your shift in a timely fashion. Each family has many things going on simultaneously during fair, and should be relieved from duty on time.
- **ALL** parents, grandparents, guardians, other relatives and friends of 4-H **MUST** be screened at the Silver Status level to work in the 4-H Food Stand. Please take the time to do the Silver Volunteer Status screening. It is free, easy to do and takes very little time. All that is required is to fill out a short volunteer application for a Silver level volunteer, and provide consent for a background check. No references or interviews will be needed (unless you wish to move to a Gold volunteer status at some point in the future).

ISABELLA COUNTY FAIR BOARD NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY AT THE COUNTY FAIR!

Get ready to celebrate America's 250th anniversary! The Isabella County Fair Board is proud to bring you a special opportunity to honor 250 years of our nation's history, heritage, and community spirit.

PATRIOTIC CHALLENGE!

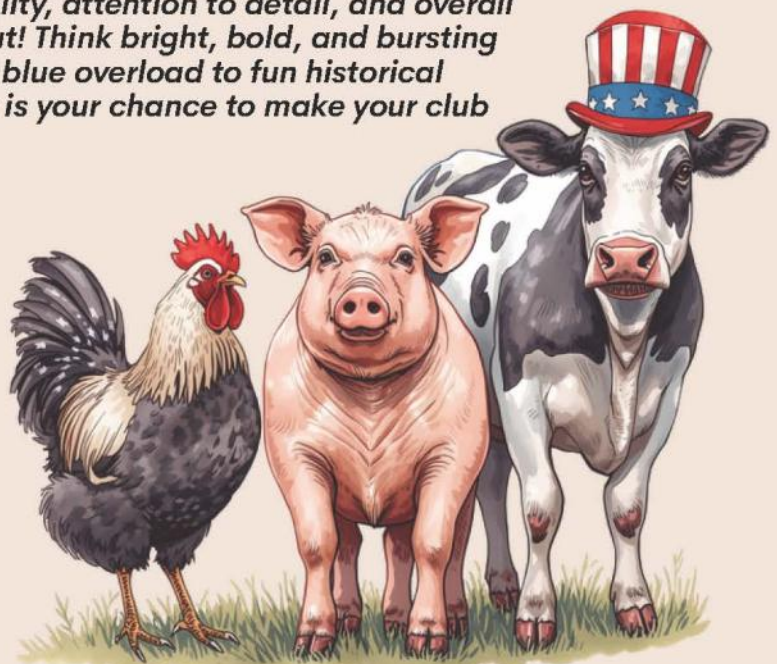
In celebration of America's 250th birthday, we're inviting all clubs to join in the fun with a decorating challenge! Show off your creativity, patriotism, and club spirit by transforming your space into a festive tribute to this historic milestone.

HOW TO WIN:

Clubs will be judged on creativity, originality, attention to detail, and overall presentation... so dream big and go all out! Think bright, bold, and bursting with patriotic pride. From red, white, and blue overload to fun historical throwbacks or totally unique themes, this is your chance to make your club stand out and shine!

TOP 3 WINNERS

When the decorating dust settles, the top three clubs will be chosen and announced as our winners, earning prizes, bragging rights, and serious fair-time glory!





WELCOME BACK EXHIBITORS DANCE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND
6-9 P.M.

PIZZA•ICE CREAM•POP•RAFFLE DRAWING

A special Thank You to:

Pisanellos•Pizza

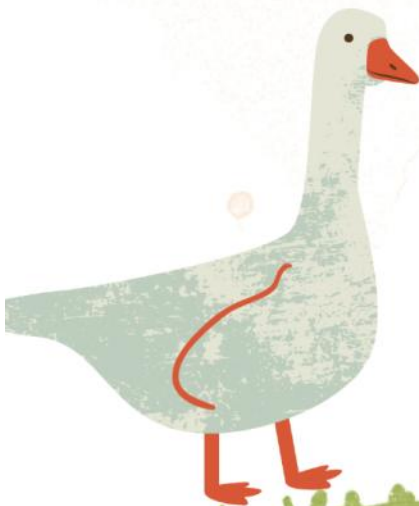
King•Riverwood

Bowling•Soaring Eagle

Waterpark- Buffalo Wild

Wings•Tractor

Supply•Celebration Cinemas.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth to
be Beyond Ready
through the fair
experience*



Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days>

July 16: Water Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day>

July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

Haithco Park, Saginaw

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp>

July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day>

July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026>

July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.



2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8-19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026-2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at mi4hfdn.org/scholarship.



Coordinator's Corner – July 2026

Hello Isabella County 4-H Families!

July always feels like the official kickoff to fair season! The countdown is on, and before we know it, we'll be welcoming everyone to the Isabella County Fair beginning August 1. While there is still plenty to accomplish, this is also a time to enjoy the journey—making memories, learning new skills, and celebrating all the hard work you've put into your 4-H projects.

As I look back on the last month, I can't help but think, *wow, we've already been busy!* Our Make It & Take It workshops have been a huge success, giving youth the opportunity to build new skills and take home projects they're proud of. Our horse members participated in Pattern Day, where knowledgeable volunteers shared their expertise and helped youth gain confidence in the show ring. Our Teen Horse Leaders also did an outstanding job leading a hands-on session during Grandparents U Day at Central Michigan University, showcasing their leadership skills while sharing their knowledge with participants.

Our Shooting Sports members completed their County Shoot, and we're excited to have a youth representing Isabella County at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition in Nebraska. Another outstanding youth had the opportunity to attend the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., and five of our members went to 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University.

Exploration Days was especially meaningful for me this year because I had the opportunity to teach three softball sessions. It was so much fun sharing the game with youth while reminiscing about my own days attending Exploration Days as a 4-H member. It's amazing to come full circle—from attending as a youth to now helping create those same experiences for the next generation.

Wow - our youth are on the move! These opportunities are exactly what 4-H is all about: trying new things, learning new skills, developing leadership, and creating experiences that will last a lifetime. I couldn't be prouder of all they continue to accomplish.

One of the highlights of July is 4-H Camp! I am so excited for our upcoming Cloverbud and Overnight Camps. Camp has always held a special place in my heart. I still remember attending as a camper and later returning as a counselor. Those experiences created lifelong memories and friendships, and I can't wait for this year's campers to make memories of their own.

As fair gets closer, I know many families are in the final stretch of completing projects, practicing showmanship, writing buyer letters, and checking off those last-minute to-do lists. It can feel a little overwhelming, but remember that all of your hard work throughout the year is what truly matters.

With the summer heat in full swing, please remember to stay hydrated and make sure you and your animals have plenty of water. Taking care of yourself and your animals is just as important as preparing for the fair.

Be sure to follow our "Mondays Before Fair" series on social media! Each Monday we'll be sharing helpful tips, reminders, and tricks to help make your fair experience as successful and stress-free as possible.

I hope everyone has a fun, safe, and successful July. I look forward to seeing all of you at camp, around the fairgrounds, and very soon at the Isabella County Fair!



Liz Antvelink

4-H Program Coordinator, Isabella County

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



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

***The 2026 Talent Show
will be canceled this
year due to low entries.***

SAVE THE DATES

4-H Cloverbud Day Camp
July 7 & 8

4-H Summer (overnight) Camp
July 15 & 16

4-H Still Exhibit Building Set-up
July 30

Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair
August 1 - 9, 2026

Fair Entry Day
August 1

Still Exhibits Released
August 9

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

July 3	County Building Closed	
7	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
9	Small Animal Showmanship Clinic @ Fairgrounds	6:30 PM
15	Small Animal Showmanship Clinic @ Fairgrounds	6:30 PM
15	Small Animal Association @ Fairgrounds	7:30 PM
August 1	Enter Still Exhibits	9 AM - 12 PM
9	Still Exhibits Released	8 AM - 10 AM

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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."

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