



CLOVER CHRONICLES

May 2026

Isabella County

Inside this issue:

Club Corner	2
Small Animal News	3
Dog Classes	3
Fair Board News	4
Fair Registration	5
Shooting Sports Dates	6
4-H Camps	7
Horse Drill Team	8
Moo Madness Clinic	9
Statewide Calendar	10
Statewide 4-H News	11
Coordinator's Corner	12
4-H Calendar	13

Swine Tagging

Sunday, May 3
11 AM – 1 PM

Sheep Weigh-in

Saturday, May 9
4 PM – 6 PM

Goat Weigh-in

Saturday, May 9
11 AM - 1 PM

All take place at the Fairgrounds.

Moo Madness

Friday, June 12

If you are interested in all things cow, please come join us! You do not need to own a dairy cow to be involved in a Dairy project! We have a bunch of new things planned to learn all about cows, play games, win prizes, and have a fun day!

See page 9 for more details.

Attention All Fair Exhibitors

Fair sign-up opens on May 18 at 8 AM

Still Exhibit, Horses, Dairy, and Small Animal sign-up will **open May 18 at 8 AM.** Registration will **close on June 13 at 10 PM.**

Please refer to the Isabella County Fair website for sign-up links:
<https://www.isabellacountyfair.com/>

See page 5 for more details and information on registering.

4-H Camp Clean-Up

Sunday, May 3 from 10 AM - 2 PM

All 4-H Families and Clubs are invited to help!

Please bring:

- Buckets, gloves, brooms for cleaning the lodge/dorms
- Chain saw, log splitter or a tractor, there are several trees down. It would be VERY helpful to have those.
- Side by side with dump bed in the back to move mulch to the path along with rakes to level it out.
- Leaf mulcher
- If anyone has waders and can bring them, we would like to put the dock in

Hot dogs, chips and beverages will be supplied for helpers that day.

Your help is appreciated – even if you can only help for part of the time!



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CLUB CORNER

Country Neighbors - In April, our club participated in the Maple Syrup festival in many ways. We did a petting zoo and we participated in the Maple Syrup parade. We also participated in camp clean-up at the 4-H camp.

Farm Hands - Our April meeting was at Sandhill Farms in Shepherd. We had guest speakers Tammy and Felicia Brecht who discussed showing rabbits and poultry. Then they worked on flower planters with Jen Albaugh, owner of Sandhill. They were taught how to use different paint brushes, and even their thumbs to put different designs on their planters.

Pony Creek - At our April meeting we went over the newsletter and talked about decorating the barns at the fair. After the meeting, we held our annual Easter egg hunt.

Rustic Roots - At our April meeting we discussed the upcoming Camp Clean-up dates and everyone was encouraged to attend at least one of them. The club voted on doing the USA Celebration Banner to be on display at the fair. We also discussed the upcoming 4-H Camps for Cloverbuds and regular 4-H members and the need for Camp Counselors. We received a donation and the members voted to use that money towards club shirts.

Western Spurs - At our last club meeting we went over upcoming deadlines, animal weights, fair events and answered general questions. We finished the meeting with a team Kahoot! trivia game challenging the kids with facts about several animal species and fun facts about the fair.

4-H Cloverbud Day Camp & Summer Overnight Camp

This year's theme: All-American Adventure in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary!

July 7 & 8 - 4-H Cloverbud (day) Camp (5-7 Year olds)

July 15 & 16 - 4-H Summer (overnight) Camp (8-12 year olds)

Location: 4-H Camp on Coldwater Lake, 1415 N. Littlefield Rd., Weidman

Kids will enjoy hands-on activities, outdoor fun, make new friends, and have an unforgettable patriotic-themed adventure!

Registration link for both camps: <https://clareisabella20264hcamp.4honline.com>

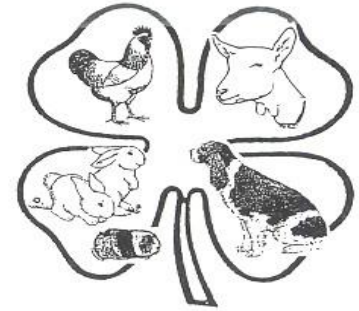
Adult & Teen Volunteers Needed for Both Camps

We are looking for teen counselors (14-19 year olds) and adult volunteers (must be Gold volunteer) to help at both camps. If you are interested in helping at one or both camps, please contact Liz at antveli3@msu.edu.

Attention 4-H Seniors

Any 4-H high school senior that would like to wear 4-H Honor Cords at their graduation ceremony, you can purchase them at the Extension office for \$15.

Small Animal News



Small Animal Showmanship Clinics:

Thursday, June 11

Tuesday, June 16 - Small Animal Meeting after

Monday, June 22

Sunday, June 28

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.
- Goats that will be entered in the Small Animal Auction at the fair MUST have a scrapie tag BEFORE weigh-in. It is a State mandate, and if your auction goat does not have a scrapie tag, you will not be allowed to sell. ALL goats must have some identification -- either the scrapie tag or a tattoo with matching papers, for those not in the auction. Goat weigh-in (for MARKET doe kids and wethers) is Sunday, May 9 from 11 AM – 1 PM in the small animal barn at the fairgrounds. Wethers must be dehorned and castrated.

Dog Showmanship Clinic

Saturday, May 16

11 AM - 3 PM

Mt Pleasant Kennel Club

(7540 S. Mission Mt Pleasant, MI 48858)

Cost: FREE

Lunch will be provided

Sponsored by: Mt Pleasant Kennel club

What to bring:

- ♦ crate for your dog
- ♦ dog treats

Instructor: Kristi Schreiber

To register, contact Sheila Beutler at (989) 859-7483 or sbeutler26@gmail.com

Dog Classes for Fair Competition

June 10, 17, 24

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.

Fair Board News

Fair Camping News:

The campgrounds are full for this year's fair. If you would like to be put on a cancellation list, please call Deb. As a reminder, only one camper allowed on each site. Camping permits will be available for you to pick up in the fair office starting July 1st until the start of fair. Please pick up your permit before setting up. Parking passes and side by side permits will be available at that time. Parking passes are \$20 per week. Side by side passes are \$50 each and you must bring your liability insurance policy showing at least \$300,000 for liability.

Amusement Ride Information:

There will be no advance passes available this year. Daily specials are Monday – Thursday \$25 and Friday & Saturday \$30. The midway will open Monday at 4 PM and each day after Tuesday – Saturday at 1 PM. Our new amusement company is T. J. Schmidt & Company, check them out at: tjschmidtcarnival.com. They have a great selection of fair foods and exciting rides!

Fair Office Hours:

Please call before you visit the fair office, remember we are all volunteers and try to be available as much as possible.

Fair Office: 989-773-9070

Deb cell: 989-400-1082

Clubs with Horse Members - Please Read!

If your club has horse project members and no representative from your club has been attending the horse leader meetings, a club representative must attend the May Horse Leader's meeting (Tuesday, May 5) and continue attending each meeting up until the Fair. Monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM, at Marantha Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant.

These are the horse clubs that have been attending monthly Horse Leader meetings:

4ever Friends	Farm Hands
Circle B	Lucky Clover
Barn Yard Kids	Rural Routers
Barrel Benders	Tally-Ho
Clover Valley	Western Spurs

If you have any questions, please contact Liz at (989) 317-4079 or antveli3@msu.edu.

****Attention All Fair Exhibitors****

Fair sign-up opens on May 18 at 8 AM at

<https://www.isabellacountyfair.com/>

Still Exhibit, Horses, Dairy, and Small Animal sign-up will open May 18 at 8:00 AM. Registration will close on June 13 at 10 PM

****There will be NO EXCEPTIONS for late entries****

There are a few things to take note of:

- There will be a message box that pops up AFTER submitting sign up for Small Animals. Click on the link in the box to sign up for your Small Animal Auction project.
- There is a separate form for the Cloverbud (5-7 year olds) craft section. Cloverbuds are not allowed to sell in the Still Exhibit Auction.
- You will get a “receipt” from Google following your registration to the email that you used to sign up. If you do NOT receive an email within 24 hours of your sign up, contact Kapre at kaprefilhart@gmail.com to make sure that your sign up went through. ALL sign ups are due June 13 at 10 PM. There will be no exceptions.
- You will need to know which project you plan to sell for the Still Exhibit Auction upon signing up (crafts sign up AND auction form due on June 13!). There is a second section under each still exhibit department that will allow you to indicate whether or not you wish to sell a project from that section. You are still only allowed to sell ONE item for still exhibit auction. You will need to know which exhibit you are selling at the time of sign up. Cloverbuds are not allowed to sell still exhibits.

Please refer to the Isabella County Fair website for sign-up links:

<https://www.isabellacountyfair.com/>

****Large Animal/Livestock Exhibitors** (dairy feeders, beef, swine, and sheep) do not have a sign up because your sign-up is your tag-in/weigh-in. **HOWEVER**, you **DO** need to fill out the drug use form that can be found on the website using the drop down menu under the Large Animals tab.

For questions regarding classes offered, please contact the Superintendent in that department. If you need help with registration, please call the MSU Extension office at (989) 317-4079 or email antveli3@msu.edu.

4-H Shooting Sports Dates

May 2 - Qualifying Shoot

(Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 AM, Safety meeting: 9:30 AM, Shooting begins: 10 AM)

May 30 – Qualifying Shoot

(Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 AM, Safety meeting: 9:30 AM, Shooting begins: 10 AM)

June 13 – Qualifying Shoot

(Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 AM, Safety meeting: 9:30 AM, Shooting begins: 10 AM)

June 27 - County Shoot

(Shooting begins at 9 AM, youth must attend one qualifying shoot in order to compete at the county shoot)

****New this year - 3D scheduling, registration begins at 8 AM, head out at 8:30 AM for all qualifying shoots**

Pre-registration is required for ALL shoots!

Youth must pre-register to the Extension Office what disciplines (BB, Air Pellet, .22, Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloading) they are going to participate in.

Register at: email Liz (antveli3@msu.edu) or call (989) 317-4079.

Cost per event: **may be subject to change based on market prices for supplies*

\$5.00 registration fee

\$5.00 additional registration fee **for each** if you shoot Trap, Skeet or .22

Bring your own safety equipment (eye & ear protection)

4-H member is responsible for buying own shells for trap; they are available for sale at the shoots

4-H Shooting Sports Age Policies:

- 4-H Shooting Sports Programs are open to young people aged 8 through 19. The “4-H age” will be determined by a young person’s age as of January 1 of the 4-H program year.
- 4-H members age 8 may participate in BB gun and basic archery training. Participation is at the discretion of the Certified Instructor and the participant must be under direct adult supervision (one on one).
- Cloverbuds (4-H ages 5 - 7) must wait until they reach the 4-H age of 8 to participate in shooting sports.
- Members ages 9 – 11 are limited to shooting Air Pellet, BB & archery at competitive events
- Youth must attend one qualifying shoot in order to compete at the county shoot

Location:

Isabella County Sportsman’s Club (2872 W. Millbrook Road, Mt. Pleasant, corner of Winn & Millbrook Roads)

4-H Shooting sports events are weather dependent. If weather is poor, please check your email and/or the 4-H Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IsabellaCounty4H>). We will post cancellations on Facebook and send an email out to families enrolled in the shooting sports project.



ISABELLA & CLARE COUNTY 4-H

PRESENTS



ALL AMERICAN ADVENTURE 4-H CAMP

CLOVERBUD DAY CAMP (5-7 YR OLDS)

JULY 7TH & 8TH 2026

4-H OVERNIGHT CAMP (8-12 YR OLDS)

JULY 15TH & 16TH 2026

COLDWATER LAKE 4-H CAMP

1415 N LITTLEFIELD RD WEIDMAN MI 48893

CLOVERBUD CAMP: \$40

4-H CAMP: \$50



Register at:

<https://clareisabella20264hcamp.4honline.com>

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Isabella County Drill Team

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ◆ DRILL & HORSEMANSHIP
- ◆ TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP
- ◆ PERFORMING

JOIN US AT THE ISABELLA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
(HORSE BARN) ON SATURDAY, MAY 16 AT 3:30 PM.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Riders must be intermediate to senior level
- ◆ Must be confident and in control at a lope for extended periods.
- ◆ Must have a well-trained, controllable horse
- ◆ Helmet use is required

Contact:

Paige
(989) 289-5963
psgrizzicat@gmail.com

MOO MADNESS



Friday, June 12 * 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

8180 Townline Lake Rd. Lakeview, Mi. 48850

Call or text Cathy with questions (989)304-1983

Come join us for a fun day learning all about cows!

Sessions will teach about nutrition, health, showing, and more.

Games with prizes to see what you learned! Lunch and t-shirt provided!

Open to all youth 5-19, children under 10 must be accompanied by a chaperone.

Must sign up by Saturday, May 30, to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Late entries will still receive lunch, but cannot be guaranteed a shirt.

Moo Madness

8180 Townline Lake Rd. Lakeview, Mi. 48850

Friday, June 12, 2026 * 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Shirt Size:** _____

Chaperone name & phone# _____

Chaperones are free unless you would like a t-shirt, then cost is \$10. Shirt Size: _____



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Creating Beyond-Ready Youth Through 4-H Project Learning



Beyond Ready

4-H prepares youth for the world of work by engaging them in high quality, hands-on learning grounded in meaningful project content. When young people apply skills, solve real problems and reflect on their learning, they build confidence and readiness for future careers.

4-H programs intentionally create these opportunities, helping youth practice communication, teamwork, decision making and technical skills that transfer to real world settings. Some ways to deepen project work could include: adding real life tasks, inviting youth to demonstrate mastery or guiding reflection that connects the activity to future workplace expectations. Every project meeting is a chance to help youth become Beyond Ready, capable, and confident.

#BeyondReady

May 4: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

Online

Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's Youth Business Guide to Success. Discover how you can mentor youth in goal setting, budgeting, marketing and record-keeping for real-world skills.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects>

May 5: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the five Ps of marketing and explore strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales and build valuable industry connections.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5>

May 12: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn to keep track of what you spend and earn to make smart choices for market livestock projects. Equip youth with tools to track expenses, set goals and ensure projects are profitable and rewarding.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12>

May 14: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered each Thursday from May 14 – June 18.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026>

May 18: Adulting 101 Webinar – Cooking with Confidence

Online

Increase your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence

May 19: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Pitch to Payment

Online

Communication and outreach are important methods to recruit buyers for market livestock projects. Discover how to use social media to promote your project, reach a wider audience and share progress.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19>

June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.



Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.

Coordinator's Corner – May 2026

Hello Isabella County 4-H Families!

Hopefully all these April showers really do bring May flowers! This warm weather has me so excited for summertime and everything that comes with it.

April was an exciting and busy month. I had the opportunity to attend my very first Shooting Sports Kick-Off, which was a great experience to see the program in action and connect with volunteers and youth involved. I also kicked off our Embryology programs in Shepherd and Sacred Heart Academy—one of my favorite hands-on learning experiences to bring into classrooms. It's always amazing to watch youth learn and grow right alongside those chicks!

We also had a great turnout for camp clean-up, where I was able to work alongside dedicated volunteers and 4-H'ers to get everything ready for summer. And of course, the Tractor Supply Clover Campaign started—I always enjoy setting up the table and connecting with the community while sharing what 4-H is all about.

Looking ahead to May, there's even more to be excited about. Shooting Sports qualifying shoots kick off, and summer camp registration is officially open—both great opportunities for youth to get involved, try something new, and build skills.

I'm also looking forward to our District 6 all-staff meeting, which will be held at the Jay's & Webber Wildlife Education Center in Clare. I truly enjoy these meetings—not only do we receive important updates, but they also provide valuable learning opportunities for us as staff.

In addition, I'll be meeting with our Exploration Days youth to help prepare them for their upcoming experience on campus. It's always fun to see their excitement build as they get ready for this opportunity!

One thing I'm especially excited for this time of year is gardening! Not only am I planning my own garden (and of course making it a little bigger this year), but we also have a great community partnership to highlight. Did you know we partner with the Discovery Museum and have a raised garden bed there? Last year was our first year, and we grew an abundance of tomatoes—it was amazing to see the success and excitement around it. We're continuing to build on that this year and are working on offering some gardening-related classes, which I'm really excited about.

Behind the scenes, it's a lot of planning, planning, and more planning as we gear up for a busy summer season filled with programs, events, and fair preparations. This is truly one of my favorite times of year—I love seeing all the pieces start to come together and watching our youth get excited for what's ahead.

As always, thank you to our volunteers, leaders, and families for everything you do to support 4-H. We couldn't do it without you, and it's going to be a great season!

Warmly,



Liz Antvelink

4-H Program Coordinator, Isabella County

Isabella County
510 W. Pickard Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 317-4079
msue37@msu.edu

Website:

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



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

**Isabella County Youth
& Farm Fair
August 1 - 9**

SAVE THE DATES

4-H Camp Clean-Up
May 3

Swine Tagging
May 3

Sheep Weigh-In
May 9

Goat Weigh-In
May 9

County Shoot
June 27

4-H Cloverbud Camp
July 7 & 8

4-H Summer Camp
July 15 & 16

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

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

May 2	4-H Qualifying Shoot @ Sportsman's Club	8:30 AM
3	4-H Camp Clean-up @ 4-H Camp	10 AM - 2 PM
3	Swine Tagging @ Fairgrounds	11 AM - 1 PM
5	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
9	Goat Weigh-in @ Fairgrounds (Small Animal Barn)	11 AM - 1 PM
9	Sheep Weigh-in @ Fairgrounds	4 PM - 6 PM
18	Fair Registration Opens	8 AM
25	OFFICE CLOSED	
26	4-H Council @ Isabella County Commission on Aging, Craft Room	6:30 PM
30	4-H Qualifying Shoot @	8:30 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."

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