



CLOVER CHRONICLES

September 2026

Isabella County

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4-H Recognition Banquet

Thursday, October 8 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 need to be picked up from the Extension office)

Please RSVP to the Extension Office by October 1.

Still Exhibit Thank You

"Thank You" to everyone that came out and helped with barn set-up on Thursday and tear down on Sunday. Your time and hard work help make the fair a success each year. We are incredibly grateful for the volunteers, families, leaders, and members who stepped up to lend a hand. For the Sunday morning tear down, we definitely could use a few more hands to speed up the process. Many hands make light work!

Becki Crampton, Superintendent

2026-27 4-H Club Enrollments

Re-enrollments for the upcoming 4-H year opens on September 3 at: <https://mi.4honline.com>. All returning 4-H members and leaders who are re-enrolling in Isabella County 4-H are due by October 31.

4-H Calendar Sponsorship Form

The Isabella County 4-H Council is making preparations for the 2027 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.



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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

New Fair Class for Culinary Art Projects

We are excited to announce a Food Presentation class for next year. This class will give exhibitors the opportunity to showcase creative displays such as charcuterie boards, dessert trays, appetizer arrangements, and other food presentation exhibits. We look forward to seeing the creativity and talent our exhibitors bring to this exciting new category!

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 8.

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 2.

Link to Teen Representative application: http://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/newsletters-and-forms

Fair Trophy & Ribbon Sponsors for 2027

Thank you to all of the 2026 award 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.

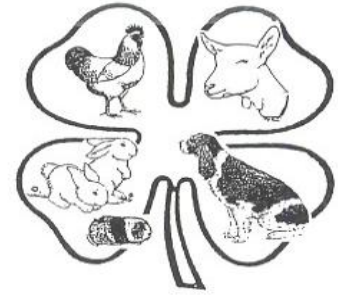
County Medal Nominees

If you were nominated for a county medal award and would like to be considered, please complete the application that was emailed to you by September 18.

The Awards Committee will review your application and select the county medal winners which will be announced and awarded at the Annual 4-H Recognition Banquet on Thursday, October 8 during National 4-H Week. If you have any questions, please call the MSU Extension Office.

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, thank you!
- 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 8, at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, at 6:30 PM.
(if you are unable to attend, checks will need to be picked up from the MSU Extension office)



Fair Board News

Your Fair Board would like to thank the many, many volunteers that made the 2026 fair a success. We know without all of you our fair would not be possible. We are getting ready for the 2027 fair and can't wait!

Special congratulations to all exhibitors! Anyone involved with the auctions, your checks will be coming soon. If you did not fill out the W-9 form before or during the fair, we will be holding your check until we receive it.

Livestock News

Many thanks to all the buyers from the Livestock Auction, it was another record year. Beef checks were mailed a couple weeks ago. Feeder, Sheep and Swine checks will be ready to mail soon.

Thank You 4-H Camp Counselors & Volunteers

We want to **THANK** all of the teens and adult volunteers who helped out at 4-H Summer Camp and 4-H Cloverbud Camp this summer!

Your enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment helped create a safe, fun, and memorable experience for our campers. From leading activities and mentoring youth to providing encouragement and support, your efforts made a lasting impact. So much of the camp success is due to your dedication and attention to the youth who attend.

We really appreciate your efforts! Thank you all!

Fair Banner 2026

This year's fair banner winner was Addelyn Raby!

Now is a great time to start planning for next year and designing next year's Fair Banner. Drawings will be due July 15, 2027 for judging.



THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Sherwin-Williams for generously providing the paint used to refresh the benches at the Fairgrounds.

We also would like to thank the Evergreen 4-H Club, who dedicated their time to painting the benches before fair week.





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting the new 4-H year with a focus on being Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

A new 4-H year is the perfect time for volunteers and youth to set the tone for growth, learning and readiness. Beginning the year with intentional activities helps young people build confidence, explore their interests, and understand how their 4-H experiences prepare them for life beyond the club.

Early goal setting, reflection and hands-on project work encourage youth to practice important skills such as communication, decision making and responsibility. Volunteers play a key role by helping youth make connections between what they do in 4-H and the skills they will need in future school, work and community settings.

By starting strong and reinforcing these ideas all year long, clubs can help ensure youth are truly Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

#BeyondReady

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner! Plan to stay after for the first meeting of the fall semester for MSU Collegiate 4-H!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception>

September 20: Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival

Schomaker Farms, Saginaw

Join the Saginaw 4-H Fall Festival for a fun-filled afternoon at Schomaker Farms! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, learning, and community. The public is welcome!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-4-h-fall-festival>

September 23: Adulting 101 – Are You Ready?

Online

Get ready for anything! This workshop will teach youth how to stay calm, make a plan and handle emergencies with confidence and safety.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>

October 2: Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

University Club of MSU, Lansing

4-H donors and staff with 4-H responsibilities are encouraged to attend and vote on all items at the meeting. Register by September 18.

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

October 3: Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration

University Club of MSU, Lansing

Join us to celebrate and recognize Michigan's outstanding 4-H youth, alumni, volunteers, partners and staff. Register by September 18.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-legacy-celebration>

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

For more than 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. Celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week! Learn more and find ideas of how to celebrate in your community online.

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

October 5: Go Green for 4-H!

On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN in support of 4-H!

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





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 – September 2026

Hello Isabella County 4-H Families!

Wow—I blinked, and summer was here and gone! What a summer it has been for Isabella County 4-H.

We kicked off the season with our 4-H Cloverbud and Overnight Camps, where this year's theme was All-American Adventure, celebrating America's 250th anniversary. Our campers had the opportunity to learn, explore, and make some pretty great memories along the way. A special thank you to VFW Post 3033 for visiting and teaching our youth about the meaning behind folding the American flag. Campers also dissected owl pellets, enjoyed plenty of outdoor activities, and went fishing thanks to the Ron Schunk "Take a Kid Fishing" Fund. Seeing youth try something new, make new friends, and simply enjoy being together is what 4-H camp is all about!

Our Make It, Take It classes were another huge success this summer! Families came together to learn new skills and try projects they may have never experienced before. From charcuterie boards and candle making to hand-knitted blankets, it was wonderful to see the creativity and excitement in each class. We are already thinking ahead and planning what we can offer next year!

And then came my favorite week of the year—fair week! What a great fair year we had. One of my favorite parts of fair is simply walking around and taking it all in. I love seeing everyone interacting in the barns, watching the tears of joy when months of hard work finally pay off, cheering on parents as they step into the ring for adult showmanship, and, most of all, seeing the friendships, laughter, and fun that happen throughout the week. The ribbons and trophies may fade over time, but the memories, friendships, lessons, and experiences made at fair will last forever.

This year, we also had the opportunity to share our Isabella County 4-H program with some very special visitors. We welcomed students from South Korea through the Boryeong CMU Culture Camp, who toured the fair with our Royal Ambassadors and experienced American agriculture and 4-H firsthand. We also welcomed approximately 140 youth from the Winn Area Activity Center (WAAC), with our 4-H youth serving as guides and helping them explore everything our fair has to offer.

We were also honored to welcome members of the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees to our fair. They had the opportunity to meet our youth, visit projects, explore the barns, and see our program in action. Hearing how impressed they were with our youth and our fair was something we should all be incredibly proud of. Our youth represented Isabella County 4-H wonderfully!

As summer comes to a close and we begin a brand-new 4-H year, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you to our volunteers, administrative leaders, superintendents, parents, families, community partners, supporters, and especially our 4-H youth. So much time, dedication, and heart goes into making these opportunities possible.

Summer may have flown by, but what we accomplished together will stick with me for a long time. I am incredibly excited to see what the 2026–2027 4-H year brings as we continue helping Isabella County youth become Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

Here's to another great 4-H year!



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

THANK YOU families, 4-H Council, leaders, superintendents, teen superintendents, fair board, fair awards coordinator, and all the donors and sponsors! Your time, dedication, and support provide valuable opportunities for our youth. Thank you for helping make our 2026 Fair a success!

SAVE THE DATES

Administrative Leader's Meeting
September 2

National 4-H Week
October 4 - 10

4-H Recognition Banquet
October 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish Hall

TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign
November 27 - December 13

Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair
August 1-8, 2027

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

Sept 1	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
2	Administrative Leader Meeting @ Commission on Aging	6:00 PM
3	4-H Re-Enrollment Opens @ 4-H Online https://mi.4honline.com	
7	County Building Closed	
22	4-H Council @ Commission on Aging	6:30 PM

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