MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

CLOVER CHRONICLES

November 2026 Isabella County

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Fair Checks

Still Exhibit Auction and Small Animal Auction checks can be picked up at our office (510 W. Pickard St., Mt. Pleasant).

Group Chicken Orders For Fair 2027

The poultry superintendents are wondering on the interest level of a group order for chickens for the fair next year. This would intale multiple families wanting to order birds and receive them at the same time (February or early March). Please contact Liz at antveli3@msu.edu or (989) 317-4079 if you are interested or if you would like more information.

2025-26 4-H Honor Clubs

Congratulations to the following clubs for being chosen as Honor Clubs for the 4-H program year of 2025-26. Each club received a monetary award from the Isabella County 4-H Program Council for their outstanding participation and organization.

Aim High, Country Neighbors, Crackerjack, Evergreen, Pony Creek, Western Spurs

Award Winners

The 4-H Meritorious Service Awards and the 4-H Alumni Award were announced at the Recognition Banquet on October 9. We thank these winners for their dedication and continuous support for 4-H. Your years of hard work and assistance are greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to:
Lillian Albaugh - Meritorious Service Award, 4-H Alumni
AT Concessions - Meritorious Service Award, Friend of 4-H

Beef Weigh-In

Saturday, December 5
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Isabella County Fairgrounds

All beef project members must bring their market beef animals to the fairgrounds to be weighed and tagged. Each member may weigh-in two animals.

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Club Corner

4ever Friends - had a blast doing the face painting at the Country Corner Market customer appreciation day in October. Our regular meeting was all about making sure everyone was all re-enrolled and welcoming our new members. Just recently we got another new member and are looking forward to doing our project focused meetings all winter so we can focus on our animals in the spring. Happy Fall Y'all!

Aim High - welcomed two new families in October and discussed plans for the new 4-H year. Several members reported community service projects they had completed and others shared plans for things they will be doing over the next few weeks. We are contemplating a fundraising opportunity and the teens will be working together on a plan for mentoring younger/newer members.

Evergreen - at our November meeting we kicked off our year welcoming old and new members. We highlighted members that received awards at the banquet. We set our spaghetti dinner fundraiser date for January 30. Large animal photos were distributed and discussion was had on ways to thank buyers. Our activity was making placemats for the Rosebush Manor thanksgiving dinner and Michigan Home for Veterans in Grand Rapids.

Farm Hands - completed their roadside cleanup. They were very thankful the weather cooperated to get it finished. We are looking forward to our November meeting as we have some exciting projects planned.

2025-26 4-H Teen Leaders

Name	*Club*	*Years as Teen Leader*
Kyle Croll	Pony Creek	2 years
Keigan Cooper	Aim High	1 year
Kenzie Karcher	Crackerjack	3 years
KarleighAnn Geiger	Country Neighbors	1 year
McKenzie Loya	Aim High	1 year
Kharman Loya	Aim High	3 years
Claire Vogel	Aim High	3 years
Abigail Wilson	Aim High	2 years
Brooklyn Wilson	Aim High	2 years

2025-26 Jr. Teen Leaders

Name	*Club*	*Years as Jr. Teen Leader*
Addelyn Raby	Western Spurs	2 years
Alleyah Raby	Western Spurs	2 years
Aubree Raby	Western Spurs	3 years

Small Animal News



- If you sold a rabbit/poultry/goat at the fair and did not attend the banquet, your check can be picked up at the Extension office. Please cash your checks as soon as possible because they are only good for 90 days.

- If you are not on a waiting list with a breeder for your 2027 Goat wethers or does, you should do that soon. You are able to sell a wether (castrated male) or a doe. You can contact Theresa Frederick to help with finding a breeder at (989) 621-6866.

- If you are a rabbit member, you will also want to start making some connections for your 2027 fair project.

- We are looking for teens to consider being fair superintendents. If you are interested, please review the requirements for these positions here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/newsletters-and-forms

Tractor Supply Fall Paper Clover Sales



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. 27 - Dec. 13. 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 to make arrangements).

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.

Did you know that purchasing a paper clover at Tractor Supply Co. helps support 4-H youth right here in Isabella County? The TSC Paper Clover Campaign raises funds to help 4-H youth participate in educational experiences such as 4-H Exploration Days, 4-H Winterfest, Capitol Experience, and other leadership opportunities.

Why does it matter? A portion of the funds raised comes back to support local 4-H youth, helping cover registration costs and making these experiences more affordable for families. These opportunities help youth build confidence, develop leadership skills, make friendships, and explore new interests beyond the county fair!

Every clover makes a difference! Next time you're at Tractor Supply during the campaign, consider donating at checkout. Your support helps Isabella County 4-H youth grow and succeed!

State Representative Neyer Named Outstanding 4-H Alumnus

Congratulations to State Representative Gerald (Jerry) Neyer, a member of the 2026 Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society! The Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society honors former Michigan 4-H members whose professional leadership and community service reflect the ultimate outcome of 4-H membership – extraordinary use of an individual's head, heart, hands and health to make communities, the country and the world better places in which to live.

From his beginnings as an Isabella County 4-H member to a career in agriculture and public service, Jerry continues to put the lessons of 4-H into action. His dedication to supporting Michigan agriculture, serving his community and helping others reflects the lasting impact of 4-H.

Celebrating An Outstanding 4-H Volunteer

Congratulations to Cathy Fry, a 2026 Michigan Farm Bureau 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award recipient! This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of Michigan 4-H volunteers or groups that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development in the areas of 4-H beef cattle; dairy cattle; goats; horses; horticulture, crops and soils; poultry; rabbits; sheep; swine; and veterinary science project areas.

For nearly three decades, Cathy has shared her passion for agriculture while helping Michigan 4-H youth build confidence, develop leadership skills and discover new opportunities. We are grateful for volunteers like Cathy who create meaningful experiences and inspire young people to grow, lead and give back to their communities.

4-H Council Representatives 2026-2027

The following volunteer leaders were selected to be 4-H Council representatives for a 3 year term:

- Becki Crampton
- Micca Crampton
- Tiffiny McGill
- Darlene Misenhelder

4-H Council officers are as follows:
President - Kourtney Collin
Vice President - Toni Morgenstern
Treasurer - Darlene Misenhelder
Secretary - Becki Crampton

Other 4-H Council members are: Robert Devantier, Colleen Harke, Sarah Kelsey, Don Kistler, Mary Anne Tompkins and Tina Wonsey

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Developing a growth mindset through 4-H

Beyond Ready

Learning often comes through challenges, mistakes and trying something new. 4-H helps youth develop a growth mindset by encouraging them to persevere, reflect and continue improving their skills over time.

Volunteers can reinforce this by celebrating effort, encouraging problem solving, and helping youth view setbacks as opportunities to learn. When young people learn that success comes from persistence and practice, they gain confidence to tackle future challenges. These experiences help youth become more resilient and better prepared for life beyond 4-H.

#BeyondReady

November 10: Wild Spartans – Migratory Fishes are Amazing!
Online
Splash into the underwater world to follow fish along their journeys with Karen Murchie, director of freshwater research at the Shedd Aquarium. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. Ask questions and learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-november

November 12: Adulting 101 – Paws, Claws and Commitment: The Realities of Animal Care
Online
Explore the true costs, responsibilities and lifestyle considerations of caring for animals—from vet bills and training to choosing the right pet for your space and schedule. Learn how to make informed decisions that honor both you and your future pet.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/realities-of-animal-care

November 17: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series
Online
Explore ways to be highly effective in raising kids to be successful in school and in life with this free online series. Parents of kids from toddlers to teens will explore: developing family routines, developing emotional control in your child, being a calm assertive parent, developing consistent rules and relationships, learning from mistakes, developing empathy and the ability to be thankful.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-nov-dec-2026

November 19: 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Growing Money Skills through 4-H
Online
Financial skills are life skills—and they're skills youth can start growing today. Join this webinar to discover easy, engaging ways to plant financial education into your 4-H club meetings, activities and events. Participants will leave with hands-on activities, discussion starters and ready-to-use resources that help youth build money management skills while having fun. Thanks to the support of MSUFCU, randomly selected attendees will receive a free financial education resource for their clubs.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-growing-money-skills-through-4-h

November 27 – December 13: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply Co. stores statewide
Embrace the holiday spirit and purchase a paper clover at Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)! The Paper Clover campaign will officially launch on Black Friday; support 4-H youth both online or in TSC stores for just $1!
www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a $1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at www.TractorSupply.com. Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

You can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments (a beef cow, lamb and dog), now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Michigan 4-H Foundation launches Beyond Ready Campaign to prepare youth for the future



At the Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 3, the Michigan 4-H Foundation announced the public launch of the Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready Campaign, a bold fundraising initiative with a goal of raising $12 million by 2032 to help prepare Michigan youth for the future.

"Today's youth face a rapidly changing world that requires resilience, adaptability and confidence," said Mary Draves, co-chair of the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "Michigan 4-H is uniquely equipped to support youth in developing these critical skills and more. The Beyond Ready Campaign will provide long-term, stable funding that allows Michigan 4-H to continue offering opportunities and experiences that prepare young people to face challenges and thrive, no matter what the future may bring."

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of 4-H participation. Young people involved in 4-H are more likely to develop leadership skills, contribute to their communities and gain confidence in their ability to succeed. The Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready campaign will help ensure future generations of Michigan youth can experience these same benefits by investing in the programs, people and possibilities that bring 4-H to life.

The campaign focuses on five priority areas: **4-H educational opportunities and skills development**; **Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens**; **health, well-being and belonging; emerging needs**; and **endowment investments**, including **county endowments** for localized impact. The campaign also includes a **planned giving goal of securing 40 planned gifts by 2032**, helping to create a lasting legacy of support for Michigan 4- H.

"Today's young people will soon lead our communities, workforce and future," said Joe Hune, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and co-chair of the Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "This campaign will ensure Michigan 4-H can continue to provide life-changing experiences, deliver innovative programs, support diverse learning needs, and help youth from all communities across Michigan become Beyond Ready for future success through 4-H."

The Oct. 3 public launch builds on strong momentum from the campaign's leadership phase. Already $7.3 million, nearly 62% of the $12 million goal, has been raised through more than 5,200 gifts from nearly 2,200 donors. Michigan 4-H alumni, volunteers, families, partners and friends are invited to join the effort to help build a generation that is Beyond Ready through Michigan 4-H.

Every gift to the Beyond Ready Campaign is an investment in Michigan youth and their future. There are many ways to participate, including one-time gifts, multi-year commitments, IRA gifts and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), gifts of stock, planned/estate gifts, or donations of property, grain or other assets. Together, these investments will help expand opportunities, build confidence, spark curiosity and prepare more Michigan youth to be beyond ready for life, leadership and success.

To learn more about the campaign or make a gift to invest in the future of Michigan 4-H, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/beyondready.

Coordinator's Corner - November 2026

Happy November, Isabella County 4-H!

As we wrap up October and head into November, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a busy and exciting start we've had to our new 4-H year!

October was filled with opportunities to celebrate our 4-H community. Our annual Recognition Banquet brought together more than 300 youth, families, volunteers, and supporters to recognize the accomplishments of the past year. It is always one of my favorite events because we get to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and growth of our 4-H members and volunteers.

We also had a fantastic time at Boo Bash at the Discovery Museum! This event gave approximately 800 youth the opportunity to explore the Discovery Museum while learning more about 4-H and the many opportunities our program has to offer. Events like this are a great reminder of how important it is to get out into our community, connect with new families, and introduce youth to everything 4-H has to offer. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible!

With re-enrollment wrapping up, I want to thank all our families and volunteers who have taken the time to complete their enrollment. Whether you are returning for another year or joining 4-H for the very first time, we are excited to have you as part of our 4-H family!

As we enter the holiday season, I encourage clubs to think about ways they can give back to their communities. Community service is such an important part of 4-H, and even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference. Whether it's collecting donations, helping a neighbor, or volunteering at a local event, there are so many ways to put our 4-H pledge into action.

The fall and winter months are a great time to explore new projects, attend workshops, develop leadership skills, and get involved in opportunities beyond your club.

Lastly, I want to say THANK YOU to our incredible volunteers, parents, and community supporters. Our program would not be what it is without you. Your time, dedication, and willingness to support our youth truly make a difference.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year of learning, growing, and making memories together!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Liz Antvelink
4-H Program Coordinator

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

Beyond Ready

SAVE THE DATES

TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign

November 27 - December 13

Beef Weigh-In

December 5

4-H Exploration Days

June 23-25, 2027

Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair

August 1-8, 2027

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

November 3	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church, Mt. Pleaant	6:30 PM
11	County Building Closed	
24	4-H Council @ Commission on Aging, craft room	6:30 PM
26 & 27	County Building Closed	
27	TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign begins!	

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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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Nonie Gross, Secretary
Elisa Grossman, FRTEP TribalEducator
Monica Jean, Field Crops Educator
Eric Karbowski, District 6 Director
Kara Lynch, Food Safety Educator
Misty Oebel, Farm Stress Educator