



CLOVER CHRONICLES

February 2026

Isabella County

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Dairy Feeder Weigh-In

Saturday, March 21
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Isabella County Fairgrounds



Feeders must not weigh more than 250 lbs. and must be castrated and dehorned.

Each member can either:

- Weigh in a maximum of two feeders or,
- Within immediate families of more than one exhibitor; each member may weigh in one feeder, and one "family alternate" can be weighed in for the family. Only one feeder per exhibitor can be brought to fair when a family alternate has been weighed in.

It's required that by Fair, every feeder must have a RFID tag (radio frequency identification) in their ear. If you have any questions, contact Superintendent Mike Lattimer at (989) 513-7839.

Agriculture Learning Series

"Feeding your Ruminant"

Saturday, February 17
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (lunch included)
Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt. Pleasant

Geared towards youth ages 8-14, but everyone is welcome! Katie Wilson will be our presenter for this session. Katie is a past Isabella County 4-H member where she successfully showed dairy feeders, and competed in dairy management and judging at the local, state, and national levels. She attended MSU where she received a Bachelors in Animal Science with a minor in Ag Business. She also holds a Dairy Management Certificate from the Ag Tech program at MSU. Katie was a member of the MSU Dairy Challenge team that won the National Championship in 2022. She was also a member of the collegiate dairy judging team. Katie currently works for Caldonia Farmers Elevator in the feed office providing nutrition support.

Topics include:

- Basic ruminant anatomy and development
- Diseases
- Basic nutrients
- Hands-on exploration of the ruminant stomach compartments, and more!



Pre-registration is required by February 13 at: <https://tinyurl.com/26nr8ap2>



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CLUB CORNER

4ever Friends - At our January meeting, we welcomed 3 new kids to our group. The sisters will be showing goats and baking items and crafts. We are all excited to keep our little club growing. We adopted our code of conduct and got to know each other. Next month we will be scheduling project meetings.

Evergreen - For our January meeting we were busy planning for our spaghetti supper. Please join us on Saturday, February 7 from 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM in Rosebush, at St. Henry's.

Pony Creek - We met January 13 and went over the newsletter and upcoming events. We talked about projects and reported on the livestock producers meeting.

4-H Day at the Breslin Center

Sunday, March 1
12 PM



ALL 4-H families are invited to cheer on the Lady Spartans basketball team as they take on Ohio State. There will be games and activities on the concourse of the Breslin in advance of the game beginning at 10:30 AM.

Cost: \$7.50 + fees

To reserve tickets: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026>

Royal Ambassador Program

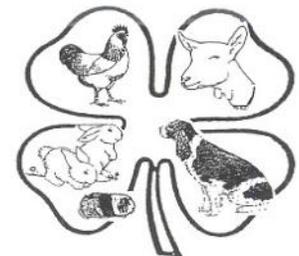
Packets are now available online and at the Extension office. All packets will be due on Friday, May 1 at 4 PM. Any questions, please contact Lillian Albaugh at 989-513-8202.

2026 4-H Calendars Now Available

4-H Calendars are available for pick-up at the Extension office. Stop by and get one!

Small Animal News

- Even with the change in this year's fair week, the small animal ownership date will remain May 1. If you have not yet made arrangements with someone about purchasing your fair animal, please start now. For rabbits, there is a very large, three-day event at MSU's Livestock Pavilion February 27 - March 1 that is a very good resource. More information on the rabbit event, visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-state-rabbit-breeders-spring-show>.



If you need assistance navigating this opportunity, feel free to let the Extension Office know and they can provide contact information.

Fair Board News

The Fair Board is busy getting ready for the 2026 Fair! We have some exciting news for Amusement lovers - TJ Schmidt & Company will be bringing us many rides and concessions Monday - Saturday! You can check them out at: tjschmidtcarnival.com Prices and pre-sale information coming soon.

Grandstand Events:

Monday and Tuesday – Super Kicker Rodeo

Wednesday – TNT Bump and Run Demo

Friday – TNT Demo Derby

Saturday – WMPullers Super Stock Tractor, Truck and Semi Pull

CAMPING REGISTRATION - Registration forms will be mailed by March 1. Forms and payment will be due by April 15, with new camper sign up on April 18. Mark your calendars! More information will be in the March newsletter.

Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program

4-H Teens (ages 13-19) - do you want to take an active role in promoting health, wellness, and leadership within our community? This program will empower teens to serve as peer educators and role models who help younger youth make informed, healthy choices while developing their own character, confidence, and leadership skills.

Teens will receive leadership and facilitation training that prepares them to lead 4-H Healthy Living programs focused on:

- Mental health and emotional wellness,
- Physical fitness and healthy lifestyles
- Substance use prevention and positive decision-making

Teens will receive a variety of benefits through their participation in the program, including:

- A scholarship to attend Michigan 4-H Exploration Days on the campus of Michigan State University
- A \$100 stipend after teaching their first lessons
- An official "Teens as Teachers" Shirt
- Materials and supplies to use while teaching
- Increased leadership and careers skills that can be used on application for scholarships, higher education and jobs

Program Schedule

Program orientation and initial trainings will be done online during live, interactive Zoom sessions. All Teen Teachers will attend 4-H Exploration Days in East Lansing for in-person training.

- **April 15 - Registration Deadline**
- **April 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m. ET (Zoom)**, Program Orientation for teens and parent(s)/guardian(s)
- **May 19, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ET (Zoom)**, Training Session #1
- **June 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ET (Zoom)**, Training Session #2
- **June 24-26 - (In-person)**, A Teens as Teachers training will be held as part of 4-H Exploration Days in East Lansing, MI. Lodging and meals will be provided for participants on the campus of Michigan State University.
- **July - December** - Working with other teen teachers in their community, and with continued guidance and support from 4-H staff, Teen Teachers will plan and lead educational workshops focused on healthy living for peers and younger youth.

Register at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/teensasteachers/>

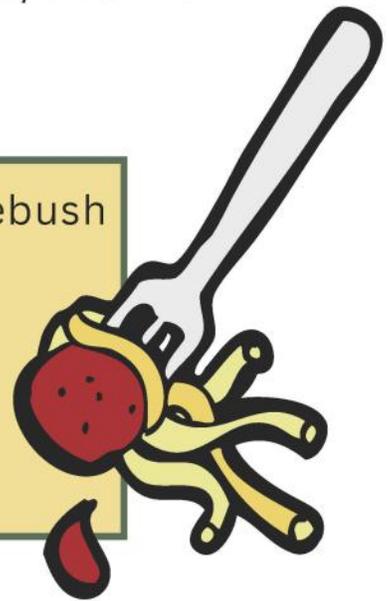


Evergreen 4-H Club Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, February 7th, 2026
4:30-7:00pm

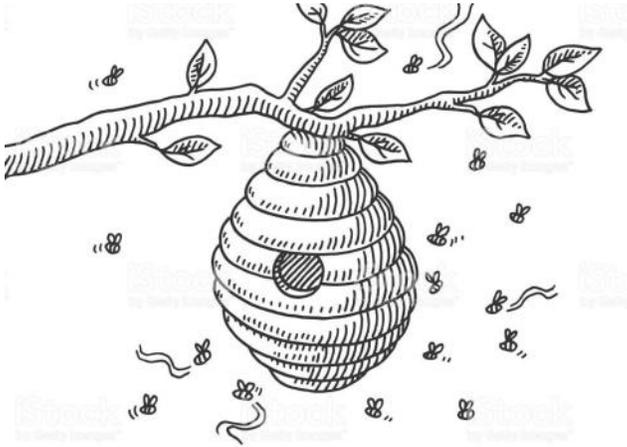


St Henry's Parish Center, Rosebush
Recommended Donation:
Adults: \$10
Children (ages 6-12): \$7
Children 5 and Under: Free
Dine In or Take Out Available



*PROCEEDS TO
BENEFIT CLUB
AND FAIR
EDUCATION
PROJECTS*





BEElievers 4-H Club

(bee keeping)

If you are already in a 4-H Club, this can be your secondary club.

Want to find out what the buzz about bees is all about? This club is designed to teach about the ancient art of beekeeping. Begin learning about the importance of bees and travel through the world of bee development and behavior!

DATE

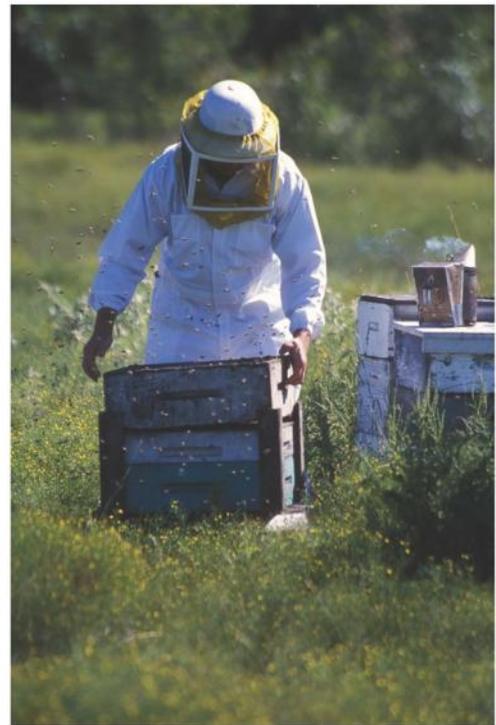
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

LOCATION

Shepherd Library
(257 W. Wright Ave., Shepherd, MI 48883)

WHO

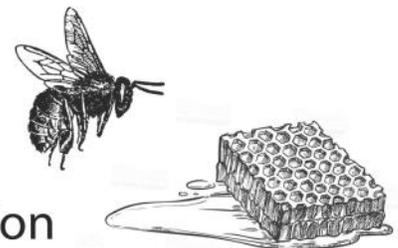
For youth ages 8 - 19



For more information about the club, please contact Karl Geiger at karlcgeiger@yahoo.com or (989) 506-2745.



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Youth Show Swine Workshop

DATE & TIME:

- February 22, 2026
- 1 pm — 4 pm

LOCATION:

- Pine River Township Hall
- 1495 W Monroe Rd,
Saint Louis, MI 48880

COST and

REGISTRATION:

- Cost is \$10
- Cash or Checks Only
- Checks made out to:
Gratiot 4-H Council

SPONSORS:

- MSUE Extension
Gratiot County
- Gratiot 4-H Council
- The Grain
Shed



CONTACT:

- Kami Yerrick
219 N State St
Alma MI, 48801
(989) 875-5233



WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

This event is open to all youth from ages 8-19 years old. Parents also welcome to attend sessions.

DESCRIPTION:

This event is an afternoon of swine presentations for youth looking at showing pigs, whether you are a beginner or a veteran showman. The topics for this session include;

What to do at the fair with your Pigs, Swine Nutrition, Understanding Ear Notching, swine housing and more!

HOW TO REGISTER:

Registration link is below. **Registration and Payment Deadline is February 16, 2026.** Cash or checks are accepted for payment. Check can be made out to: Gratiot County 4-H Council. Payments can be mailed or dropped off to the Gratiot County MSU Extension Office. 219 N State Street. Alma, MI. 48801

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://bit.ly/4pwfJ8R>



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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a "roll call" or "ice breaker" at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of "What's your favorite cheese?", know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.
#BeyondReady

February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month's session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with "Walking a Path of Conservation." Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february>

February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn't just an activity—it's a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences>

February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11>

February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026>

February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 7 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin! This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.

Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Coordinator's Corner – February 2026

Hello Isabella County 4-H Families!

This cold weather has me so excited—because even though it's winter outside, our 4-H program is full of energy and exciting opportunities! February is always a great reminder that 4-H is more than fair week... it's year-round learning, leadership, and community.

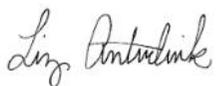
One thing I am especially excited about this month is our Agriculture Learning Series, focused on Feeding Your Ruminant. We are also thrilled to welcome former Isabella County 4-H'er Katie Wilson as our guest speaker! It is always inspiring to see past 4-H members giving back and sharing their knowledge with our youth.

I'm also looking forward to enjoying some delicious food and great fellowship at the Evergreen 4-H Club Spaghetti Dinner. Events like these are not only fun, but they also highlight the strong community support that makes 4-H in Isabella County so special.

Lastly, our Royal Ambassador Program is underway! Packets are officially out, and this is such a great opportunity for youth who want to represent Isabella County 4-H, gain leadership skills, and meet new people. If you're looking for a fun way to get more involved and make a difference, I encourage you to consider applying!

Thank you for all you do to support Isabella County 4-H. Stay warm, stay safe, and I can't wait to see you at upcoming events!

Warmly,



Liz Antvelink
4-H Program Coordinator, Isabella County

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

SAVE THE DATES

4-H Day at the Breslin Center
March 1, 2026

Dairy Feeder Weigh-In
March 21, 2026

4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers
April 12, 2026

Swine Tagging
May 3, 2026

Sheep Weigh-In
May 9, 2026

4-H Exploration Days
June 17-19, 2026

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

Isabella County 4-H Calendar

February 3	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
16	OFFICE CLOSED	
16	Shooting Sports @ Commission on Aging, Craft Room	6:30 PM
21	Agriculture Learning Series - Feeding Your Ruminant @ Commission on Aging	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
24	4-H Council @ Commission on Aging, Craft Room **note location change	6:30 PM

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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