



CLOVER CHRONICLES

March 2026

Isabella County

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4-H Exploration Days

June 24-26 at Michigan State University

Exploration Days is an annual state youth conference that is open to ALL youth ages 12-19 (by January 1). This event is meant to be a learning experience that will instill self-esteem, decision-making skills, independent thinking and leadership skills.

Cost is \$250 (includes meals, lodging, and a t-shirt)

****4-H Council will pay half the fee for Isabella County 4-H members. \$50 deposit is due at the time of registration.**

Financial assistance is available for youth who need support to participate in this unforgettable statewide learning experience.

****If financial assistance would make attending possible for your child, please contact Liz Antvelink at antveli3@msu.edu**

Registration opens on March 12 at 7 PM. Sessions fill up fast, so don't delay!

Check out all the sessions (over 100) and the full schedule at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/

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.



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CLUB CORNER

Country Neighbors - In February we talked about the royal ambassador requirements and the decorating committee meeting.

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.

Agriculture Learning Series

“Seed to Store”

Saturday, March 14

Time: TBA

Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt. Pleasant

Pre-registration is required by March 11 at: <https://tinyurl.com/26nr8ap2>

Upcoming Topics:

April - Pollination Presentation



Fair Superintendents Needed

We are looking for fair superintendents in the following areas:

- *Crops*
- *Talent Show*

Please contact Liz (antveli3@msu.edu) if you are interested in helping or know of anyone who would be.

SAVE THE DATES:

4-H Camp Clean-Up

Saturday, April 18

&

Sunday, May 3

10 AM - 2 PM

Small Animal News

- 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 wethers only) is Sunday, May 9 from 11 AM – 1 PM in the small animal barn at the fairgrounds. Wethers must be dehorned and castrated.
- Broiler Chick Orders! Time to order your broiler chicks! Orders need to be placed at the Extension office by April 24.



Fair Board News

Update on Grandstand Events:

Monday and Tuesday – Super Kicker Rodeo

Wednesday – TNT Bump and Run Demo

Thursday – Horse Pull

Friday – TNT Demo Derby

Saturday – WMPullers Super Stock Tractor, Truck and Semi Pull

CAMPING REGISTRATION:

Registration forms were mailed on Tuesday, February 17. Forms and payment are due by April 15th 12 NOON, no exceptions. New camper sign up will be on Saturday, April 18th at the Fair Office from 9 AM - 11 AM. If you would like to change your site, Deb will be in the Fair Office from 9 AM to 10 AM on Friday, April 17 or call to see what is available. You must have paid for your camping by the due date to take part in changing. Mark your calendars!

If you have any questions, call Deb at 989-400-1082 or email isabellacofair@yahoo.com.

4-H State Awards & Mark of Excellence Contest

4-H members ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application.

A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development. 4-H State Awards is a hands-on learning experience that allows 4-H members to develop and practice “adulting” skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing.

State award applications are divided into four categories:

- Mark of Excellence contest (10-11 years)
- Junior state award (12-15 years)
- Senior state award (16-19 years)
- Group awards (13-19 years).

Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found at: <http://bit.ly/stateaward>. Applications are due April 1.

BEELEEVERS

4-H CLUB



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!

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

 **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

 **SHEPHERD LIBRARY**

257 W Wright Ave
Shepherd MI 48883

For youth ages 8-19

KARL GEIGER

(989)506-2745

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4-H Shooting Sports Dates

April 11 - Spring Kick Off (10 AM - 12 PM)

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.



4-H Shooting Sports Spring Kickoff Event



Saturday, April 11 – 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

The Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports program teaches members safety and shooting techniques for shotgun, rifle, air gun, muzzle loading and archery. They learn how to handle firearms responsibly for target practice and hunting and learn respect for the natural environment.

Where: Isabella County Sportsmans Club

(2872 W. Millbrook Rd, Winn)

Register: MSU Extension at (989) 317-4079



COME JOIN US FOR



Games

Teen Demonstrations in all Disciplines



RUNNING FOR THE 2026-2027 ISABELLA COUNTY 4-H

ROYAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



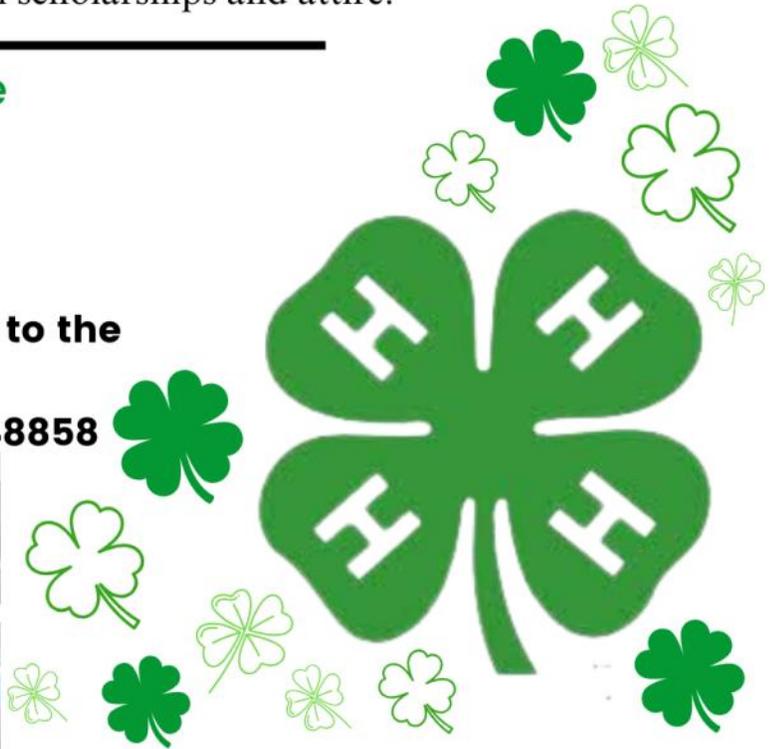
WHAT IS THE ROYAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM?

The Royal Ambassador program allows Isabella County 4Hers to represent and build relationships throughout the Isabella County area. Our ambassador leaders can learn in various areas, from projects to community opportunities throughout the year. Ambassadors will use public speaking and brainstorming, participating in multiple events throughout the fair week and the community. Royal Ambassadors will receive financial scholarships and attire.

Want to Learn more about the program and how to run?

Please contact Lillie Albaugh 989-513-8202
or lillianalbaugh@gmail.com

**PACKETS DUE FRIDAY MAY 1st, 2026 to the
MSU EXTENSION OFFICE
510 W Pickard St Mt Pleasant MI 48858**





Junior (Age 8-11)

- Packet and Questions
- Write a one page letter and properly address it to our 4-H Coordinator
- 10 Minute Interview with a Visual Aid

Intermediate (Age 12-15)

- Packet and Questions
- Write a 2 Page Essay
- 10 Minute Interview with a Visual Aid

Senior (Age 16-19)

- Packet and Questions
- Cover letter, Resume, and 3 References
- 10 Minute Interview with a Visual Aid

PACKETS DUE FRIDAY MAY 1st 2026 to the MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

To find an application head to our Isabella County 4-H Extension page at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/

Under Forms you will then go to the awards section, and all of the different age group packets will be listed.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE ON COURT

There will be 6 Representatives!

SENIORS

- King/Queen Royal Ambassador
- 1st Runner-up King/Queen Royal Ambassador

INTERMEDIATE

- Prince/Princess Royal Ambassador
- 1st Runner-up Prince/Princess Royal Ambassador

Junior

- Duke/Duchess Royal Ambassador
- 1st Runner-up Duke/Duchess Royal Ambassador





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



Beyond Ready

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop>

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day>

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

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

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h>

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp>

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.

Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.



Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers>

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.

Coordinator's Corner – March 2026

Hello Isabella County 4-H Families!

March is finally here, and with it comes that exciting feeling that spring is right around the corner! In Isabella County 4-H, this time of year always feels like a fresh start filled with new opportunities, programs kicking off, and summer plans beginning to take shape. We are especially excited to see registration opening for 4-H Exploration Days on March 12th! Exploration Days is such an incredible opportunity for our teens to get a true taste of Michigan State University. Youth stay on campus, meet members from across the state, and experience hands-on learning in areas they are passionate about. Last year, I had the opportunity to help with an "Introduction to Meat" class where youth learned how the USDA grades meat, explored different meat cuts, and even walked through the large meat cooler — definitely a memorable experience! And of course, no visit to MSU is complete without a stop at the Dairy Store for some delicious ice cream. I strongly encourage youth to take on this experience — it builds confidence, independence, and leadership skills in a way that is both educational and fun!



This is also the time of year we look toward the 4-H State Awards program. It is truly a great honor to represent Isabella County and compete alongside youth from across Michigan. Applying for State Awards takes dedication and courage, as members reflect on their years of growth, leadership, and accomplishments in 4-H. We are incredibly proud of the youth who step forward to share their stories and represent our county at the state level. They embody what it means to be Beyond Ready.

And how can you tell spring is coming? The BEElievers Beekeeping Club is starting up again! When the bees are back, you know warmer days are ahead. Even if you are simply curious about beekeeping, I highly recommend checking out their meeting on April 15. It is a fascinating project area that teaches responsibility, science, and the importance of pollinators in our world. Shooting Sports is also preparing to kick off for the season. This program continues to be a strong example of safety, discipline, and skill development, giving youth both important safety education and a healthy competitive edge.

There is so much more on the horizon as we move closer to summer. Plans for 4-H Camp are already in the works, and we cannot wait to share more details soon. March is just the beginning of a busy and exciting season ahead for Isabella County 4-H! Stay tuned — the best is yet to come! 🌸

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Liz Antvelink".

Liz Antvelink
4-H Program Coordinator, Isabella County

Isabella County
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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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Website:

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



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

Broiler Chick Orders

Time to order your broiler chicks!
Orders need to be placed at the
Extension office by April 24.

SAVE THE DATES

Dairy Feeder Weigh-In
March 21, 2026

Shooting Sports Spring Kick-Off
April 11

4-H Camp Clean-Up
April 18 & May 3

Swine Tagging
May 3, 2026

Sheep Weigh-In
May 9, 2026

Goat Weigh-In (wethers only)
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

March 3	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
	Shooting Sports @ Commission on Aging, Craft Room	6:30 PM
14	Agriculture Learning Series - "Seed to Store" @ Commission on Aging	TBA
21	Dairy Feeder weigh-in @ Fairgrounds	7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
24	4-H Council @ Isabella County Commission on Aging, Craft Room	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