

# 4-H CLOVERBUDS

## St. Joseph County Cloverbud Program: Animal Demonstration Program



The Cloverbud program in St. Joseph County is for youth 5-7 years old as of January 1, 2025. For 2025, Cloverbuds will have the opportunity to do still exhibits and to show a cat, dairy feeder steer, dog, goat, horse, rabbit, pig, and/or sheep at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. Please refer to the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book for a full listing of Cloverbud classes.

Below you will find specific rules and expectations for each animal class. These projects will be “exhibited in **non-competitive**, age-appropriate activities that are designed for this age group.”

Cloverbuds do not necessarily need to own the animal they choose to exhibit. They may work with and/or borrow an animal that is owned by another, older 4-H member (mentor). In the swine, goat, sheep, and dairy feeder projects, the Cloverbud must use an animal that is already being exhibited at the fair by a 4-H mentor. **Exception:** open class goats may be used if they belong to the Cloverbud. If the Cloverbud owns the rabbit, dog, or horse they exhibit, that animal **will not be housed** at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. It must be brought to the fairgrounds in an appropriate cage/trailer and then returned home following the specific show.

Cloverbuds are **required to attend a minimum of 2 workouts** with their mentor and the animal they are bringing to fair. Species leaders will sign off on the mentor form at final fair sign ups.

As per the Michigan 4-H Cloverbud Learning Guidelines, all 4-H volunteers must work within the guidelines of the Cloverbud section of the Michigan 4-H Participant Age policy to ensure all youth’s safety.

Special rules for **5-year-old Cloverbuds**, per the state program policy, “each 4-H Cloverbud must be directly assisted one-on-one by a parent, guardian, or adult volunteer while the child is in contact with the animal.” 5-year-old Cloverbuds will **only be eligible to show a cat, dog, horse, or rabbit** with an adult over the age of 18.

For **6- or 7-year-old Cloverbuds**, per the state program policy, “each 4-H Cloverbud must be directly assisted one-on-one as needed by a parent, guardian, adult volunteer or 4-H teen who is in close proximity while the child is in contact with the animal.” The parent, guardian, adult volunteer, or 4-H teen should serve in a supporting role.

Since safety is of the utmost priority, MSU Extension staff or 4-H volunteers within the species who do not feel that an activity is safe for the youth involved have the right, and are encouraged, **to remove the youth from an unsafe situation.**

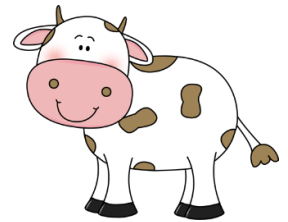
**CATS:**

- A Cloverbud may exhibit one (1) cat at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- A Cloverbud may show in Showmanship.
- The Cloverbud cat show will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025. This will be an educational, NON-COMPETITIVE showmanship show with exhibitors receiving a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- The Cloverbud may participate using their own cat or an older 4-H member's cat that has been approved by the Cat Cloverbud Coordinator, **Shelly Starr**.
- All general guidelines regarding the vaccinations, condition, and behavior of animals will be followed as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- All Cloverbuds must be directly assisted one-on-one by a current 4-H member that is 12-19 years old, parent, guardian, or adult volunteer.
- The Cloverbud will have a one-on-one opportunity to meet with a Judge to discuss their project and answer age-appropriate questions about the project as determined by the Judge, Superintendent, or MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H Cat exhibitors.



**DAIRY FEEDER STEERS:**

- Cloverbud dairy feeder showmanship class is for an educational, activity-centered experience.
- Cloverbud class will be a NON-COMPETITIVE class and each Cloverbud will receive a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- The Cloverbud will team up with a mentor - a current St. Joseph County 4-H exhibitor who is 12-19 years old.
- Cloverbud **MUST** have their mentor with them during the showmanship class.
- Cloverbud must designate the 4-H dairy feeder project member who they will team up with by the designated fair entry date and entry form.
- All general guidelines regarding the Dairy Feeder Showmanship class will apply to Cloverbuds as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H project dairy feeder steer exhibitors for the Cloverbud Showmanship class.
- Cloverbuds will show in one (1) showmanship class at the St. Joseph County Fair, immediately following the 4-H Dairy Feeder Showmanship Classes on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.
- Cloverbud may not participate or share in the 4-H auction.
- Any 4-H dairy feeder project animal may be used for the Cloverbud showmanship class with the permission of the 4-H exhibitor but must be approved by the Dairy Feeder Cloverbud Coordinator, **Connie Myers**.



**DOGS:**

- A Cloverbud may exhibit one (1) dog at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- A Cloverbud may show in two (2) classes - Obedience and Showmanship.
- The Cloverbud dog show will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025. This will be an educational, NON-COMPETITIVE showmanship show with exhibitors receiving a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- The Cloverbud may participate using their own dog or an older 4-H member's dog that has been approved by the Dog Cloverbud Coordinator, **Melissa Huff**.
- All general guidelines regarding condition and behavior of animals will be followed as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- All Cloverbuds must be directly assisted one-on-one by a current 4-H member that is 12-19 years old, parent, guardian, or adult volunteer.



### **DOGS continued:**

- The Cloverbud will have a one-on-one opportunity to meet with a Judge to discuss their project and answer age-appropriate questions about the project as determined by the Judge, Superintendent, or MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H Dog exhibitors.

### **GOATS:**

- Cloverbud goat showmanship class is for an educational, activity-centered experience.
- Cloverbud class will be a NON-COMPETITIVE class and each Cloverbud will receive a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- The Cloverbud will team up with a mentor - a current St. Joseph County 4-H exhibitor who is 12-19 years old.
- Cloverbud **MUST** have their mentor with them during the showmanship class.
- Cloverbud must designate the 4-H goat project member who they will team up with by the designated fair entry date and entry form.
- All general guidelines regarding the Goat Showmanship class will apply to Cloverbuds as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H project goat exhibitors for the Cloverbud Showmanship class.
- Cloverbuds will show in one (1) showmanship classes at the St. Joseph County Fair, immediately following the 4-H Goat Showmanship class on Monday, September 15, 2025.
- Cloverbud may not participate or share in the 4-H auction.
- Any 4-H goat project animal may be used for the Cloverbud showmanship class with the permission of the 4-H exhibitor but **must** be approved by the Goat Cloverbud Coordinator, **Tarina Jansen**.



### **HORSES:**

- A Cloverbud may exhibit a maximum of three (3) horse at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- A Cloverbud may show in only five (5) classes maximum – walk or walk/trot class only: **Showmanship, Equitation, Gymkhana, Driving, In-Hand or Costume class.**
- Cloverbud horse classes are for educational, activity-centered experiences.
- All Cloverbud classes will be NON-COMPETITIVE classes and each Cloverbud will receive a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- If a Cloverbud brings their own horse to be shown, that horse will NOT be housed on grounds, but shall be checked in at a designated time on the day of the horse show at the designated location.
- All project animals and Cloverbud members **must** be approved by either the Cloverbud specialty leader or their club leader. This approval must be turned in to the Cloverbud specialty leader, **Katie Staples**, by August 1, 2025. For driving, Cloverbud **must** be approved by the driving specialty leader, **Bobbi Jo Newland** and turned in by August 1, 2025.
- Cloverbud horse project exhibitors are REQUIRED wear ASTM-or SEI- approved helmets for all horse experiences as per the Michigan State University Youth Program 4-H Cloverbud program policy.
- All Cloverbud horse project participants must be directly assisted one-on-one by a current 4-H member that is 12-19 years old, parent, guardian, or adult volunteer who is on the ground as opposed to being mounted on another horse holding the animal's halter or lead to maximize safety.
- For driving, a parent, guardian, or adult volunteer **must** be seated in the cart with the Cloverbud member.
- All project animals must have appropriate papers and follow the same check-in procedure as other 4-H project animals. (i.e., Coggins test)



### **RABBITS:**

- A Cloverbud may exhibit one (1) rabbit at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- If a Cloverbud brings their own rabbit to be shown, that rabbit will **not** be housed on grounds, but shall be checked in at a designated time on the day of the rabbit show at the designated location.
- The Cloverbud rabbit show will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2025, immediately prior to the 4-H rabbit show. This will be an educational, NON-COMPETITIVE showmanship show with exhibitors receiving a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- A Cloverbud may **not** sell their rabbit at the 4-H Livestock auction.
- The Cloverbud may participate using their own rabbit or an older 4-H member's market or breeding stock rabbit that has been approved by the Rabbit Superintendent, **Emily Redmond**.
- All general guidelines regarding the Rabbit Showmanship class will apply to Cloverbuds as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- All Cloverbuds must be directly assisted one-on-one by a current 4-H member that is 12-19 years old, parent, guardian, or adult volunteer. A 4-H Rabbit Volunteer will be present at the table for each age group.
- The Cloverbud will have a one-on-one opportunity to meet with a Judge to discuss their project and answer age-appropriate questions about the project as determined by the Judge, Superintendent, or MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H Rabbit exhibitors.



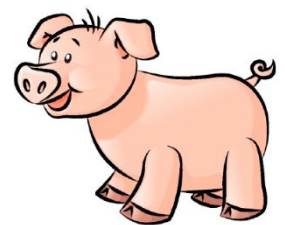
### **SHEEP:**

- Cloverbud sheep showmanship class is for an educational, activity-centered experience.
- Cloverbud class will be a NON-COMPETITIVE class and each Cloverbud will receive a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- The Cloverbud will team up with a mentor - a current St. Joseph County 4-H exhibitor who is 12-19 years old.
- Cloverbud **MUST** have their mentor with them during the showmanship class and all lambs must be shown with a halter.
- Cloverbud must designate the 4-H sheep project member who they will team up with by the designated fair entry date and entry form.
- All general guidelines regarding the Sheep Showmanship class will apply to Cloverbuds as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H project sheep exhibitors for the Cloverbud Showmanship class.
- Cloverbuds will show in one (1) showmanship class at the St. Joseph County Fair, immediately following the 4-H Sheep Showmanship classes on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.
- Cloverbud may not participate or share in the 4-H auction.
- Any 4-H sheep project animal may be used for the Cloverbud showmanship class with the permission of the 4-H exhibitor but must be approved by the Sheep Cloverbud Coordinator, **Fawn Hostetler**.



### **SWINE:**

- The Cloverbud swine showmanship class is for an educational, activity-centered experience.
- Cloverbud class will be a NON-COMPETITIVE class and each Cloverbud will receive a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- The Cloverbud will team up with a mentor - a current St. Joseph County 4-H exhibitor who is 12-19 years old.
- Cloverbud **MUST** have their mentor with them during the showmanship class.
- Cloverbud must designate the 4-H swine project member who they will team up with by the designated fair entry date and entry form.



**SWINE continued:**

- All general guidelines regarding the Swine Showmanship class will apply to Cloverbuds as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H project swine exhibitors for the Cloverbud Showmanship class.
- Cloverbuds will show in one (1) showmanship class at the St. Joseph County Fair, immediately following the 4-H market hog classes (before the Grand Drive) on Monday, September 15, 2025.
- Cloverbud may not participate or share in the 4-H auction.
- Any 4-H swine project animal may be used for the Cloverbud showmanship class with the permission of the 4-H exhibitor but must be approved by the Swine Cloverbud Coordinator, **Virginia Trattles**.