



# CLOVER CHRONICLES

December 2025

Isabella County

**\*\*Fair Dates Next Year - August 1-9, 2026\*\***

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## Beef Weigh-In

Saturday, December 13  
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.

## Tractor Supply Fall Paper Clover Promotion

*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. 28 - Dec. 14. 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.

## Interested in AI and Robotics in Agriculture?

Everyone is invited to join Dairy Dreamers 4-H club at the Isabella County Commission on Aging on Saturday, January 17. They will have speakers lined up do a presentation on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Agriculture. More details to come.



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## CLUB CORNER

- ✔ **Aim High** - We gathered to make holiday cards for Commission on Aging's meal programs. Members enjoyed treats, reviewed the monthly newsletter, cloverbuds worked on coloring sheets, and the older teens met to discuss potential leadership positions for the club. Everyone was encouraged to find community service projects for the next several weeks which will be shared at our January meeting. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!
- ✔ **Evergreen** - For our November meeting, just the club officers were in attendance. We planned our spaghetti supper fundraiser, which will be February 7 at 5:30 PM. We also planned for the year ahead.
- ✔ **Western Spurs** - We have a lot of community events on our way! We will be decorating doors at Rosebush Manor on December 6 and our club will be working at TSC for the Paper Clover Campaign on December 5.

## Livestock Weigh-In Dates

**Beef Weigh-In**  
December 13, 2025

**Swine Weigh-In**  
May 3, 2026  
*\*\*Swine change - maximum weight is now 330 lbs.*

**Dairy Feeder Weigh-In**  
March 21, 2026

**Sheep Weigh-In**  
May 9, 2026

## 4-H Capitol Experience

Save the dates: March 15-17 in Lansing

For youth in 9th grade to age 19. Contact Liz ([antveli3@msu.edu](mailto:antveli3@msu.edu)) for more information or visit: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience)

## Seeking Teen 4-H Council Representatives

### What is the Isabella County 4-H Council?

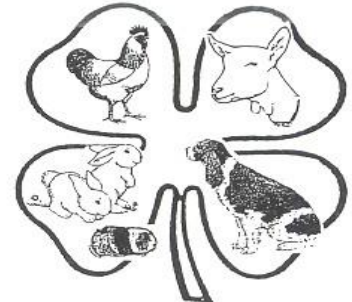
The 4-H Council is the main decision-making body for the county 4-H program. It is responsible for working with the paid staff to support county 4-H program planning, administration and policy making. Monthly meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and are open to all 4-H leaders and interested people.

Link to Teen Representative application:

[http://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella\\_county\\_4\\_h/newsletters-and-forms](http://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/newsletters-and-forms)

## Small Animal News

- ✔ If you sold a rabbit/poultry/goat at the fair, **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 2026 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 2026 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](https://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/newsletters-and-forms)



## Isabella County Fair Board Update

The Isabella County Fair Board recently held its Annual Meeting, during which elections were conducted for both board membership and officer positions. We are pleased to announce the election of two new Fair Board members: Wendy Oswald and Ben Browning. Their commitment to community service and youth development will be valuable assets to the Board.

In addition, the following individuals were elected to serve as officers and board members for the upcoming term:

- Steve Recker – President
- Rod Dent – Vice President
- Pat Travis – Treasurer
- Amy Vogel – Secretary
- Deb Acker – Board Member
- Ed Lynch – Board Member
- Jerry McDonald – Board Member
- Brianna Moeggenborg – Board Member

**Role of the Fair Board** - The Isabella County Fair Board is responsible for the governance, oversight, and long-term planning of the Isabella County Fair and its grounds. Key responsibilities of the Board include:

- Managing the overall operations and logistics of the annual county fair
- Overseeing fairgrounds facilities, maintenance, and improvements
- Ensuring compliance with policies, regulations, and contractual obligations
- Collaborating with 4-H, FFA, and community organizations to support youth educational opportunities
- Providing strategic financial stewardship to sustain and enhance fair programming
- Maintaining a safe, organized, and positive environment for exhibitors, volunteers, and the public

The continuing dedication of the Fair Board ensures that the Isabella County Fair remains a strong and meaningful tradition for our youth and community. We extend our appreciation to both the newly elected and returning members for their service.

## Save The Date - State Rabbit & Cavy Show

Saturday, January 24

Farm Bureau Livestock Pavilion at Michigan State University in East Lansing

New this year is **Rabbit Hopping** and returning will be showmanship, breed identification, skillathon, educational display and photography contests. Again this year we will also have educational sessions offered throughout the day.

Youth participants can exhibit their rabbit and/or cavy and compete in exciting contests:

- Showmanship (*Pre-registration required by January 14, 2026*)
- Breed Identification
- Photography
- Skillathon
- Educational Displays
- NEW this year: Rabbit Hopping!

Register at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-rabbit-and-cavy-expo>





# 4-H WINTERFEST FEBRUARY 7-8 2026



**LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE - HERSEY, MI**

**COST: \$120 FOR 4-H MEMBERS**

**REGISTER TODAY: <https://4hwinterfest2026.4honline.com>**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

Youth who attend 4-H Winterfest will spend two days learning about team building and different project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Winterfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Eagle Village in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands-on sessions.

Workshop 1 - Saturday	Workshops- Sunday	
	Workshop #2	Workshop #3
Amaze Your Friends With Magic	Cat Curiosity	Cat Curiosity
Launch into Science	Lego Science	Lego Science
Broom Ball	Paper to Pulp	Paper to Pulp
Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts	Stop Motion Animation	Stop Motion Animation
Crafts Around the World: North America	It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping	It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping
Ice Dyeing		

**WORKSHOP 1 DESCRIPTION:**

**Amaze Your Friends With Magic-** Come and learn several easy magic tricks that will amaze your friends and family.

**Launch into Science-**Get ready to build, launch & learn! Participants will dive into hands-on STEM challenges - including designing & testing their very own marshmallow catapult. From creative problem solving to engineering fun, this session will spark curiosity & teamwork while showing how science & innovation come to life!

**Broom Ball-** Learn the skill and techniques to broom ball. Have fun outdoors on the ice challenge your coordination and teamwork to score the most goals!

**Crafts Around the World: North America** -Enjoy and be introduced to a simple cultural traditional craft from North America. We will learn how to make the simple craft of "Guatemalan Worry Dolls" and having fun creating as we learn about the culture and the country.

**Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts-** A hands-on session using basic tools to create and personalize leather goods like bracelets, book markers, and coasters and craft a dazzling suncatcher using pony beads and crystals for an instant touch of sparkle wherever it hangs.

**Ice Dyeing-** Discover the science behind stunning, and surprising, designs when colors split. You'll explore how melting ice and dye interact, creating vibrant patterns while learning about chemistry and color theory in action. This session blends art and science for a colorful experiment you can wear or share!

**WORKSHOP 2& 3 DESCRIPTION:**

**Cat Curiosity-** Ever wanted to learn about cat showmanship? Fun facts about our fancy furry friends? Want to pet one up close and personal? Well, here's your chance! Join us for 4-H related activities and information regarding cat showmanship at the county fair level. We will have hands-on demonstrations and even have a live cat to examine. Please be allergy aware!!

**Lego Science-** Use Legos to answer science questions such as: Can you building a hurricane-proof building? How do wrecking balls work? and How many Lego can you balance off one brick?

**Paper to Pulp-** Get creative from start to finish! In this session you will make your own paper, design a custom journal & learn simple journaling techniques. Have fun, reflect, create & express yourself one page at a time!

**Stop Motion Animation-**Bring your ideas to life by transforming everyday objects into exciting stories. You'll design, snap, and edit your own stop motion mini movies using creativity and digital tools. This session combines science, technology, and creativity to show how innovation moves—literally—frame by frame!

**It's a Wrap!** Jewelry wire wrapping-Enjoy and be introduced to the art of jewelry wire wrapping. You will learn the basics and wrap special stones of Michigan, creating necklaces, keychains, or whatever your creative minds discover and make.





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Thriving Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

### November 28 – December 14: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

*Local Tractor Supply Co.*

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign>

### December 2: Giving Tuesday

*Online*

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/>

### December 9: 4-H Wild Spartans

*Online*

Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.

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

### December 13: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah

*Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland*

Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8.!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah>

### December 20: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway

*Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland*

Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas>







# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory [reporting guidelines](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) ([www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil\\_rights\\_diversity\\_multiculturalism/civil\\_rights\\_compliance](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance)) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.
2. Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file [DHS-3200](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) (available at [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters)) within 72 hours.
3. All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at [ocr.isr@msu.edu](mailto:ocr.isr@msu.edu).
4. Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.

## Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!



**Michigan Shop 4-H Store:** Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store! Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>.

**My Pottery Place:** Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at [mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/](http://mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/).

**Mickman Brothers:** Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at [4hwreaths.com](http://4hwreaths.com) will benefit 4-H.

**Twisted X:** Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at [twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection](http://twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection).

**Georgia Boot:** Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at [georgiaboot.com](http://georgiaboot.com).

## Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos.

View the updated manual at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual>

## ***Coordinator's Corner – December 2025***

November is a month that always makes me pause and reflect on the many blessings in my life. I'm thankful for my family who encourages me, my wonderful friends who support me, and the job I am truly passionate about—coordinating 4-H in this amazing county. Every day, I get to work with youth, volunteers, families, and community partners who care deeply about helping young people grow. It is an honor to serve in a role where I witness confidence being built, sparks being discovered, and leadership taking shape.

One thing I want to highlight this month is the importance of youth voice. Our young people are not just participants—they are leaders who deserve to be heard. Their ideas, experiences, and perspectives matter. 4-H Council is one of the strongest places for teens to use their voice and help shape the future of Isabella County 4-H. If teens want to make the best even better, this is where they can do so. We understand that teens are busy with sports and school activities, and all we ask for is communication. We will always work with you. After all, 4-H is about YOUth, and the more voices we have at the table, the stronger our program becomes.

This month also brought exciting conversations about expanding youth opportunities. Michigan 4-H offers statewide experiences that help youth grow, explore new interests, and build lifelong skills. One of these is 4-H Capitol Experience, open to youth in 9th grade through age 19. Participants do not need to be current 4-H members, but they will enroll in 4-H Online after registration. Youth select an issue group based on their interests, which is led by teen facilitators and provides opportunities to meet peers from across the state and discuss meaningful topics. Throughout the experience, youth meet elected officials, hear from policy experts in a variety of fields, learn from young changemakers, and explore issues important to Michigan youth.

Youth ages 8-12 year olds may also enjoy attending 4-H Winterfest, a two-day overnight camp at Eagle Village focused on teamwork, hands-on learning, and exploring new project areas. Participants engage in interactive sessions, learn how to take their personal best and make it better, build positive relationships with adults and peers, develop important life skills, and gain personal independence and confidence in trying new things.

I also want to take a moment to highlight how important our Tractor Supply Clover Campaign funds and our Isabella County 4-H Endowment Fund are to this community. These funds directly support youth scholarships and help cover costs for statewide experiences like Capitol Experience, Exploration Days, and Winterfest. If you ever worry that your family may not be able to afford one of these opportunities, please know that you are not alone—and that is exactly why these funds exist. We never want finances to be the reason a young person misses out on life-changing experiences. These funds help ensure that every youth has the chance to explore, learn, and grow, no matter their situation.

These statewide programs offer youth unique chances to learn, lead, and discover their passions. They help young people grow into confident, capable leaders who are ready to take on new challenges. As we move into the holiday season, I want to thank each member of our 4-H community—youth, parents, volunteers, and partners—for your support, your enthusiasm, and your dedication to making Isabella County 4-H a place where young people truly thrive. I am grateful for everything we have accomplished together, and I look forward to all we will continue to build in the months ahead.

Happy holidays!



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# **SAVE THE DATES**

**TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign**  
November 28 - December 14

**Beef Weigh-In**  
December 13, 2025

**Dairy Feeder Weigh-In**  
March 21, 2026

**Swine Weigh-In**  
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**

December 2	Horse Leaders @ Marantha Baptist Church	6:30 PM
13	Beef Weigh-in @ Fairgrounds	9 - 11 AM
Dec 24 - Jan 2	Office Closed	

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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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