



# CLOVER CHRONICLES

December 2020

Isabella County

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**WISHING  
EVERYONE  
A VERY HAPPY  
& SAFE HOLIDAY  
SEASON!!!**



Protected Under  
18 U.S.C. 707

## Attention Teens - Teen representatives are needed on 4-H Council

**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. The Council is charged with keeping track of “the big picture” for our county 4-H program. It assists with volunteer recruitment, 4-H awareness building, and it oversees things such as member and volunteer recognition and the county award program. Monthly meetings (the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month) are held virtually via Zoom at this time and are open to all 4-H leaders and interested people.

Link to 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)

## Isabella County 4-H STEAM Clubs

All Isabella County youth, ages 5-19, are welcome to join and participate in Isabella County 4-H STEAM Clubs. Current 4-H members are welcome to participate and we are always happy to welcome new youth!! As our current COVID precautions prevent us from meeting face-to-face, we are offering online activities and learning resources as well as outdoor and in-home challenges and activities. Club topics are based on member interests, but current options will include Winter Gardening, 'Tis the Season, and Zooming Among Us! If you are interested in more information, contact Mary Lee Humphreys, Isabella County STEAM Club Coordinator [humph186@msu.edu](mailto:humph186@msu.edu).

## “Covid Creations” Project of the Month

*Theme for December: make a favorite holiday recipe*

The Isabella County 4-H Council wants to see the ingenuity of our youth during these challenging times! We are offering a “Covid Creations” project of the month for youth to create a month in advance to show off their skills and creations. During the month of December, youth who wish to participate will create a bird feeder and provide a picture of the project and themselves and a few sentences describing something they learned while completing the project. December 18 is the deadline for pictures to be submitted to Kristi ([schrei61@msu.edu](mailto:schrei61@msu.edu) or 989-330-5131) and submissions will be published in the January Clover Chronicles. Please submit your name, age and name of club.



## Virtual Cooking Series

“Cooking with Kristi” will be launching on January 4! Six delicious and innovative recipes will be featured, keep watching your emails for registration information.

## CLUB CORNER

**Aim High** - At our November Zoom meeting we shared community service project ideas - some that members/families are already doing, others they plan to do. Everyone was encouraged to continue working on projects so whether 2021 fair is in person or virtual, they will be ready.

**Canine Clovers** - Our club welcomed new members and their dogs this month. We also introduced a Canine Bingo game that encourages working with your dog, caring for your dog and reviewing showmanship skills.

**Clover Kids** - One of our families raked leaves for an elderly lady in the Shepherd area.

**Evergreen** - We met again virtually and voted to participate as a group in a virtual community service project together. We will be collecting items for the Animal Shelter and for soldier care packages. We have a contactless drop-off point and hope to be able to still bless our community even though we must be apart.

**Lincoln Center** - We adopted a family in need for Christmas, a single mom with 3 kids. We bought gifts for them all plus a tree, bulbs and wrapping paper.

**Retrograde Rhapsody** - The theme for our November meeting was Meet The Pets. Each member introduced the club to their pets with a quick bio and then answered questions from their fellow club members. It was fun to learn about the pets, and it was a bonus to Zoom tour the Retrograde Rhapsody households in search of pets. We met an umbrella cockatoo that says mama and a lot of interesting cats and dogs, including a cat who survived FIP and a dog who survived parvovirus. After we met the pets, we played an online strategy game together.

## Attention Administrative Leaders

With clubs still not able to meet in a face to face format, Kristi is more than happy to assist you with virtual club meetings and meeting set-ups, and she would love to attend as well! With this virtual "new norm", one of the benefits is that we are able to obtain more guest speakers and educators who are now more easily able to participate in meetings because they can avoid traveling from distances. If you have topics of interest, please reach out to Kristi ([schrei61@msu.edu](mailto:schrei61@msu.edu) or 989-330-5131) and she will contact or connect you with a guest speaker for a club activity.

## Fun Learning Links Resource Page

Be sure to check out our **NEW Fun Learning Links** page for online educational opportunities! Lots of great learning opportunities for families or leaders to use as a learning piece for virtual meetings with their clubs. [https://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella\\_county\\_4\\_h/fun-learning-links](https://www.canr.msu.edu/isabella/isabella_county_4_h/fun-learning-links)

## 4-H Sooper Yooper Goosechase Challenge

We are happy that Isabella County 4-H'er Hannah Forsythe participated in this virtual program, the Sooper Yooper Challenge!

## Volunteer Central Update

### **\*\*Attention 4-H Volunteer Leaders\*\***

If you haven't received an email from VC yet, please check your spam folder. You should have all received emails. Please make sure to access your profile and respond to emails that you receive from VC.

Below are some directions/tip sheets that will assist you with completing the requirements to continue in your valued role as a 4-H volunteer for Isabella County.

[Annual Compliance Steps](#)

[Volunteer Central Screen Shots](#)

## Art Work Contest

The Isabella County 4-H Council is promoting an artwork contest for youth. This is for original artwork (not photography). Theme for December will be Happy New Year 2021. The artwork must be in keeping with the theme and can be done in any medium. Artwork must be submitted to Kristi ([schrei61@msu.edu](mailto:schrei61@msu.edu) or 989-330-5131) by December 18. 4-H Council will vote on the pictures submitted (artwork and artist must both be in the picture) and the winner will have their artwork featured in the January Clover Chronicles. Please include your name, age and name of club.



**JOIN US ONLINE**

# **SUCCESS AND SAFETY ON VOLUNTEER- LED VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

**December 2 | 12:30 pm EST**

**Register Here:**

**<https://bit.ly/361FZkN>**

**OR**

**December 14 | 3 pm EST**

**Register Here:**

**<https://bit.ly/2l4yC42>**



**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Extension**

**MSU Extension Volunteers - with more virtual programs and meetings taking place, have you considered how you are keeping youth and adult participants safe and creating a positive learning environment? Attend this program and learn about best practices and strategies to use when programming virtually with youth and adults. We will cover important points to remember and resources to help you in your role.**

**To register:**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> - <https://bit.ly/361FZkN>**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> - <https://bit.ly/2l4yC42>**

There are many uses for the projects in the Holiday Craft Kits - youth can give them as gifts, decorations at home, Fair projects, and the list goes on! More details and registration can be found at:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/holidaycraftkit/>



# *Holiday Craft Kits*

OPEN TO YOUTH AGE 5 TO 19  
COST: \$5/KIT - MAILED DIRECTLY TO YOUR HOME!  
REGISTER BY DECEMBER 4 AT  
[HTTPS://EVENTS.ANR.MSU.EDU/HOLIDAYCRAFTKIT/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/holidaycraftkit/)



KITS INCLUDE:  
WOODEN BEAD ORNAMENT  
REINDEER PROJECTS  
RUSTIC BEAD TREE  
SURPRISE BONUS CRAFT & MORE!

SPONSORED BY: CLARE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL, 4-H PARTICIPATION  
FEE FUND & ROOFTOP LANDING REINDEER FARM





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Connect with  
youth from across  
the globe!**



Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid-April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY).

## 4-H Events and Workshops

December 1: 4-H Giving Tuesday

*Everywhere*

Help grow a county 4-H endowment in your area and join the #GivingTuesday movement. Consider making a donation to grow funds that support 4-H youth today and in the future.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-giving-tuesday>

December 2: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs

*Zoom*

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-on-volunteer-led-programs-december-2nd>

December 7: Flour Tortilla Making 101

*Zoom*

Join in making tortillas — a staple in Mexican cooking. In this class, tortillas will be used as an appetizer, entrée, dessert or stand alone ingredient.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/flour-tortilla-making-101-dec-7>

December 8: Wild Spartans Series

*Zoom*

Join 4-H staff as we meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. December's event will explore invasive species with MSU researcher Taylor Haas.

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

December 8: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs

*Zoom*

MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-in-virtual-volunteer-led-programs>

December 19: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Holiday Scones

*Zoom*

Join 4-H in the Kitchen Live for a special holiday episode! Learn how to make a batch of eggnog scones—perfect for any holiday feast — with special guest Ruth Myers.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-eggnog-scones>

## Save the Date!

February 19-21, 2021: Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration

*Online*

The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration will be going virtual this year! Adult and teen 4-H leaders are encouraged to join this exciting online event to learn new ideas for working virtually with youth in the areas of visual and performing arts, crafts, sewing, clothing and textile projects. Stay tuned for registration information!

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>.

## STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

### Virtual showcase and auction success



When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual

learning showcases and auctions provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU.

Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- \$1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions



"We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H'ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them," said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension's state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. "We're also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation."

Participating youth also had positive feedback:



- "The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!"
- "Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can't thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can't thank you enough."

**Support  
Michigan  
4-H with holiday  
shopping!**



Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997>.

Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (<https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0>) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (<http://www.joann.com/4-h/>) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.



# CASTING CALL

PICTURE YOURSELF HERE



## My Why A Volunteer Video Project

We are looking for 4-H volunteers to highlight in a promotional video to be used to recruit more volunteers. We know you have what it takes to help us let others know about the value and meaning of being a 4-H volunteer, and we want to put you in the spotlight for all that you do!

### I volunteer:

- ☒ As a club leader
- ☒ On a local 4-H council
- ☒ At camp
- ☒ For special events

### Because:

- ☒ I'm a parent
- ☒ To make connections
- ☒ To leave a legacy
- ☒ I want to make a difference in my community

You will be interviewed (virtually) by your local program coordinator asking you a short series of questions about why you volunteer for 4-H. Your interview will be edited together with other volunteer videos for a short promotional video to be shared on social media. MSU Extension will mail a kit to you with materials you will need to create a studio in your own home! We will also provide technical assistance and direction. When done with the kit, just drop it off at your local MSU Extension office. We plan to make this process very easy and user-friendly and volunteers who participate will be provided more specific information along with tips and tricks for recording an interview. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact **Kristi Schreiber** at [schrei61@msu.edu](mailto:schrei61@msu.edu) or **989-330-5131**.



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200 N. Main Street  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 317-4079  
Fax: (989) 773-1622

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

## **Get Text Reminders**

To receive reminder text messages (via Remind App) with important dates and times of Isabella County 4-H events:

Text “@6c82ek6” to “81010”

**LIKE** our Isabella County 4-H Facebook page to stay up to date on all the latest news and events:



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

## **THANK YOU 4-H Members, Leaders, Families, Volunteers, & Supporters!**

As we begin the holiday season, we just want to take a moment to express our thanks and gratitude for everything you do to help support 4-H in Isabella County!

We are fortunate to have a strong county 4-H program and because of your efforts, many benefit.

Your energy and commitment is greatly appreciated!!



## **\*\*NEW\*\* Isabella County Plat Books**

New Plat Books will be available soon! Cost for each book will be \$30 and can be purchased at the Extension office, Register of Deeds, Jay's Sporting Goods, Farm Service Agency, and Farwell Trading Post.

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*"Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the MSU Extension office at (989) 317-4079 at least 5 days prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this time will be met when possible."*

**Kristi Schreiber, 4-H Program Coordinator**  
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