



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, 2023. For 2023, Cloverbuds will have the opportunity to do still exhibits and to show a rabbit, dog, pig, goat, sheep, dairy feeder steer, and/or horse at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. Please refer to the Fair Premium 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. 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 member. 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.

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 rabbit, dog, or horse with an adult over the age of 18, and the animal must belong to the Cloverbud or adult who is assisting.

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.

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 17, 2023, 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, **Heather Teadt**.
- All general guidelines regarding condition of animals will be followed as printed in the 2023 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.



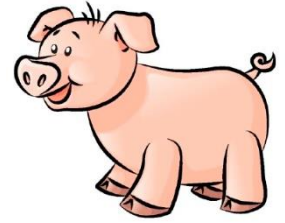
DOGS:

- 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 16, 2023. 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 2023 St. Joseph County 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 Dog exhibitors.



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.
- All general guidelines regarding the Swine Showmanship class will apply to Cloverbuds as printed in the St. Joseph County 4-H 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 18, 2023.
- 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**.



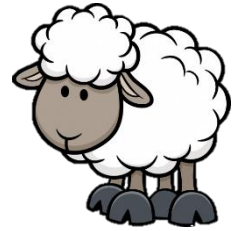
GOATS:

- 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 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 18, 2023.
- 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, **Jessica Wood**.



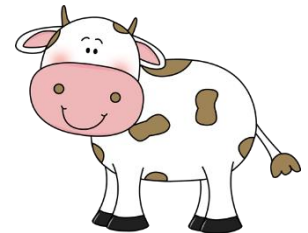
SHEEP:

- 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 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 19, 2023.
- 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**.



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 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 19, 2023.
- 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**.



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, 2023. For driving, Cloverbud must be approved by the driving specialty leader, **Bobbi Jo Newland** and turned in by August 1, 2023.
- 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)



Showmanship:

- ★ There will be one (1) Cloverbud showmanship class held. This class will take place immediately after the champion showmanship class on Sunday, September 17, 2023.
- ★ In lead line showmanship, the Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer stand close enough to assist the Cloverbud if an issue arises.
- ★ Cloverbuds will complete the pattern of walk to the judge, set up for inspection, complete a 180 degree turn and trot back to line. It is our hope that by knowing the pattern in advance, the Cloverbud will feel confident and successful in the ring.
- ★ Cloverbud horse participants will be required to wear an ASTM- or SEI- approved helmet and are required to follow the 4-H guidelines.

Equitation:

- ★ There will be one (1) Cloverbud equitation class held. This class will take place immediately after the 4-H walk/trot equitation class.
- ★ Lead line equitation may be ridden in English, Western, or Gymkhana attire.
- ★ The class will walk both directions and must back up. The back can be done either on the right or left side.
- ★ For the equitation class, the Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer stand close enough to assist the Cloverbud if an issue arises.
- ★ Cloverbud horse participants will be required to wear an ASTM- or SEI- approved helmet and are required to follow the 4-H guidelines.

Gymkhana:

- ★ There will be three (3) Cloverbud gymkhana classes. These will take place as the first classes prior to the 4-H gymkhana classes on Saturday, September 23, 2023.
- ★ For the Gymkhana class, the Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer stand close enough to assist the Cloverbud if an issue arises.
- ★ Exhibitors may walk or trot upon approval of their leader or the Cloverbud specialty leader.
- ★ Cloverbud horse participants will be required to wear an ASTM- or SEI- approved helmet and are required to follow the 4-H guidelines for gymkhana attire and equipment.