



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Edwards County 4-H Clover Chatter

March 2024



**To Make the Best
BETTER**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

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University of Illinois- U.S. Department of Agriculture—Local Extension Councils Cooperating University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Edwards County Extension office at 618.445.2934. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

March

1 4-H Project Deadline

12 Cake Decorating Workshop 4:00 pm @ ECHS Home Ec. Room

12 Informational Robotics Mtg. 5:00 pm @ Bone Gap Christian Church

12 Cardinals Mtg, 6:30 pm, Christian Church

14 Pi Day, deliver a pie to a public servant

15 Cooking 101 4th session @ Farm Bureau 2:00-4:00 pm

16 Cemetery Clean-Up with EC Young Leaders

16 Little Wabash Ramblers Meeting

19 Blue Ribbon YQCA training @ 5:30 pm, COUNTRY Financial Hall

19 Blue Ribbon Mtg. at COUNTRY Financial Hall 6:30 p.m.

20 Yankees Mtg. at WS Moravian Church 7:00 pm

25 Crochet Workshop @ Farm Bureau, 4:00-6:00 pm

27 Ellery Panthers Mtg., 6:00 pm at Little Prairie Church

Volunteer Appreciation Month

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. We couldn't make it without the help of our wonderful volunteers. Take time and thank them for all they do for our 4-H program.



I PLEDGE ... MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING

Eclipse 4-H Camping Opportunity!

Do you want to witness the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024? Do you need a camping spot and would also like to support 4-H? We have you covered! The Franklin County Fairgrounds is right in the path of the Solar Eclipse. Individuals can book an RV spot, open-air tent spot, or covered tent spot, with all proceeds going to Franklin County 4-H. Campers can check in as early as noon on Saturday, April 6, and stay through Tuesday, April 9. Check out more details on the [event website](#).

4-H Hooks Us Together Fishing Tournament is back!

Go fish! The 2024 Illinois 4-H Hooks Us Together Fishing Tournament is on with April through June challenges!

Prizes Sponsored By: Steve Moffitt, 4-H Fish Camp All-Star Volunteer

Eligibility and Rules: Open to all 4-H members from Illinois, but to win prizes these requirements must be met:

1. Must be a current year Illinois 4-H member and enrolled in a 4-H Sport Fishing Project.
2. All [Illinois Department of Natural Resources fishing regulations](#) must be followed

You will need a smart phone to take a picture of your catch (use this link once the tournament opens in April: go.illinois.edu/fish4H) In the picture, you must clearly show the length of the fish in inches (take a picture of the fish with a tape measure for proof).

Gift certificate prizes will be awarded for the longest fish each month! The dates are as follows:

- April 1-30, Crappie
- May 1 – 31, Largemouth Bass
- June 1-30, Channel Catfish

I PLEDGE ... MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY

Support 4-H this spring!

Georgia Boot Trailblazers Contest

Want to show off your 4-H project? Apply for the 2024 Georgia Boot Trailblazer Contest. Georgia Boot is looking for four enthusiastic 4H'ers to share their 2024 project journeys with the Georgia Boot audience. Don't miss this chance to win a prize package valued at \$500! Learn more on the [contest website](#).

JOANN Point of Sale Campaign

Erupt your creative 4-H spark with JOANN AND help support 4-H. Wherever your imagination takes you, let our amazing partners at JOANN help. You can support 4-H'ers with a trip to JOANN by donating at the register March 3 - May 4.

Also, **stay tuned for the Tractor Supply Spring Paper Clover Campaign, happening April 24 - May 5, and two new 4-H boot styles from BOGS Footwear that will be available this spring!** The new styles include a women's casual boot and a new kids' rainboot design!

Celebrate Ag Week!



Let's celebrate American agriculture bringing everyone to the table during Ag Week 2024 held March 17-24! Need help getting started? Check out our:

[Ag Week Day-By-Day Guide](#)

[Ag Week Service BINGO](#)

[Ag Day Recipe Challenge](#)

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA). ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society. Some of our ideas are sourced from: www.agday.org, plus check out more ideas there!

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I PLEDGE ... MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE



Grab the reins on the Illinois 4-H Livestock Ambassador Team ~ team applications are open!

Do you have a passion for Animal Sciences? The Livestock Ambassador Team might be for you! Become a role model and advocate for the livestock industry. On this team you'll help with ...

- Statewide Junior Livestock Conferences
- Regional Livestock Clinics
- Livestock Skillathons
- Assisting with State 4-H Livestock Events
- Advocating for the livestock industry
- Serving on agricultural youth boards (YEA, Junior Association, State Fair)
- Involvement State Fair activities (Commodity Carnival, Governor's Auction, Ag Day, Tours, etc.)

Applications will close March 31. Apply through this link: go.illinois.edu/LATApply

National Day of Service is Saturday, April 27

4-H members and clubs continue to demonstrate they are *True Leaders in Service*, as they work to support both their personal and club goals of making a difference in their community while focusing on the 4th “H” and pledging their HANDS to larger service!

Please register your event on the [Illinois 4-H Community Service page of the website](#). Once your event is over you can also report what you accomplished through your service outreach and upload photos which can be highlighted through the Illinois 4-H Social Media channels!

Please note – this site is open year-round so if you do multiple projects throughout the year, please continue to share that information both on the registration side and on the reporting side. The impact made by individual 4-H members and by clubs in their communities is valuable. It makes Illinois communities stronger; it helps support unity among community members; and it provides valuable support to those in need.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!
Search “Edwards County 4-H” and of course Like

2024 Spring Volunteer & Teen Leader/Officer Learning Experiences Available!

The Illinois 4-H Volunteerism Work Group is excited to bring you multiple opportunities this Spring for you to participate in Volunteer Training and Café Conversations! This is a great opportunity for you to strengthen your skills as a volunteer; gain a greater understanding of how to support positive learning experiences for youth; and to engage in conversations with volunteers across the State. We also see this as a great learning opportunity to encourage teens serving in leadership roles and/or as 4-H Club Officers to participate in since many of the topics provide content that will support them in their leadership roles. Encourage you teens to register!

Use the unique link provided with each Volunteer & Teen Leader/Club Officer learning experience to register in Zsuite – once you sign it you should be taken directly to the event registration page!

- Thursday, March 21: 7 - 8:15 PM

Making Meetings Fun by Integrating Project Learning into the Experience! – Virtual 4-H Café Conversation Registration Link: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/26467>

- Thursday, April 18: 7 - 8:15 PM

Stick to the Code! The Code of Conduct Creates an Environment Where Youth Thrive! – Virtual 4-H Volunteer Training Registration Link: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/26465>

- Thursday, May 9: 7 – 8:15 PM

School's Out for the Summer – Share Strategies to Keep Kids Engaged!- Virtual 4-H Café Conversation Registration Link: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/26468>

- Thursday, June 6: 7 - 8:15 PM

Sneak Peek at the New Extension Volunteer Website & Moodle Course Training Opportunities! – Virtual 4-H Volunteer Training Registration Link: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/26466>

Thank you to all the members and families that completed enrollments and had their projects picked by March 1.

★ 21st Annual ★
4-H DAY
with the
Cardinals

TICKET ONLY
\$30
*All sales final
T-SHIRT INCLUDED!



SATURDAY
18
MAY

CARDINALS



RED SOX

4-H members, alumni, family, and friends are invited to join University of Illinois Extension in partnership with University of Missouri Extension for a (hopeful) Cardinal win against the Red Sox!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 29

- Participate in the parade on field prior to the game.
- Shirt included in ticket price.
- Additional raffle tickets available for \$1.00. 1st prize is to throw out the first pitch (4-H members only). Additional prizes include tickets to a future game and autographed baseballs (no exclusions for additional prizes.)

REGISTER HERE:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/events/4-h-day-with-the-cardinals-2024>

*Please note - groups that wish to sit together **MUST** submit **ONE** order.

TICKET/T-SHIRT QUESTIONS: Contact Rhonda Shafer at shaferr@missouri.edu

PARADE/RAFFLE QUESTIONS: Contact Dave Hileman at hilemand@missouri.edu



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
University of Illinois (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Local Extension Councils Cooperating University of Illinois
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Speech and Demonstration Contest

The Speech and Demonstration Contest was held Monday evening, February 19 at the Farm Bureau Community Room. We had 4 members participate: Gracie Fenton, Kelly Hinderliter, Alyssa Smith and Kamryn Trowbridge. They all did a great job on their speeches. Gracie Fenton and Alyssa Smith were selected as delegates to the State Contest in April.

New Members

We have many new members this year. We are very happy to have them join Edwards County 4-H!

Off-Premise Forms

If you are housing livestock off of your own premises, remember you must fill out an off-premise form and turn it in to the Extension office. You can find this form on our Extension website, ZSuite or contact the office.

New QAEC Training Site on Zsuite

QAEC training is a one time certification if a member is enrolled in cat, dog, horse, poultry, and rabbit projects. The training only needs to be completed once in a youth's lifetime. The new site is in the ZSuite system, which can be accessed at <https://4h.zsuite.org>. Youth must have a ZSuite account and be enrolled in 4-H to take the training. If you need to take the Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification training, watch your email and you will receive the step by step instructions on how to complete the training.

Cemetery Clean-Up

Information on the clean-up and where each club will be working will be coming out soon. Your leader will be contacting you to give you the information. Clean-up is Saturday, March 16th.

Leases on Animals

If you plan to lease an animal be sure to have a written agreement with both parties involved. Also, drop a copy by the Extension office. Anyone needing a basic lease form can find them on the Extension website, ZSuite or contact the office. State Fair will only accept lease papers on Horses and Dogs.

YQCA

A reminder that anyone taking a large livestock species, will need to complete the YQCA certification before showing. Register at <https://yqcaprogram.org> Watch for a training coming to your club!

4-H Changes

The 4-H Fair changes are in the newsletter again this month, in case, you overlooked it last month.

State Fair Entry Deadlines

- Junior Fair Livestock entries due July 1.
- Horses ownership, lease paper, photos and entries due June 1.

Beef Weigh-In

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Beef Weigh-In in February. The volunteers and members did a great job getting this completed in a timely manner. Thanks to Albion Stockyards for the use of their facilities.

Green Tree Program


We will be planting trees around the old Bone Gap School. More information coming soon.

2024 EDWARDS COUNTY 4-H FAIR CHANGES

There are a few changes that have been made this year, for the 4-H shows. We want to make members and families aware of these changes. All changes will be in the 2024 Project and Activity Book.

- General Project show will be held on Saturday, July 13th, starting at 8:00 a.m. This year the General Project show will be judged by clubs. Each club will get an assigned time to be at COUNTRY Financial Hall for judging. Exhibitors will need to arrive at least 30 minutes early to register their project (s) OR they may bring their projects on Friday, July 12th, between 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. to register and place them on the judging tables. Projects will be left after being judged. Judging of all clubs will be completed by 12:00. Public viewing will be held from 12:00-1:00 p.m. At 1:00 p.m. awards, pictures and project pick up will be held.
- There are some changes in the General Projects, all changes can be found in the Project and Activity Book. Members will need to read the guidelines, on each of the projects, they are enrolled in.
- Poultry show has been changed to Thursday, July 25th, at 5:30 p.m., at the 4-H arena.
- A change has been made in the classes of the Swine show. The purebred gilt classes will be omitted. If a member has a purebred gilt, they can enter them in the crossbred gilt class and will be shown by weight. The purebred barrows will still have the same classes. A Grand Champion Barrow will be selected from the purebred barrows and the market barrows.
- Auction will return to Thursday morning, August 1st, at 9:00 a.m.
- Auction Eligible Animals: This year if a member does not show a market animal, but they have another non - market Food Animal they showed in a 4-H show, members may put an animal, of any specie in the Auction. The non-market animals can only go through the auction one year, the only animal that can repeat selling in consecutive years is a Bucket Calf, the following year they could go through as a Steer. If you have a market animal(s) you must select one market animal to be sold at Auction. All animals going into the auction must have the appropriate records kept on those animals.
- Animals will be sold in the same order as before, small animals first, ending with swine. One change will be the order animals will sell for each specie. In the past we have started with the lowest placing and ending with the Grand Champion. This year the Grand Champion animal will sell first, Reserve Champion, highest placing to the lowest, then the Non- Market Animal(s), will be sold last in each specie.
- Animals can leave the fairgrounds after the Auction. Livestock pens and areas will need to be cleaned.






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Beginning Crochet Workshop
 Instructed by: Lesa Matthes and Tara Buerster

Monday, March 25, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 Edwards County Farm Bureau Basement

Illinois Extension



Register at <https://go.illinois.edu/Edwardscrocheting>



Community Service Opportunity

Donate baked goods for the Edwards County Senior Citizens cake walk happening during the Eclipse on the Bricks Sunday, April 7. If you are interested in donating, please call Donna Williams at 445-2017.

Here is a community service opportunity for our 4-H members. The Edwards County Senior Center is looking for people to donate baked goods for the cake walk during the Eclipse on the Bricks Sunday, April 7 on the square at the pagoda. They need items that do not require refrigeration. If you are interested in donating, please call Donna Williams at 445-2017.



Pie a Public Servant

Reach out to Aleya Bare if you need more information on this community service project. You can phone 618-445-7754.



Join us in this service project by taking a pie to a public servant on Pi day, March 14th.

Take the March "Health Rocks!" Challenge



Empower yourself to thrive in March with CLOVER by 4-H's exciting "Health Rocks!" challenge. Designed specifically for youth aged 13 and up, this program offers a unique blend of engaging activities, valuable skill development, and rewarding prizes.

Unleash your potential:

- Complete three core "Health Rocks!" activities focused on building a solid foundation for personal well-being.
- Expand your horizons with two additional activities chosen from a diverse selection focusing on healthy living, emotional wellness, or culinary exploration.
- Develop essential life skills such as decision-making, stress management, and healthy choices.

4-H Members who complete the challenge can count this as a Statewide Activity!

Participating is simple:

Register for the event [through Z Suite](#) beginning March

IF you do not have an account in [Z Suite](#) – [learn more here!](#)

1. Receive personalized instructions via email to embark on your "Health Rocks!" adventure.
2. Complete the chosen activities and share your experience.

Claim your well-deserved prizes from your local county 4-H office after April 19th.

Contact Susan Sloop ssloop@illinois.edu for more information.