



Deadlines:

Dec. 1 Re-enrollments

March 1 Enrollments

Events:

Dec. 9 Digital Ambassadors

Dec. 10 Mercer Leader Mtg.

Dec. 14 Gifts from the Heart

Dec. 16 Terracycling Program

Jan 25 Geneseo Livestock
Judging

Feb 1 Beef Weigh-in

Feb 22 4-H Academy

Feb. 22 & 23 Jr Leadership
Conference

EXCELLENCE



The Saddle Teens 4-H Club held their award ceremony during their November meeting. The awards recognized members for their achievements in the 2018-2019 year. In October, club members Reece Tschappat, Mariah Conaway, Lance Moore and Preston Moore hosted a booth at the Viola Methodist Church fall party. They gave away free prizes and had a game for kids to play.

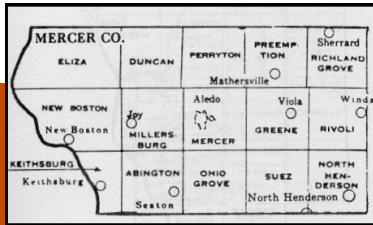


The purpose of this booth was to promote 4-H and get involved in the community. The kids that came to the party thought the booth was a big hit. --Submitted by Mariah Conaway



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NEWS & notes

Mercer



Congratulations to Mariah Conaway! Mariah received the President's Volunteer Service Award. The award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time in service to their communities and their country. Mariah, a member of the Saddle Teens, received a letter and certificate from President Trump to acknowledge her many service hours.

Hamlet Hand Helpers Submitted by Megan Gray



The Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club held a meeting on November 10th at Speer Funeral Home in Aledo. Pledges were led by Spencer Andresen. Roll call was taken by Secretary, Megan Gray. She then presented the secretary's report. Mikayla Monson gave the treasurer's report. Under old business, Megan Gray volunteered to be the reporter for our club, along with secretary. A donation was given to the Mercer County Food Pantry for the upcoming holiday season. Grave markers for the Veteran's Markers were purchased and a date has not yet been set in order to place those on the Sugar Grove Cemetery. Under new business, all members were reminded about the new rules for showing livestock and the ethics training. All re-enrollment forms are due, online, by December 1st. Our members set their meeting goals for the upcoming year. A discussion took place among the members regarding opportunities for community service with the upcoming holidays. It was decided to make decorations with the residents of Brookstone of Aledo. The meeting was adjourned. Following the meeting, Tracy Pestle presented the awards to our members and a pizza party was held for all their efforts.

Alexis All-Stars Report Submitted by Tyler Barrington

The Alexis All-Stars met on November 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Alexis Community Center. Sixteen members and two leaders were present. We distributed county awards from the previous year. We decided not to have a bake sale at the Alexis Christmas walk. We decided to sell Thrushwood Beef Sticks in the spring as a fundraiser and donate the money to charity. We voted to cancel our December meeting. Tyler Barrington gave a talk about the Communications: Public Presentations contest. We tied blankets to donate to children in foster care.

The Alexis All-Stars met on October 20, 2019. We elected new officers for this year. President Eryka Keeney, Vice President Evan Wynne, Secretary Ellie Robinson, Treasurer Dylan Cheline, and Reporter Tyler Barrington. We discussed the club's new Facebook account, which will be utilized for meeting announcements, cancellations, and reminders. Our club received second place in the county window display contest. We discussed how to raise money for flag markers for the veterans in Mercer County. Davin Shike gave a talk on how a three way electrical switch works. Reagan Shike gave a talk on how to make a scrapbook.

Mercer County Federation Report Submitted by Ayla Coulter

On the seventh of November we held our federation meeting. In this meeting we voted for the proceeds from the upcoming March 14 soup cook off to go to the Veteran's Markers project. We also discussed the Federation's November food drive. The donation boxes for the food drive will be placed at: In Aledo - Walmart, Mercer Market, American Legion and Grace E Free Church. In Viola - Morrison's Market and United Presbyterian Church. We also made owl boxes for the Citizen Scientists Barred Owl study. Next meeting is Dec. 6 at 6:30.



NEWS & notes

Rock Island County



Join the Magical Muggles for a workshop on Terracycling. The workshop will be led by Karen Neder. Karen runs a Terracycling program for Trinity Lutheran Church.

When: Monday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Program @ Bethel Wesley UMC
1201 13th Street, Moline

Following the program, the group will walk across the street to Trinity and do a craft project using recycled materials. All 4-H ages are welcome, but they ask that Cloverbud age youth have an adult with them.

Register on the Extension web site:
extension.illinois.edu/hmrs.

For more information about terracycling, visit:
www.terracycle.com/en-US/



Rural Go Getters Report Submitted by: Hannah Close

We started with our usual meeting. We had a talk by Elec and Wyatt Viager on winter squash. We voted on having our annual Christmas party. We decorated and filled our basket with donations for Thanksgiving. We also passed out awards to the whole group. Finally, we adjourned and ate treats provided by our President, Rachel, and her family.



Bryn Callahan received an Illinois State 4-H Award in the Community Service area at a banquet held in Champaign in October. He will be attending National 4-H Congress in Atlanta in November as part of his award win. He also received a State Emerald Level Experience award for his accomplishments during the 2018-2019 4-H Year. Emerald is the highest level awarded. Congratulations, Bryn!

Gifts From the Heart

Join us at the Milan Extension office on Saturday, December 14 for a morning of gift making. Youth of 4-H age are invited to attend the workshop from 9 a.m. to noon. During the workshop, they will be able to make and wrap their own gifts to give out during the holidays. Look for more information on our website or contact the office for more information.



NEWS & notes

Livestock Edition



UPDATE to Ethics Requirements

Youth enrolled in horses, cats, dogs, rabbits & poultry:

Requirement is still a one-time completion of the Quality Assurance & Ethics (QAEC) online training. That training is found here:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>

Youth enrolled in beef, sheep, swine, and goats:

New requirement is completion of the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. This training may be completed in two ways:

1. **Online** - The training can be completed online at a cost of \$12 per year. The online training also has a test-out option similar to the old youth PQA. Youth can test out of their age division, which will fulfill their ethics requirement until they enter the next age division. If you choose this option, beware that you will still have to pay the \$12 per year. For example, if you complete a test-out option that covers three years, it will charge you \$36. **Online training here: yqca.org.** Sign in using the 4-H Online log-in option.

2. **In Person** - We will offer 1 in-person training per county in the winter/spring. Cost of certification through this method is \$3, but it will only certify you for one year.

Note: This requirement only applies to youth planning to show a *live* animal at any show - county, state, regional or national. It does not apply to youth exhibiting a poster related to an animal.

Contact Jennifer or Tracy if you have questions.

Geneseo Livestock Judging Contest

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020

Where: Black Hawk East Ag Pavilion

Time: Registration 8:00-9:45 a.m.

Contest 10:00 a.m.

What: 3 Beef, 3 Swine, 2 Sheep, 1 Goat and 1 EPD class with 1 question class from 3 species.

Divisions: Junior (8th grade and under)
Senior (9th-12th)

Cost: \$20 if registered on or before January 20
\$25 after January 20

Contact: Brian Stahl at (309) 945-0347 or bstahl@dist229.org



Free Agriculture Classes

The Quad Cities Campus of Western Illinois is offering free agriculture classes for high school students. This fall, the class is AGRI 220 - Introduction to Agribusiness.

In the Spring, they will offer ANSC 112 - Introduction to Animal Science.

In this course, high school students will have the opportunity to learn the application of fundamental biological principles as related to the nutrition, reproduction, and management of livestock.

All classes are held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7-8:10 a.m.

For more information, contact Curtis Williams at 309-762-1495 or CM-Williams11@wiu.edu.



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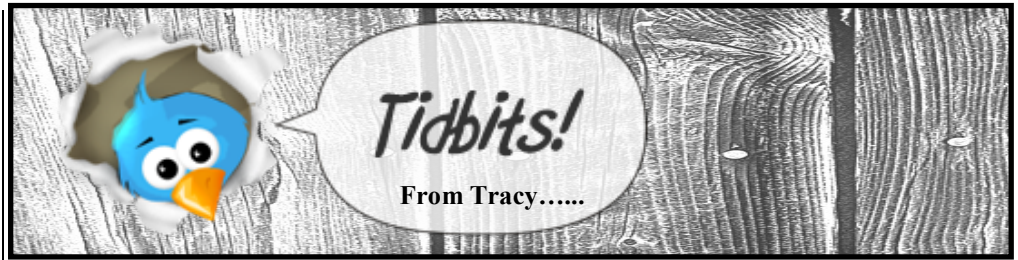
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Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
closed for lunch 12 -1 p.m.



Greetings!

Welcome to winter. There is nothing like snow in October to remind us that the holiday season will be here before long. As a reminder: if programs or events are cancelled due to weather, it will be announced via email and on media outlets like WRMJ.

Our offices are closed November 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving and December 24-January 1 for the Holiday break. Please take note that much of the staff will not return until January 6.

Please continue to re-enroll. If you run into problems, let us know. This is also a good time to invite a friend to join. There is a state-wide push to get new 4-H members in 2020. We can't reach that goal without your help promoting 4-H.

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving, and know that we are thankful for all our members, leaders, parents, volunteers, and community supporters.

Warmest regards,
Tracy & Jennifer



Find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandCounty4H>
<https://www.facebook.com/4HMercerCounty>
Find us on Twitter:
https://twitter.com/HMRS_Counties4H
HMRS Counties 4-H

State · County · Local Groups · United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating University of Illinois provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Programs and activities sponsored by University of Illinois Extension are open to anyone. If a special accommodation must be addressed in order for any individual to participate, please contact Jenny Garner at 309-756-9978 in advance of the event.