



MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAMILY

September

NEWS

Thank You!



Thank you to our summer help staff:

Kaitlyn Ruwald, Brianna Riesing, Macy Calloway, Samantha Juelfs, Addy Juelfs, Avery Cope & Emily Vogt, and intern, **Kylie Ketchum**, for helping to teach programs & camps, assisting with 4-H exhibitions, helping at the Fair Concession Stand, 4-H Shows, and so much more! Much appreciation also goes to our Extra Help Office Support, **Kathy Reifschneider**, for her help with fair tasks this summer!

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Office Hours:

Monday- Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch

Monroe County Office

901 Illinois Ave., PO Box 117
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-3434, 618-939-7708 Fax

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William Catalano

4-H Youth Educator

Emily Reece

4-H Program Coordinator

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Office Support Associate

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Visit our website:

web.extension.illinois.edu/mms

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Monroe County 4-H

University of Illinois Extension-
Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Unit

Follow us on Instagram:

[monroe_county_il_4h](https://www.instagram.com/monroe_county_il_4h)



AWARD APPLICATIONS

The 2026 **Monroe County Award Applications** are posted on our website:

https://go.illinois.edu/Monroe_AwardApp

and are due each year by **September 15** to your Club Leader or the Extension Office.

Please consider filling out Award Applications to highlight your 4-H accomplishments for the past 4-H year!

Recognition will be given at the 4-H Achievement Program on November 1.

Highly active members are also encouraged to complete the **State Award Applications** for state recognition:

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/participate/awards-scholarships/illinois-4-h-experience-award-individuals>

These are due by **October 1** to the Extension Office.

An Award Application Work Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. for any member who needs assistance with an application.

LIVESTOCK & HORSE RECORD BOOKS

All members are highly encouraged to fill out a 4-H Record Book for livestock and/or horse projects they are exhibiting at a 4-H Show.

It is REQUIRED to fill out 4-H Record Books for any livestock that members are selling at the Youth Livestock Auction.

Members must complete a livestock record book in the current year to be eligible to sell in the preceding year, except for new members or members not previously enrolled in that project.

The PDF versions of the books are available here: <https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord>
They may be filled in on your computer, or you may print them off and fill them in by hand (neatly).

The Instruction Guide is available here: https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord_Guide
It will help you through the process of filling out the book.

Books are due to your club leader or the Extension office by **September 15** for evaluation.



4-H Helps America Celebrate 250 Years



Thank you to everyone who walked to represent 4-H in the America 250 Celebration Parade in Waterloo on Saturday, July 4th!



SIDEWALK CLOVER FACELIFT



Many thanks to **Kayleigh and Stacie Luter** for updating the paint on the 4-H Clovers outside of the Extension office!



HARVEST NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

Harvest Night is scheduled for Saturday, **November 21**, at the Hecker Community Center. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations are needed for the live and silent auctions.

The committee is looking for 4-H members who may have a talent, such as a craft or service, that they could donate.

Please call the Extension office at 618-939-3434 to donate.





Butterfly Festival

Sunday, September 13, 2026

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Baebler Educational Farm: 4022 JJ RD Waterloo, IL

Family Fun- Educational Booths, Scavenger Hunts, Face Painting, Card Making... fun for all ages.

Vendors- Donut Den, Purple Petal Flower Farm, Eschmann Bread Basket, HCE, Post Oak Pottery, and Native Plants from Green Thumb Nursery

Pollinator Yoga- Connect with nature and learn different pollinator themed poses - 11:30, 12:00, 1:00

Pollinator Costume Contest- Dress like your favorite butterfly, bee, humming bird, etc. Judging - 12:45 @ back pavilion. Prizes!

Pollinator Story Time- 12:30, 1:30

Pollinator Balloon Art - 11:30-1:00

Sponsored by: Monroe County Extension and 4-H Education Foundation & University of Illinois Extension



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GEOLOGY HIKE

**Rescheduled from May*



Monroe County Outdoor Explorers

Guided walk and talk in nature for youth and adults of all ages!

Geology Hike

September 16, 6:00-7:00p.m.
Camp Vandeventer
3463 Trout Camp Rd., Waterloo



Register: go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersGeology

Bring a drink and appropriate shoes/clothing for **moderate** hiking.
*All youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



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Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



SPORTS NUTRITION



EAT TO COMPETE

Sports Nutrition Program for Teen Athletes and Their Parents

Does your athlete know what to eat before practice, after games, and on busy school days? Join Food and Nutrition Educator, Registered Dietitian, Kris Juelfs, to learn how proper nutrition can improve energy, strength, recovery and performance. We'll cover meal planning, hydration, protein supplements and common nutrition myths.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

6-7:30 pm

Monroe County Annex

901 Illinois Ave, Waterloo

For reasonable accommodations,
call (618) 939-3434.

REGISTER TODAY!

go.illinois.edu/EatToCompeteProgram



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YOUTH COOKING SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH COOKING SCHOOL 2026



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We are happy to announce that we had another successful year of Youth Cooking School. We could not do it without the wonderful support of our community! It takes people and organizations like you to provide these educational opportunities for our youth!

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PARTICIPANTS ages 5-14



Participants learned basic cooking skills, how to follow a recipe, food safety, healthy eating tips and about foods from around the world.

Thank you to our host sites:

- Monroe County Annex
- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Waterloo
- Madison County Farm Bureau
- Turkey Hill Grange in Belleville

THANK YOU DONORS!

A special thank you to:

- Monroe County Pork Producers
- Monroe County Farm Bureau-Women's Committee
- Monroe County Home and Community Education
- Madison County Home and Community Education
- Pam Jacobs



YOUTH COOKING SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



EXTENSION STAFF

This year's program "Cooking Around the World," was developed and taught by University of Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator, Kris Juelfs, with assistance from program coordinator Brianna Riesing and summer help staff: Kaitlyn Ruwald, Macy Calloway, Sam Juelfs, Addy Juelfs, Emily Vogt and Avery Cope.



Krepes Sokolatas (Greek Chocolate Crepes)

INGREDIENTS

- nonstick cooking spray
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1-1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1 Tablespoon butter, melted
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 3-4 Tablespoons chocolate hazelnut spread
- 4 strawberries, sliced
- powdered sugar or whipped topping



DIRECTIONS

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Mix egg, milk, sugar, butter, and flour.
3. Heat skillet over medium heat.
4. Pour batter into sprayed skillet.
5. Cook, flip, and cook the other side.
6. Remove from heat.
7. Add hazelnut spread and strawberries.
8. Fold over and top with a sprinkle of powdered sugar and whipped topping.

Favorite



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Visit:
web.extension.illinois.edu/mms to learn
more about our programs.



4-H MOVE NIGHT: BRING A FRIEND!



4-H MOVIE NIGHT & Pumpkin Decorating!



Join us for a movie night featuring
the kid-friendly movie: *GROW*,
along with pumpkin decorating and snacks/drinks!

.....
October 2, 2026

Monroe County Fairgrounds-Fine Arts Building

6:30p.m. - Pumpkin Decorating, Socializing & Snacks/Drinks

7:15-9:00p.m. - Movie Time!

(Bring a lawn chair, beanbag chair, blanket or something comfortable to sit on if you'd like. Folding chairs are provided.)

.....
Open to youth ages 5-18 (by Sept. 1, 2026)

***You do not need to be a 4-H member to attend.**

Enrollment information will be available for potential new members.

Open to 50 participants. Register by Sept. 30.

<https://4h.zsuite.org/external-event-registration/59126>

[GROW \(2025\) | Official Website | Now Streaming on Angel](#)



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MONROE COUNTY FAIR



Thank You:

*Monroe County Fair Association,
Livestock Superintendents,
Youth Livestock Auction Buyers,
Waterloo Animal Hospital,
Club Leaders,
Parents, and all other supporters!*



MONROE COUNTY FAIR 4-H CONCESSION STAND

Thank you to **Oh Sugar Ice & Cream Shop, Walmart, Shelby's Automotive, Harrisonville Telephone Co., and State Bank of Waterloo** for their support of the stand!

BIG THANKS to **Amy Cope** and **Amy Halleran** for ensuring the Concession Stand runs smoothly, and to all **members, volunteers, and parents** for working shifts!



MONROE COUNTY MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Great job to the 9 exhibitors who participated in the 5th annual Master Showmanship Contest at the Monroe County Fair on July 21!

Congratulations to **Tessa Schultheis** who was selected as the 4-H Master Showmanship Champion. Tessa was also chosen as the high point champion in the swine division. **Wyatt Ruwald** was chosen as the Reserve Champion overall and a high point in the cattle division, with **Kaleigh Halleran** placing high point in the sheep division.



Thank you to the **Monroe County Farm Bureau, O/B Angus, and GC Brandt Farms** for donating prizes for the contest!



SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS

Sheep

Junior: **Wesley Hick**
Senior: **Shelby Hick**

Poultry

Junior: **Kelsey Schmidt**
Senior: **Leigha Henerfauth**

Rabbit

Junior: **Zachary Gummersheimer**
Senior: **Lillian Kolweier**

Swine

Junior: **Kegan Schultheis**
Intermediate: **Wyatt Bergmann**
Senior: **Tessa Schultheis**

Beef

Beginner: **Waylenn Kruse**
Junior: **Callie Rohlfng**
Intermediate: **Evan Muench**
Senior: **Blaklee Schwarze**

Goat

Junior: **Lydia Marquardt**
Senior: **Parker Brandt**

SUPERIOR YOUNG PRODUCER TOP WINNERS



Goat 8-12: **Brady Cope**
Goat 13-18: **Avery Cope**
Sheep 8-12: **Blake Koester**
Sheep 13-18: **Parker Brandt**
Cattle: 8-12: **Blaklee Schwarze**
Cattle: 13-18: **Amelia Guebert**
Poultry 8-12: **Elizabeth Koch**
Poultry 13-18: **Elliot Koch**
Rabbit: **Rebecca Kuehner**



Monroe County Cattleman's Herdsman Award: *Blaklee Schwarze*



HORTICULTURE/CROPS SHOW

Great job to all of the
4-H Horticulture & Crop exhibitors!
Braydon Eckart, Raegan Eckart, Cecilia Shelton,
Layla Hagenow, Natalie Finke, and Kylie Long.
Congrats to **Kylie**, who was selected as a State Fair
Representative!



LIVESTOCK ACHIEVEMENTS

	GRAND CHAMPION MARKET ANIMAL	RESERVE CHAMPION MARKET ANIMAL
POULTRY	<i>Braydon Eckart</i>	<i>Willow Hoefft</i>
RABBIT-SINGLE FRYER	<i>Luke Kolweier</i>	<i>Leah Shevlin</i>
RABBIT-MEAT PEN	<i>Madeline Luther</i>	<i>Leigha Henerfauth</i>
SHEEP	<i>Cohen Brandt</i>	<i>Shelby Hick</i>
SWINE	<i>Tessa Schultheis</i>	<i>Kehrington Schultheis</i>
STEER	<i>Ava Hrdlicka (FFA)</i>	<i>Callie Rohlfing</i>
GOAT	<i>Parker Brandt</i>	<i>Madeline Luther</i>

TOP RATE OF GAIN

Beef: *Gabriel Schmitz*

Lamb: *Emily Vogt*

Goat: *Parker Brandt*

TOP CARCASS

Beef: *Evan Muench*

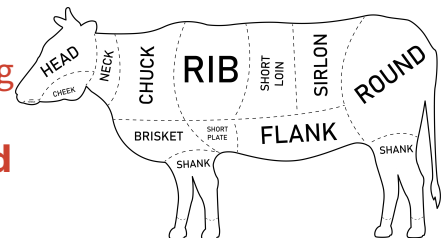
Lamb: *Collin Mudd*

Goat: *Willow Hoefft*

Thank you to the **55** businesses & individuals who supported 4-H livestock members with **136** animals at the Youth Livestock Auction for a total of a record-breaking
\$358,739.50

Big thanks to **Schubert's Smokehouse** for hosting the Carcass Evaluation, and to **Brandon Klehm** for evaluating the steer, lamb, and goat carcasses.

We also appreciate the **volunteers who cared for and hauled market animals** after the auction!



Special thank you to **Schaller Auction Services, Brad Schaller, Dale Burmester, Brad Chandler, Doug Renoud, John Spytek, and Brian Schoenbeck** for their auctioneer services at the Youth Livestock Auction!

We also appreciate **Michelle Gummersheimer & Kaitlyn Ruwald** for taking auction photos and the Republic Times newspaper for working with us to publish the photos!



EMMA SCHULTHEIS SHOWMANSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Evan Muench, the recipient of the first Emma Schultheis Intermediate Showmanship Award. Thank you to David & Amanda Schultheis for sponsoring this special award.



MONROE COUNTY FAIR FUN!



4-H HALL OF FAME: MATTHEW BRANDT



Congratulations to **Matthew Brandt** on his induction into the 2026 4-H Hall of Fame on August 15 at the Illinois State Fair! The Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame recognizes 4-H volunteers with a track record of exemplary service to 4-H or outstanding career and community achievement. We appreciate Matthew's longtime dedication to the Monroe County 4-H program!



ILLINOIS STATE FAIR MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Great job to **Tessa Schultheis** for representing Monroe County 4-H in the Master Showmanship Contest at the Illinois State Fair! Tessa competed against 67 other youth across the state exhibiting swine, cattle & sheep.



ILLINOIS STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Congratulations on a job well done to the Monroe County 4-H members who exhibited livestock at the Illinois State Fair: **Gracie Stechmesser (swine)**, **Tessa Schultheis (swine)**, **Kehrington Schultheis (swine)**, **Luke Lutman (sheep)**, **Erin Halleran (sheep)**, **Kaleigh Halleran (sheep)**, **Parker Brandt (sheep)**, **Cohen Brandt (sheep)**, **Kenley Mueller (sheep)** & **Grayson Kruse (cattle)**.



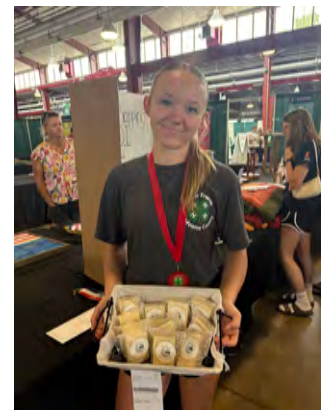
ILLINOIS STATE FAIR GENERAL PROJECT EXHIBITORS

Twenty youth exhibited general projects at the Illinois State Fair on August 15, with the following receiving awards:

Champion: Blake Koester (Electricity), Kaleigh Halleran (Entomology), Caroline Mueller (Cooking), Gwen Wiegand (Forestry), and Madeline Luther (Cake Decorating).

Reserve Champion: Tessa Ervin (Food Preservation), Natalie Matzenbacher (Cake Decorating), Grace Koester (Heritage Arts), Tessa Kolweier (Scrapbooking), and Brayden Koester (Welding).

Other participants included: Amelia Deptula (Animal Science), Lily Luther (Animal Science), Charlotte Klein (Sewing), Josie Matzenbacher (Sewing), Lydia Shevlin (Sewing), Henry Albers (Cooking), Kylie Long (Horticulture), Elizabeth Koch (Fiber), Cecilia Shelton (Scrapbooking), and Blaklee Schwarze (Mixed Media).



4-H Junior Leadership Conference

Registration is OPEN for the 2026 Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC), happening November 14–15, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield!

JLC is a fun-filled overnight conference for 7th and 8th grade youth. Participants will explore opportunities in Illinois 4-H while building leadership skills through hands-on activities, teamwork, communication, decision-making, and more.

Conference Dates: November 14-15, 2026

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

Who Can Participate: Any youth in 7th or 8th grade

Registration Timeline: August 31–October 19, 2026

Cost: \$215 per participant, including lodging, meals, a t-shirt, conference supplies, and activities

REMINDER: The Monroe County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation offers an Event Scholarship for up to half of the cost of state 4-H events for any current 4-H member, meeting active requirements:

<https://go.illinois.edu/Monroe4-HEventScholarship>

Questions? Contact Kelly Brandt, 4-H Program Coordinator at kmbandt@illinois.edu



What's going on with Illinois 4-H?
Find out here:

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/97/70664597.html>





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 1	4-H New Year begins
September 5	4-H Treasurer Books DUE
September 7	Labor Day Holiday: Extension Office CLOSED
September 9	Award Application Work Night, 6:30 p.m., Mo. Co. Annex
September 13	Butterfly Fest, 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m., Baebler Edu. Farm
September 15	4-H Award Applications & Livestock Record Books DUE
September 15	4-H Club Secretary Books DUE
September 16	Geology Hike, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Camp Vandeventer
September 22	Eat to Compete, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Monroe Co. Annex
September 29	4-H Leader Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monroe Co. Annex
October 1	4-H Enrollment begins (watch email for instructions!)
October 1	Federation New Member Meeting (8th-12th grade)
October 2	4-H Movie Night, 6:30 p.m., Monroe County Fairgrounds
October 4-10	National 4-H Week
October 5	4-H Week Proclamation Signing, 8:00 a.m., Mo. Co. Courthouse
November 1	4-H Achievement Program, 6:30 p.m., Mo. Co. Fairgrounds
November 21	Harvest Night Dinner Auction, Hecker Community Center



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