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Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois Extension,
Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit



TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

**FALL
2026**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The new 4-H year is almost here, and we are excited to be kicking it off with you!

Though its been said many times before, thank you again to all who make our county 4-H such a success. We appreciate each and every one of you! We hope this coming 4-H year will be full of new and old 4-H friends, lots of learning, and, of course, all things 4-H!

May your new 4-H year bring new topics to explore and inspiration. We can't wait to see what the new year brings!

Abbie & Lynda

ENROLLMENT COMING SOON

It's that time of year again! With the 4-H year coming to an end it's almost time to start enrolling for the 2026-2027 4-H year! ZSuite will reopen for the new year enrollment on October 1.

This year we will be offering an early-bird discount again for enrollment fees. All enrollments fully completed by the end of the day on November 30 will be completely **FREE!** After this date, enrollments will be \$5 per child. Please also remember that you need only pay for up to three 4-Hers. You should only be paying \$15 maximum for your family to be in 4-H.

Please see the section on page 3 for more details about enrollment deadlines.

4-H SHOW WRAP-UP

STATE FAIR RESULTS

On August 14 - 16, 52 4-Hers represented Tazewell county at the Illinois 4-H General Project Show! Those listed below earned top awards in their classes.

CHAMPION

Lila Baer - Interior Design Innovation
 Kaitlyn Boyd - Career Development
 Gracen Diekhoff - Visual Arts: Metal
 Noah Diekhoff - Sportfishing 3
 Keziah Foor - Sewing 3 (Non-clothing)
 Dietrich King - Visual Arts: Wood
 Caleb Lewis - Sewing 2 (Clothing)
 John Lewis - Robotics 3

Ruth Lewis - Floriculture: Cut Flower Specimens
 Timothy and Patrick Lewis - Filmmaking - Group
 Dawson Logsdon - Cooking 201
 Winston Repke - Heritage Arts
 Casen Rummel - Cooking 101
 Cole Rummel - Creating with Building Bricks
 Joel Rassi - Floriculture: Photo Collage
 Honoray White - Veterinary Science

RESERVE CHAMPION

Caleb Bade - Food Preservation
 Drew Frohberg - Health
 Jillian Steinlage - Health Innovation

INSPIRE AWARD

Donavan Frohberg - Small Engines
 Andrew Gerrietts - Creating with Building Bricks
 Abram Kober - Agronomy
 Violet Nation - Chalk, Carbon, Pigment on Canvas
 Stephen White - Creating with Building Bricks

2026 4-H SHOW BY THE NUMBERS

RIBBONS AWARDED

Blue: 900 Red: 14 White: 0
 Green (Cloverbuds): 17

TAZEWELL COUNTY PROJECTS

Projects Exhibited Exhibitors
937 (up 109 from 2025) **201** (up 21 from 2025)

FAIR PHOTOS

Photos from the 2026 4-H Show and Junior Fair are available for the public to view on our website! You can find them at this link, or you can scan the QR code below to view the album. If you have photos to share, we would love to see them. Feel free to send them to Abbie or Lynda.



Scan the QR Code or visit this website!



go.illinois.edu/2026Tazewell4-HShowPhotos

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP

Once again this year, five Tazewell County 4-Hers competed at our fair in July for the title of Master Showman. The winner of this year's contest was Ezra White. As the winner of the local Master Showmanship contest, Ezra had the opportunity to compete at the State Fair against all the local winners from across the state of Illinois. Way to go Ezra, we hope you had a great time at the State Fair!

See page 5 of this year's show book for more details about the local contest.

DON'T FORGET!

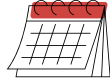
Did you receive a trophy this year? If you did, congratulations on an outstanding exhibit! You earned it! But, don't forget to write a thank you note to the person or local business that sponsored your trophy. Our sponsors are what make your trophy possible! Each backpack, lawn chair, banner, or plaque given has a card attached with the name of the sponsor and their address. If you lost your card, please let Lynda or Abbie know and they will give you the address.





NEW DEADLINES FOR 2026-2027

As we wrap up the 2025-2026 4-H year, we are excited for the year ahead! 2027 still seems like it's a long time from now, but it will be here before we know it. Here is a quick glance at the NEW deadlines for the year ahead. Many of the deadlines and due dates have been moved up to help better prepare for the fair season. Please see the list below of updated deadlines:



October 1 - November 30 - FREE enrollment, \$5 per youth until April 15.

February 1 - Those planning to show Livestock need to be enrolled in ZSuite

April 15 - ZSuite Enrollment closes for the 26 - 27 4-H year, YQCA/QAEC ethics trainings are due

May 1 - FairEntry opens for 4-H Show registration

June 15 - FairEntry closes

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK IS HERE!

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, and we're celebrating all week long! Here are two easy ways you can join in showing what makes our 4-H community so special.

GO GREEN MONDAY | OCTOBER 5

Help us paint Illinois green! Wear your favorite 4-H shirt, hat, socks, or anything green to show your 4-H spirit. Snap a photo and share it on social media using #National4HWeek and #4HBeyondReady. Tag @national4H so National 4-H can see Illinois showing up in green, too!



THANKFUL THURSDAY | OCTOBER 8

4-H is powered by the people who give their time, talents, and support to help young people thrive. Take a moment to recognize someone who has made a difference in your 4-H experience. Share a photo, story, or simple thank-you on social media and tag someone who has helped make your 4-H experience meaningful.



SHOOTING SPORTS UPDATES

On September 2, Tazewell County began a Shotgun Shooting Sports at Oak Ridge Sportsman's Club in Mackinaw and welcomed new Shooting Sports leader, Richard Rentsch. We hope to offer Shotgun again in the spring so be on the lookout for more information soon. We are excited to have this new partnership and opportunity for our youth again!

We also hope to offer Air Rifle Shooting Sports in 2027. This past spring, a new 8-point backdrop and targets were added to our program through a grant from the National Rifle Association (NRA)! We are so thankful for this equipment and are ready for the next sessions of Shooting Sports. We hope to see you in Spring 2027!

FEDERATION

Federation will be kicking off again very soon! Here is our year at a glance. Meetings are usually on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6 PM at the Extension office. Federation is open to existing 4-H members ages 13 and above as of September 1. This club focuses on leadership, networking, and volunteerism.

September 24 - Regular meeting at 6PM

October 22 - Regular meeting at 6PM

November - Unit-Wide Federation service night (date, time and location TBD)

Decemeber - No Meeting

January 28 - Regular meeting at 6PM

February - Game Night with Fulton, Mason, and Peoria Counties

March 25 - Regular meeting at 6PM

April 22 - Regular meeting at 6PM

May 27 - Regular meeting at 6PM

June - No meeting

July - No Meeting

Please note: Meeting dates are subject to change depending on the schedule of Federation members. If you are interested in joining Federation but miss our first meeting, please let Abbie know! 4-Hers are welcome to join at any point during the year!



4-H MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

See what two of our outstanding 4-H members have been up to recently!

FASHION REVUE

On June 6, Victoria Bade attended the Illinois 4-H Fashion Revue at Heartland Community College in Normal. Participants interviewed with judges and had the opportunity to be a part of a fashion show all while showcasing their skills in clothing construction, fashion design, and personal presentation. Victoria earned first place in the Purchased Senior Division! Congratulations, Victoria!

Read more about the event at:

extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/illinois-4-h-youth-showcase-creativity-confidence-state-fashion-revue

STATE DOG SHOW

After our local 4-H Show, 4-H members from across the state competed in the State Dog Show at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. Tazewell County was represented by Melody England and her dog, Creek, in Junior Showmanship and Intermediate Rally.

Melody and Creek earned State Champion in Junior Showmanship and second place in Intermediate Rally! Congratulations, Melody and Creek!

Read more about this event at:

extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/4-h-members-demonstrate-skills-2026-state-dog-show



CALL FOR CLOVERBUD LEADERS

We are always looking for 4-H parents and alumni who are interested in being a screened volunteer. This year, we are specifically looking for those who would be interested in being a Cloverbud club leader! Here are a few details to help you get an idea of what a Cloverbud Club might look like:

WHAT ARE CLOVERBUDS?

Cloverbuds are youth ages 5 - 7 years old (as of September 1, 2026). They have their own set of projects they are able to exhibit at the 4-H show in July.

CLUBS AND MEETINGS

Cloverbud clubs can run independently of a 4-H club, and would be able to choose a name, meeting time, and location. More commonly, a Cloverbud club will be associated with a 4-H club and will meet once a month, using the existing club's name, meeting time, and location, but Cloverbud members may be pulled aside for their own meeting and age-appropriate activities.

ACTIVITIES

Activities could be something as simple as story time or more elaborate like a small service project or craft. Activities could align with or help spark ideas for the special Cloverbud projects outlined in the show book each year.

SUPPORT

We would love to help support you in leading a Cloverbud group! We would be happy to supply you with resources and trainings to help you get started and whenever the need arises. Please don't feel like you have to take on leading alone! If you would like to co-lead and have a friend that might like to lead with you, that would be great too.

If this sounds like something you or someone you know would be interested in, please let Abbie or Lynda know!



2026 - 2027 YEAR AT A GLANCE



SEPTEMBER

Sept 24 - New Year Federation Meeting, 6 PM Extension office.

OCTOBER

Oct 1 - ZSuite re-opens for the 2026 - 2027 4-H Year

Oct 5 - 10 - National 4-H Week

Oct 5 - National 4-H Week event @ Riverfront Park, East Peoria

Oct 22 - Federation Meeting, 6 PM Extension office.

NOVEMBER

Nov 21 - Officer and Leader Training, Dickson Mounds,

Nov 26 - 27 - Extension offices closed for Thanksgiving

Nov 31 - Free enrollment ends, \$5 until 4/15/26

Nov TBD - Unit-wide Federation service night

DECEMBER

Dec 24 - 31 - Extension offices closed for Christmas/New Year

JANUARY

Jan 1 - Extension offices closed for New Year holiday

Jan 18 - Extension offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan 28 - Federation Meeting, 6 PM Extension office

FEBRUARY

NEW! Feb 1 - Livestock enrollments due

Feb 6 (TENTATIVE) - Beef steer weigh in

Feb TBD - Unit-wide Federation game night

MARCH

March TBD - Clover Clinic

March 25 - Federation Meeting, 6 PM Extension office

APRIL

April TBD - Green Connections tree planting

NEW! April 15 - 4-H Enrollment Ends, YQCA/QAEC trainings due

April 22 - Federation Meeting, 6 PM Extension office

MAY

NEW! May 1 - FairEntry Opens

May 6 - Public Speaking Contest

May 27 - Federation meeting, 6 PM Extension office

May 31 - Extension offices closed for Memorial Day

JUNE

June 1 - Horse Paperwork due

June 4 - State Public Speaking Contest

NEW! June 15 - FairEntry closes

June 18 - Extension offices closed for Juneteenth Holiday

JULY

July 24 - 4-H Show set-up @ Mineral Springs Park 8 am - Noon

July 26 - 28 - Tazewell County 4-H Show and Junior Fair





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Pekin, IL 61554

Return Service Requested

YOU'RE INVITED!

On Monday, October 5, the Murray-Baker Bridge (I-74 bridge) in Peoria will be lit up GREEN for National 4-H Week. Please join us for a celebration of 4-H and to see one of our local landmarks go green!

Riverfront Park

1201 Riverside Dr, East Peoria

6 - 7 PM

6:45 PM - Group Photo

Yard games, 4-H swag, and fun for the whole family!
No RSVP needed.

