



MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAMILY

October NEWS



2026 NATIONAL 4-H WEEK: OCTOBER 4-10



On Monday, October 5, **Go GREEN** and show your 4-H state spirit for National 4-H Week! Please wear your 4-H shirt or a green shirt to school or work. (If you need a 4-H shirt, please contact the Extension office to purchase one).
Let's paint Monroe County **GREEN**, on **Monday, October 5th!**

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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
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William Catalano

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4-H Program Coordinator

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Office Support Assistant

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Visit our website:

web.extension.illinois.edu/mms

Like us on Facebook:

University of Illinois Extension:
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)

Other ways to celebrate:

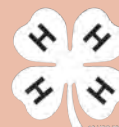
- Enroll in ZSuite (4h.zsuite.org) for the new 4-H year!
- Look for new project ideas to enroll in:
https://go.illinois.edu/4-H_Projects
- Invite a friend to a 4-H meeting.
- Thank a 4-H volunteer with a kind note.
- Attend the 4-H Movie Night on Oct. 2 to kick off 4-H Week!

DONATE!

In honor of 4-H Week and the new 4-H year, we are collecting items throughout the month of October for the Blessing Box that sits in the Annex parking lot.

The following items are needed: non-perishable food items, personal care items, and household items.

There will be a tub in the Annex foyer where items can be dropped off if the Blessing Box is full.



2026-2027 4-H ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

*Happy
New Year!*

RE-ENROLL:

Please follow the directions in the Step-By-Step Guide:
<https://go.illinois.edu/4HHowToReEnroll>

OR, watch the Re-Enrollment Video Tutorial:
<https://go.illinois.edu/4HReEnroll>

All members and volunteers must re-enroll for the 2026-2027 4-H year.

If you have any problems with enrollment, please contact Kelly at kmbrandt@illinois.edu for assistance or consult the ZSuite Help Documentation within the program.

REVIEW/REQUEST PROJECT BOOKS:

If you need to request 4-H project books, please do so here:
<https://go.illinois.edu/26-27 4-HProjectBookOrder>

You can review book options for your project(s) here:
<https://shop4-h.org/pages/illinois-approved-curriculum>

The Monroe County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation will cover the cost of up to 3 books.

MOONLIGHT BOYS & GIRLS

Thank you to Moonlight Boys & Girls Club for promoting 4-H at the Monroe County Farmer's Market!



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!

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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.)

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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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reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 618-939-3434.
Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



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FEDERATION NEW MEMBER EVENT

**4-H FEDERATION
NEW MEMBER MEETING
BONFIRE & FOOD!**

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 1, 2026
6:00P.M.**

**BAEBLER EDUCATIONAL
FARM-BACK PAVILLION**
4022 JJ RD., WATERLOO

OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 8 & UP.
(DO NOT NEED TO BE A 4-H MEMBER TO JOIN)

Federation provides:

- ✓ Leadership Development
- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ Community Involvement
- ✓ Event Planning
- ✓ Socializing



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a reasonable accommodation to attend, call the registration office.



4-H SPARKS AT THE LIBRARY

4-H Sparks at the Library Program reached 94 youth at Columbia Public Library and Morrison-Talbot Library in partnership with their Summer Reading Programs. These programs tied relevant literature that includes Dog Man, Wings of Fire, The Wild Robot, and Harry Potter with 4-H Project activities. We hope to expand on this program in the next year.



Dog Man



Wings of Fire

MONROE COUNTY 4-H TEENS AS TEACHERS UPDATE

Monroe County 4-H Teens as Teachers taught a series of five Ag in the Classroom lessons and led Fair Tours for 336 youth in daycares throughout the summer. They also led education sessions at the Monroe County Conservation Days.



Making Butter



Worms



Fair Charm Bags



DUQUOIN STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Congratulations on a job well done to the Monroe County 4-H members who exhibited livestock at the **DuQuoin State Fair**: **Goat** - Parker Brandt; **Swine** - Caden Marquardt, Lydia Marquardt, Tessa Schultheis, Gracie Stechmesser; **Cattle** - Wyatt Ruwald, Grayson Kruse, Blaklee Schwarze, Callie Rohlfng; **Sheep** - Waylenn Kruse, Kaleigh Halleran, Caroline Mueller, Brayden Koester, Lane Shevlin, Aspen Wicklein, Kenley Mueller, Cohen Brandt, Parker Brandt and 4-H alum, Erin Halleran & Garrett Brandt.





BUTTERFLY FEST 2026 AT BAEBLER EDUCATIONAL FARM



Join 4-H Music Club!

Let the Music Begin!

**Open to Youth in 3rd
–12th Grade**

Discover music, make friends,
and explore your creativity in a
fun, supportive 4-H club
environment.



**Starting Thursday,
October 15
6:30 PM at the
Monroe County
Annex Building**



**Youth and families are
invited to learn about:**

- Music opportunities for all skill levels
- Come see what our 4-H Music Club is all about and how you can be part of the fun.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



2025-2026
Monroe County
Achievement Program

Sunday, November 1, 2026
6:30p.m.
Monroe County Fairgrounds

Desserts provided!

Join us to celebrate:

- 1st, 5th, 10th & 11th Year Members
- Livestock Record Book & Award Application Applicants
- Top Secretary/Treasurers
- Local & State Fair Acknowledgment
- 1st, 5th, 10th, etc., Year Leaders
- I Dare You Award Recipients
- State Participation & More!

Hosted by Monroe County 4-H Federation

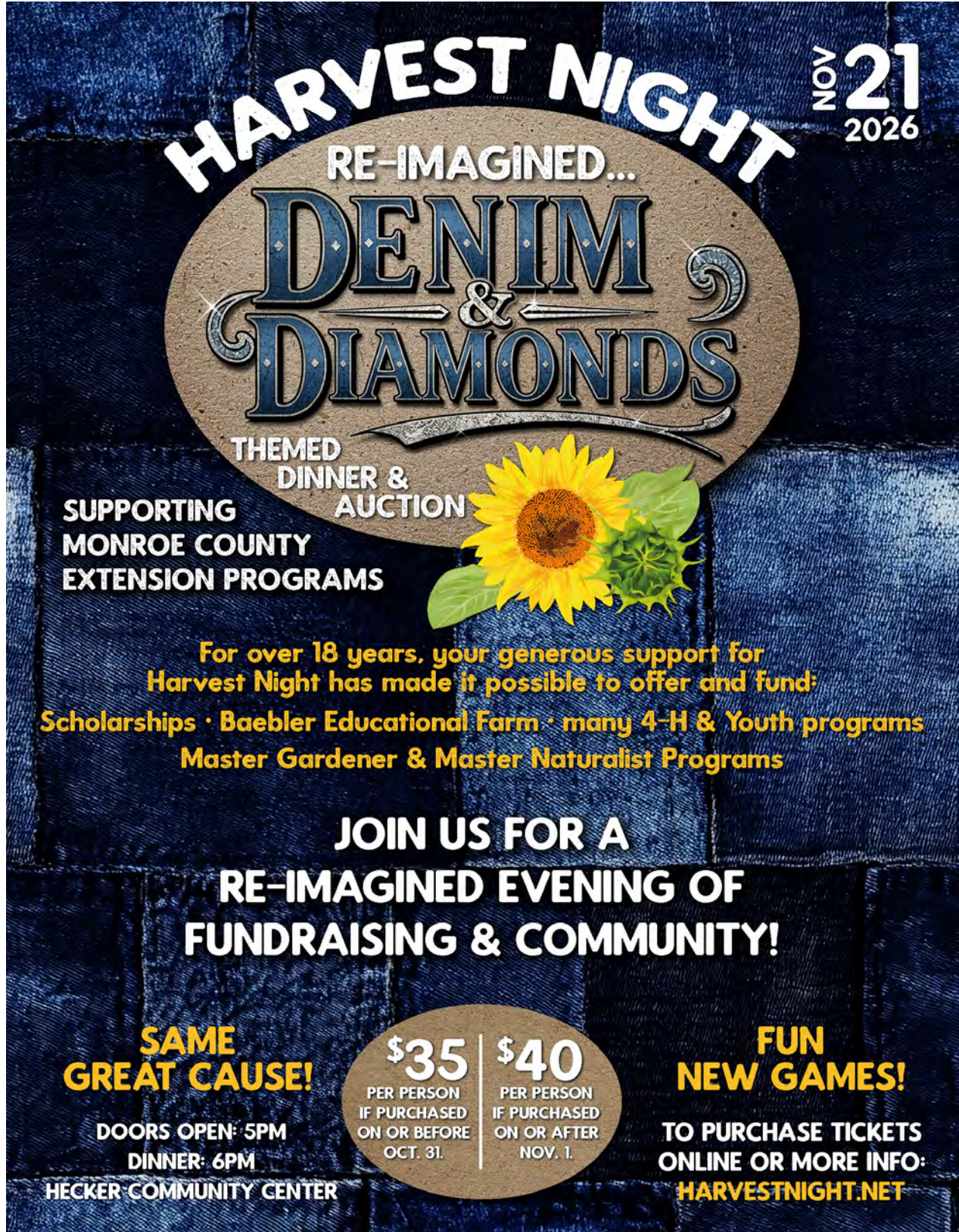


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HARVEST NIGHTThe poster features a dark blue denim background with a large, light brown oval in the center. The text "HARVEST NIGHT" is arched across the top in white, with "RE-IMAGINED..." in smaller white text below it. The main title "DENIM & DIAMONDS" is in a large, ornate, blue font with white outlines. To the right of the oval, the date "NOV 21 2026" is displayed in white. Below the oval, the text "THEMED DINNER & AUCTION" is in white. To the left of the oval, the text "SUPPORTING MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAMS" is in white. A vibrant yellow sunflower with green leaves is positioned to the right of the oval. Below the sunflower, a paragraph of text in yellow and white describes the event's history and purpose. At the bottom, a large white oval contains ticket pricing information. To the left of this oval, the text "SAME GREAT CAUSE!" is in yellow, followed by "DOORS OPEN: 5PM" and "DINNER: 6PM" in white, and "HECKER COMMUNITY CENTER" in white at the bottom. To the right of the large white oval, the text "FUN NEW GAMES!" is in yellow, followed by "TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE OR MORE INFO:" in white, and "HARVESTNIGHT.NET" in yellow at the bottom. The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of colorful, stylized leaves and flowers at the bottom.

HARVEST NIGHT **NOV 21 2026**

RE-IMAGINED...

DENIM & DIAMONDS

THEMED DINNER & AUCTION

SUPPORTING MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAMS

For over 18 years, your generous support for Harvest Night has made it possible to offer and fund:
Scholarships · Baebler Educational Farm · many 4-H & Youth programs
Master Gardener & Master Naturalist Programs

JOIN US FOR A RE-IMAGINED EVENING OF FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY!

SAME GREAT CAUSE!

DOORS OPEN: 5PM
DINNER: 6PM
HECKER COMMUNITY CENTER

\$35 PER PERSON IF PURCHASED ON OR BEFORE OCT. 31

\$40 PER PERSON IF PURCHASED ON OR AFTER NOV. 1

FUN NEW GAMES!

TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE OR MORE INFO:
HARVESTNIGHT.NET

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 kmbrandt@illinois.edu

MONROE COUNTY OUTDOOR EXPLORERS: GEOLOGY HIKE



The last of our "Monroe County Outdoor Explorers" hikes took place at [Camp Vandeventer](#) on Sept. 26. Participants learned about the amazing and interesting geology of Monroe County with Melody and Scott Williams. It was a beautiful day to explore!





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1	4-H Enrollment begins (See page 2!)
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
October 15	4-H Music Club Begins
November 1	4-H Achievement Program, 6:30 p.m., Mo. Co. Fairgrounds
November 21	Harvest Night Dinner Auction, Hecker Community Center

Join ACES and Illinois 4-H at Eckert's in Belleville!

*Reserve your place today for an evening of exceptional food, meaningful conversation, and a behind-the-scenes look at one of Illinois' most visited family-owned farms. Registration closes **Monday, October 5.***

Tuesday, October 20, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., 951 S Green Mount Rd, Belleville, IL 62220, \$20 per person. Dinner and drink ticket included. Cash bar available.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/dbf7e836-0590-4211-8be3-d4a34d263045/summary>

*Registration closes **Monday, October 5.***



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

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/71/1035501571.html>



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