MADISON COUNTY 4-H NOVEMBER 2026 NEWS



Hello 4-H Families,

Happy November, 4-H families! I hope you all are enjoying the changing seasons and hopefully getting excited for the holidays. I want to congratulate all of our 4-H youth and clubs on their hard work and successes during this previous fair season. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and I am happy to share your successes throughout the rest of this newsletter.

A reminder to submit your 4-H enrollment as soon as possible. Please send a thank-you card to our two sponsors: Madison County Farm Bureau - 900 Hillsboro Ave. Edwardsville, IL, and Southwestern Electric Cooperative - 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246 (Attn: Brooke Scott, Member Services Manager). More information and instructions on how to enroll are listed below.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 217-300-7175 or my email with any questions!

Thank you,
Bobby Lee | 4-H Program Coordinator Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties | bobbylee@illinois.edu

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Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 7:00am - 5:00pm
Closed Noon-1pm for Lunch

Madison County Branch Office
900 Hillsboro Ave
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-344-4230

Monroe County Branch Office
901 Illinois Ave
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-3434

St. Clair County Branch Office
1478 East State Route 15
Belleville, IL 62221
217-244-0273

Extension County Director
William Catalano

4-H Youth Educator
Meghan Cope

Madison & St. Clair 4-H Coordinator
Bobby Lee

Office Support Specialist
Emily Wolff

Visit our website:
extension.illinois.edu/mms

Like us on Facebook:
University of Illinois Extension: Madison County 4-H

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

Follow us on Instagram:
Madison, Monroe, St. Clair- IL

MADISON COUNTY 4-H

MEET YOUR MADISON COUNTY 4-H TEAM

We're here to support 4-H members, families, and volunteers! Whether you have a question, need help finding a club, want to explore new opportunities, or are looking for engaging educational programming for youth audiences, we're happy to help!



MEGHAN COPE

4-H Youth Development Educator

Focuses on Madison County providing direct education in schools, and other community events, assisting with the fair, and helping the 4-H Coordinator as needed.

mawolff@illinois.edu

Fun Facts About Meghan!

- 4-H alumna from Macoupin County - 11-year 4-H member
- Been with her high school sweetheart for 11 years and married for 5 years
- Proud mom to two beautiful girls, Raylynn and Maggie!



BOBBY LEE

4-H Extension Program Coordinator

Supports 4-H clubs, members, volunteers, and program coordination in Madison and St. Clair Counties.

bobbylee@illinois.edu

Fun Facts About Bobby!

- 4-H alumna from Monroe County
- Recent graduate of the University of Missouri with Masters and Bachelors' degrees in History
- He is a stamp collector and a big fan of postal history
- His favorite bands are the Strokes and Steely Dan (email him about them!)



ELIZABETH LEVEY

4-H Youth Development Metro Educator

Focuses on Metro areas of Madison County, providing direct education in schools, community centers, and other youth-centered organizations, as well as assisting with the fair

elevey@illinois.edu

Fun Facts About Elizabeth!

- She love to read! Her goal this year is to read 100 books.
- She love to bake! Her most requested dessert is my banana pudding.
- She enjoy bike riding on the MCT trails

CLUB AWARDS

Top Two Club Treasurer Books
- **Owen Akers from Grant Prairie 4-H Club**
- **Mia Abernathy from Willoughby Wanderers 4-H Club**

Top Secretary Book
- **Holden Seger from St. Jacob 4-H Club**
- **Nelli Andrews from Grant Prairie 4-H Club**

I Dare You Award Winner

Congratulations to **Paige Hess from Pin Oak Progressors and Jefferey Seymore from Quercus Grove** as this years Madison County I Dare You, Award Winners.

AWARD APPLICATION RECOGNITION

**** INDICATES TOP AWARD IN AGE GROUP**

Top Participation: Olivia Gremer and Cameron Gnaedinger
Top Community Service: Olivia Gremer
Top Leadership: Jefferey Seymore
Top Project Learning: Cameron Gnaedinger



AWARD APPLICATION RECOGNITION

Animal Science

Age 11-14
- Olivia Gremer**

Creative Arts

Age 8-10
- Cameron Gnaedinger **

Healthy Living & Nutrition

Age 11-14
- Olivia Gremer**

Environmental Science

Age 11-14
- Olivia Gremer**

STEM

Age 8-10
- Cameron Gnaedinger **

Age 15-18
- Jeffery Seymore **

Livestock Record Book Recognition

**** Indicates Top Award in Age Group**

Great job to everyone who submitted an award application and livestock record book!

Beef

Age 8-10
Emma Bohnenstiehl
Lane Knebel
Jase Knebel**
Kayla Herzberg
Ellie Gall
Maveric Schwarz
Lydia Kampwerth
Levi Haas
Jerome Kampwerth
Carson Williams
Bryson Bogle
Michaela Schelling**
Grace Unterbrink
Harper Gueldener
Tanner Gueldener
Andrew Wiemers

Age 11-14
Avery Bohnenstiehl
Holden Seger
Willa Kampwerth
Wade Kampwerth
Maris Barr
Peyton Gvillo
Teagan Barr
Leni Schoen
Charley Wiemers**
Connor Schelling**

Age 15-18
Mason Junker-Schrump
Dominick Kampwerth
Rhett Schoen
Lily DeMange
Wade Boeser

Dairy Cow

Age 11-14
Trent Zobrist
Tyson Zobrist**

Livestock Record Book Recognition Continued

Dairy Goat

Age 8-10
August Ernst**

Age 11-14
Chase Knebel**

Meat Goat

Age 11-14
Mitchell Reed**

Age 15-18
Cody Dorsey**
Bailee Dorsey**

Poultry

Age 11-14
Elizabeth Baumann**

Rabbit

Age 8-10
Harper Merkel**
Levi Haas

Age 11-14
Molly Tallman
Amelia Tallman
Ava Meyer
Emma Meyer**

Livestock Record Book Recognition Continued

Sheep

Age 11-14
Jase Kunz
Lane Kunz
Aynslie Ernst
Aubrey Barr
Nellie Andrews
Maris Barr

Swine

Age 8-10
Addie Fry **
Emma Simon
Harper Henschen
Charlie Gall
Evie Akers
August Ernst
Easton Henschen
Reagan Niemeier
Ganon Billings
Kase Iberg
Layla Bowyer
Everly Rinderer
Andrew Wiemers

Age 11-14
Avery Fry**
Allison Reding
Amelia Reding
Oliver Reding
Joseph Hellon
Carter Mettler
Michael Ernst
Thomas Jackson
Madelyn Winning
Nellie Andrews
Ella Simon
Aiden Suhre
Aynslie Ernst
McKenzie Ruschhaupt
Hayden Gvillo
Jack Akers
Logan Rensing
Molly Akers
Tenley Henkhaus
Mason Hartlie
Braiden Diesen
Peyton Gvillo
Reese Zobrist
Charley Wiemers

Age 15-18
Savannah Hellon
Johnna Ernst
Emma Jackson
Lillian Andrews
Owen Akers
Teyton Henkhaus
Bryce Hartlie
Ethan Henschen
Rilyn Rinderer
Wyatt Rinderer
Brier Engelmann**

Congratulations to the Staunton Road Rangers 4-H Shooting Sports youth!

We are proud to recognize our youth for their outstanding accomplishments at this year's State Shooting Sports competitions! These 4-H members worked hard and represented their club well.

The Pistol State Shoot was held as a local event, where participants submitted their scores to compete against other 4-H members from across Illinois. The Shotgun and Smallbore (.22) Rifle State Shoots were held on the same day this year at Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill.

Congratulations to all of our participants and special recognition to those who placed!

PISTOL
Precision
1st Place – Evelyn Bremer
3rd Place – Titus Cloninger
6th Place – Daniel Dull
10th Place – Lochlan Campbell

Speed
1st Place – Evelyn Bremer
6th Place – Daniel Dull
7th Place – Kimberly Nelson
8th Place – Titus Cloninger
9th Place – Reagan Maurer
10th Place – Esme Dull

SHOTGUN
6th Place, Junior Division – Levi Musgrave

.22 RIFLE (SMALLBORE)
1st Place – Titus Cloninger
6th Place – Daniel Dull
7th Place – Lochlan Campbell
8th Place – Eli Eldridge



A big congratulations to each of these 4-H members! Your hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship are something to be proud of. We are excited to see all that you accomplish in the future!

Garden Club Awards

Congratulations to **Sophia Schwarz** from Grant Prairie 4-H Club for being awarded the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Round Arrangement. This award was presented by **District V Garden Clubs of Illinois**.

Congratulations to **Hannah Hobson** from Prairie Youth 4-H Club for being awarded the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Floriculture Innovation This award was presented by **Collinsville Garden Club**.

Congratulations to **Ellie Gall** from Grant Prairie 4-H Club for being awarded the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Round Arrangement. This award was presented by **Lakeview Garden Club.**

Congratulations to **James Mills** from Brier Bank 4-H Club for being awarded Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Vegetable Plates. This award was presented by **Lakeview Garden Club.**

A big thank you to the District V Garden Clubs of Illinois, Collinsville Garden Club, and Lakeview Garden Club for generously providing awards to four of our Madison County 4-H members! We appreciate your support of our 4-H youth and your continued investment in helping them grow and succeed!





2026-2027 4-H HANDBOOK

Here is this year's 4-H handbook for all 4-H members and families.
https://go.illinois.edu/MadisonCounty4-HHandbook

The handbook goes over what 4-H is, the policies, what clubs do, the event calendar, and so much more. If you have any questions, please contact Bobby via email at bobbylee@illinois.edu.

2026-2027 4-H MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Youth **fve through seven years of age, on or before September 1** of the current 4-H year, may enroll in 4-H Cloverbud groups.

Youth who are **eight years of age and have not reached their nineteenth birthday on or before September 1** may enroll in 4-H clubs.

A youth who enrolls in a Madison County 4-H club must:

- **Attend at least four meetings** to be called a 4-H member. Youth who do not comply are not eligible to participate in 4-H exhibitions, receive 4-H premiums, or receive other 4-H awards and recognitions available to 4-H members. **(College students can be enrolled when they live away from home and must attend at least one meeting when they are home on breaks or virtually.)**

- **Present a talk or demonstration at a club meeting during the project year.**

- **Youth enrolled in a livestock market class must turn in a livestock record book by September 15. If not completed by September 15, the youth will not be able to participate in a livestock market class the following year.**

- Complete enrollment by **January 15 to exhibit projects at 4-H shows.** Youth may enroll after this date, but are not eligible to exhibit projects at shows. Projects can be added up to this deadline, but the addition of projects is not accepted online after this date (except for SPIN Clubs).

Don't forget to apply for the Madison County 4-H & FFA Grant provided by Madison County Farm Bureau! You can apply for grant funding to help with your General Show project or Livestock project.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to support your 4-H project!





4-H Career Day with Korte Meat Processing

Wednesday, November 11
4:00 PM

Learn about how a meat processing plant operates and the different jobs and careers inside!

Scan QR code to register!

Limited spots available!

Register at go.illinois.edu/4-HCareerDay

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KORTE
618-654-3813

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ALL ABOARD THE 4-H EXPRESS

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Movie: The Polar Express

Cost: $3 per person

Limited spots available!

- Wear your favorite pajamas and bring a blanket and/or pillow!
- Enjoy two optional crafts during the movie.
- Popcorn and hot cocoa will be provided.
- Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy the movie!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
6:00 PM - 8:15 PM

Madison County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Register at go.illinois.edu/4-HMovieNight



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Beekeeping 101

Beginner Beekeeping Workshop

Interested in beekeeping?

- Learn how to manage your hive and harvest honey
- Use tools and equipment
- Promote bee health
- Seasonal Care
- Mentoring



Saturday January 30, 2027
8:30 am-5 pm

Presented by CIBA
Central Illinois Beekeepers Association

Registration:

$100 for members or $120 for non-members
(Additional family members $25)
(Previous participants with current CIBA membership $25)

Included with Registration:

Hive tool, Smoker, Book First Lessons in Beekeeping, Drawings, CIBA and ISBA membership

Event Location:

Bloomington High School
Bloomington IL 61704

Lunch is provided Fun doo prizes! Gift Certificates fro Hillco Bees Chance to win a **complete hive!**



Questions? 309-826-0089

More Information at **www.cibabees.org** or visit us on Facebook: Central Illinois Beekeepers Assoc.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Venmo or Check payable to CIBA then Mail with Registration to: Patti (PK) Koranda, 6424 Alexander Road, Heyworth, IL 61745 309-826-0089 pjkorand@gmail.com

2026 Madison and St. Clair Fall Photo Contest

Submit your digital fall photograph by **Nov. 20** to Bobby Lee at bobbylee@illinois.edu.

Rules

- Take a picture with a Fall theme
- Photograph must be taken by a 4-H member
- Two Age Groups: Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) and 4-H Member (ages 8-18)
- One entry per member
- Open to both Madison and St. Clair County 4-H
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for both age groups!

Questions? Contact Bobby Lee at bobbylee@illinois.edu

Winners will be announced and published on county 4-H Facebook pages

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2026 Madison and St. Clair Gingerbread House Contest

Submit a digital photograph of your gingerbread house by Dec. 15 to Bobby Lee at bobbylee@illinois.edu.

Rules

- **Take a picture with your Gingerbread House**
- **The Gingerbread House must be made by a 4-H member**
- **Three Competition Groups: Cloverbuds (ages 5-7), 4-H members (ages 8-18), and Whole Club Entries**
- **One entry per member/club**
- **Open to both Madison and St. Clair County 4-H**
- **Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for all three groups!**

Questions? Contact Bobby Lee at bobbylee@illinois.edu

Winners will be announced and published on county 4-H Facebook pages

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4-H Teens as Teachers Recruitment Night

Madison County CAREE • Conservation • Ag Resources • Environmental Education

What is 4-H Teens as Teachers?

The 4-H Teens as Teachers program gives teens the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, and teaching skills while making a difference in their communities!

Who can join?

Teens ages 14–18. You do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to participate!

What do Teen Teachers do?

Teen Teachers help 4-H staff at events and lead educational programs in schools and libraries.

Is training required?

Yes! Teen Teachers must complete training for each program they want to teach.

As a Member of the Teens as Teachers Team, You Will:

Be a role model for younger youth who share your passions and interests.

Expand your knowledge by preparing lessons and teaching material to younger youth.

Gain valuable skills that you can use in college, your future career, and throughout life.

Register Today

Date: Jan. 26, 2027
Time: 6 pm – 7:15 pm
Location: Madison County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Parents and teens are invited to have pizza and learn about the program!

Questions? Contact Meghan Cope
mawolff@illinois.edu

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend contact the registration office.

Madison County 4-H Steer Weigh-In

Saturday, February 13, 2027 | 9:00am - 11:00am
Kusterman Farm
3637 Hill Rd, Highland, IL 62249



RSVP to Bobby by January 28th by email: bobbylee@illinois.edu

Any questions? Contact Bobby Lee bobbylee@illinois.edu | 217-300-7175

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MADISON
County Fair
HIGHLAND, IL EST. 1936
Madison County
Fair Association
2025 Park Hill Drive, Highland, IL 62249
CHICKEN & CHIPS
CASINO NIGHT
FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2027
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
EXPO HALL
MADISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
HIGHLAND, IL
ENTRY FEE: $10 PER PERSON
INCLUDES FRIED CHICKEN
FRIED CHICKEN
GAMING & PRIZES
RAFFLE
RAFFLES
CASH BAR AVAILABLE
This fundraising effort will help support needed improvements, including a new roof and lighting upgrades in the grandstand.
BLACKJACK | ROULETTE | CRAPS | AND MORE!
FOOD | GAMING | RAFFLES | CASH BAR | FUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

MADISON COUNTY 4-H PROCLAMATION

On October 21, the Madison County Board officially recognized October 4–10 as National 4-H Week by signing the 4-H Proclamation!

4-H member Lilly A. and club leader Michelle S. shared their 4-H stories and talked about the impact 4-H has had on their lives. 4-H Educator Meghan C. also provided an overview of the 4-H program in Madison County and presented a report from the most recent 4-H year.

Thank you once again to the Madison County Board for signing the proclamation and for your continued support of 4-H! We would not have the opportunity to continue growing Madison County 4-H without your support.







Club Spotlight



Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Jan Denby on her induction into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame at the Illinois State Fair!

Jan Denby is a proud 4-H alum from the Northeast Farmerettes in Adams County, where early experiences—including time at Western Illinois 4-H Camp—sparked her passion for youth development. When her children joined Quercus Grove, Jan became a leader and has continued volunteering for 24 years, guiding young members long after her own kids aged out. She also serves as a superintendent at county fairs and has been an active member—and Chair—of the Madison County Extension Education Foundation. Jan's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment make her an invaluable part of the Madison County 4-H program.



Thank You

Club Spotlight

Pin Oak Progressors participated in the Edwardsville Homecoming Parade to promote 4-H and had LOTS of fun! They threw candy and handed out 4-H stickers. Great way to promote 4-H!!









Community Service

In October, the Pin Oak Progressors' community service was cleaning up fallen apples at Liberty Apple Orchard. The group worked hard, and the collected apples were taken by a family to feed their animals. Congratulations on the great work Pin Oak Progressors!













Madison County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs

Are you interested in joining a Madison County 4-H Shooting Sports Club? Below are our clubs that you can join. If you have any questions, contact Bobby Lee via email at bobbylee@illinois.edu.

Staunton Road Rangers Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal
Discipline: Pistol, Rifle, and shotgun
Location: Edwardsville
Leader: Max and Tamsey Bremer (maxandtams@gmail.com)

Open Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: Seasonal
Description: Archery
Meeting Date: Every other Friday at 2:30pm in Dorsey
Leader: Mindy Cory (mindy.j.cory@gmail.com)

Iron Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal
Discipline: Rifle
Location: Alton
Leader: Darrell Chrisenberry (darrell.chrisenberry59@gmail.com)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2026

- Nov 11: 4-H Career Day with Korte Meat Processing
- Nov 20: Deadline for 4-H Fall Photography Contest

December 2026

- Dec 11: Madison 4-H Holiday Movie Night
- Dec 15 Deadline for 4-H Gingerbread House Contest

January 2027

- Jan 15: ZSuite enrollment deadline for 2027 Fair participation
- Jan 28: Deadline to RSVP for Madison Steer Weigh-In
- Jan 29: 4-H Teens as Teachers Requirement Night
- Jan 30: Beginner Beekeeping Workshop





What's going on with Illinois 4-H?

Find out here:

https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/42/1495356942.html

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