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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## Coles County Extension

# 4-H Newsletter May 2025

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# Calendar

## May

8 - Welcome to the Real World @  
Mattoon High School  
26 - Happy Memorial Day EO Closed  
30 - Community Service Woodworking  
Project- Bench Building Day 2  
31 - Visual Arts Metal Workshop (See  
details below)

## June

1 - Deadline QAEC Training  
1 - Deadline YQCA Training  
1 - ISF Horse Entries & Lease  
/Ownership Papers Due  
3 - Deadline FairEntry Closes  
19 - Happy Juneteenth - EO Closed  
TBD- Leader's Meeting- Fair  
24 - Deadline Fair Eligibility  
Information Due from Leaders  
28- Horse Show (Multi-County 4-H Fair  
Event with Coles, Cumberland, & Mo-  
Do) - 9 am

## 4-H In the Community Spotlight

### Welcome to the Real World 4-H Program at Charleston Middle School & Mattoon High School

We wrapped up our final *Welcome to the Real World* 4-H program this month with students from Charleston Middle School and Mattoon High School!

Through the *Welcome to the Real World* program, students gained essential life skills by learning how to manage money, make smart spending choices, and prepare for life on their own. This interactive experience included a hands-on simulation where they explored careers, balanced monthly budgets, managed expenses, and made real-world financial decisions. By reflecting on their choices and adjusting to stay within budget, students strengthened their financial literacy and walked away with valuable tools for a successful future.

A big thank-you to Mrs. Sherwood at Charleston and Mr. Walk at Mattoon for welcoming us into your classrooms and supporting youth as they explored financial decision-making. A shout out and thank you to our community volunteers; Carla Bradbury, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative; Evan Kubicek (Coach K), Senior Instructor at Eastern Illinois University School of Business; Emily Floyd, Coldwell Banker Classic Real Estate; Brandi E. Shott, Parent & Volunteer; Janis Walk, Parent & Volunteer, Kenzi Cheesewrite, State Farm Insurance Agent,

Molly Mahannah, Birch Boutique & Gifts, Nick Taylor, Owner of Diligent Hands Metalworking, and Melaina Kinkaid, Cumberland County 4-H, and the many other community volunteers who shared their time, experience, and knowledge with our youth.



### Charleston Middle School

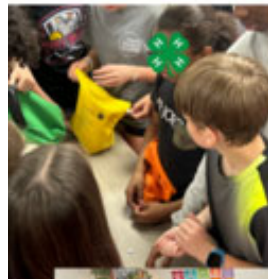


### Mattoon High School



### Leadership Activity at Charleston Middle School

At the end of April, 7th graders at Charleston Middle School participated in a fun and engaging team-building leadership activity. Through hands-on challenges, students practiced communication, problem-solving, and collaboration, key components of strong leadership. At its core, 4-H empowers young people to lead by doing, giving





them the tools and experiences they need to become positive, capable leaders in their schools and communities.

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## The Multi-County Livestock Clinic

The Multi-County Livestock Clinic held on Saturday, April 12, was a tremendous success! Youth from Coles, Cumberland, and Moultrie-Douglas 4-H programs came together for a day of hands-on learning, skill-building, and confidence-boosting as they worked with sheep, goats, beef, and swine. Participants learned about proper animal care, handling techniques, and showmanship skills, all while growing their knowledge and connection to livestock projects. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who made this event possible, including Maxey Ag for their financial support; the Cumberland County Superintendents; the Hemmen, McKinney, Phipps, and Strader families for providing animals; deBuhr's for donating shavings; and the Farm Bureaus of Coles, Cumberland, Moultrie, and Douglas Counties for sponsoring exhibitor harness giveaways. A special thanks to Rural King for donating a gift certificate, and to our outstanding judges: Anna Webel, Aubrey Killey, Noah Goss, and Brad Homann. We also appreciate Megan Torrance from Purina for sharing her expertise on nutrition and animal care, and Randy Flood, Tim, and Addison McMechan for their help setting up pens. The teamwork and generosity behind this event made it a meaningful experience for our 4-H youth. Thank you all!



## Important Reminders

### Key Deadlines

- **YQCA Training Deadline:** June 1, 2025 (See Details Below)
- **QAEC Training Deadline:** June 1, 2025 (See Details Below)
- **FairEntry Deadline:** June 3, 2025

If you have any questions or need assistance with enrollment, please contact the Coles County Extension Office at (217) 345-7034.

Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-noon and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm.



## 2025 4-H Fair

### NEW THIS YEAR:

All youth exhibiting in General Projects at the Home & Family Show or the General Projects Day Show must include the [Coles County 4-H Project Discovery Report](#) with each project. This report is an essential component as it allows participants to reflect on their project journey, articulate what they have learned, and demonstrate their skills and knowledge in a structured way. By completing this report, youth gain a deeper understanding of their project's purpose and impact while practicing valuable life skills such as self-assessment and communication. The inclusion of the report ensures a consistent evaluation process and provides judges with insight into the effort, creativity, and growth behind each exhibit, highlighting the educational value of 4-H programs.

Coles County 4-H Project Discovery Report

### COUNTY REMINDER:

- Multi-County Horse Show is June 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Hosted in Cumberland County
- Home & Family Show is July 1, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Hosted at Cross County Mall.
- Multi-County Dog & Dog Care Show is July 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
- Multi-County Cat Care Show is July 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- General Project Day Show is July 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- 4-H Fair Week is July 27-30, 2025
- County Fair Week July 27-August 3 2025

More 4-H Fair updates are coming soon!! Check out the [website](#).

Go to the [Coles County Fair website](#) for County Fair Updates.

## PROJECT RESOURCES

- [Cooking 201 State Fair Recipes](#)
- [Cooking 301 State Fair Experiments](#)
- [Cooking 301 State Fair Recipes](#)
- [Cooking 401 State Fair Recipes](#)

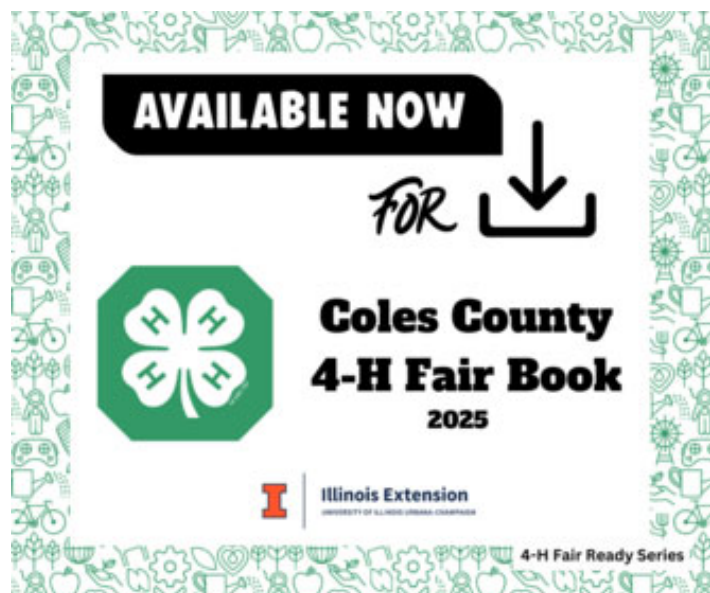
Check out General Project Score Sheets Here!

## Pick up your copy at the Coles County Extension Office!

If your family has not yet received a printed copy of the fair book, feel free to pick one up at the Coles County Extension Office during regular office hours:

Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and  
1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

If you would prefer to pick up from the drop box, please call ahead to make arrangements at 217-345-7034.



**Download Available at** <https://go.illinois.edu/Coles4-HFairBook2025>



## YQCA training

It's that time of year again! If you are receiving this email, your youth needs to complete the YQCA training for 2025. The YQCA training is required **YEARLY** for all members ages 8-18 exhibiting **beef, dairy, goats, sheep, and swine** at any 4-H livestock show. Youth have two options for completing this training: In-Person or online. See the list below to know who still needs to take this training.

The YQCA Training must be completed by June 1, 2025, to be eligible to show at the 2025 4-H Fair.

*Note: If your youth is not exhibiting in a livestock show during 4-H Fair week, July 27 to July 31, 2025, then they do not need to complete this training, and you may ignore the email.*

### In-Person Instructor-Led Training:

Registration is required; see the blue button below. There is a \$3 fee and an online pre-test. The online pre-test **must** be completed before the in-person training date. Training must have a minimum of 5 members for it to occur. Choose the *2025 Coles 4-H In-Person YQCA Training title* when registering.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm

**Location:** Coles Extension Office

[In-Person Training Register Here!](#)

### Online Training:

The online training option for youth has a \$12 fee. There is no need to submit a certificate of

completion if the youth plans to take the training online. The State 4-H Office will document the training. To take the training online, click [HERE](#).

**Deadline to complete YQCA training:** *June 1, 2025*

### Helpful Resources:

- ◆ Need help? Find the **Instructor-Led Training Help Document** [HERE](#).
- ◆ Find the **Web-Based Training Help Document** [HERE](#).
- ◆ Check out the youth and parents tab for more tools that will help you navigate the YQCA website
- ◆ Check out **YQCA FAQs & Video Guides** [HERE](#) (videos are available to assist with registration).
- ◆ Learn more about **getting your YQCA certification** [HERE](#).
- ◆ If accommodations are needed, find **YQCA Disability Accommodations** [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! You can email [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or call our office at **217-345-7034**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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### QAEC Training

The *Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC)* training is **required** for all 4-H members ages 8–18 who plan to exhibit **cats, dogs, horses, poultry, or rabbits**.

The QAEC training is now available directly through the **Clover Academy** in the **ZSuite Enrollment System** at <https://4h.zsuite.org>. Once completed in ZSuite, there's no need to send in a certificate, but we do recommend keeping a copy for your personal 4-H records.

**Deadline to complete QAEC training:** *June 1, 2025*

*Required to participate in the 2025 Coles County 4-H Fair*

If you have questions or need assistance, please reply to this email or contact our office at **217-345-7034**.

Let's make sure everyone is ready for fair season!

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### Poultry Update:



The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) placed a 30-day suspension on the exhibition of poultry beginning February 11, 2025, due to the ongoing threat of H5N1 avian flu. IDOA has recently re-evaluated the situation and announced that the suspension will be extended for an additional 30 days, continuing through **May 11, 2025**.

**Families with youth who may show in Poultry, please check your email for future updates.**

### **What does this mean for our 4-H Poultry Show?**

At this time, the suspension prohibits live poultry shows at county fairs. IDOA will re-evaluate the status of the suspension in early April, and they will decide whether to lift or continue it based on updated information.

In the event that the suspension remains in place during the 4-H show season, please know that we are committed to providing an alternative experience for our poultry exhibitors. We will share more details and options as the situation develops. *Poultry Exhibitors, please check your email for updates.*

For more information about avian flu, please visit the USDA website:

[USDA Avian Influenza Information](#)

Below, you'll find the official IDOA statement. Please feel free to reach out to our office at 217-345-7034 if you have any questions.

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## **2024-2025 – Livestock Birth, Ownership and Tattoo Dates for Illinois State**

Find all livestock paperwork on the [Coles County 4-H Website](#) under the Livestock Paperwork tab.

### **STEERS:**

- Calved on or after January 1, 2024
- Owned & personally cared for by the exhibitor since – February 1, 2025
- Weighed, Tattooed, and EID tagged on or between the last Saturday in January (January 25, 2025) and February 28, 2025.
  - See Beef Weigh-in information.
- Complete the nomination form by **January 24** and send it to Jessica Hays at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to  
Coles County Extension

c/o Jessica Hays  
809 Broadway Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938

**BARROWS: Regular Barrows**

- Farrowed on or after January 1, 2025, and must be the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2025.
- No weighing and tattooing is required, but you must submit ear notches and an EID 840 tag number when making an entry for ISF.

**BARROWS: Premiere Barrows (carcass class)**

- Farrowed on or after February 10, 2025, and must have been the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2025
- Weighed and Tattooed with Box A tattoo from February 10 to April 15, 2025
- Tattooed within 35 days of birth and not weigh more than 1.0 lbs/day of age
- Junior exhibitors can purchase pre-nominated barrows

**SHEEP Market Wethers & Market Ewe Lambs: Live Show Wethers.**

- Lambed on or after January 1, 2025
- Ownership Date – May 15, 2025
- Self-nomination is as follows: Nominations must be signed by the local Extension Office.
- This must be completed by **April 21, 2025**, and send to Jessica Hays at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to  
Coles County Extension  
c/o Jessica Hays  
809 Broadway Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938

**Jr. and Open Premiere Wether & Ewe lambs:** - Weigh-in, tattoo, and nomination procedures:

- Junior and open premiere lambs will be nominated, tattooed, and weighed at the county level.
- Premiere lambs must be weighed and tattooed with the Box A tattoo followed by a number starting with 1 - This must be witnessed by a local Extension employee or a person they designate, such as a volunteer or local sheep superintendent.
- Completed nomination forms must be signed by the local Extension Office.
- Send nomination forms by **April 21, 2025**, to Jessica Hays at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to  
Coles County Extension  
c/o Jessica Hays

809 Broadway Ave

Mattoon, IL 61938

- Ownership and nomination deadline is March 15 to May 15, 2025.
- Lambed on or after January 1, 2025.

### **Meat Goat Wethers: Live Show Wethers.**

- Wethers – Born on or after October 1, 2024
- Ownership dates for Kids & Yearlings not in milk – May 15, 2025
- Self-nomination is as follows: Nominations must be signed by the local Extension office.
- Exhibitors fill out and send in a nomination form with a photo of a goat's ear with a scrapie tag installed in the ear (close up photo of the ear so the scrapie tag can be read). This must be completed by **April 21, 2025.**
- 15, 2025.
- Complete the nomination form and send it to Jessica Hays at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to

Coles County Extension  
c/o Jessica Hays  
809 Broadway Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938

### **2025 Breeding Animals Birth & Ownership Dates for Illinois State Fair Junior Show**

BEEF – HEIFERS AND COWS:

#### **Heifers**

- Age requirement is from September 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025 (w/ addition of Senior Yearling class)
- Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 1, 2025

#### **Performance Cows**

- Cows must be born before September 1, 2023 (Cow-Calf Class only)
- Owned and personally cared by exhibitor since January 1, 2025

#### **SWINE – GILTS:**

- Age requirement is farrowed on or after January 1, 2025
- Owned by exhibitor since June 1, 2025

#### **SHEEP – EWES & RAMS:**

- Age requirement for yearling ewes is from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
- Age requirement for ewe lambs is after September 1, 2024
- Age requirement for ram lambs is after January 1, 2025
- Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 25, 2025

**DAIRY – COWS AND HEIFERS:**

- No age requirements
- Calves and Heifers – Owned since June 1, 2025
- Cows – Owned since January 1, 2025

**HORSE & PONY:**

On or before June 1 – Copies of the ownership and/or lease papers, and one set of photos sent to Jessica Hays at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to:

Coles County Extension  
c/o Jessica Hays  
809 Broadway Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938

**DOGS:**

- Dogs must be owned or leased by June 1, 2025
- At this time, no paperwork is required to be on file. Make entries via 4-H Fair Entry Program.

**DAIRY GOATS:**

- Kids and Yearlings not in milk must be owned by the exhibitor only by June 1, 2025.
- Milking Does must be owned by the exhibitor only by January 1, 2025.

**MEAT GOATS:**

- All meat goats (wethers and all breeding animals) are to be owned by exhibitor by May 15, 2025.

**RABBITS, PYGMY GOATS & POULTRY:**

- Animals in these species that are to be exhibited at the ISF Jr. Show must be owned by the exhibitor as indicated: Does -- By June 1 of the year exhibiting; All others -- Out of stock owned by the exhibitor prior to June 1.



# Illinois State Fair

## Livestock Events & ShoWorks

Go to the [Illinois State Fair](#) Website for more updates.

### STATE REMINDER:

- Public Speaking Contest is April 26, 2025
- IL State Fair Jr. Horse Show is July 22-26, 2025.

### 2025 County Exhibit Days for reference

- **Friday, August 8:** Adams, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Edwards, Gallatin, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Henderson, Jefferson, Kankakee, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, McDonough, McHenry, Monroe, Morgan, Pike, Pope-Hardin, Richland, Saline, Schuyler, Scott, St. Clair, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Will
- **Saturday, August 9:** Bureau, Carroll, Champaign, **Coles**, Cumberland, DeWitt, Ford, Fulton, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Macon, Marshall-Putnam, Mason, Mercer, Moultrie-Douglas, Peoria, Piatt, Rock Island, Shelby, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermilion, Whiteside, Winnebago
- **Sunday, August 10:** Boone, Christian, Clark, Clay, Cook, Crawford, DeKalb, DuPage, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Jackson, Jasper, Jersey, Johnson, Kane, Kendall, Livingston, Logan, Macoupin, Massac, McLean, Menard, Montgomery, Ogle, Perry, Pulaski-Alexander, Randolph, Sangamon, Union, Williamson, Woodford

## Workshops, Events, & Contest

**Join us for a Community Service Woodworking Project Day 2 of Building a Bench**

We're looking for 5-7 youth, **aged 12 to 18**, to help finish building a bench for our community service project. This bench will be set outside our 4-H Center, replacing the tree that will be removed. This bench will serve as a meaningful tribute to the Frasier family.

**Date:** Friday, May 30

**Time:** TBD - potentially in the afternoon

This is a fantastic opportunity for youth to develop woodworking skills while engaging in a meaningful community service project. Plus, it qualifies as community service for their 4-H records!



**Interested?** Contact me at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or call 217-345-7034.

**4-H Records:** Code: Community Service- County (C)



## LITTLE ROOTS

GARDENING PROGRAM FOR CLOVERBUDS

5 - 7 years old



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Have you picked up your Little Roots Kits and Plants yet?**

Stop by the Coles County Extension Office anytime Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 1:00–4:30 p.m.

Need to pick up after hours? No problem! Just contact our office at 217-345-7034 or email our 4-H Program Coordinator, Jessica Hays, at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) to make arrangements.



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## Create Something Bold at the 4-H Metal Art Workshop!

Unleash your creativity at our hands-on *Metal Art Workshop* with Diligent Hands Metalworking! Using reclaimed tin, participants will design and hand-cut their own custom stencil, bringing their unique vision to life in a one-of-a-kind art piece they'll be proud to take home.

### Workshop Details:

**Date:** Saturday, May 31, 2025

**Time:** Chosen during registration

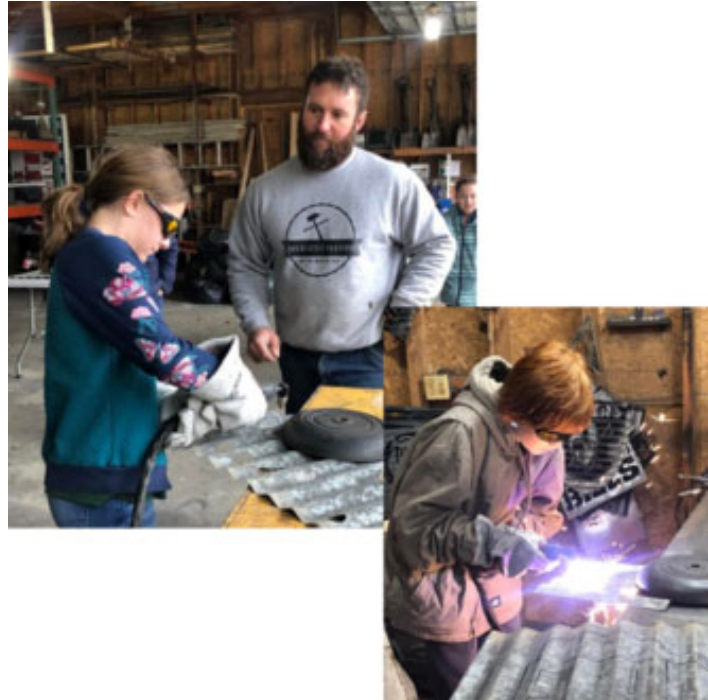
**Location:** Diligent Hands Workshop  
(address provided after registration)

**Who:** Youth ages 8–18 (open to 4-H members and non-members)

**Cost:** \$15

**4-H Member Record Code:** County (C)

**Limited to 24 participants**



Need financial support? Sponsorships are available, contact the Coles County Extension Office at 217-345-7034 for details.

All materials and safety gear (gloves, eye protection) will be provided.

**Register now at:** [go.illinois.edu/VisualArtsMetalArtWorkshop](https://go.illinois.edu/VisualArtsMetalArtWorkshop)

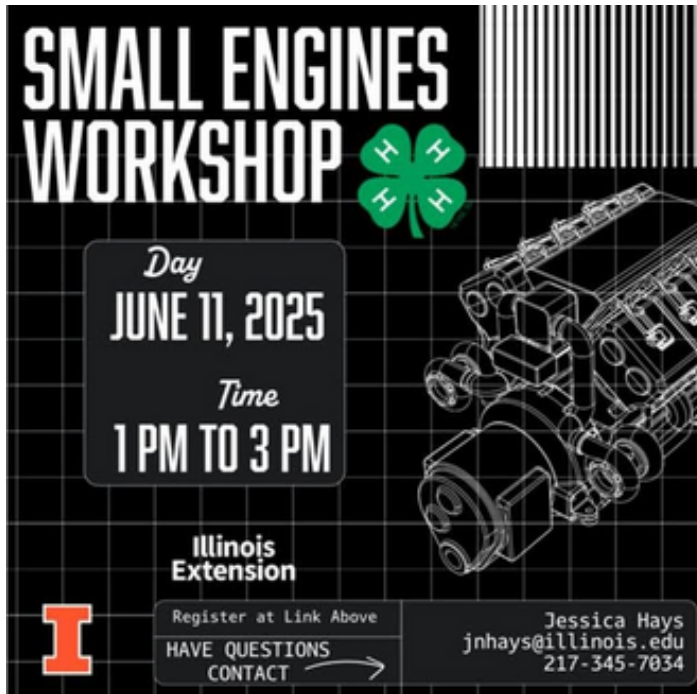
### Questions?

Email Jessica Hays at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or call 217-345-7034.

[Register Here!](#)

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## Small Engines Workshop



Do you have a curious young person who loves to figure out how things work? The *4-H Small Engines Workshop* is a great opportunity for youth ages 8–18 to get hands-on with the mechanics behind small engines. Taking place on June 11, 2025, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., this workshop is open to both 4-H members and non-members. Led by an Ag Power Instructor from Lake Land College, participants will explore two key engine systems: the Ignition/Electrical System—where they'll learn how magnetic energy creates the spark that powers the engine—and the Compression System, which

covers how heat energy is generated and converted into mechanical motion. Designed to spark curiosity and build mechanical skills in a fun, supportive environment, this workshop is perfect for young tinkerers and future engineers. Space is limited, so register soon!

[Register Here!](#)

Questions? Contact Jessica Hays at [jnhays@illinois.edu](mailto:jnhays@illinois.edu) or call 217-345-7034.

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## 4-H Horse Project Clinic – Sharpen Your Skills Before Show Time!

Calling all Coles, Cumberland, and Moultrie-Douglas youth enrolled in the 4-H horse project! Join us for a hands-on *Horse Project Clinic* where you'll have the opportunity to strengthen your riding skills and prepare for our upcoming show on June 28.

Led by experienced horse superintendents from Coles and Cumberland County, participants will take part in practice classes, review show rules and regulations, check their equipment



readiness, and receive helpful feedback to improve performance and build confidence.

**When:** Friday, June 13, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Cumberland County Extension Education Building  
205 S. New York St., Toledo, IL 62468

**Who:** Youth enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project (Coles, Cumberland, Moultrie-Douglas)

**What to Bring:** Helmet, one horse, proper tack/equipment, and a water bottle

**Questions?** Contact your local Extension Office

**Register by:** June 6, 2025

Register Here!

Don't miss this chance to learn, connect, and get show-ready with fellow 4-H horse enthusiasts!

## SPIN Club Updates

### Archery Club 1:30pm

- Check the club Facebook Group for updates.

4-H Families, please see the [Shooting Sports Facebook Page](#) for updates.

### Air Rifle Club 10:00 am

- May – No meeting
- June 14
- July – No meeting
- August – No meeting

4-H Families, please see the [Shooting Sports Facebook Page](#) for updates.

### Dog SPIN Club

- Thursday, May 8
- Thursday, June 12
- Thursday, June 26

4-H Families, please check your email for updates.

**Disclaimer:** All youth participating in Shooting Sports must be enrolled in 4-H on ZSuite and have a medical form on file to participate in club meetings. Please contact Jessica at [jnhays@illinois.edu](mailto:jnhays@illinois.edu) with any questions.

### Attention Shooting Sports Members!

We would like to inform all shooting sports members that updated medical forms have been mailed to the addresses provided in ZSuite. It's important that you review these forms carefully and ensure that all necessary information is accurately completed.

You can also find the forms on our [Website](#).

- [Health Emergency Medical Form](#)
- [Risk Release Form](#)
- [Shooting Log](#)
- [Shooting Sports Record Sheet](#)

The Emergency Medical Form and Risk Release Form **MUST** be completed and sent to the Coles County Extension Office at **809 Broadway Ave., Mattoon, IL 61938**. This will help ensure your participation in the upcoming shooting sports events. If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out by calling our office at **217-345-7034** or by emailing Jessica at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu).

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Illinois 4-H Newsletter

Illinois 4-H Newsletter: May 2025

### Highlights:

- Illini Summer Academies
- Register for Speaking for Illinois 4-H
- 4-H Hooks Us Together Statewide Fishing Tournament
- 4-H Camp Updates
- State Poultry Judging Contest

- Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
- and more

# Your Local Extension Newsletter

Find out more here!

## Highlights:

- Family Life
- Master Gardeners
- Master Naturalist
- 4-H Programs
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs Education
- Resources and Job Opportunities



## Coles County Extension

809 Broadway | Mattoon, IL 61938

Phone: 217-345-7034 | FAX: 217-234-6640 | Email: [uie-ccdms@illinois.edu](mailto:uie-ccdms@illinois.edu)

Hours: Monday - Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm (Closed 12 - 1 pm)

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