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Hamilton County Clover News

Hamilton County 4-H Members Head to Illinois State Fair

4-H members whose projects were selected to go to the Illinois State Fair need to sign up by July 15. If you plan to attend you need to contact the office and order admission tickets and load and unload passes. Please consider representing Hamilton County at the Illinois State Fair!



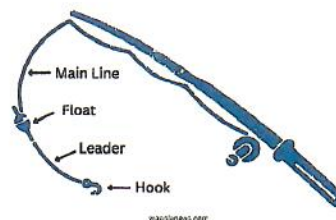
Fishing Workshop Planned

A 4-H Fishing Workshop is scheduled for July 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Youth under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult. There is no cost to attend and you do not have to have a fishing license. It is FREE and you do not have to be a 4-H member so bring a friend!

Prizes will be given for biggest catch, smallest catch, most fish caught and other attendance prizes. Illinois Department of Natural Resources will provide fishing poles and equipment.

There will be a bit of instruction before youth are allowed to fish. All fish will be weighed and measured then released.

Contact the office at 643-3416 today to sign up!



July/August 2025

**U of I
Extension**

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Federation Meeting Scheduled

The next Federation meeting will be held Thursday, July 24 following cooking class. Please plan to join us!



JOIN THE TEAM. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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Hamilton County 4-H Dog, Cat and Small Pets Show

The Hamilton County 4-H Dog, Cat and Small Pet Show was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025. Several gathered to watch our 4-H members participate in the show. We had three dogs, four cats, and two small pets exhibited. Best of Show Small Pet was awarded to Lainey Davis with her Bearded Dragon, Best of Show Cat was awarded to Faith Showalter, and Best of Show Dog was awarded to Shiloh Willis. The crowd enjoyed watching the members exhibit and share their knowledge about their projects. Thank you to Susan Johnson for judging our show.



Rabbit Show

The Hamilton County 4-H Rabbit show was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025. Twelve rabbit projects were exhibited. Congratulations to Gracie Walker as she exhibited the Grand Champion rabbit with her heavy-weight, and Paisley Durbin for receiving Reserve Grand Champion with her lightweight. Judge Mike Wilson praised the members for taking excellent care of their rabbits. Congratulations to all our exhibitors!

Hamilton County 4-H Poultry Show

The Hamilton County 4-H Poultry show was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025. Judge Mike Wilson was very impressed by the quality of chickens presented.

Twenty-four poultry projects were exhibited. Shiloh Willis was presented Grand Champion with her eggs and Reserve Champion was also presented to Shiloh Willis with her gander goose. Great job exhibitors!





Hamilton County Livestock Show

The Hamilton County 4-H Livestock Show was held on Friday, June 6, 2025. A large crowd gathered to watch our 4-H members exhibit their livestock projects. Four species were exhibited by 4-H members: beef, goats, sheep, and swine. Thank you to Jeff Rister for evaluating our livestock projects. Results for the show are:

Goats

Champion Dairy Doe	Marcie Cunico
R. Champion Dairy Doe	Lyla Mefford
Champion Dairy Wether	Natalie Lemke
R. Champion Dairy Wether	Shiloh Willis
Champion Meat Doe	Lyla Mefford
R. Champion Meat Doe	Kodie Mefford
Champion Meat Wether	Lyla Mefford
R. Champion Meat Wether	Kodie Mefford
Senior Showmanship	Brody Bilderbeck
Junior Showmanship	Blu Barrow

Swine

Champion Gilt	Isabella Halley
Champion Barrow	Brody Bilderbeck
Reserve Champion Barrow	Isabella Halley
Senior Showmanship	Brody Bilderbeck

Beef

Champion Steer	Harper Schumacher
Reserve Champion Steer	Harper Schumacher
Champion Female	Lyla Mefford
Reserve Champion Female	Cecelia Lueke
Senior Showmanship	Cecelia Lueke
Junior Showmanship	Harper Schumacher

Sheep

Champion Ewe	Brody Bilderbeck
Reserve Champion Ewe	Gracie Walker
Champion Wether	Gracie Walker
Reserve Champion Wether	Gracie Walker
Senior Showmanship	Gracie Walker

Round Robin Showmanship Senior

Isabella Halley

Round Robin Showmanship Junior

Harper Schumacher

General Projects Show Held

The Hamilton County 4-H General Projects Show was held on June 9 at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds Floral Hall. There were several very nice projects exhibited and all the 4-H members did a great job.

State Fair selections were as follows:

Babysitting	Shiloh Willis
Civic Engagement	Shiloh Willis
Clothing & Textiles	Harper Schumacher
Consumer Education	Granger Wilson
Creative Writing	Fin Barrow
	Lainey Davis
Esports	Corbyn Hood
Family Heritage	Shiloh Willis
Food and Nutrition	
101 Cookies	Bristol Bernard
301 Dinner Rolls	Leah Bowling
301 Dinner Rolls	Cecelia Lueke
Food Preservation	Shiloh Willis
Food Innovation	Blu Barrow
401 Sponge Cake	Reese Wilkerson
Forestry	Warren Bishop
	Granger Wilson
Floriculture	Elizabeth Halley
	Shiloh Willis
Horticulture	Granger Wilson
Interior Design	Aydan Hood
	Shiloh Willis
Maker	Aydan Hood
Natural Resources	Shiloh Willis
	Harper Schumacher
Fishing and Wildlife	Granger Wilson
Photography	Emma Hood
	Shiloh Willis
Robotics	Aydan Hood
	Corbyn Hood
	Emma Hood
Vet Science	Nomie Rawls
Visual Arts	
Food Decorating	Shiloh Willis
Food Decorating	Lynyn Bullock
Food Decorating Alt.	Nivenah Mendoza
Clay	Gracie Walker

Fiber	Laynna Wilson
Fiber Alt.	Gracie Walker
Heritage	Laynna Wilson
Nature	Elizabeth Halley
Scrapbook	Leah Bowling
Scrapbook Alt.	Emma Hood
3/D Mixed media	Lyla Mefford
Wood	Kodie Mefford
Weather	Blu Barrow
Woodworking	Rylanne Wilson



General Project Show Best of Show

Animal Science	Nomie Rawls
Clothing & Textiles	Harper Schumacher
Consumer Education	Granger Wilson
Creative Writing	Lainey Davis
eSports	Corbyn Hood
Food & Nutrition	Bristol Bernard
Forestry	Warren Bishop
Horticulture	Granger Wil-
son	
Maker	Aydan Hood
Natural Resources	Granger Wil-
son	
Photography	Shiloh Willis
Robotics	Emma Hood
Visual Arts	Lyla Mefford
Cake Decorating	Shiloh Willis



Ronald McDonald House Tour and Evansville Countryside Orchard Trip Well Attended

A group of about 40 4-H members, parents, siblings, and friends traveled to Evansville Indiana to visit the Ronald McDonald House and Countryside Orchard.

Youth learned about all the services that the house offers to families while their children are receiving treatments or staying at the hospital. All accommodations are free and provided by volunteers. Our group delivered a large amount of donated items including toiletries, laundry soap, food, school supplies, toys, and laundry baskets. We also delivered several pounds of soda tabs.



Next we made our way to GD Ritzzy and had a delicious lunch and ice cream and a little relaxation time.



Following lunch we toured the Evansville Countryside Orchard. Despite the heat, this was a very interesting tour learning about peach and apple production. When returning from the orchards (which was extremely hot), we learned about their handling, packaging and marketing of their products. We enjoyed an apple cider slushie to cool down.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for a field trip for our members.



Hamilton County 4-H Hosts Farm Follies

4-H members, parents, leaders, volunteers, and spectators gathered at the 4-H Barn on the evening of Thursday, June 5, 2025 to participate in the annual Farm Follies games. Approximately 60 eager 4-H members and adults competed in various events. Thank you to all our participants and the Hamilton County Farm Bureau Young Leaders for sponsoring the event!

Dice Game

1st – Ark Barrow

Feed Sack Race

1st – 8 years and younger – AJ Schumacher

1st – 9 years and older – Brody Bilderbeck

Musical Feed Sacks

1st – 9 years and older – Izzy Halley

Egg Toss

1st – CeCe Lueke and Kodie Mefford

3 – Legged Race

1st – 8 years and younger – AJ Schumacher and Wrigley Robinson

1st – 9 years and older – Blu Barrow and Natalie Lemke

Wheelbarrow Race

1st - Natalie Lemke and Blu Barrow



Blessing Box Needs Restocked

The Blessing Box at the GIFT Garden has been used a lot lately and is very low right now. If you would like to donate any non-perishable food items or hygiene items, that would be greatly appreciated. If you donate just let me or Kathy know so we can get it recorded. This would be a great time to get some county wide community service to list on your records.



4-H Archery Team Forming Now

If you are a 4-H member between the ages of 8 and 18 and love the outdoors, archery might be right for you. We are at the very early stages of selecting members.

This will include bulls eye and 3D shooting. If you have a non-4-H friend, ask them to join 4-H and we can get them signed up!

If you would be interested, contact Dianna Hatfield at 618-838-3071.



4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification

Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Rend Lake

Become a 4-H Shooting Sports leader! Training sessions in shotgun, rifle, pistol, and archery all available 9am-5pm at Rend Lake Range near Whittington, IL on July 19.

To register, contact your county University of Illinois Extension Office by July 11, 2025.

4-H Superior Young Livestock Producer Contest Skill a thon

4-H members, don't miss your chance to compete for one of nine \$1,000 scholarships at the 4-H Superior Young Livestock Producer Contest Skillathon!

Head to the south show ring of the Junior Cattle Barn on the Illinois State Fairgrounds to register starting at 6pm on Wednesday, August 6 ahead of the event. All 4-H members who are between the ages of 14-18 as of January 1 may compete.

****New format:** please bring your cell phone this year to participate in the contest. If you are not able to use a cell phone, please indicate that in your registration.

Test your knowledge on:

Breeds of cattle, swine, sheep & goats, Multiple choice quiz, Marketing, Equipment Identification, Quality Assurance

4-H Can Make A Difference

The 4-H Can Make a Difference Can/Non-Perishable Food drive is back again at the Illinois State Fair this year!

We will be located inside the Orr Building this year collecting non-perishable, canned foods, cleaning supplies, and personal items on each county fair day where projects are being shown August 8-10. The top three counties will receive cash prizes to support 4-H Community Service Projects. Help contribute AND take part in a statewide community service activity!



If you are not planning to attend the Illinois State Fair, you can drop your items off in the basement before August 5 and we will deliver for you.

Garden Classes to Continue After School Starts

4-H members interested in helping at the GIFT garden are encouraged to come to the garden each Tuesday after school to help pick produce and prepare for the farmers market.

This should take about an hour each week and all help would be greatly appreciated.



Fall Festival Float Building

Mark your calendars to help build the float for the Fall Festival Parade float on September 2 after school. We will be in the floral hall at the fairgrounds. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.



Southern Region 4-H Showcase

Registration is open!

Register by July 25

All participants must be 4-H members.

Illinois Extension



The Southern Region 4-H Showcase is an additional opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit their general show projects and participate in livestock shows.

The General Project Show will take place on Saturday, August 16, and the Livestock Shows will take place on Friday, August 22, and Saturday, August 23, during the DuQuoin State Fair.

Find more information in the Regional Showbook at

[go.illinois.edu/RegionalShowbook](<http://go.illinois.edu/RegionalShowbook...>)

Register online at

[go.illinois.edu/RegionalShowcase](<http://go.illinois.edu/>)

Hamilton County Home and Community Education Cultural Arts Show

September 4 and 5, 2025

Entries will be accepted from noon to 5 pm in the Hamilton County Courthouse basement on Tuesday, September 2.

Entry is open to anyone in Hamilton County—not just HCE members.

Entries must have been completed within the past 12 months. (September 5, 2024—September 5, 2025)

No entry fee! Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and a Best of Show in each category.

Adult (post HSchool and older) Youth (HSchool and under):

Adult

Youth

1) Photography*

9) Photography*

2) Arts and Crafts

10) Arts and Crafts

3) Paintings/Drawings**

11) Paintings/Drawings**

4) Quilts

12) Quilts

5) Storybook Quilt Challenge

13) Storybook Quilt

6) Afghans (Knit or Crochet)

14) Afghans

7) Any Other Knit or Crochet

15) Any Other

8) All Other Handwork***

16) All Other Handwork

*Photos must be framed for standing, not hanging. Minimum image size 5" x 7", maximum image size 8" x 10", maximum exhibit size including frame 18" x 20".

**Any artwork done with pencils, chalk, pens, ink, paint, charcoal, dyes, etc. Drawing and paintings should be matted or framed under glass, except for oil and acrylic paintings or on canvas stretched on a frame. Matted pieces without frames are acceptable.

***"Handwork" includes hand or machine sewn items.



The show will be open for public viewing on Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5 from 6 to 8 pm each night. Entries must be picked up 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 6.

Contact the U of I Extension office with questions at 618-643-3416.

This is a great opportunity for 4-H members to get to exhibit their project for another ribbon and recognition. Sign up Today!

Upcoming Dates

July 14	Fishing Workshop
July 15	Garden Class 9 a.m.
July 16	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
July 17	Cooking Class 9 a.m.
July 22	Garden Class 9 a.m.
July 23	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
July 24	Final Cooking Class and Exhibit Day
July 24	Federation Meeting following Cooking Class
July 29	Garden Class 9 a.m.
July 30	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 5	Garden picking 3:30 p.m.
August 6	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 8	Hamilton County Day at Illinois State Fair
August 12	Garden Picking 3:30 p.m.
August 13	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 16	Regional Showcase at DuQuoin 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
August 19	Garden Picking 3:30 p.m.
August 20	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 22	DuQuoin Sheep, Goats and Swine
August 23	DuQuoin Beef
August 26	Garden Picking 3:30 p.m.
August 27	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
September 1	Labor Day—Office Closed
September 2	Float Building after school
September 3	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
September 4-6	Fall Festival
September 6	Fall Festival Parade line up 4 p.m. parade at 6 p.m.
September 10	Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

4-H is Online 24/7

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global>



End of Year Records Due

As the 4-H year comes to an end it is time to start thinking about end of the year records.

They will be due on Wednesday, September 3.



Watch your email for more information.

Youth Sponsors: Auten's Pizza, Aydt Farms, Banterra Bank and Insurance, Bunge SCF, Cattlemen's Livestock, Christopher Johnson Seed LLC, City of McLeansboro, Consolidated Grain and Barge, Cordelio Power, Corteva, Dahlgren Building Center, David & Susan Johnson, Donoho Insurance Company, Dr. and Mrs. Alec Hood, Fairfield National Bank, Farm Credit Services, Fender Mender Auto Body, Food Park, Gholson's Funeral Home, H & R AgriPower, Hamilton County Coal, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Hamilton County Home and Community Education, Hamilton County Rotary, Hamilton County Telephone Co-op and Foundation, Hamilton County Water District, Honeysuckle Vine Events, Justin Drake Country Financial, JW Equipment, Katrina Roberson EA, L&L Hog Farm, Larry Pauketat, Lisa Cross Financial Advisor, Lynn Braden State Farm Insurance, Marlene Cunico, McLeansboro Elks, McLeansboro Kiwanis, Mike Harre/Big Red Barn, Monsanto, Peoples National Bank, Pitchford Elevator, Roger Swartz, SN Partners, Southern FS, Tim Millenbine-Edward Jones, Town & Country Veterinary Clinic, Wabash Valley Service Company, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Woodrow Farms