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- Upcoming Events (Put me on your fridge!)

TAZEWELL 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATORS



Abbie Phillips
abbiep@illinois.edu

Lynda Sharp-Lower
lrs11@illinois.edu



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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

TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER FALL 2025



THE NEW YEAR IS HERE!

What a year! As we reflect back on the 24-25 4-H year, we have so many fond memories. We enjoyed getting to know you better, seeing and hearing about all that you've learned, and so much more. We can't wait to see what this coming year has in store for you of and what new opportunities we can offer!

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 all things 4-H!

Abbie & Lynda

Z-SUITE ENROLLMENT IS BACK

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 25-26 4-H year! Z-Suite will tentatively 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.

Watch your email for more details!



STATE FAIR RESULTS

On August 8 and 9, 43 4-Hers represented Tazewell county at the State Fair and did such an amazing job! Those listed below earned the top awards in their state fair classes.

CHAMPION

Victoria Bade - Creative Writing Short Story
Lila Baer - Babysitting
Kaitlyn Boyd - Civic Engagement
Hudson Dietrich - Woodworking
John Lewis - Model Rocketry
Hannah Rassi - Cooking 301
Casen Rummel - Electricity
Cole Rummel - Woodworking



RESERVE CHAMPION

Gracen Diekhoff - Creative Writing Poetry
Donavan Frohberg - Tractor
Drew Frohberg - Theater Arts
Winston Repke - Visual Arts: Paper
Natasha Rose - Visual Arts: Nature



INSPIRE AWARDS

Jack Baer - Small Engine
Violet Nation - Costume Design
Joel Rassi - Vegetable Plate
Jillian Steinlage - Entomology
Ezra White - Vegetable/Fruit Display

Congratulations to all who went to state fair, whether you took a general project or livestock. You make Tazewell County proud!

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 water bottle, 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.

FAIR PHOTOS

Photos from the 2025 4-H Show and Junior Fair are available for the public to view on our website! extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/4-h-youth-development

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.



MASTER SHOWMANSHIP

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 McKinleigh Sipka. As the winner of the local Master Showmanship contest, McKinleigh had the opportunity to compete at the State Fair against all the local winners from across the state of Illinois. Way to go McKinleigh! We hope you had a great time at the State Fair!



What is a Master Showmanship contest, you might ask? This contest allows 4-Hers who normally exhibit sheep, swine, or cattle (dairy or beef) to show all three species of animals. Participants are judged on how well they show each type of animal, even if they have never shown that animal before. 4-Hers borrow animals from other 4-Hers if they do not have one of their own. This gives them the chance to learn from other 4-Hers how to show a different animal.

Does Master Showmanship sound interesting to you? Make sure to exhibit cattle, sheep, or swine at the fair next year for the chance to compete locally and at the State Fair!



4-H IN THE COMMUNITY

In September, the Delavan Aces and the Horsin' Around SPIN clubs represented 4-H in the Delavan Labor Day parade by riding their horses while carrying the 4-H flag and riding on a parade float! Delavan Aces also set up their Reid's Yellow Dent Corn display at the Delavan Fall Festival which you may have also seen at the fair this year. Thank you for representing your clubs so well in the Delavan community!



STATE LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

The State 4-H Livestock Ambassador Team, in partnership with the University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences, is excited to host the 2025 State 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest on Saturday, November 8 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Stock Pavilion. This contest is designed to help youth build the knowledge and skills needed for the Superior Young Producers Skillathon, held annually at the Illinois State Fair.

Please see the Events tab on Z-Suite more details about what to expect from the event, entry fees, and registration. Registration will close on November 3!

FEDERATION BEGINS AGAIN!

Once again, Federation will be offered in Tazewell County! Federation is an additional 4-H club open to all existing 4-H members ages 13 and above as of September 1. This club focuses on leadership, networking, and volunteerism. We kicked off our year with a meeting and making a scarecrow for the Pekin Main Street Scarecrow Contest! You can find our scarecrow on the Pekin Main Street Facebook page or visit him in person in downtown Pekin October 1 through October 25.

If you are interested in joining Federation but missed our first meeting, please let Abbie know! 4-Hers are allowed to join at any point during the year, so if you missed the first meeting, we can always catch you another time!



4-H WORKSHOPS

As Abbie and Lynda are planning out their upcoming 4-H year, they are always looking for opportunities to offer workshops. Are there any workshops or SPIN clubs that sound interesting to you? Do you know an adult that would like to teach a workshop or lead a SPIN club? If that's the case, please let us know! We would love to hear what types of workshops you would be interested in attending!



VOLUNTEER CORNER



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: CLUB LEADER AND OFFICER TRAINING

Are you a club officer? Would you like to be? Learn to be the leader your club needs at the Club Leader and Officer Training! All adult club leaders and youth officers (and those interested in becoming a leader or officer) are invited to join us! Get tips and tricks about your position! Learn from other clubs! Take home new activities, fresh ideas, and great games! Snacks will be provided.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 15. Watch your email and Z-Suite Announcements for more information!



2026 FAIR FUN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Do you want to have a say in what fun things are planned for the 2026 4-H Show and Junior Fair? We would love to have your input and urge you to consider joining our Fair Fun Planning Committee! This committee is responsible for planning fun things for fairgoers, coordinating volunteers to run fair events, and securing funds to make those things possible. Any commitment, big or small, would be welcome! This committee is open to parents, past 4-Hers, and current 4-Hers ages 14 and older. Committee meetings are typically in the afternoon or evening starting in the spring. Please reach out to Abbie and Lynda if you are interested in being on the Fair Fun Planning Committee!



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! Cloverbuds are ages 5 to 7 (as of Sept 1). Typically, Cloverbud clubs meet at the same time and place as a regular 4-H club but split off to do more age appropriate activities. If this sounds like something you or someone you know would be interested in, please let Abbie or Lynda know!



WE WANT YOU FOR SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER!

If you love being outdoors, coaching, teaching firearm or archery safety, you might be a great candidate to be a Shooting Sports volunteer! We are able to offer positions for Archery, Shotgun, Rifle, and Pistol shooting sports. In order to become a volunteer, you must attend a field day and complete the online module in addition to completing the usual screening process to become a 4-H volunteer. Shooting Sports instructors must be 21 years of age as of September 1, 2025.

**4-H VOLUNTEER SHOOTING SPORTS CERTIFICATION DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025**

9 AM - 5 PM

**FOOSLAND SPORTSMAN'S CLUB (CHAMPAIGN COUNTY)
OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES (ARCHERY, SHOTGUN, RIFLE, PISTOL)**

If you are interested in becoming a 4-H Shooting Sports instructor, don't hesitate to reach out to Lynda or Abbie! One of them will help get your volunteer application and screening process started and complete a field day registration on your behalf if you would like to attend.





UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS



SEPTEMBER

September 1 - Start of the 25-26 4-H Year
September 11 - First 25-26 Federation Meeting

OCTOBER

October 1 - Z-Suite Open for New 4-H Year Enrollment
October 4 - State Dog Show at Interstate Center, Bloomington
October 5 - 11 - National 4-H Week
October 18 - Shooting Sports Instructor Training

NOVEMBER

November 15 - Club Leader and Officer Training
November 30 - Z-Suite Early Action Deadline





Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



University of Illinois Extension
Fulton - Mason - Peoria - Tazewell Unit
Tazewell County Branch Office
1505 Valle Vista Blvd
Pekin, IL 61554

Return Service Requested

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have something to share, we'd love to include you in our quarterly newsletter, whether it's praise for a job well-done, an announcement for a local event, club activities or something else you'd like to share with our Tazewell County 4-H friends and families. Send in your submissions to Abbie (abbiep@illinois.edu) or Lynda (lrs11@illinois.edu).

TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H STAFF

Abbie Phillips, 4-H Program Coordinator

Lynda Sharp-Lower, 4-H Program Coordinator

Earl Allen, County Director

Julann Schierer, Office Support

