

# 4-H FAMILY

## MADISON COUNTY

OCTOBER 2025

# NEWS



### **Hello 4-H Families,**

It's starting to feel like fall! At the beginning of October, we celebrate National 4-H Week. Please help us show your 4-H pride by participating in the 4-H activities all week from October 5-11!

Remember to mark your calendars for the many opportunities approaching in the next few months.

Enjoy this beautiful weather, and stay safe!

Thank you,  
Meghan Cope | 4-H Program Coordinator  
Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties |  
[mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu)



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Page 1-11: County info  
Page 12: Calendar of events

#### **Office Hours:**

Monday- Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Friday by appointment  
Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch

#### **Monroe County Office**

901 Illinois Ave., PO Box 117  
Waterloo, IL 62298  
618-939-3434, 618-939-7708 Fax

#### **Madison-St. Clair County Branch Office**

900 Hillsboro Ave  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618-344-4230

#### **University of IL Extension at the JJK FAN Innovation Center**

2051 Lynch Ave  
East St. Louis, IL 62204  
618-875-8939, 618-875-8786 Fax

#### **Extension County Director**

*William Catalano*

#### **4-H Youth Educator**

*Emily Reece*

#### **Madison & St. Clair 4-H Coordinator**

*Meghan Cope*

#### **Office Support Specialist**

*Nicole Hellon*

#### **Visit our website:**

[extension.illinois.edu/mms](http://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

## NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

Join us in celebrating National 4-H Week from October 5th to October 11th by participating in our weekly events. Be sure to send photos of your participation to Meghan Cope at [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu). You might even see your picture featured on the Madison County 4-H Facebook Page!

### Illinois Extension

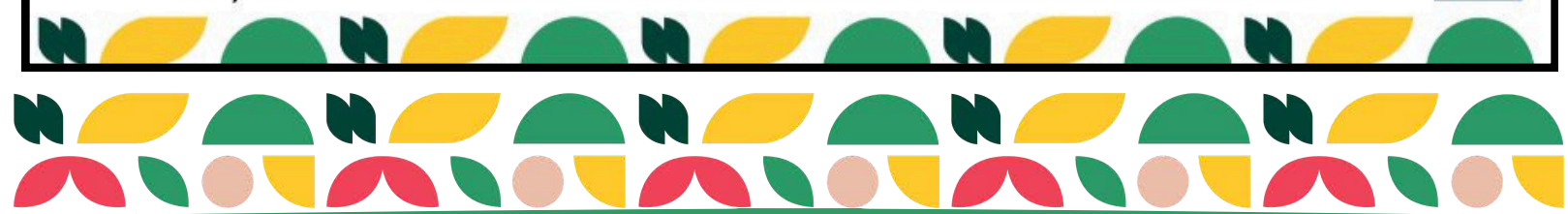
Madison County

## National 4-H Week

October 5 - 11



Sunday 10/5	<b>Sign Sunday</b> Make a 4-H sign and post it in your yard or at a local business.
Monday 10/6	<b>Social Media Monday</b> Share a 4-H post on social media today!
Tuesday 10/7	<b>Time Machine Tuesday</b> Share a picture of you at the start of your 4-H career or a photo of you and your club.
Wednesday 10/8	<b>Spirit Day Wednesday</b> Wear your favorite 4-H gear or something green today!
Thursday 10/9	<b>Thankful Thursday</b> Thank a mentor, 4-H leader, or volunteer today!
Friday 10/10	<b>Favorite Project Friday</b> Share your favorite 4-H project or memory!
Saturday 10/11	<b>Service Saturday</b> Give back to your community by doing a service project!



## 2025-2026 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 Meghan Cope via email at [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu)

## 2025-2026 4-H MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Youth **five 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).



# 4-H Enrollment Information

## **Enrollment for the 2025-2026 4-H year will open on October 8th!**

We will again be using the Z-Suite platform to collect enrollment information.

New members, please use the instructions below to create a household account for your family and enroll youth members. Returning members, please use the same login information as last year. Adults who are screened volunteers must enroll in Z-Suites, too. If you have any questions, please email Meghan at [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu) or call 618-344-4230.

There is a \$20 fee for all youth enrolled in the Illinois 4-H program. Enrollment fees will be sponsored by **Madison County Farm Bureau** - 900 Hillsboro Ave. Edwardsville, IL, and **Southwestern Electric Cooperative** - 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246 (Attn: Jennifer Gillan, Member Services Manager). 4-H Clubs and Families are encouraged to send a **THANK YOU** note to both sponsors for their generosity. There is a \$10 out-of-county fee for members who do not live in Madison County.

Z-Suites

<https://4h.zsuite.org/>

### **Instructions to enroll:**

**New Members:** <https://go.illinois.edu/MadisonCountyZSuiteQuickStartGuide>

**Returning Members:** <https://go.illinois.edu/MadisonCountyZSuiteReenrollmentInstructions>

**Leaders:** <https://go.illinois.edu/MadisonCountyZSuiteClubLeaderManagementGuide>

Please mark all the projects they are interested in on the youth's account. When Fair Entry comes out in April/May, that is when they will commit to which project from Z-Suites they plan to show at the 2026 fair.

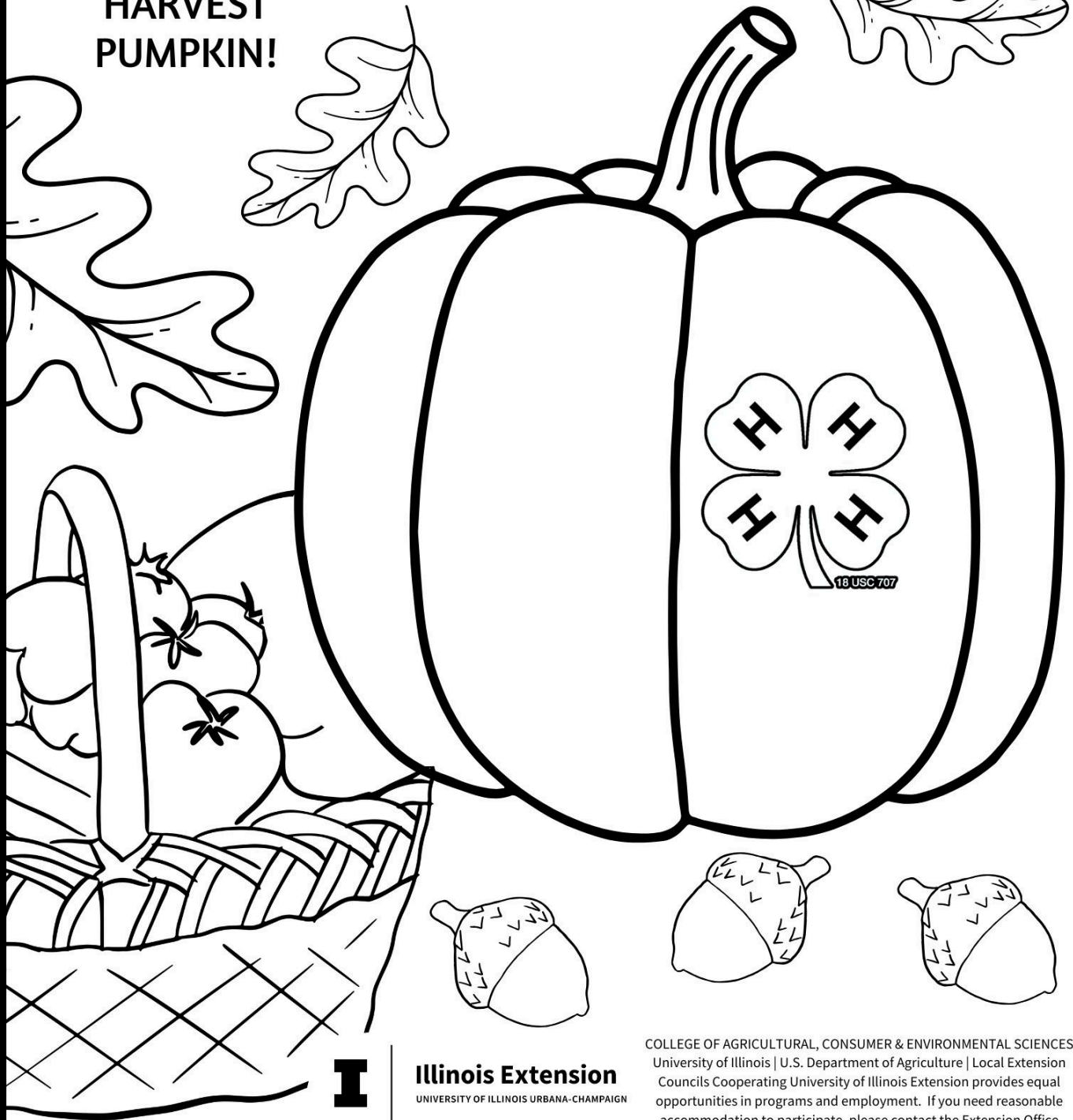
The deadline to enroll to be able to show during the 2026 fair season is **January 15, 2026**. If they are not enrolled by January 15, youth will not be able to show any projects for the 2026 fair season. 4-H members can still sign up to participate in 4-H after the deadline, but are not allowed to attend the 2026 fair season.



# HARVEST FUN

DESIGN YOUR  
HARVEST  
PUMPKIN!

My name is:



**Illinois Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension  
Councils Cooperating University of Illinois Extension provides equal  
opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable  
accommodation to participate, please contact the Extension Office



**Congratulations to the following winners for  
winning the Certificate of Excellence:**

- **Gabriella Nelson** from Alhambra Morning Glories 4-H Club for winning the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Performance in Entomology!

**Presented by District V - Garden Clubs of Illinois**



- **Grace Madison** from Grant Prairie 4-H Club for winning the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Performance in Vegetable Gardening Display!

**Presented by Lakeview Garden Club**



- **Katherine Ostron** from Quercus Grove 4-H Club for winning the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Performance in Floriculture!

**Presented by Lakeview Garden Club**



**Thank you to District V - Garden Clubs of Illinois  
and Lakeview Garden Club for granting these  
awards to Madison County 4-H members.**





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# 4-H CLOVERBUDS

## 2025-2026 Checklist



**Beyond  
Ready**

### Enrollment

- Complete online **enrollment** for 2025-2026 and choose the Cloverbud project (*Enroll by January 15 to be eligible to exhibit.*)
- Annual **Program Fee** of \$20/member; is waived. Enrollment fees are sponsored by: Madison County Farm Bureau- 900 Hillsboro Ave. Edwardsville, IL 62025 and Southwestern Electric Cooperative 525 US Route 40 Greenville, IL 62246 (Attn: Jennifer Gillan, Manager of Member Services). Please send them a thank you card.

### Participation

*Cloverbud members do their project work as a group. Older members do their project work independently.*

- **Attend at least 4 club meeting** (*Parents are encouraged to attend meetings and volunteer when the leader needs help.*)
- Read the **newsletter** and watch **email** for important information Like us on **Facebook** to see
- announcements and reminders University of Illinois Extension: Madison County 4-H

### Exhibiting

- Watch for **show dates** to be announced; exhibitors must be present for in-person judging
- Read the Cloverbud project **Exhibit Requirements** in the **Show Book**, which is emailed to families in spring
- **Register** to exhibit (*Being enrolled in a project does not automatically mean you will exhibit it, so registration is required on our Fair Entry platform.*)  
Show Registration Deadlines:  
- June 1 - Madison County
- **Prepare my exhibit** (*Parents can guide and assist with project work, but members are expected to complete their exhibits themselves.*)

### Where do I find...

#### Enrollment

ZSuite

- 4h.zsuite.org

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Show Registration

FairEntry

- Madison: <https://faireentry.com/Public/FindYourFair>

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Announcements & Reminders

All important information is sent via email. The newsletter is emailed and posted to our website every month.

- <https://extension.illinois.edu/mms/4-h-madison-county>

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

### Do you have questions? We are happy to help!

**Meghan Cope**

4-H Program Coordinator

Madison & St. Clair County

[mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu)

#### Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00

pm. Friday by appointment only.

Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch

#### Madison-St. Clair County Branch

##### Office

900 Hillsboro Ave

Edwardsville, IL 62025

618-344-4230





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# MY 4-H CHECKLIST

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### Participation

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- Read the **newsletter** and watch **email** for important information Like us on
- **Facebook** to see announcements and reminders University of Illinois Extension: Madison County 4-H
- Keep track of what you do during the year for your **4-H Records**

### Project Work

- Clowrbud members do their project work as a group. Older members do their project work independently.*
- **Choose at least 1 project** to work on this year
    - January 15 is the enrollment deadline for all projects
  - Order your project books
    - <https://shop4-h.org/collections/bests-selling-curriculum-educational-kits>
  - Use the **My 4-H Project Plan** booklet to keep track of your goals and accomplishments

### Exhibiting

- Watch for **show dates** to be announced; exhibitors must be present for in-person judging or fill out an absent form
- Read the project **Exhibit Requirements** in the **Show Book**, which is emailed to families in spring
- **Register** to exhibit (*Being enrolled in a project does not automatically mean you will exhibit it, so registration is required on our Fair Entry platform.*)
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**Beyond Ready**

- **talk/demonstration** to your club about one of your projects
- If doing Public Speaking or a live animal projects, **watch email** for important project details
- If doing a live animal project, complete **ethics training**
  - YOCA required annually for Beef, Dairy, Goats, Sheep, Swine
  - QAEC required once for Cats, Dogs, Horses, Poultry, Rabbits
  - *Must be completed before registering to exhibit*
  - All livestock market classes must turn in a **livestock record book** per species by Sept. 15.

### Where do I find...

**Enrollment**  
ZSuite  
- 4h.zsuite.org  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Password: \_\_\_\_\_  
PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

**Show Registration**  
FairEntry  
- Madison:  
<https://fairentry.com/Public/FindYourFair>  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Password: \_\_\_\_\_

### Announcements & Reminders

All important information is sent via email. The newsletter is emailed and posted to our website every month.

- <https://extension.illinois.edu/mms/4-h-madison-county>  
Like us on Facebook! University of Illinois Extension: Madison County 4-H

### Do you have questions? We are happy to help!

**Meghan Cope**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Madison & St. Clair County  
mawofff@illinois.edu

**Office Hours:**  
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Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch

**Madison-St. Clair County Branch Office**  
900 Hillsporo Ave  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618-344-4230





# 4-H DOG AND CAT FOOD AND SUPPLY DRIVE

Deadline October 10th

Drop off at Madison County Extension Office, 900 Hillsboro Ave, Suite 4, Edwardsville, IL 62025

All donations will benefit dogs and cats at the Madison County Animal Shelter!

Supplies needed:

- Dry/Wet Cat Food
- Paper Towels
- Bleach
- Hand Sanitizer
- Dog Treats (small bags or homemade)
- Dog Toys

**Community Service**



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# 4-H Fall Photography Contest

Submit your digital fall photograph by Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> to Meghan Cope via email  
mawolff@illinois.edu

## Rules:

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

Questions should be directed to Meghan at  
mawolff@illinois.edu

Winners announced and pictures displayed on county 4-H Facebook page.



**Madison County 4-H shirts are available in the Edwardsville Office for \$15 per shirt!**

The office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and closed for lunch from 12 pm - 1 pm.

Tuesday and Friday!  
By appointment only.

**Madison County 4-H shirts available in the Edwardsville Office!**



Front

Back

**\$15 per shirt**

**There is a limited amount of youth and adult sizes.**

**Cash or Check ONLY**

**Illinois Extension**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October 2025

- Oct. 5-11 National 4-H Week
- Oct 8 ZSuites opens for enrollment

### November 2025

- Nov 14 4-H Fall Photography Contest

### December 2025

- Dec 15 Deadline for 4-H Gingerbread House Contest

### January 2025

- Jan 15: ZSuites enrollment closes



## What's going on with Illinois 4-H?

Find out here:

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



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