

4-H FAMILY

ST. CLAIR 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

Congratulations to Mason Shirley from Emerald Clovers 4-H Club for winning the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Performance in Nature!

Presented by District 5 Garden Club of Illinois.



Thank you to the District 5 Garden Club of Illinois for granting this award to one of our St. Clair County 4-H members.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1-8: County info
Page 9: 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

Like us on Facebook:

University of Illinois Extension:
St. Clair 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. You might even see your picture featured on the Madison County 4-H Facebook Page!

Illinois Extension

St. Clair County

National 4-H Week

October 5 - 11



**Beyond
Ready**

Sunday
10/5

Sign Sunday

Make a 4-H sign and post it in your yard or at a local business.

Monday
10/6

Go Green

Wear a green hat, clothes, or face paint.

Tuesday
10/7

Time Machine Tuesday

Share a picture of you at the start of your 4-H career or a photo of you and your club.

Wednesday
10/8

Why 4-H Wednesday

Share why someone should join 4-H.

Thursday
10/9

4-H For Good

Go to the State 4-H website and report on what community service you completed in 2024-2025; <https://go.illinois.edu/report-service>.

Friday
10/10

Favorite Project Friday

Share your favorite 4-H project or memory!

Saturday
10/11

Service Saturday

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/StClairCounty4-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

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 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 St. Clair County Farm Bureau 1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221, and St. Clair County Livestock Boosters 7062 Funk School Road Freeburg, IL 62243. 4-H Clubs and Families are encouraged to send a **THANK YOU** note to both sponsors for their generosity.

Z-Suites

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

Instructions to enroll:

New Members: <https://go.illinois.edu/StClairCountyZSuiteQuickStartGuide>

Returning Members: <https://go.illinois.edu/StClairZSuiteReenrollmentInstructions>

Leaders: <https://go.illinois.edu/StClairCountyZSuiteClubLeaderManagementGuide>

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.

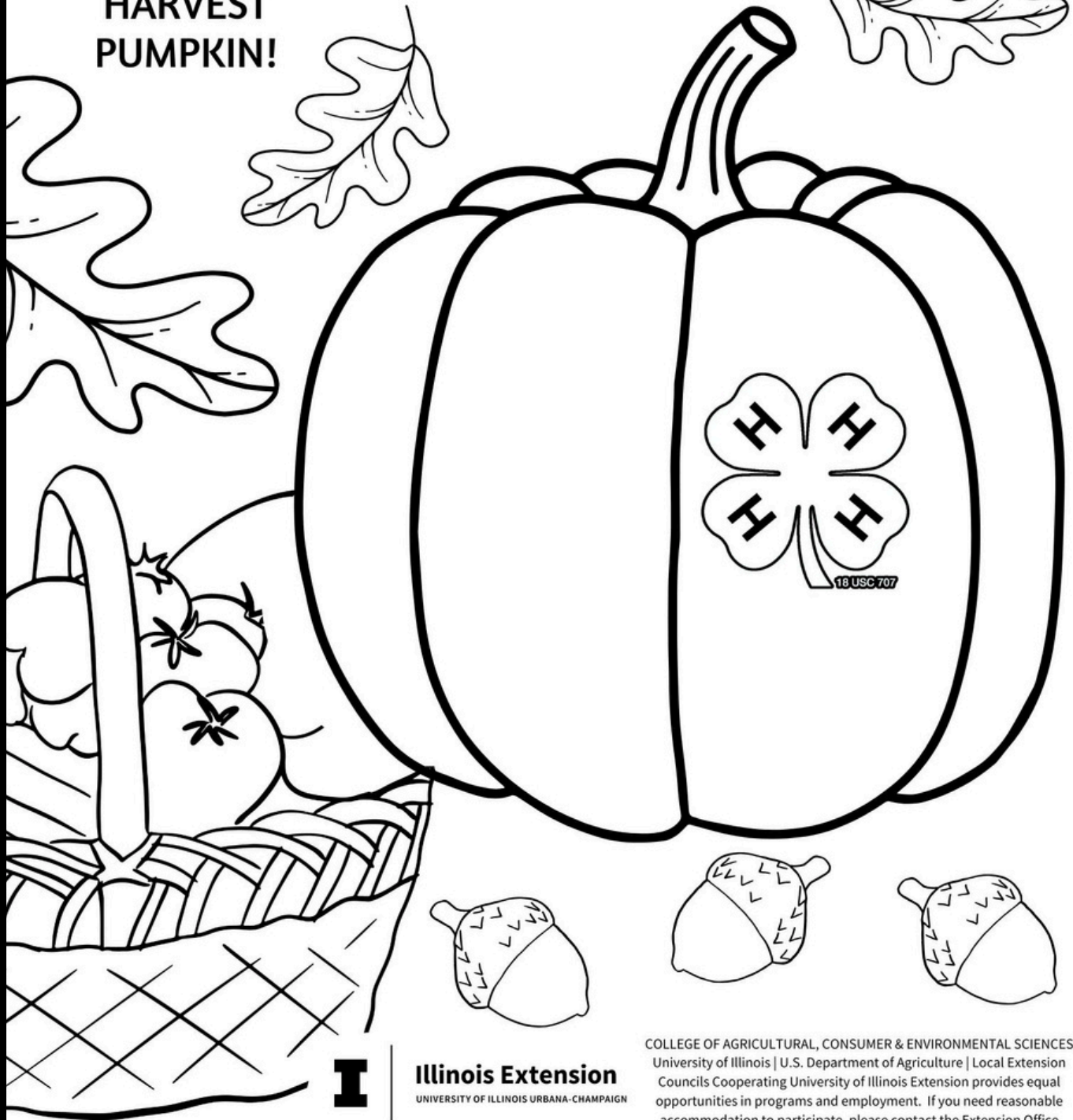
The deadline to enroll to be able to show during the 2026 fair season is **January 15, 2026**. If they are not enrolled by January 15, youth will not be able to show any projects for the 2026 fair season. 4-H members can still sign up to participate in 4-H after the deadline, but are not allowed to attend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





Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIG

MY 4-H CHECKLIST

2025-2026 Checklist

Enrollment

- Complete online **enrollment** for 2025-2026 and choose projects you plan to exhibit (*Enroll by January 15 to be eligible to exhibit*)
- Annual Program Fee of \$20/member, is waived. Enrollment fees are sponsored by: St. Clair County Farm Bureau 1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221, and St. Clair County Livestock Boosters 7062 Funk School Road Freeburg, IL 62243. Please send them a thank you card.

Participation

- **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: St. Clair County 4-H
- Keep track of what you do during the year for your **4-H Records**

Project Work

- *Cloverbud 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/best-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*)
Show Registration Deadlines:
- June 30 - St. Clair County
- **Prepare my exhibit** (*Parents can guide and assist with project work, but members are expected to complete their exhibits themselves*)

- Give a **talk/demonstration** to your club about one of your projects
If doing a live animal project, complete **ethics training**
- **watch email** for important project details
- YQCA 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.**



Beyond Ready

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/mys/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
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
618-544-2230





Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIG

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: St. Clair County Farm Bureau 1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221, and St. Clair County Livestock Boosters 7062 Funk School Road Freeburg, IL 62243. 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: St. Clair 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 30 - St. Clair 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

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



4-H Fall Photography Contest

Submit your digital fall photograph by Nov. 14th 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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2025

- Oct. 5-11 National 4-H Week
- Oct 8 ZSuites opens for enrollment
- Oct 21 Leader's Meeting

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>



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 a reasonable accommodation to attend, call the registration office.

