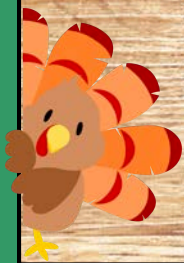


4-H FAMILY

MADISON COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2025

NEWS



Hello 4-H Families,

Happy November! I am excited about all the amazing things that our 4-H members and clubs have accomplished. At your next club meeting, your leader will present awards to the members who submitted award applications and livestock records. Award winners are announced on the next page. Congratulations to all our award winners!

A reminder to submit your 4-H enrollment as soon as possible. Please send a thank-you card to our two sponsors: 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). For more information and instructions on enrollment, please see the details listed below.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 618-344-4230 with any questions!

Thank you,

Meghan Cope | 4-H Program

Coordinator Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties | mawolff@illinois.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1-22: County info
Page 23: Calendar of events

Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday: 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
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:
Madison County 4-H

University of Illinois Extension—
Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Unit

Follow us on Instagram:

Madison, Monroe, St. Clair- IL

CLUB AWARDS

Top Two Club Treasurer Books

- **Grant Prairie 4-H Club by Ella Schwarz**
- **Cloverleaf Ag 4-H Club by Luke Ulrich**

Top Secretary Book:

- **Prairie Youth 4-H Club by Charley Wiemers**
- **Holden Seger 4-H Club by Holden Seger**

I Dare You Award Winner

Congratulations to **George Ostrom from Quercus Grove 4-H Club** and **Kara Leach from Marine Stars Jr. Ag 4-H Club** as this year's Madison County I Dare You Award Winners.

AWARD APPLICATION RECOGNITION

**** INDICATES TOP AWARD IN AGE GROUP**

Top Participation: **Harper Merkel**

Top Community Service: **Harper Merkel**

Top Leadership: **Raeleigh Pfershy**

Top Project Learning: **Raeleigh Pfershy**



AWARD APPLICATION RECOGNITION

Animal Science

Age 8-10

Harper Merkel**

Creative Arts

Age 11-14

Raeleigh Pfershy**

Food System

Age 15-18

Lori Koenig **

STEM

Age 8-10

Cam Gnaedinger **



Livestock Record Book Recognition

**** Indicates Top Award in Age Group**

Great job to everyone who submitted an award application and livestock record book! Each youth who submitted an award application received a 4-H water bottle, and the youth who submitted a livestock record book received a 4-H livestock decal.

Beef

Age 8-10

Andrew Wiemers**
Michaela Schelling
Grace Unterbrink
Maveric Schwarz
Lydia Kampwerth
Warren Musgrave
Carson Williams
Ellie Gall
Holden Seger
Emma Bohnenstiehl
Lane Knebel
Tanner Gueldener

Age 11-14

Leni Schoen
Charley Wiemers**
Connor Schelling
Ellie Williams
Teagan Barr
Maris Barr
Wade Kampwerth
Levi Musgrave
Wilmetta Kampwerth
Sophia Schwarz
Avery Bohnenstiehl
Wade Boeser
Lane Kunz
Lily DeMange
Peyton Gvillo
Hayden Gvillo

Age 15-18

Rhett Schoen
Ruby Boeser
Tyler DeMange
Dominick Kampwerth**
Mason Junker Schrumpf
Sayde Hogg
Jace Knebel
Alivia Knebel

Dairy Cow

Age 8-10

Bryce Meyer**

Age 11-14

Ava Meyer
Emma Meyer**



Livestock Record Book Recognition Continued

Dairy Goat

Age 8-10

August Ernst**

Age 11-14

Chase Knebel**

Nora Moore

Meat Goat

Age 8-10

Charlie Gall**

Ellie Gall

Age 11-14

Mitchell Reed

Cody Dorsey**

Age 15-18

Bailee Dorsey**

Poultry

Age 11-14

Raeleigh Pfershy**

Rabbit

Age 8-10

Harper Merkel**

Levi Haas

Molly Tallman

Age 11-14

Amelia Tallman

Ava Abernathy

Ava Meyer**

Emma Meyer**



Livestock Record Book Recognition Continued

Sheep

Age 8-10

Aubrey Barr**
Jase Kunz

Age 11-14

Aynslie Ernst
Brier
Engelmann
Lane Kunz
Nellie
Andrews**
Teagan Barr

Swine

Age 8-10

Layla Bowyer**
Emma Simon
August Ernst
Aiden Suhre
Kase Iberg
Reagan Niemeier
Oliver Reding
Evie Akers
Easton Henschen
Johnna Ernst
Michael Ernst

Age 11-14

Madelyn Winning**
Reese Zobrist
Ella Schwarz
Brier Engelmann
Avery Fry
Aynslie Ernst
Ella Simon
Mason Hartlieb
McKenzie Ruschhaupt
Allison Reding
Nellie Andrews
Carter Mettler
Tenley Henkhaus
Ethan Henschen
Amelia Reding

Logan Rensing
Braiden Diesen
Lauren B
Tommy Jackson
Hayden Gvillo
Rilyn Rinderer
Peyton Gvillo
Jack Akers

Age 15-18

Lilly Andrews**
Emma Jackson
Bryce Hartlieb
Owen Akers
Trent Hediger
Teyton Henkhaus
Wyatt Rinderer



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

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 is open!

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 the **Madison County Farm**

Bureau, located at 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.

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, the 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.



FOOD DRIVE

November 3 - November 14

Donations will go to House of Neighborly Service of Monroe County, Ministries Unlimited in Troy, and Metro East Food Pantry Coalition. Drop off locations will be at Extension offices including **Madison County Farm Bureau (900 Hillsboro Ave), Monroe County Annex (901 Illinois Ave), and the JJK FAN Center (2051 Lynch Ave).**



Help us support local families this holiday season!

Suggested Items:

Protein, grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy, and seasonings.



Canned vegetables and fruits
Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)
Peanut butter
Rice and pasta
Canned beans and soups
Boxed meals (mac & cheese, instant potatoes)
Oatmeal and cereal
Crackers and granola bars
Baby food and formula
Brown or white sugar
Seasonings
Shelf-stable low-fat dairy, soy, almond, or rice milk

****All items should be non-perishable***

Items not to donate:

****Items needing refrigeration, expired items, leftovers, baked goods, and food with packaging concerns.***



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Local
Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in
programs and employment.



SAVE THE DATE



Around the World with 4-H International Night



**January 27th,
2026**

**Our 4-H Clubs have
selected a country
to explore how 4-H
operates there. Join
us to learn about 4-
H in different
countries!**

Location - Expo Hall at
the Madison County
Fairgrounds

Time - 6 pm



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN





4-H & FFA GRANTS

Sponsored by
Madison County Farm Bureau Young Leaders

APPLICATION DUE DECEMBER 10TH

Thanks to community support of the Young Leaders annual golf scramble, \$5,000 will support local youth in agriculture programs! Madison County 4-H & FFA members are eligible for this project grant. Applications are due December 10th. All grant interviews will take place in person at the Farm Bureau office in Edwardsville on December 17th. Those interviews should be scheduled through the application process. Club leaders or advisors should complete a member review for their applicants. Please direct any questions to Paige Durham at manager@madcofb.org or 618-656-5191.

4-H and FFA
members apply
here!



4-H leaders and
FFA Advisors
apply here!



Madison County
Farm Bureau
YOUNG LEADERS



Some applicants may not receive award.





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.



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



4-H GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Contest



Rules:

- Take a picture of your finished Gingerbread House and send to Meghan via email mawolff@illinois.edu by **December 15, 2025**
- The Gingerbread House must be created by a 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



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Madison County 4-H

Steer Weigh-In

Saturday, February 7, 2026 | 9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Kusterman Farm
3637 Hill Rd, Highland, IL 62249**

Questions: Call 217-244-4385
or email mawolff@illinois.edu

RSVP to Meghan by
January 29 by email
mawolff@illinois.edu



University of Illinois • 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 participate, please contact 217. 762. 2191. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

**Illinois
Extension**



COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thank you to all the clubs and individuals who donated items for the Dog, Food, and Supply Drive! Altogether, we collected 145 items.

- Paper Towels - 35 rolls
- Bleach - 5 containers
- Hand Sanitizer - 1 container
- Cat Food - 19 (17 cans and 2 bags)
- Dog Treats & Chews - 10
- Dog Toys - 31
- Pee Pads - 1 package
- Towels - 6
- Disinfecting Cleaner - 5 cans
- Pet Wipes - 5 packages
- Dog Food - 15 (13 cans and 2 bags)
- Disinfecting Wipes - 1
- Cat Treats - 2



MADISON COUNTY 4-H PROCLAMATION

On October 15, the Madison County Board officially recognized October 5-11 as National 4-H Week by signing the 4-H Proclamation. 4-H members Amelia R., Nora M., Drew G., and Avery W. spoke on behalf of past 4-H Member Shayden H., along with 4-H leaders Jan D., Debbe A., and Michelle S., who shared their 4-H stories.

Extension staff Meghan C. and William C. provided an overview of the 4-H Program in Madison County and presented a report from the most recent 4-H year. Thank you once again to the Madison County Board for signing the Proclamation and supporting 4-H!



Club Spotlight

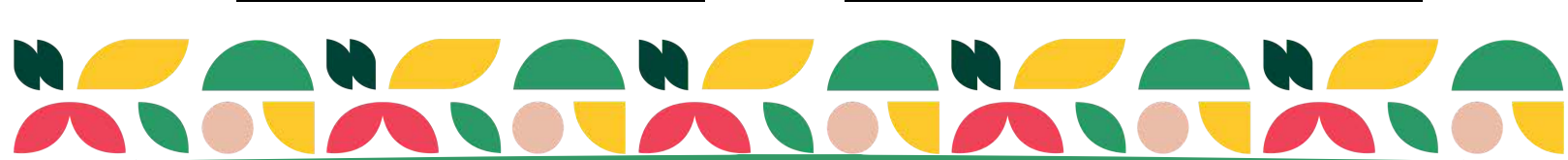
The Good Producers participated in 'Socktober' at their October meeting. Members donated new socks, which will be given to the local hospital to distribute to those in need.



Club Spotlight

Pin Oak Progressors participated in the Edwardsville Homecoming Parade to promote 4-H and had LOTS of fun! They threw candy and handed out 4-H stickers.

Great way to promote 4-H.



Club Spotlight

Grant Prairie 4-H Club walked in the New Douglas Halloween parade last weekend to help promote 4-H!
Keep up the great work!



Club Spotlight

Rock Snake

By: Kara Leach, Marine Stars and Jr Ag Club Reporter

The Marine Stars and Jr Ag 4-H Club has brought a bright and creative touch to Marine Park with their new “Rock Snake” project. The colorful display winds through the park and is made up of painted rocks created by 4-H members. The project began as a fun way to bring the community together and encourage creativity. Each rock is painted with unique designs, pictures, or positive messages. The 4-H members placed the first group of rocks to form the snake’s body, and now invite everyone in the community to add their own painted rocks to help it grow.

International Dinner

By: Kara Leach, Marine Stars and Jr Ag Club Reporter

Members of the Marine Stars and Jr Ag 4-H Club recently volunteered their time to help with the annual International Dinner Night. The event brought the community together to celebrate different cultures through food, music, and fellowship. The 4-H members helped set up tables, serve food, and assist guests throughout the evening. Their efforts helped ensure the event ran smoothly, and everyone enjoyed the experience.

The International Dinner Night featured dishes and displays from around the world, offering guests a chance to explore global traditions without leaving the community. The 4-H Club’s involvement reflected their values of leadership, service, and community engagement.



Madison County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs



Are you interested in joining a Madison County 4-H Shooting Sports Club? Below are our clubs that you can join. If you have any questions, contact Meghan Cope via email at mawolff@illinois.edu.

▼ Grant Prairie Shooting Sports

Meeting: Seasonal
Discipline- Shotgun
Location: New Douglas
Leader: Jennifer Mucklow
(j.mucklow07@yahoo.com)

▼ Open Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: Seasonal
Description: Archery
Meeting Date: Every other Friday at 2:30 pm in Dorsey
Leader: Mindy Cory
(mindy.j.cory@gmail.com)

▼ Iron Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal
Discipline- Rifle
Location: Alton
Leader: Darrell Chrisenberry
(darrell.chrisenberry59@gmail.com)

▼ Staunton Road Rangers Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal
Discipline- Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun
Location: Edwardsville
Leader: Max and Tamsey Bremer
(maxandtams@gmail.com)



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

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

Friday by appointment only

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



Front

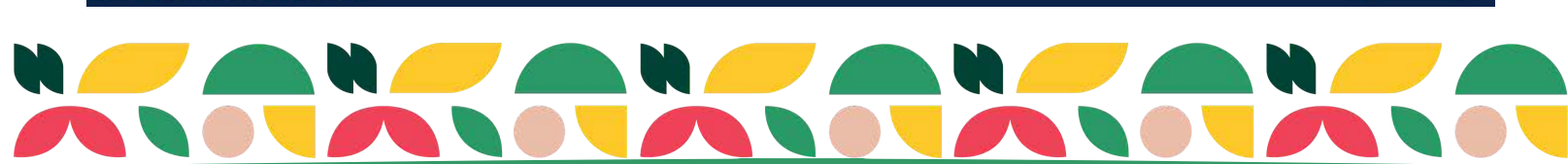
Back

\$15 per shirt

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

Cash or Check ONLY

**Illinois
Extension**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2025

- Nov 14 4-H Fall Photography Contest
- Nov. 27 - 30 Office Closed

December 2025

- Dec 15 Deadline for 4-H Gingerbread House Contest
- Dec 24 - Jan 1 Office Closed for Holiday Break

January 2025

- Jan 15: ZSuites enrollment closes
- Jan 27 - Around the World with 4-H - International Night



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.

