



MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAMILY

December 2025-
January 2026

NEWS

2025-2026 4-H ENROLLMENT DUE JAN 1!

RE-ENROLL:

Please follow the directions in the Step-By-Step Guide:
<https://go.illinois.edu/4HHowToReEnroll>

OR, watch the Re-Enrollment Video Tutorial:
<https://go.illinois.edu/4HReEnroll>

All members and volunteers must re-enroll for the
2025-2026 4-H year.

If you have any problems with enrollment, please contact
Kelly at kmbrandt@illinois.edu for assistance or consult the
ZSuite Help Documentation within the program.

REVIEW/REQUEST PROJECT BOOKS:

If you need to **request** 4-H project books, please do so here:
https://go.illinois.edu/25-26_4HProjectBookOrder

You can **review** book options for your project(s) here:
<https://shop4-h.org/pages/illinois-approved-curriculum>

The Monroe County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation
will cover the cost of up to 3 books.



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& link to State Events

Office Hours:

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

Monroe County Office

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Visit our website:
web.extension.illinois.edu/mms

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University of Illinois Extension:
Monroe County 4-H

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

Follow us on Instagram:
[monroe_county_il_4h](https://www.instagram.com/monroe_county_il_4h)



MONROE COUNTY 4-H SHIRT SALE!

Youth Small, Medium, Large & XL
Adult Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL & XXXL

**Need a special holiday gift?
Support 4-H and give a 4-H shirt!**

Hoodies: **NOW \$18** (Marked down from \$30)
Crewneck Sweatshirts: **NOW \$15** (Marked down from \$25)
T-shirts: **NOW \$10** (Marked down from \$15)

Checks or cash accepted.
(Checks can be made out to Monroe County 4-H Federation.)

Pick yours up at the Extension office, M-F, 8:00 am-4:30 pm.
(Closed 12-1 for lunch.)



4-H FIND OUT DAY!

THANK YOU to all of the 4-H members (and parents) who helped with the 4-H Find Out Day at the Monroe County Farmer's Market on October 25. We had a variety of 4-H general projects as well as a goat, rabbits, chicken, and a duck!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH 4-H



4-H PROGRAM WEATHER POLICY

When Monroe County schools are closed due to inclement weather, county 4-H activities will also be closed unless otherwise notified.

If the weather deteriorates in the evening before the event, please check your email and Facebook for cancellations.



NEEDLE FELTING WORKSHOP

Youth recently learned about the intricate art of needle felting with WJHS Art Teacher, Annette Rau. They also heard from Melanie Shelton, with Shearwater Farms, who taught about wool processing. Participants used barbed needles to interlock wool fibers into firm shapes and designs, creating decorative objects, including succulent and cactus "plants," during this workshop.



WIZARDING WITH 4-H WORKSHOP

Youth had an enchanting evening at the Morrison Talbot Library on October 22! They learned about astronomy, made soil "mandrakes", and created cauldrons of slime!



2024-2025 4-H ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

The annual 4-H Achievement Program was held on Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, hosted by the 4-H Federation. Many awards were presented to members and volunteers for their accomplishments during the 2024-2025 4-H year. Great job, everyone!



45 Year Volunteer
Debbie Eckart



15 Year Volunteers
Raeleen Neary
Brian Garleb (missing)



5 Year Volunteers
Amy Kolweier
Sarah Kolweier



Award Applications
Top Participation & Community Service:
Elizabeth Koch

Top Leadership: **Natalie Finke**
Top Project Learning: **Gracie Stechmesser**



Award Application Drawing Winners for Scores above 60:
Raegan Eckart (airpods),
Tessa Kolweier (tablet), **Elliot Koch** (speaker)



National I Dare You Leadership Award:
Cohen Brandt



Top Treasurer:
Gracie Stechmesser
Top Secretary:
Kehrlington Schultheis



JOIN THE HOOFBEATS COMPETITION TEAM!



Monroe County Hoofbeats Competition Team



Informational Meeting December 30, 2025 6:30p.m. Monroe County Annex 901 Illinois Ave., Waterloo

Are you interested in horse anatomy, breeds, nutrition,
health, tack and all of the ins and outs of horses?

Join our Team!

Open to youth ages 8-18 by Sept. 1, 2025.
 You do NOT need to have a horse to participate.
 No riding involved

As a member of the MCHB Competition Team, you will meet regularly to have fun learning with friends who have the same interests as you.

Meetings will consist of learning about equine science, hearing from guest speakers and practicing for regional and state 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Contests, where you will have a chance to earn awards & recognition.

Club meetings will be led by 4-H alum and horse enthusiast Allison Fithian along with other volunteers familiar with horses and managing the team.

There is no fee to join, however, since this is a 4-H Special Interest Club, you will be required to work a 2-hour shift in the 4-H Concession Stand at the Monroe County Fair to cover your enrollment cost.

Register: <https://4h.zsuite.org>
 Choose: Monroe County Hoofbeats Competition Team
 Questions? Call the Extension office: 618-939-3434.



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 Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.





HARVEST NIGHT!



Thank you from the Harvest Night Committee

Thank you from the Harvest Night Committee. Thank you to all the 4-H clubs who created beautiful poster displays for the entrance to the Hecker Community Center and for donating items for the live and silent auctions. A special shout-out to the incredible group of 4-H Federation teens for their help in many ways at the event, bringing energy and commitment!

Thank you to the 4-H members and their families who made delicious cakes for the meal's dessert!

Thank you to the 4-H families and friends who attended and/or donated items for the event. It was a great event of fellowship and fun to support all of the various areas of Monroe County Extension programming, scholarships, and Baebler Educational Farm!



Thank you.



WELCOME TO 4-H WORKSHOP

Welcome to 4-H Workshop

January 27, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Monroe County Annex
901 Illinois Ave., Waterloo



Open to 4-H members and
parents who want to know more
about...

- Enrollment & Program Fees
- Projects & Shows
- Where to find things
- Who to ask for help
- And more!



Register: <https://go.illinois.edu/Welcometo4-HWorkshop>



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COOK & CONNECT WORKSHOPS



COOK AND CONNECT *with Extension*

Youth ages 9-13 are invited to learn how to prepare fun, tasty recipes and practice mindful eating along the way. We will explore flavors, teamwork, and how to slow down and enjoy food.

All sessions will be from
3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the
Monroe County Annex.

Register for one or all three sessions!

January 27

go.illinois.edu/JanuaryCookandConnect



February 24

go.illinois.edu/FebruaryCookandConnect



March 24

go.illinois.edu/MarchCookandConnect



Questions? Call 618-939-3434
kjuelfs@illinois.edu



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2025-2026 GOAT CHANGES

Please note the following updates for the coming year regarding market goats for the Monroe County Fair:

The birth date for market goats has been moved from "after October 1" to "after April 1, 2025." Exhibitors who wish to participate in the Monroe Co. Fair and State Fair can still exhibit a child born after October 1.

In addition, the recommendations of an average daily gain of 0.20 and an ideal weight of 75 pounds by the second weigh-in at the fair will remain. Please note that these are still recommendations as we move toward adjusting the birth date.

The goal is to increase the quality of meat sold to consumers. The U of I Meat Sciences Instructor has emphasized the importance of backfat in producing high-quality meat. Goats without sufficient backfat tend to dry out excessively when hanging at the packers, which reduces meat quality. Allowing for slightly older animals will increase the likelihood of adequate backfat development, ultimately leading to a better product for buyers.

LIVESTOCK & HORSE RECORD BOOKS

All members are highly encouraged to fill out a 4-H Record Book for livestock and/or horse projects they are exhibiting at a 4-H Show.

It is REQUIRED to fill out 4-H Record Books for any livestock that members are selling at the Youth Livestock Auction.

Members must complete a livestock record book in the current year to be eligible to sell in the preceding year, except for new members or members not previously enrolled in that project.

In-progress Record Books should be shown by your leader at your May, June, or July club meeting before 4-H Shows.

The PDF versions of the books are found here:

<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord>

They may be filled in on your computer, or you may print them off and fill them in by hand (neatly).

The Instruction Guide is found here:

https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord_Guide

It will help you through the process of filling out the book. Books are due at the Extension office by **September 15** for evaluation.



Thank you to our 4-H families and friends for their ongoing support all year!

We wish you a blessed Holiday Season!

-Monroe County Extension Staff



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 15	Livestock Judging Team Meeting, 6:30 pm, Annex
December 18	Christmas Caroling at Magnolia Terrace-Waterloo, 6:30 pm
December 30	Hoofbeats Competition Team Info Meeting, 6:30 pm, Annex
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Extension Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
Jan. 1	Complete your re-enrollment in ZSuite for the new 4-H year
January 27	Cook & Connect, 3:15-5:00 pm, Annex
January 27	Welcome to 4-H Workshop, 6:30 pm, Annex
February 14	Steer Weigh-in, Monroe County Fairgrounds



What's going on with Illinois 4-H? Find out here:

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/12/2010819512.html>



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