

# 4-H FAMILY

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY

DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

# NEWS



### Hello 4-H Families,

It's already December! I'm not sure where November went, but I hope you had the chance to spend time with family and friends. The 4-H staff is very grateful to have you as part of our St. Clair County 4-H family. Happy holidays and best wishes as we head into the new year!

A reminder to submit your 4-H enrollment as soon as possible. Please send a thank-you card to our two sponsors: St. Clair County Farm Bureau, 1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221, and St. Clair County Livestock Boosters, 7062 Funk School Road, Freeburg, IL 62243.

More information and instructions on how to enroll are 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

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#### Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday by appointment only  
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  
uie-mms@illinois.edu

#### 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:

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St. Clair County 4-H

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

#### Follow us on Instagram:

Madison, Monroe, St. Clair- IL

## 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](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

**As of December 5th, 2025 we have 76 4-H members/cloverbuds in the ZSuites system.**

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 as volunteers must also enroll in Z-Suites. 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 the St. Clair County Farm Bureau, 1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221, and the 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>

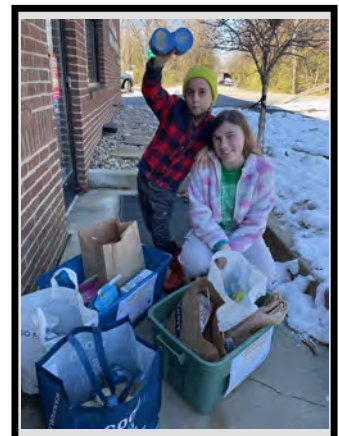
Please mark all the projects they are interested in on the youth's account. When Fair Entry is released in April/May, that is when they will commit to which project from Z-Suites they plan to showcase at the 2026 fair.

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.**



## COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thank you to all the clubs and individuals who donated items for the Dog and Cat Supply Drive! Altogether, we collected 105 items for the St. Clair County Animal Adoption Center!









# Career Day at Hawthorne Animal Hospital

*January 5th at 10 am*

 For 4-H members ages 12 -18 years old

 Limited spots available



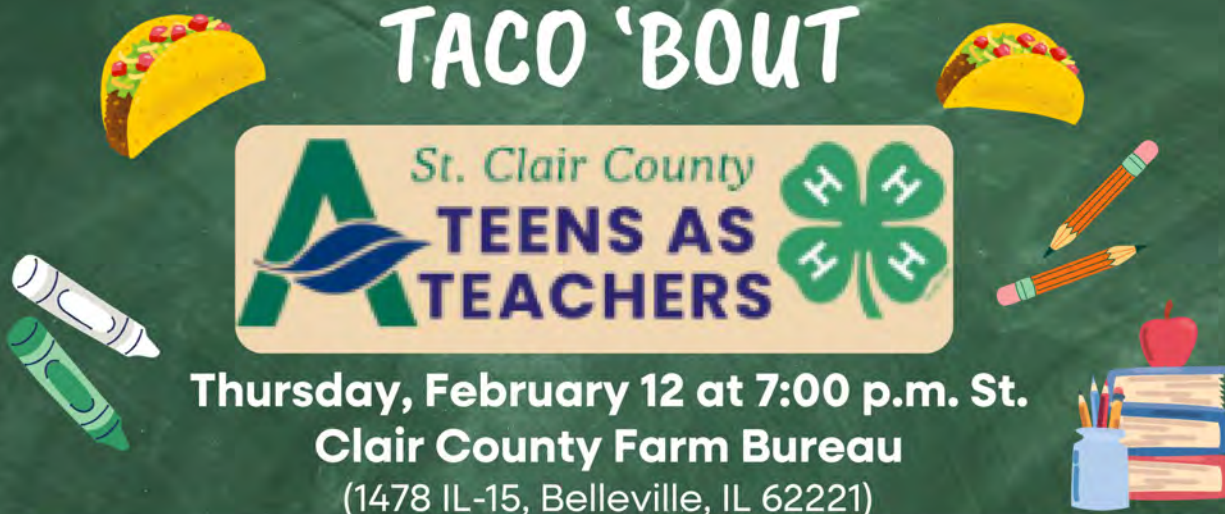
Sign up on ZSuites under events or scan  
the QR Code



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Open to Madison and St. Clair 4-H members





# TACO 'BOUT

St. Clair County  
**TEENS AS  
TEACHERS**

**Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. St.  
Clair County Farm Bureau**  
(1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221)

## What is Teens as Teachers?

- University of Illinois Extension 4-H Program and St. Clair County Ag in the Classroom are partnering to teach youth about agriculture.
- This program is open to teens 14-18 years old.
- 4-H Teen Teachers will be required to complete 8 hours of training and 8 hours of volunteer teaching in order to complete the program.

## As a member of the Teens as Teachers team...

- You will be a role model for young kids who share your passion!
- You will expand your own knowledge by preparing lessons and teaching the material to youth.
- You will get practical training that you can use in college, in your career, and throughout life.



Parents and Teens are invited to have a meal and  
**TACO 'bout the program!**



**Register today at**

[go.illinois.edu/TACOBOUTStClairCountyTeensasTeachersNight](http://go.illinois.edu/TACOBOUTStClairCountyTeensasTeachersNight)



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Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation  
to attend, call the registration office.





## Save the Date for the 2026 4-H Public Speaking Show!

If you would like to participate in the show, make sure to add it to your ZSuites account under Projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Meghan Cope at [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu).



March 23, 2026 at 6 pm at the Madison County Farm Bureau Auditorium

## Madison & St. Clair 4-H Public Speaking Show

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# Fall 4-H Photo Contest



Cloverbud Division Ages 5-7

## WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT



**1st Place**

Natalie S.

Atkins Acres Cloverbuds  
St. Clair County



**2nd Place**

Benji P.

Pin Oak Progressors  
Cloverbuds  
Madison County



**3rd Place**

Maeve D.

Creative Critters  
Cloverbuds  
St. Clair County



**Honorable Mention**

Gideon R.

Emerald Cloverbuds  
St. Clair County

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Thank you for participating in the 4-H Fall Photo Contest for Madison and St. Clair Counties







# Fall 4-H Photo Contest

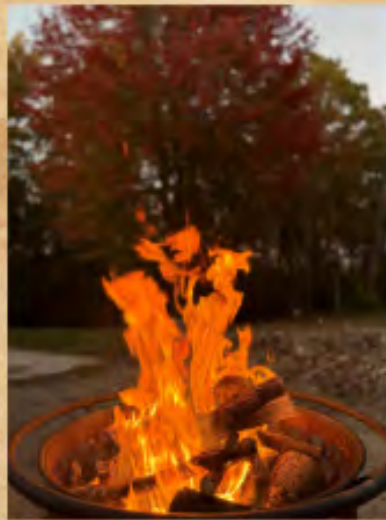


4-H Member Division Ages 8-18

## WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT



1st Place  
Grace M.  
Grant Prairie  
Madison County



2nd Place  
Levi M.  
Prairie Youth  
Madison County



3rd Place  
Emma M.  
Grant Prairie  
Madison County

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Thank you for participating in the 4-H Fall Photo Contest for Madison and  
St. Clair Counties





# Fall 4-H Photo Contest



4-H Member Division Ages 8-18

## Honorable Mention



Bethany N.  
Prairie Youth  
Madison County



David R.  
Emerald Clovers  
St. Clair County



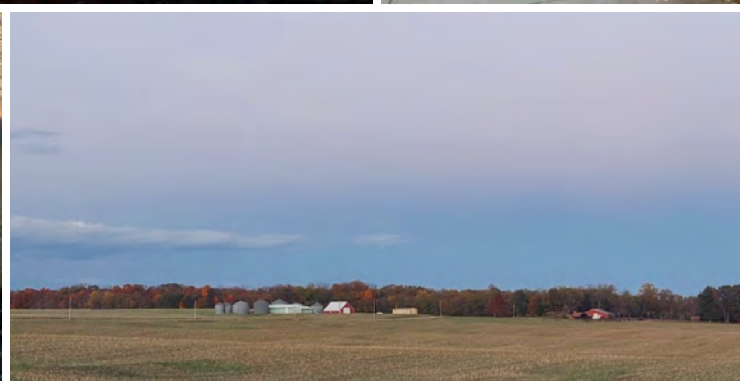
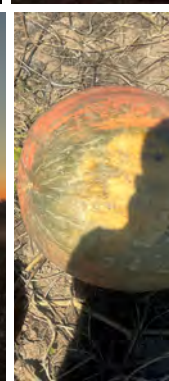
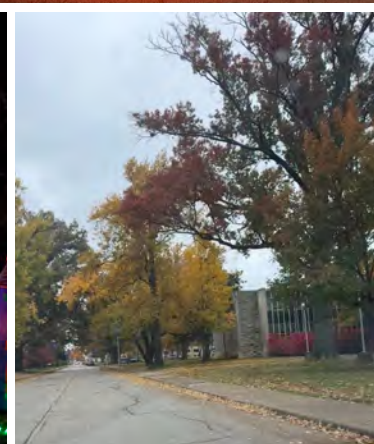
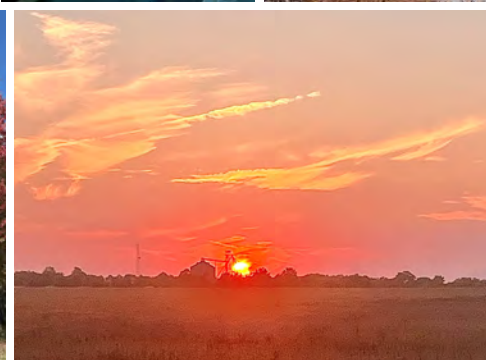
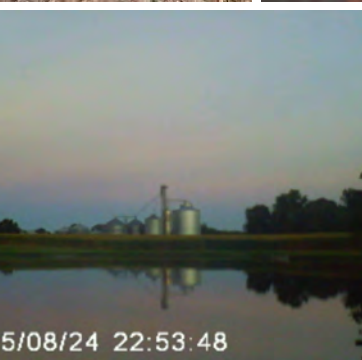
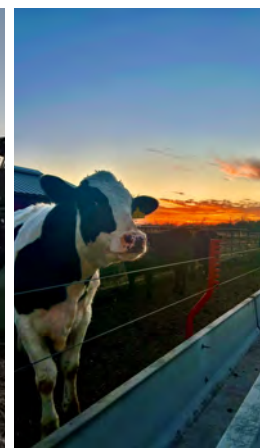
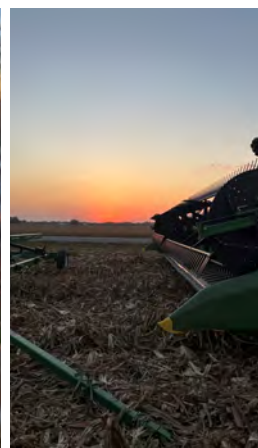
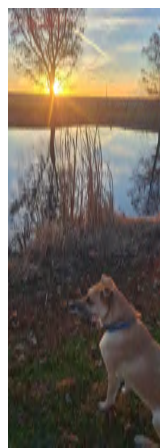
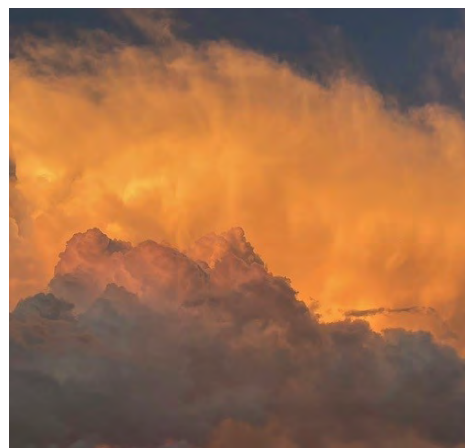
Eli A.  
Atkins' Acres  
St. Clair County



Emma M.  
Grant Prairie  
Madison County









# 4-H GINGERBREAD HOUSE

## Contest



### Rules:

- Take a picture of your finished Gingerbread House and send to Meghan via email [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu)



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## St. Clair County 4-H Showbook Cover Design Contest



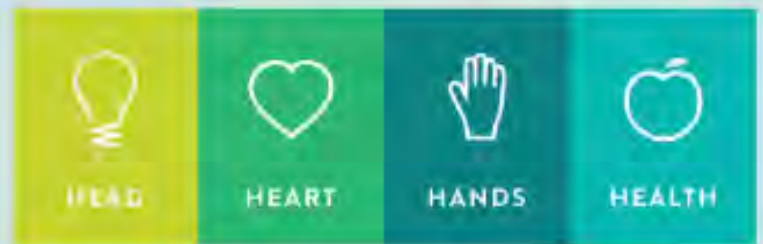
Entries are due **Feb. 2, 2026** to Meghan Cope via email [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu).

### Entry Requirements:

- "St. Clair County 4-H Showbook" and the year "2026" must be shown somewhere in your design.
- Use any 4-H fair or project theme.
- Must be a 4-H member. This includes Cloverbuds.
- Your artwork must be drawn or printed in black ink only.
- Your entry must be on white unlined paper.
- No entries with trademark characters/symbols other than the 4-H clover are accepted.
- Put your name and club on the back of your design in pencil.
- Design must be vertical.
- One entry per person



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## St. Clair County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs

Are you interested in joining a St. Clair 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](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu).

### 4-H Blasters Rifle Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: 1st Saturday of the month  
Discipline- Rifle  
Location: Lebanon  
Leader: Ryan Stoks  
([rstoksdadd@gmail.com](mailto:rstoksdadd@gmail.com))

### St. Clair Hot Shots Archery Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: 1st Saturday of the month  
Description: Archery  
MeetingDate: Lebanon  
Leader: Ryan Stoks  
([rstoksdadd@gmail.com](mailto:rstoksdadd@gmail.com))



18 U.S.C. 707





## Livestock Boosters of St. Clair County T-shirt Contest

The **St. Clair County Livestock Boosters** are looking for creative 4-H members from around the county to design an **emblem for our new shirts!**

**Deadline:** January 2, 2026.

(Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 2 if mailed.)

Please mail submissions to:

**Tori DeClercq**  
605 Phil Kate Circle  
Freeburg, IL

Or email them to:

**toriwaller27@gmail.com**

**Questions?** Contact Tori DeClercq at 618-795-2699.

### Design Requirements:

- Must include the words: "Livestock Boosters of St. Clair County"
- Should represent each animal species
- Cannot include the official 4-H Clover
- No more than 2-3 colors on the design

### Winner Receives:

**A \$50 gift card & a  
Free shirt featuring  
their winning  
design**

**\*\* After submitting, please call or text to let us know. We do not want to miss any entries!  
The Boosters will vote on the winning design at their monthly meeting. \*\***



# Happy Holidays



*Serving Madison, Monroe,  
University of Illinois Extension  
& St. Clair Counties*



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December 2025

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

### January 2025

- Jan 5: Career Day at Hawthorne Animal Hospital
- Jan 15: ZSuites enrollment closes

### February

- February 2 - Showbook Cover Contest Due

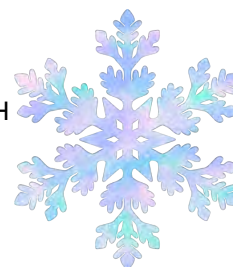
### March

- March 23 - Public Speaking Contest

HAPPY  
*Holidays!*

### 4-H PROGRAM WEATHER POLICY:

When St. Clair County schools are closed due to inclement weather, county 4-H activities will also be closed unless otherwise notified. If the weather gets bad in the evening before the event, please watch your email and Facebook for cancellations.



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