



2025-2026 Stephenson County 4-H Calendar of Events

****Dates/times subject to change –Updated last: 12/12/2025**

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 1 Extension Office Closed for Labor Day
- 19 Treasurer Books Due by 4 p.m., Ext. Office
- 23 Leadership & Awards Committee, Judging 6 p.m., Ext. Office
- 27 Leader/Volunteer Conference, Dekalb 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 29 Leader's Meeting, Ext. Office – 6 pm

OCTOBER 2025

- 1 Enrollment Opens in Zsuite
- 2 State 4-H Dog Show, Interstate Center, Arena B, Bloomington
- 5-11 National 4-H Week Celebration
- 20 New Member Orientation

NOVEMBER 2025

- 1 State Scholarship Applications due
- 7 Camp Counselor Applications due
- 8 State 4-H Livestock Skillathon
- 12 Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 13 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 15 4-H Award & Volunteer Recognition Event, HCC, Bldg H. – Freeport, 10 a.m.
- 16 Officer Training, 5-7 p.m., Ext. Office
- 17 Speaking for Illinois 4-H Training, Virtual
- 19 Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 20 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 27-28 Extension Office CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- 29-Dec. 3 National 4-H Congress, Atlanta

DECEMBER 2025

- 1 4-H Enrollment closes in ZSuites
- 1 Ambassador Application Deadline
- 4 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 11 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 11 Financial Aid Virtual Workshop, 6 p.m., virtual
- 15 Illinois 4-H State Ambassador Info Night, 6 p.m., virtual
- 18 National 4-H Animal Science Career Night, 6 p.m., virtual
- 18 Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 18 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 24– Jan. 1 Office closed for holidays



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JANUARY 2026

- 1 **Beef Performance Cows, Dairy Cows, & Milking Dairy Goat ownership (No paperwork to Ext. Office)**
- 8 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 15 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 19 Extension Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 22 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 22 Fun with Food Science at Home, 6 p.m. Virtual
- 24 Stephenson County 4-H Quiz Bowl Competition, 1 p.m., Ext. Office
- 24 Fashion Revue, Heartland Community College, Normal
- 24 Youth Meat Judging Series – Raber Packing Company, West Peoria
- 26 Leader's Meeting, 6 p.m. HCC
- 29 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 31 Bad Weather Date for Quiz Bowl Competition, 1 p.m., Ext. Office
- 31 Youth Meat Judging Series – Eickman's Processing, Seward

FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 **Beef Steers – Ownership (no paperwork to Ext. office)**
- 1 State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, Black Hawk East, Galva
- 3 Public Speaking Training, 6 p.m. Rockford
- 4 Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 5 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 7 Youth Meat Judging Series – Wenneman Meat Company, St. Libory
- 9 Speaking for Illinois Training, Virtual
- 12 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 14 Beef Weigh-In at Lena Vet Clinic, 9 a.m., pre-registration needed
- 14 Youth Meat Judging Series – Slagel Meats, Forrest
- 15 Program Book Artwork Contest Deadline
- 16 YQCA Training #1, Lena Evangelical Free Church, Lena
- 19 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
- 21 Bad Weather Date for Beef Weigh-In
- 21 4-H Favorite Foods Contest, Elizabeth Community Center, Elizabeth
- 25 Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 26 Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library



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MARCH 2026

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| 4 | Esports Snow Date, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office |
| 5 | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library |
| 6 | State 4-H Youth Meat Judging Contest, Champaign |
| 6-8 | 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl (with Illinois Holstein Assoc., Bloomington) |
| 7-8 | Junior Leadership Conference |
| 11 | 4-H Public Speaking Contest, 6 p.m., Ext. Office |
| 12 | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library |
| 14 | YQCA Training # 2, St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City |
| 18 | YQCA Training # 3, Dakota-Rock Grove United Methodist Church, Dakota |
| 13 | Snow Date for Public Speaking Contest, 6 p.m., Ext. Office |
| 19 | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library |
| TBD | Northwest Regional Horse Bowl & Hippology |
| 25-29 | Ignite Conference, Washington D.C. |
| 26 | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library |
| TBD | Dog Club Kick-Off Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Extension Office |

APRIL 2026

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| 3 | YQCA Training #4, 10 a.m., Ext. Office 10 |
| 10 | State 4-H Awards Banquet, Champaign |
| 15 | NEW 4-H'ER ENROLLMENT DEADLINE |
| 18 | Super Saturday, 8-Noon, Farm Bureau Building |
| 25 | State Public Speaking Contest, Champaign |
| 26 | National 4-H Day of Service |
| 27 | Spring Leader's Meeting, 6 p.m., Extension Office |
| 27 | State Livestock Judging Contest, Urbana |
| 28 | State Poultry Judging Contest, Urbana |
| TBD | Horse Project Kick-Off Meeting, 10:30-11:30 a.m. |
| TBD | Poultry Meeting, 11 a.m. – noon, Poultry Barn at the Fairgrounds |
| TBD | Tree Planting |



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MAY 2026

- 1 ADD/DROP DEADLINE FOR PROJECTS IN ZSUITES**
- 1 Ownership/ Lease Deadline for Horse Show- Due to Ext. Office**
- 2 State 4-H Robotics Competition, Bloomington
- 3 State eSports Competition
- 7 Cake It 'Til You Make It Cake Decorating Contest, Urbana
- 9 Camp Kaleido Youth Art Camp, Monticello
- 4-H Dog Club, 6-7:30 pm. 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds
- 15 FairEntry opens for registration of classes in 4-H Shows**
- 15 Ownership for Sheep Market Wethers & Market Ewes and ALL Meat Goats**
- 15 State Fair Lamb, Goat, & Pork Premiere & Carcass Forms Deadline**
- 25 Extension Office closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2026

- 1 Deadline for YQCA & QAEC Certification**
- 1 Dairy Lease & Dairy Grade Animal paperwork due to Extension Office**
- 1 Ownership/ Lease Deadline for Dog Show- Due to Extension Office**
- 1 Swine Ear Notch form deadline- Due to Extension Office**
- 1 Ownership deadline: Beef Heifers, Beef Bucket Calves, Swine- gilts & barrows, Dairy Goat Kids, Dairy Goat Yearling (not in milk), ALL Pygmy Goats, Dairy Calves & Heifers, All Poultry, Rabbits & Cavies (No paperwork to Ext. Office)**
- 1 State Horse Fair Papers Due at State Fair Office**
- 4-H Dog Club, 6-7:30 pm, 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds
- 14-18 4-H Camp, Rock River Christian Camp, Polo, IL
- TBD Multi-County 4-H Horse Show, at the Fairgrounds
- 15 FairEntry closes for registration of classes in 4-H Shows**
- 4-H Dog Club, 6-7:30 pm, 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds
- 19 Juneteeth, Extension Office Closed
- 21-25 Summer Illini Academies, Champaign
- Final Practice for Dog Club, 6-8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds
- 25 Breeding Sheep Ownership deadline**
- 27 4-H Dog & Cat Shows at the Fairgrounds, 9 AM



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JULY 2026

- 4 Extension Office Closed for Independence Day
- TBD Creative Writing Submissions for General Projects Day MUST be received in Ext. office no later than 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Set-up at Fairgrounds for general Projects Day & Fair week
- 15 General Projects Day, 8 AM at Fairgrounds
- 17 Clothing & Textiles, Food Decorating, & Flower Arranging Shows
At Highland Community College, building TBD
- 18 4-H Horse & Pony Show at Stephenson County Fairgrounds, 8 AM
- 20 4-H Shows: Crops, Foods, & Horticulture, 4-H Building at Fairgrounds 9 AM
- 20 4-H Show: Cloverbuds- 1PM- 4-H Building at Fairgrounds
- 20-25 State Fair Junior Horse Show, Springfield
- 21 Stephenson County 4-H Livestock shows-Poultry, Goat, Dairy, Swine, Sheep, Beef, & Rabbit / Cavy Stephenson County Fairgrounds
- 21 4-H FUN NIGHT At the FAIR, 6 pm in the 4-H Building at Fairgrounds
- 21-25 Stephenson County Fair, Stephenson County Fairgrounds
Illinois State Junior Horse Show, Springfield, IL
- 23 Master Showmanship Contest – 3-5 p.m. Swine Show Ring
- 26 Project pick up at fairgrounds, Help tear down the fair building and put things away

AUGUST 2026

- 12 State Superior Young Producer Contest, Junior Livestock Bldg. South Ring
Poultry State Show, barn #26, State Fairgrounds
- 14-16 State Fair Junior Livestock Shows
State Fair Day for Stephenson County
State Rabbit Show, Barn #26, State Fairgrounds
State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, Open Livestock Center
- 16 **Stephenson County 4-H Day at the Illinois State Fair**

September 2026

- 28 Fall Leaders Meeting, 6 p.m., Ext. Office