



# 2025-2026 Stephenson County 4-H Calendar of Events

**\*\*Dates/times subject to change –Updated last: 1/6/2026**

## **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
- 11 Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 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
- 9 Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 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  | <b>Beef Performance Cows, Dairy Cows, &amp; Milking Dairy Goat ownership (No paperwork to Ext. Office)</b> |
| 4  | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport   |
| 8  | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library  |
| 10 | Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport   |
| 11 | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport   |
| 11 | Ambassadors Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Ext. Office  |
| 13 | Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office   |
| 15 | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library  |
| 18 | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport   |
| 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 | Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport   |
| 24 | Fashion Revue, Heartland Community College, Normal   |
| 24 | Youth Meat Judging Series – Raber Packing Company, West Peoria   |
| 25 | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport   |
| 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 | Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport   |
| 31 | Youth Meat Judging Series – Eickman's Processing, Seward   |



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## **FEBRUARY 2026**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Beef Steers – Ownership (no paperwork to Ext. office)</b>      |
| <b>1</b>  | State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, 1 p.m., Black Hawk East, Galva   |
| <b>1</b>  | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport            |
| <b>3</b>  | Public Speaking Training, 6 p.m. Rockford                         |
| <b>4</b>  | Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office                                   |
| <b>5</b>  | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library                         |
| <b>7</b>  | Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport            |
| <b>7</b>  | Youth Meat Judging Series – Wenneman Meat Company, St. Libory     |
| <b>8</b>  | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport            |
| <b>9</b>  | Speaking for Illinois Training, Virtual                           |
| <b>10</b> | Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office                    |
| <b>12</b> | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library                         |
| <b>14</b> | Beef Weigh-In at Lena Vet Clinic, 9 a.m., pre-registration needed |
| <b>14</b> | Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport            |
| <b>14</b> | Youth Meat Judging Series – Slagel Meats, Forrest                 |
| <b>15</b> | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport            |
| <b>15</b> | Program Book Artwork Contest Deadline                             |
| <b>16</b> | YQCA Training #1, Lena Evangelical Free Church, Lena              |
| <b>19</b> | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library                         |
| <b>21</b> | Bad Weather Date for Beef Weigh-In                                |
| <b>21</b> | 4-H Favorite Foods Contest, Elizabeth Community Center, Elizabeth |
| <b>22</b> | Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport            |
| <b>25</b> | Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office                                   |
| <b>26</b> | Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library                         |
| <b>28</b> | Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport            |



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## **MARCH 2026**

1	Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport
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	Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport
7-8	Junior Leadership Conference
10	Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office
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
14	Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport
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
28	Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport
TBD	Dog Club Kick-Off Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Extension Office

## **APRIL 2026**

3	YQCA Training #4, 10 a.m., Ext. Office 10
10	State 4-H Awards Banquet, Champaign
11	Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport
14	Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office
15	<b>NEW 4-H'ER ENROLLMENT DEADLINE</b>
18	Super Saturday, 8-Noon, Farm Bureau Building
18	State 4-H Hippology and Horse Speaking Contest, U of I Campus
19	State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition, U of I Campus
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
- 12                   Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office
- 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**

- 1 Northern Illinois Regional Llama/Alpaca Show, Ogle County Fairgrounds, 8:30 AM
- 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