



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	Beef Performance Cows, Dairy Cows, & Milking Dairy Goat ownership (No paperwork to Ext. Office)
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

1	Beef Steers – Ownership (no paperwork to Ext. office)
1	State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, 1 p.m., Black Hawk East, Galva
1	Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport
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	Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport
7	Youth Meat Judging Series – WENNEMAN MEAT COMPANY, St. Libory
8	Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport
9	Speaking for Illinois Training, Virtual
10	Building Blocks Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ext. Office
12	Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
14	Beef Weigh-In at Lena Vet Clinic, 9 a.m., pre-registration needed
14	Archery Club, 10 a.m., Indian Trails Archery, Freeport
14	Youth Meat Judging Series – Slagel Meats, Forrest
15	Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport
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
22	Dairy Quiz Bowl, 1:30 p.m., S.C. Farm Bureau, Freeport
25	Esports, 6:30 p.m., Ext. Office
26	Horse Bowl, 6:30 p.m., Pecatonica Library
28	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	NEW 4-H'ER ENROLLMENT DEADLINE
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