

# 4-H FAMILY MADISON COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2026



# NEWS

**Hello 4-H Families,**

Check out all the upcoming events and information below.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 217-244-4385 with any questions. We are looking forward to a wonderful February!

Thank you,

**Meghan Cope** | 4-H Youth Educator  
Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties  
[mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu)



# Beyond Ready

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### Office Hours:

Monday- Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
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

#### 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

Meghan Cope

#### Office Manager

Nicole Hellon

#### Visit our website:

[extension.illinois.edu/mrms](http://extension.illinois.edu/mrms)

#### Like us on Facebook:

University of Illinois Extension:  
Madison County 4-H

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

#### Follow us on Instagram:

Madison, Monroe, St. Clair- IL

## 840 TAGS IN BEEF, DAIRY CATTLE, AND SWINE

### 840 Tag Requirement

**New this year, all swine, beef, and dairy cattle are required to have a USDA official animal identification number ear tag (840 tag).** The tag must be both visually and electronically readable. We know that there will be many questions, so here are a few answers to some basic questions:

- Who must have the 840 tag?
  - Beef – all heifers, all cows, and all steers being exhibited at the fair
  - Dairy Cattle – all heifers, all cows, all steers, and all calves being exhibited at the fair
  - Swine – all gilts and all barrows being exhibited at the fair
- Where do I get the 840 tag?
  - Breeder in which you purchased your animal from (up to breeder)
  - Local Veterinarian
  - Purchase tag from a farm supply store (Valley Vet, Nasco)
  - Purchase from Department of Agriculture:  
<https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/premises-registration.html>
- How do I purchase my own tags?
  - The location where the animal is being kept will have to have a registered Premise ID from the state of Illinois. With the Premise ID, you can purchase tags from a farm supply store such as Valley Vet, Nasco, or the Department of Agriculture.
- We don't have a Premise ID, and it hasn't been updated. What do we do?
  - You can obtain an application from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and send it in. The turnaround time is very quick.
  - If you have a Premise ID but need it updated, reach out to [agr.premises@illinois.gov](mailto:agr.premises@illinois.gov), and she will help you!
  - If you need a new Premise ID, you can log onto <https://agr.illinois.gov> and search for "Fillable Premise Form," then fill it out and email it to the address listed on the form.
- Will tags be checked when we arrive at the show?
  - Yes, superintendents will be checking that all beef, dairy cattle, and swine have the tag.
  - If an animal does not have a tag, they are not allowed to be on the fairgrounds.
  - There is a chance that a State employee will be at the show monitoring that tags are checked, and if they are not, then 4-H and the fairgrounds can be fined.



# 4-H Grant

Madison County Farm Bureau Young Leaders utilized \$5,000 of proceeds from their annual golf scramble to fund 4-H project grants. The purpose of the grant is to supply funding to support the growth of projects before fair season. Grant applications ranged from livestock show supplies to welding & woodworking materials to art classes and more! All 52 4-H applications received the award! **The top 10 applications were awarded \$250 to support their 2026 4-H project. Those top recipients are Amelia Reding, Ava Meyer, Briggs Eilers, Ethan Engelke, Grace Madson, Harper Merkel, Jemma Dorsey, Lincoln Zimmerman, Mia Abernathy, and Warren Musgrave.**

Madison County Farm Bureau Young Leaders would love to feature your grant award and project in our Madison County Farm Bureau newsletter and social media, so please send in a brief report and photo when you put your funds to use. Information can be emailed to [manager@madcofb.org](mailto:manager@madcofb.org).

## 4-H Applicants

- George Unterbrink - Beef Cattle
- Grace Unterbrink - Beef Cattle
- Jemma Dorsey - Beef Cattle
- Lane Kunz - Beef Cattle
- Leni Schoen - Beef Cattle
- Levi Musgrave - Beef Cattle
- Lily DeMange - Beef Cattle
- Lydia Kampwerth - Beef Cattle
- Maris Barr - Beef Cattle
- Maveric Schwarz - Beef Cattle
- Rhett Schoen - Beef Cattle
- Sophia Schwarz - Beef Cattle
- Teagan Barr - Beef Cattle
- Tyler DeMange - Beef Cattle
- Warren Wusgrave - Beef Cattle
- Wade Kampwerth - Beef Cattle/Poultry
- Dominick Kampwerth -Beef Cattle/Swine
- Mason Junker-Schrumpf - Beef Cattle/Welding
- Alyssa Elliott - Cooking
- Ava Meyer - Dairy Cattle
- Grace Madson - Horticulture
- Atlee Meffert - Poultry
- Oliver Reding - Poultry/Swine
- Sawyer Meffert - Poultry/Swine
- Harper Merkel - Rabbit
- Anders Page - Robotics
- Aubrey Barr - Sheep
- Jase Kunz - Sheep
- Owen Akers - Sheep
- Aubrey Barr - Sheep
- Jase Kunz - Sheep

- Owen Akers - Sheep
- Allison Reding - Swine
- Amelia Reding - Swine
- Ella Simon - Swine
- Emma Jackson - Swine
- Emma Simon - Swine
- Jack Akers - Swine
- Junior Hellon - Swine
- Reese Zobrist - Swine
- Savannah Hellon - Swine
- Tommy Jackson - Swine
- Ben Zimmerman - Visual Arts - 3D Mixed Media Diorama
- Kollin Jansen - Visual Arts - 3D Mixed Media Diorama
- Ethan Engelke - Visual Arts -3D Printing
- Mia Abernathy - Visual Arts - Chalk/Carbon/Pigment
- Levi Haas - Visual Arts Heritage Arts
- Kyler Jansen - Visual Arts - Metal
- Raleigh Pfershy - Visual Arts - Metal
- Tenley Henkhaus - Visual Arts - Scrapbooking
- Ava Avernathy - Visual Arts - Chalk/Carbon/Pigment
- Briggs Eilers - Welding
- Bryce Meyer - Welding
- Lincoln Zimmerman - Welding
- Alan Winte - Welding



# RESCHEDULE DATE!

## Around the World with 4-H International Night

### February 10th, 2026



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# Madison County 4-H Teens as Teachers Meeting

**Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
in the Madison County CAREE Building**

## What is Teens as Teachers?

- University of Illinois Extension 4-H Program and Madison County CAREE are partnering to teach youth about agriculture.
- This program is open to teens 14-18 years old.
- 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.



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



# Shopping in Style Workshop with **GLIK'S**

Date: February 24th, 2026

Time: 5:30 pm – 7 pm

Location: 2653 Northtown Way,  
Highland, IL 62249  
Limited spots available



Join us to learn how to shop for your clothing style across different seasons, explore career opportunities at Glik's, and enjoy a shopping experience!



Scan the QR Code to register on ZSuite



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## QAEC Training

# Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC)

This training is required for all members enrolled in: **HORSE, RABBIT, POULTRY, DOG, CAT & SMALL PET** projects shown live (animal science posters do not have to take this training).

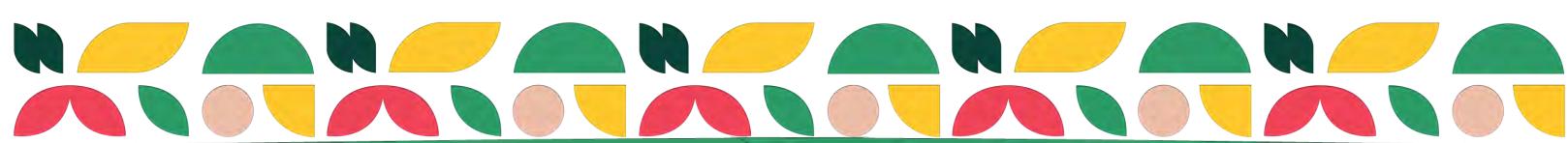
<https://4h.zsuite.org/clover-academy>  
Choose: Quality Assurance & Ethics  
Certification

Certifications only need to be completed one time. Those that have completed it in the past do not have to complete it again.

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Madison County 4-H

# HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE



**Come help clean up the Madison County Fairgrounds. Youth who help will receive a parking pass for the 2026 Fair!**

The plan is to clean up around the fair grounds and in the barns. If you have a rake or leaf blower, please bring them. This event is open to all 4-H members and cloverbuds.



**Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
Time: 5:00 p.m. Location: Madison  
County Fairgrounds 2025 Park Hill Dr,  
Highland, IL 62249**

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# YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA) TRAINING

FOR MEMBERS ENROLLED IN  
BEEF, DAIRY, GOAT, SHEEP & SWINE PROJECTS

## INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING:

**MARCH 11, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

**MADISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN THE  
EXPO BUILDING 2025 PARK HILL DR,  
HIGHLAND, IL 62249**

### **\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED\***

Please register by March 10, 2026  
<https://yqcaprogram.org>

**\*IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS SESSIONS,  
YOU MAY TAKE THE WEB-BASED TRAINING:**

[YQCAPROGRAM.ORG](https://yqcaprogram.org)



#### **NEW members:**

Register for a new account under a parent name and fill out all required fields. Confirm your account through a link sent to your email. Click on the blue “Add Child” button on the YQCA website and enter required fields for each child participating in the YQCA training. Next, click on your user name in the blue box in the upper right hand corner.

#### **RETURNING members:**

Sign in with their previous username and password.

Choose “Enrolled ILT Trainings” from the dropdown list. Click on the blue “Go to Courses” button. Click on the blue button indicating child’s age next to his/her name. Choose appropriate age and either “Instructor Led Training” for \$3 OR “Web Based Training” for \$12. Next, choose participants name, state and training date. Training must be paid for via credit/debit card. If this option is not available for your family, please contact the Extension office asap. Repeat registration process for each family member required to take the training.



This training is required to exhibit and sell beef, dairy, goat, sheep or swine at the Madison Fair per USDA requirements.

Please call the Extension office at 618-344-4230 with any questions.

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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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## Club Spotlight

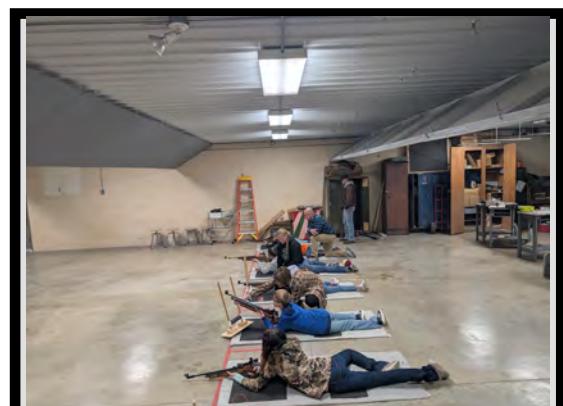
The Staunton Road Rangers Shooting Sports 4-H Club has been holding its winter practices at the Highland Pistol and Rifle Club. Thank you to the Highland Piston and Rifle Club for allowing our 4-H Club to use your facilities!



4H Air Rifle



4H .22 Pistol



## 4-H Teens as Teachers

We kicked off the new year with our first meeting for 4-H Teens as Teachers, partnered with Madison County CAREE/Ag in the Classroom. The participants learned more about the program and received training in the Clean Hands, Healthy Bodies. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 17th at 6 PM at the C.A.R.E.E. building. Youth aged 14 to 18 who are interested in joining 4-H Teens as Teachers should contact Meghan Cope at [mawolff@illinois.edu](mailto:mawolff@illinois.edu).



# Trivia

# Night



February 2026 | **28** | Saturday 6:00 PM

Doors Open at 5:30 PM

Madison County Farm Bureau  
900 Hillsboro Ave Edwardsville,  
IL 62025

**Gather Your Team, Grab Your Snacks, and  
Let the Games Begin!**

Trivia Night is back and better than ever ~~~ are you ready to compete?

- \$20 per person ~ Tables seat 8
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place will play for FREE - Table Fee Refunded
- 8 Rounds of Trivia - Various Topics - All Ages Welcome
- Mulligan's Offered - \$10 each - 1 per Round / 8 Rounds
- 50/50 Raffle - \$1 per entry
- Heads and Tails - \$1 for participation - 50/50 split
- Limited selections of water & soda available for purchase - \$1/ea

Presented by: Madison  
County Extension Education  
Foundation

**Secure your spot**

**TODAY**



**\$20/person**

Madison County 4-H

# National Day of Service

**Come help the Master Gardeners clean  
up the SIUE Gardens as a National Day of  
Service opportunity!**

Supplies to clean up the gardens will be  
provided. This event is open to all 4-H  
members and cloverbuds.



**Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026**

**Time: 10 a.m.**

**Location: 6 Arboretum Ln,  
Edwardsville, IL 62025**

Register for this event through the QR  
Code.



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## 2025-2026 4-H HANDBOOK

Here is this year's 4-H handbook for all 4-H members and families.

<https://go.illinois.edu/MadisonCounty4-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).



# Madison County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs



Are you interested in joining a Madison 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).

## ▼ Grant Prairie Shooting Sports

Meeting: Seasonal  
Discipline- Shotgun  
Location: New Douglas  
Leader: Jennifer Mucklow  
(j.mucklow07@yahoo.com)

## ▼ Open Sight Shooting Sports Club

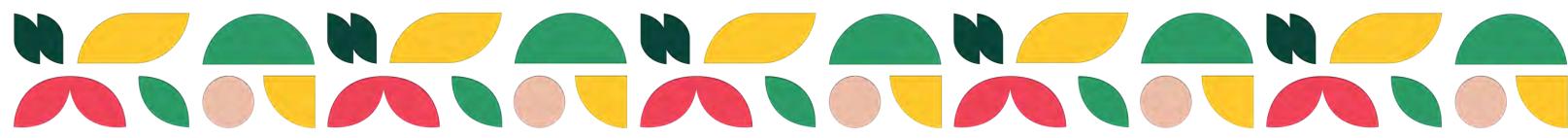
Meeting: Seasonal  
Description: Archery  
Meeting Date: Every other Friday at 2:30 pm in Dorsey  
Leader: Mindy Cory  
(mindy.j.cory@gmail.com)

## ▼ Iron Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal  
Discipline- Rifle  
Location: Alton  
Leader: Darrell Chrisenberry  
(darrell.chisenberry59@gmail.com)

## ▼ Staunton Road Rangers Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal  
Discipline- Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun  
Location: Edwardsville  
Leader: Max and Tamsey Bremer  
(maxandtams@gmail.com)



**Madison County 4-H shirts are available in the  
Edwardsville Office for \$15 per shirt!**

The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and  
Thursday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm and closed for lunch 12 pm - 1 pm.

Friday by appointment

**Madison County 4-H shirts available in the  
Edwardsville Office!**



**\$15 per shirt**

**There is a limited  
amount of youth and  
adult sizes.**

**Cash or Check ONLY**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- February 3 - Showbook Cover Contest Due
- February 3 - The 4-H Playbook for Working With Youth As Partners Workshop for 4-H Volunteers
- February 7 - Steer Weigh-In
- February 10 - Around the World with 4-H - International Night
- February 17 - 4-H Teens as Teachers Meeting
- February 21 - 4-H Career Day Hawthorne Animal Hospital
- February 24 - 4-H Shopping in Style at Glik's in Highland

### March

- March 11 - Madison County Fairground Clean Up and YQCA Training
- March 23- Public Speaking Contest

### April

- April 2 - National Day of Service for Madison County: Cleaning up SIUE Gardens

### 4-H PROGRAM WEATHER POLICY:

When Madison 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.



### What's going on with Illinois 4-H?

Find out here:

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/42/1495356942.html>

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