



MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAMILY

February 2026

NEWS

STEER WEIGH-IN & WINTER SHOW



**February 14, 2026
8:00 A.M.
Monroe County Fairgrounds**

All 4-H & FFA steers participating in the Beef Premiere Program must weigh in.

The showmanship contest will begin shortly after 8 a.m., starting with the senior age group, then moving to the intermediate, then junior, and beginner groups.

As each group finishes their show, they will move on to weighing, etc.

Please dress for the weather conditions!

*Beef project participants -- see email for additional information.

840 EID TAG REMINDER

Per USDA requirements, all beef, dairy, and swine exhibiting at state and county fairs must have an "840" electronic identification (EID) ear tag.

Tag numbers will be required on livestock health papers accompanying each animal and will be verified during vet checks at the fair.

Please see page 2 for more details.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK INFO

Livestock Birth/Ownership/Tattoo Dates:

<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockOwnershipDeadlines>

Livestock Exhibition Health Guidelines:

(2026 Coming Soon)

<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>

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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

Extension County Director
William Catalano

4-H Youth Educator
Emily Reece

4-H Program Coordinator
Kelly Brandt

Office Support Associate
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Office Support Assistant
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Visit our website:
web.extension.illinois.edu/mms

Like us on Facebook:
University of Illinois Extension:
Monroe County 4-H

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

Follow us on Instagram:
[monroe_county_il_4h](https://www.instagram.com/monroe_county_il_4h)



840 EID TAG REMINDERS CONTINUED...



What must have an EID tag?

- All beef cattle, dairy cattle, and swine exhibiting at a county or state fair must have an “840” EID tag. Cattle under the age of 6 months are exempt.
- Tags should be placed in the ears by owners using an EID button tagger. Taggers may be purchased from a farm supply dealer (i.e., Valley Vet, Nasco, Premier 1).
- All steers will be inserted with EID tags supplied by U of I Extension during the initial winter weigh-in this year, as usual. Why must these animals have an EID tag?
- The purpose of the tag is to aid in animal disease traceability and reduce the impact of an animal disease outbreak.

Where can you get an EID tag?

- Tags should be inserted by the breeder that you purchase your animal from. If a purchased animal is already identified with an 840 tag, it should not be double-tagged, nor should the current tag be removed/replaced. Use the tag that is already in place.
- You can request tags for free from the Illinois Department of Agriculture

Swine:

<https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/SWINE%20RFID%20840%20Tag%20Producer%20Order%20Form.pdf>

Cattle:

<https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/RFID%20840%20Tag%20Producer%20Order%20Form.pdf>

- You can purchase tags from a farm supply dealer (i.e. Valley Vet, Nasco, Premier 1)

*A Premise ID is needed to order an EID tag.

How do I obtain a Premise ID if I do not have one already?

- Complete a registration form:

<https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/fillable-premiseform-2019.pdf>
and remit to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

For more information, please visit:

<https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/premises-registration.html>



SHOOTING SPORTS-SHOTGUN



4-H Shooting Sports: Shotgun Club

**Informational Meeting:
February 9, 2026
7:00p.m.
Monroe County Annex**

Youth must be 10 by
September 1, 2025 to
participate.

4-H Shooting Sports programs provide a positive experience for youth and promote the safe and ethical use of firearms. It is our belief that firearm education reduces gun accidents. Hunting and shooting have been a strong part of our American tradition, and the 4-H shooting sports programs helps to continue this tradition through involvement of the whole family.

Register to attend info meeting:
<https://go.illinois.edu/4-HShotgunInfo>
**Additional enrollment required upon joining the club.*



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a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 618-939-3434.
Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



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COOK & CONNECT WORKSHOPS



COOK AND CONNECT with Extension

Youth ages 9-13 are invited to learn how to prepare fun, tasty recipes and practice mindful eating along the way. We will explore flavors, teamwork, and how to slow down and enjoy food.

All sessions will be from
3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the
Monroe County Annex.

Register for one or all three sessions!

~~January 27~~

New Date: Wednesday,
February 4 from
3:15 pm -5 pm.

February 24

go.illinois.edu/FebruaryCookandConnect



March 24

go.illinois.edu/MarchCookandConnect



Questions? Call 618-939-3434
kjuelfs@illinois.edu



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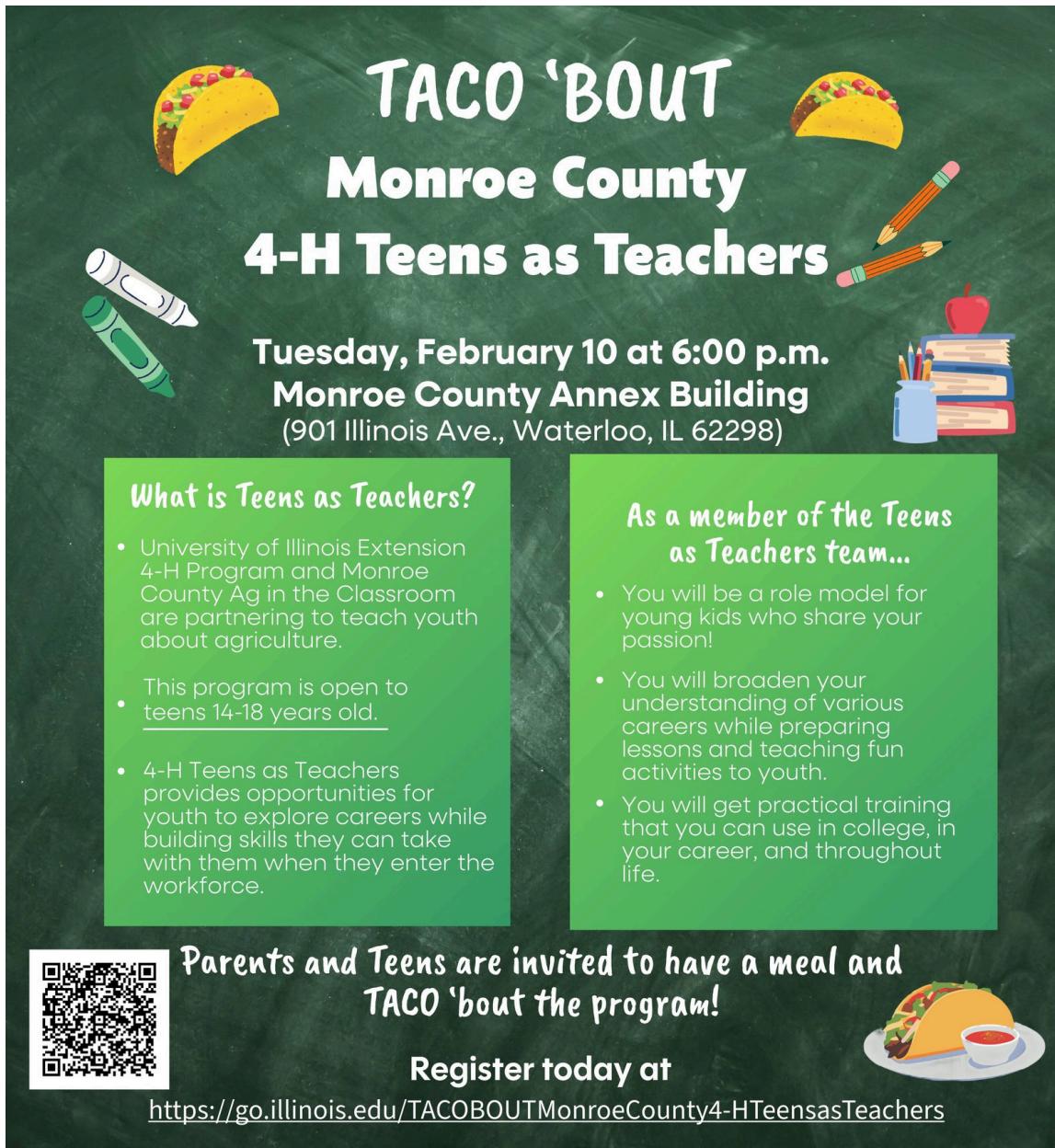


4-H TEENS AS TEACHERS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Parents and teens are invited for tacos and to learn about the Teens as Teachers program on **Tuesday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Annex.**

Questions can be directed to Emily Reece at ereece@illinois.edu

Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/TACOBOUTMonroeCounty4-HTeensasTeachers>



**TACO 'BOUT
Monroe County
4-H Teens as Teachers**

**Tuesday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m.
Monroe County Annex Building
(901 Illinois Ave., Waterloo, IL 62298)**

What is Teens as Teachers?

- University of Illinois Extension 4-H Program and Monroe County Ag in the Classroom are partnering to teach youth about agriculture.
- This program is open to teens 14-18 years old.
- 4-H Teens as Teachers provides opportunities for youth to explore careers while building skills they can take with them when they enter the workforce.

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

- You will be a role model for young kids who share your passion!
- You will broaden your understanding of various careers while preparing lessons and teaching fun activities 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

<https://go.illinois.edu/TACOBOUTMonroeCounty4-HTeensasTeachers>







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MONROE CO. EXTENSION & 4-H EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Applicants must be seniors in high school who have not reached their nineteenth birthday on or before September 1, 2025, and must have been enrolled and active in a 4-H club program for at least four consecutive years. The applicant must be a resident of Monroe County and or reside in the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, or Red Bud School districts.

4-H members can only receive the Scholarship once. Applicants must be accepted into or be attending a post-high school education program.

The application is available at:

<https://go.illinois.edu/MoCoFoundationScholarship>

LESTER & LUCILLE KORSMEYER 4-H SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Requirements:

- A high school senior who has been actively involved in 4-H for a minimum of four years
- A permanent resident of Madison, St. Clair or Monroe County
- The applicant will be chosen based on several criteria, including a minimum 3.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, a history of 4-H involvement, and other school and community activities.

The application is available at:

<https://go.illinois.edu/Korsmeyer>

FARM CREDIT AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: February 27, 2026

Thirty \$2,500 Agriculture Scholarships are available to high school seniors who will study an ag-related curricula or trade in a college or vocational school next fall and pursue a career on the farm or in the industry.

All applicants should complete the Application and upload the Passion for Agriculture video by February 27, 2026.

For more details, visit:

<https://www.farmcreditil.com/About/community-engagement/Scholarships>



4-H/JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW RULES

1. Youth must be a Junior Showman age status: 8 years of age and not yet 19 years of age on or before Sept. 1 of the previous year.
2. Youth must be a Monroe County resident and/or reside within the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer or Red Bud school districts.
3. Youth enrolled in 4-H or FFA must attend four 4-H meetings in their primary club (or four FFA chapter meetings of which they are a member of if not in a 4-H Club) prior to the Fair.
4. 4-H members must present a talk or demonstration during the 4-H year.
5. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Swine, Sheep and/or Goats MUST complete the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training by May 1 of *each* 4-H year. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Rabbits or Poultry for the *first time* MUST complete the online Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC) by May 1.
6. Youth must be enrolled in the project they are exhibiting/selling if in a 4-H club or FFA chapter.
7. 4-H and FFA members should have 4-H or FFA Livestock Record Books up-to-date and show their in-progress records to their 4-H Club Leader or FFA Advisor by their May, June or July club meeting, prior to the county Fair. 4-H Record Books must be completed by September 15 and turned into the Monroe Co. Extension office.

*Note: members **must** complete a Livestock Record Book for any of the livestock species they are selling in the current year in order to sell in the Youth Livestock Auction in the following year.

8. 4-H members are eligible to exhibit 2 entries per 4-H class number and must indicate each entry on the livestock entry.
9. If a 4-H or Junior exhibitor has 2 entries in any class, they are responsible for recruiting the help of another 4-H or Junior age exhibitor if needed.
10. Only the judge, competing exhibitors and superintendents are permitted in the show ring during livestock show days.
11. ALL cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, rabbits, goats and horses are subject to the same health regulations as stated for Open Classes in the Monroe County Fair Paper. Health papers should be provided to your superintendent upon arrival.
12. All exhibitors must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. The guidelines can be found online @ <https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements> .
13. Exhibitors should refer to the Monroe County Fair Paper for livestock information about the dates and times of entry and removal of livestock from the fairgrounds.
14. 4-H and FFA exhibitors are encouraged to display a sign with their name and 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter to be placed near their animal.
15. Exhibitors are encouraged to dress in neat and clean attire. Members should not wear business promotional clothing when exhibiting projects.
16. All 4-H members must abide by the general rules established by the Monroe Co. Fair Assoc. during the Monroe Co. Fair.

***NOTE: HEALTH PAPERS MUST BE PROVIDED TO SUPERINTENDENT UPON ARRIVAL (NO LATER THAN MONDAY AT 6:00PM).**



YOUTH LIVESTOCK AUCTION RULES

1. Only current 4-H or FFA members who are 8 years of age and not yet 19 years of age on or before September 1 of the previous year of the Fair may sell at the youth livestock auction.
2. Youth must be a Monroe County resident and/or reside within the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer or Red Bud school districts.
3. Youth must be a member of a Monroe County 4-H club and/or an FFA chapter in the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer or Red Bud school districts.
4. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Beef Cattle, Swine, Sheep Goats and/or Dairy Cattle, MUST complete the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training by May 1 of *each* 4-H year. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Rabbits or Poultry for the *first time* MUST complete the online Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC) by May
5. Members must attend four 4-H meetings in their primary club (or four FFA chapter meetings of which they are a member of if not in a 4-H Club) prior to the Fair.
6. 4-H members must present a talk or demonstration during the 4-H year.
7. 4-H members must be enrolled in the project they are exhibiting/selling.
8. 4-H and FFA members should have 4-H or FFA Livestock Record Books up-to-date and show their in-progress records to their 4-H Club Leader or FFA Advisor by their May, June or July club meeting, prior to the county Fair. 4-H Record Books must be completed by September 15 and turned into the Monroe Co. Extension office.

*Note: members **must** complete a Livestock Record Book for any of the livestock species they are selling in the current year, AND in order to sell in the Youth Livestock Auction in the following year.

9. Market animals receiving a blue or red 4-H ribbon are eligible to sell. Those receiving a white ribbon and/or not meeting the weight or rate-of-gain requirements are not eligible to sell.
10. Exhibitors may sell two livestock projects of two different species: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit, Poultry, and/or Dairy Cattle Basket (basket=products or certificates with a minimum value of \$50.) *Dairy Goat Baskets will sell with Goats.
11. Participants should declare the specie they plan to sell at the Livestock Entry Day prior to the Monroe County Fair. Any changes should be provided to the U of I Extension office prior to 8am, Thursday of Fair week.



YOUTH LIVESTOCK AUCTION RULES CONTINUED...

12. If a 4-H or FFA member receives Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion in any specie area, they will have the opportunity to sell the Grand and Reserve Champion regardless of the number of other species they plan to sell, as long as all of the additional sale requirements are met.
13. Auction participants are responsible for helping to recruit potential buyers to the auction. Exhibitors should recruit and invite potential buyers of their livestock prior to the livestock auction via letters or personal visits.
14. Youth are encouraged to dress in neat and clean attire when selling their animal. Members should not wear business promotional clothing during the auction.
15. The seller's immediate family is discouraged from bidding on their child's animal.
16. Payment from the buyer must be made to the auctioneer service before the animal is moved from the Fairgrounds.
17. The seller is responsible for the animal until it is delivered to the buyer's destination and until the buyer's check has been successfully processed by the bank.
18. The exhibitor/seller is responsible for the delivery of the animal to the processor.
19. The exhibitor/seller is responsible if the carcass is rejected by the health inspector.
20. The exhibitor/seller is responsible for making necessary arrangements and/or agreements with the buyer if the exhibitor wishes to exhibit the animal at other fairs.
21. The cost of the thank you advertisement photo will be deducted from the check the exhibitor receives on the sale of their animal.
22. The exhibitor/seller will receive their animal sale check after the buyer's check has been successfully processed by the bank and internal financial processes have been completed by the Monroe County Extension and 4-H Education Foundation.

2026 Youth Livestock Auction Sale Order:

LAMBS-SWINE- POULTRY- RABBITS- BEEF-DAIRY-GOATS



STATE & REGIONAL HORSE CONTESTS

The 2026 State Horse Contest dates are set! Contest rules and entry information are now available on the state 4-H website. The 4-H state horse judging contest is the first horse contest of the season and the 2026 contest information can be found on the state 4-H website [horse judging event page](#). From the horse judging contest 4-H web page, navigation to the other contests (horse bowl, hippology, and horse speaking) is possible by clicking on the links for each contest in the ‘Additional Horse Contest Information’ list near the bottom of the page.

State horse contest details are as follows:

State Horse Judging Contest | February 1 | [Black Hawk College East \(Galva\)](#) |
Requires [ZSuites registration](#) | Registration deadline January 28

State Hippology Contest | April 18 | [UIUC campus](#) |
Requires regional contest [ZSuites registration](#) | Registration deadline February 5

State Horse Bowl Contest | April 19 | [UIUC campus](#) |
Requires regional contest [ZSuites registration](#) | Registration deadline February 5

State Horse Speaking Contest | April 18 | [UIUC campus](#) |
Requires [ZSuites registration](#) | Registration deadline March 20

Attendance at the state horse bowl and hippology contests requires qualification at a participant’s respective regional contests.

South region | March 7 | Southwestern Illinois College | Red Bud | Emily Reece

4-H FAMILY HANDBOOK

Need to know more about...

- Project selection
- 4-H Shows
- Member expectations
- Livestock requirements
- Where to go for questions



Check out the Monroe County 4-H Handbook: <https://go.illinois.edu/FamilyHandbook>

4-H PROGRAM WEATHER POLICY



When Monroe County schools are closed due to inclement weather, county 4-H activities will also be closed unless otherwise notified.

If the weather deteriorates in the evening before the event, please check your email and Facebook for cancellations.



2025-2026 GOAT CHANGES

Please note the following updates for the coming year regarding market goats for the Monroe County Fair:

The birth date for market goats has been moved from "after October 1" to "after April 1, 2025." Exhibitors who wish to participate in the Monroe Co. Fair and State Fair can still exhibit a child born after October 1.

In addition, the recommendations of an average daily gain of 0.20 and an ideal weight of 75 pounds by the second weigh-in at the fair will remain. Please note that these are still recommendations as we move toward adjusting the birth date.

The goal is to increase the quality of meat sold to consumers. The U of I Meat Sciences Instructor has emphasized the importance of backfat in producing high-quality meat. Goats without sufficient backfat tend to dry out excessively when hanging at the packers, which reduces meat quality. Allowing for slightly older animals will increase the likelihood of adequate backfat development, ultimately leading to a better product for buyers.

LIVESTOCK & HORSE RECORD BOOKS

All members are highly encouraged to fill out a 4-H Record Book for livestock and/or horse projects they are exhibiting at a 4-H Show.

It is REQUIRED to fill out 4-H Record Books for any livestock that members are selling at the Youth Livestock Auction.

Members must complete a livestock record book in the current year to be eligible to sell in the preceding year, except for new members or members not previously enrolled in that project.

In-progress Record Books should be shown by your leader at your May, June, or July club meeting before 4-H Shows.

The PDF versions of the books are found here:

<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord>

They may be filled in on your computer, or you may print them off and fill them in by hand (neatly).

The Instruction Guide is found here:

https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord_Guide

It will help you through the process of filling out the book. Books are due at the Extension office by **September 15** for evaluation.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 9	Shooting Sports-Shotgun Info Meeting, 7 p.m., Mo. Co. Annex
February 14	Market Steer Weigh-in, Monroe Co. Fairgrounds
February 24	Cook & Connect, 3:15 p.m. , Monroe Co. Annex
March 7	Regional Horse Bowl/Hipp. Contest, SWIC-Red Bud
March 23	Public Speaking Show, 6:30 p.m., Monroe Co. Annex
March 24	Cook & Connect, 3:30, Monroe Co. Annex
April 11	Sheep Festival & Youth Sheep/Goat Judging Contest
April 21-22	5th Grade Conservation Days, Waterloo Sportsman's Club
April 30	4-H Leader Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monroe Co. Annex
May 2	Market Lamb & Goat Weigh-in, Monroe Co. Fairgrounds
May 10	Horse Show, Monroe County Fairgrounds
June 1	Food Demo Show, Monroe Co. Anne
June 27	Show-A-Rama (General Project Show)
July 19-26	Monroe County Fair (Livestock, Horticulture, Crops)
August 15	Monroe County Day @ IL State Fair, Springfield



What's going on with Illinois 4-H? Find out here:

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/67/1546058167.html>



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