

4-H FAMILY ST. CLAIR 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 Educator

Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties
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
uie-mms@illinois.edu

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

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extension.illinois.edu/mms

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St. Clair County 4-H

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Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Unit

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840 TAGS IN BEEF, DAIRY CATTLE, AND SWINE

We are excited about our new 4-H year and hope you are, too! We have a couple of livestock-related changes we would like to bring to your attention as the new year begins.

840 Tag Requirement

New this year, all swine, beef, and dairy cattle must 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 of where the animal is being kept will have to have a registered Premise ID with the state of Illinois. With the Premise ID, you will be able to purchase tags from a farm supply store such as Valley Vet, Nasco, or the Department of Agriculture.
- We don't have a Premise ID or it isn't 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, 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, it is 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.



LIVESTOCK & HORSE RECORD BOOKS

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

It is **REQUIRED** to fill out 4-H Record Books for any livestock that members are showing in a market class.

Members must complete a livestock record book for the current year to be eligible to show in a market class for the preceding year.

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 it in by hand (neatly).

The Instruction Guide is found here:
https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord_Guide
to help you through the process of filling the book out.

Books are due to the Extension office by September 15.



Club Spotlight - New Ideal 4-H Club

Chartered in 1933, the New Ideal 4-H Club based in Mascoutah is one of the oldest clubs in St. Clair County and has been active each year since. This is Chrissy Benson's fourth year as a leader of the club. Prior to that, Chrissy's mom, Carol Seibert, led the club for 39 years. New Ideal 4-H Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of St. John's UCC Church in Mascoutah.

New Ideal members have participated in community service projects, such as removing invasive species from the Knobeloch Woods nature preserve. They also make napkin rings each year for the community Thanksgiving dinner. Members have also participated in county projects, including the Feed the Farmers event and the Dog and Cat Supply drive benefitting St. Clair Animal Services and Adoption Center.

A typical monthly meeting consists of going through the order of business, listening to members give a talk or demonstration, doing a recreational activity, and having refreshments. Some examples of recreation include carving pumpkins, doing a Christmas gift exchange, playing games, and having an Easter egg hunt.

Club members show projects at the General Projects Show and participate in the Livestock Show and Auction. Many have also shown projects at the State Fair. Over the last several years, some members have participated in State and National 4-H events, such as the Junior Leadership Conference and the National 4-H Ignite Summit in Washington, D.C.

To start the new year, our club will do an Electricity project at our January meeting. Members will be showing these projects this summer at the General Project Show. In February, we will hold our annual 4-H Family Dinner, where club members and families gather for a meal and fellowship.

(Written by Chrissy Benson, Leader)



Christmas gift exchange



Making napkin rings for the community Thanksgiving dinner



Removing invasive species from the Knobeloch Woods Nature Preserve



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

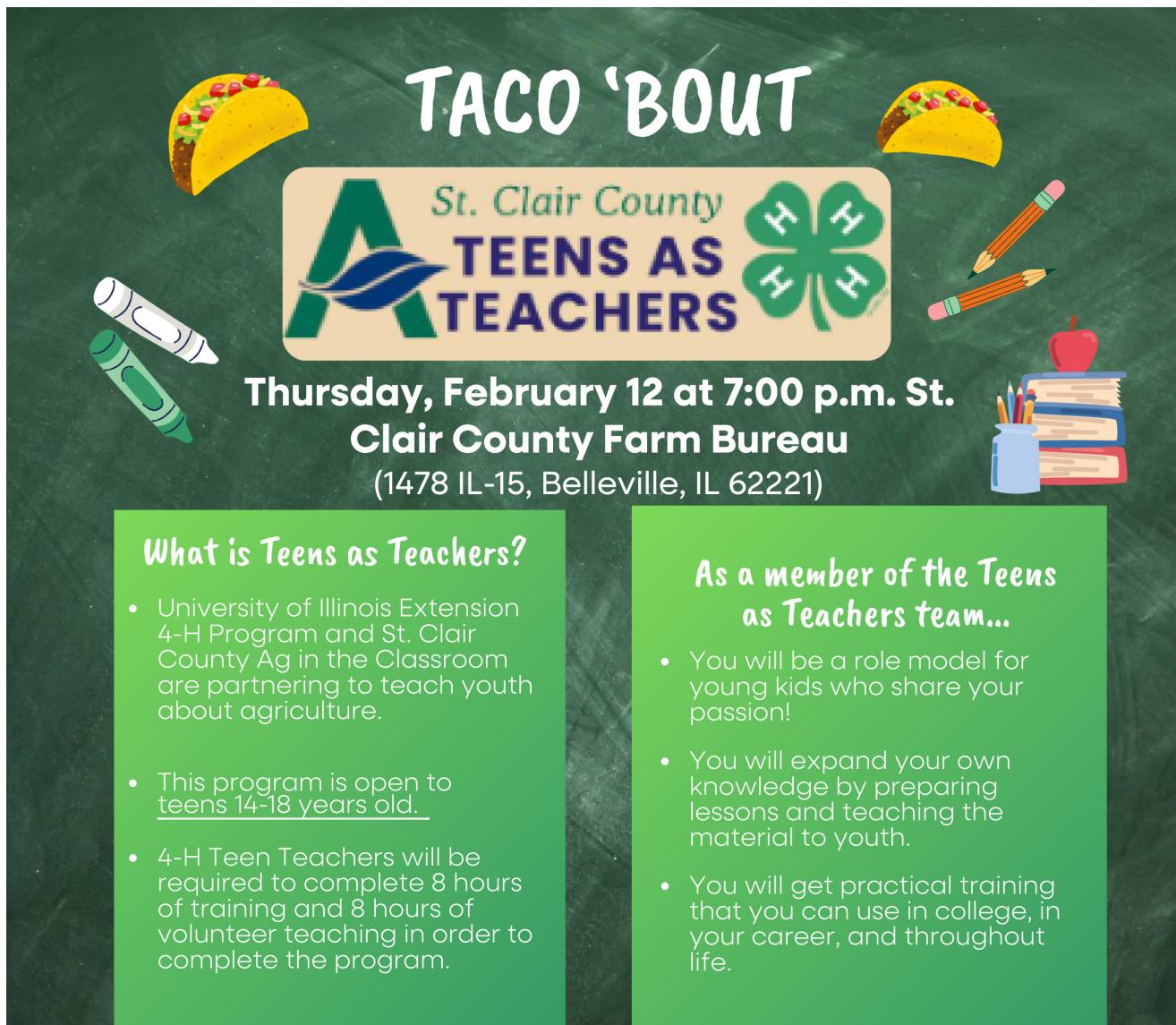
Certifications only need to be completed one time. Those that have completed it in the past do not have to complete it again.

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TACO 'BOUT

St. Clair County
TEENS AS
TEACHERS

Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. St.
Clair County Farm Bureau
(1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221)

What is Teens as Teachers?

- University of Illinois Extension 4-H Program and St. Clair County Ag in the Classroom are partnering to teach youth about agriculture.
- This program is open to teens 14-18 years old.
- 4-H 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.



**Parents and Teens are invited to have a meal and
TACO 'bout the program!**



Register today at

go.illinois.edu/TACOBOUTStClairCountyTeensasTeachersNight



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Club Activity

The New Ideal 4-H Club did an electricity project at their January meeting. Mr. Eschmann taught them about series and parallel circuits. They mounted materials to a board, ran wires, and tested their switches.



2025-2026 4-H HANDBOOK

Here is this year's 4-H handbook for all 4-H members and families:
<https://go.illinois.edu/StClairCounty4-HHandbook>.

The handbook covers what 4-H is, its policies, what clubs do, the event calendar, and much more. If you have any questions, please contact Meghan Cope via email at
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).



Livestock Boosters of Saint Clair County Scholarship

Each year, the Livestock Boosters of Saint Clair County award a scholarship(s) in honor of Ryan Range, the son of Bill and Jana Range. In 1997, Ryan lost his battle from cancer. Through his years in 4-H, Ryan was very active with 4-H, even throughout his illness. He was a mentor to other 4-H participants and set a level of standards for others to follow. After his passing, a group of committee members decided they wanted to do something in his honor. They gathered donations and purchasing the first hog sold in the livestock auction. After the purchase, they stopped the auction to announce to Bill and Jana the creation of the Ryan Range Memorial Scholarship.

Scholarship Rules:

1. Scholarship is open only to high school seniors or college freshman that have participated in the 4-H Livestock Auction for two consecutive years or more including the current year.
2. Applicant must submit a two page typed paper, double spaced, proper grammar and punctuation on either topic of "Your current livestock project" or "What 4-H has meant to you".
3. Papers are due May 1, 2026 to:

Email: livestockboosters@gmail.com

or

Dan Sliment
7062 Funk School Road
Freeburg, IL 62243

4. You can only win once. Only one scholarship per individual.
5. A mandatory personal interview with Judges must be completed. Topic is "What I have learned in 4-H".
6. Three Judges to be selected by the Livestock Boosters of Saint Clair County Scholarship Committee.
7. Judges will rank the applicants based upon the paper submitted and interview. The number of scholarships awarded can very based upon the available funds raised from previous year.
8. Winner(s) will be announced at the Livestock Auction, Saturday, August 1, 2026.
9. Scholarship money will be disbursed upon proof of full time enrollment in a vocational or accredited college.
10. Scholarship will be awarded as follows: 50% on the paper submitted and 50% on the interview.





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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St. Clair County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs

Are you interested in joining a St. Clair 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.

4-H Blasters Rifle Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: 1st Saturday of the month
Discipline- Rifle
Location: Lebanon
Leader: Ryan Stoks
(rstoksdadd@gmail.com)

St. Clair Hot Shots Archery Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: 1st Saturday of the month
Description: Archery
MeetingDate:Lebanon
Leader: Ryan Stoks
(rstoksdadd@gmail.com)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- February 3 - Showbook Cover Contest Due
- February 7 - Steer Weigh-In
- February 12- 4-H Teens as Teachers Meeting
- February 21 - 4-H Career Day Hawthorne Animal Hospital

March

- March 23- Public Speaking Contest



What's going on with Illinois 4-H?

Find out here:

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



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