

# MADISON COUNTY 4-H

## FAMILY MARCH 2026

### NEWS



Hello 4-H Families,

Spring is just around the corner! Check out all the upcoming events and information below. Feel free to contact the 4-H Staff with any 4-H questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Meghan Cope | 4-H Educator  
Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties  
mawolff@illinois.edu



Please help us welcome Emily Wolff to our Unit 22 team as the Edwardsville Office Support Assistant.

She's a proud 4-H alumna from Macoupin County and earned her master's degree in literature from SIUE. In her free time, Emily enjoys reading and is excited to learn more about all that Extension has to offer beyond 4-H.



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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, Suite 4  
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

#### **Office Support Assistant**

Emily Wolff

#### Visit our website:

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

#### Like us on Facebook:

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Madison County 4-H

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

#### Follow us on Instagram:

Madison, Monroe, St. Clair- IL

# Scholarships

## Lucille and Lester Korsmeyer 4-H Scholarship

- Requirements:
  - Deadline: April 15, 2026
  - 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>

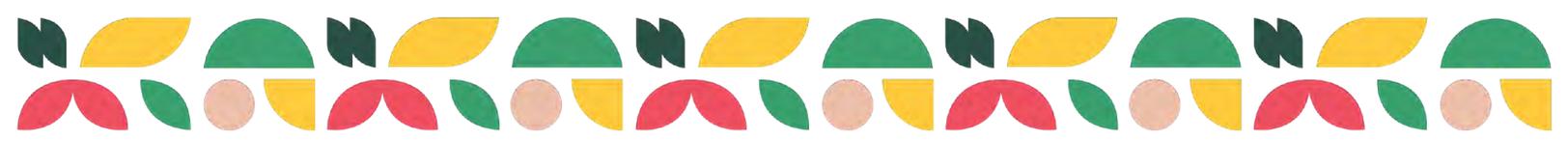
## 2026 George McKibben Memorial Scholarship Applications

- Sponsor(s):
  - This award is sponsored by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and its foundation.
- Eligibility:
  - Any student who is a senior in high school or any college student currently enrolled in any state college in Illinois (see eligible colleges in purpose above), in an agriculture degree program, is eligible for nomination by their local soil and water conservation district or self-nomination.
  - To be eligible a student must:
    - Be a senior in high school desiring to pursue an agriculture degree program and or be a full-time (minimum of 12 credit hours) college student enrolled in an agriculture degree program at any state university in Illinois.
    - Have a grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale or a 4.0 on a 5.0 scale.
    - Submit a copy of the latest official transcript.
    - List all extracurricular or community activities, including offices held from high school forward



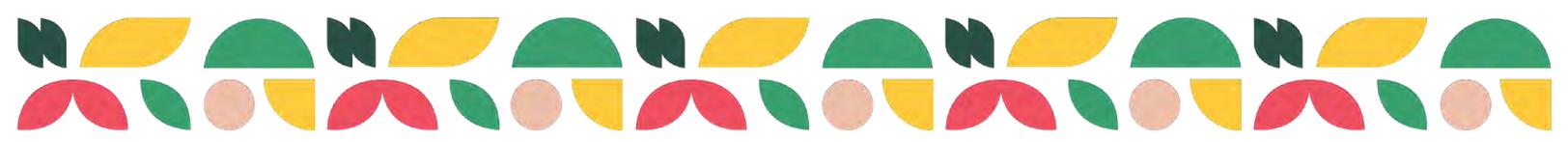
# Memorial

Alhambra Morning Glories 4-H Club donated a bench in memory of Deb Stocker outside the Free Little Library in their little town.



# 4-H Career Day

On February 21, 4-H members from Madison and St. Clair County participated in our first Career Day Tour at Hawthorne Animal Hospital in Edwardsville, IL. The youth toured the facility, learned how to perform a basic check-up on a dog, listened to a dog's heartbeat, and had their questions answered by the staff. Thank you to Hawthorne Animal Hospital for your hospitality!



# QPR: QUESTION. PERSUADE. REFER.



## Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training

Svan QR Code  
to Register



### Monday, March 30

Instructor: Robin  
Ridgley Health and  
Family Educator

### 6:30 PM - 8 PM

Open to all Extension  
volunteers and staff

**Participants will receive a  
certificate of completion!**

What is QPR? QPR is a nationally recognized training that teaches individuals how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and take simple, effective steps to help save a life.

**Must register in advance  
on ZSuite:**

[go.illinois.edu/SuicidePrevention  
GatekeeperTraining](https://go.illinois.edu/SuicidePreventionGatekeeperTraining)

**Participants will learn how to:**

**• Recognize the warning signs of suicide**

- Common verbal, behavioral, and situational warning signs
- How depression, anxiety, isolation, and life stress increase risk
- How to identify someone who may be in immediate danger

**• Question someone safely and directly**

- How to ask about suicide in a clear, compassionate way
- What to say—and what not to say
- How to overcome fear or hesitation in starting the conversation

**• Persuade the person to accept help**

- How to listen without judgment
- Ways to offer hope and encouragement
- How to support someone in seeking professional help

**• Refer the person to appropriate resources**

- How to connect someone with local and national support services
- When and how to involve emergency services
- How to follow up and continue offering support



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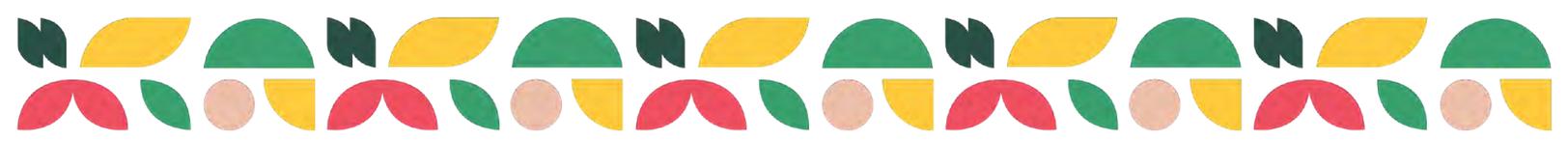
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences University of Illinois, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, and Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois  
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March 23, 2026 at 6 pm at the Madison County Farm Bureau Auditorium

# Madison & St. Clair 4-H Public Speaking Show

Illinois Extension



Madison County 4-H

# HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE

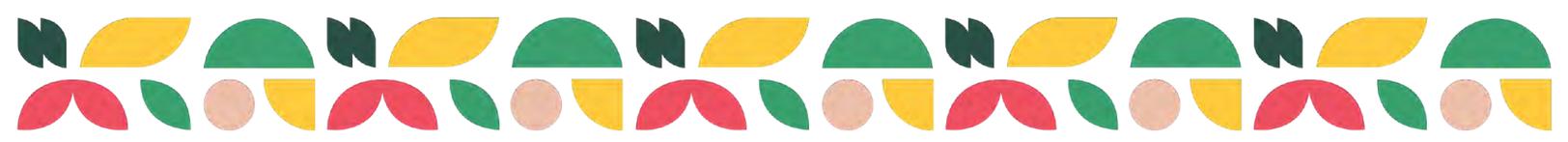


**Come help clean up the Madison County Fairgrounds. Youth who help will receive a parking pass for the 2026 Fair!**

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**



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.

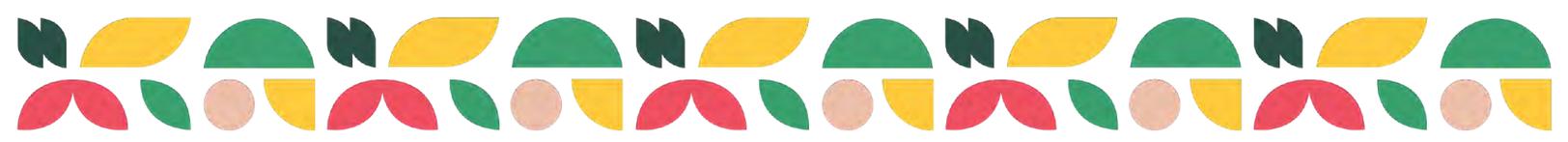


**Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026**

**Time: 10 a.m.**

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

Register for this event through the QR Code.



# 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

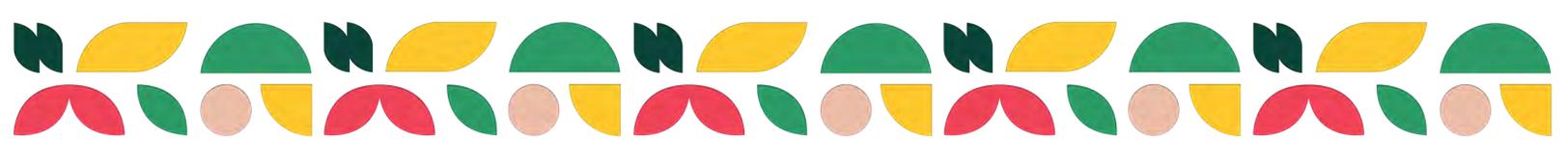
Certifications only need to be completed one time. Those that have completed it in the past do not have to complete it again.



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# 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.



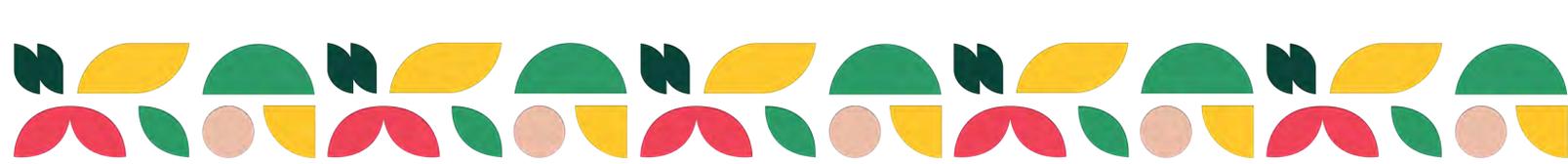
This training is required to exhibit and sell beef, dairy, goat, sheep or swine at the Madison Fair per USDA requirements.

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

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# 4th Annual Waterloo FFA WINTER WARM-UP Livestock Judging Contest

March 28th, 2026

Monroe County Fairgrounds

4117 IL156, Waterloo, IL 62298

Registration will begin at 8:30

Contest Start at 10:00 am

New this year!!

Registration from 8:30-9:30  
at Monroe County Annex  
901 Illinois Ave. Waterloo, IL  
62298

Food will be available to  
Purchase at the Monroe  
County Annex during  
lunch

**Pre Registration is REQUIRED**

Registration will close March 26th, changes are able to be made the morning of the contest. Use the form below to submit teams or individuals

<https://forms.gle/S7HYeDr7bB1JvqcC8>

Teams will consist of 5 members with top 3 scores counting

Coaches may enter as many teams as they wish.

## Divisions

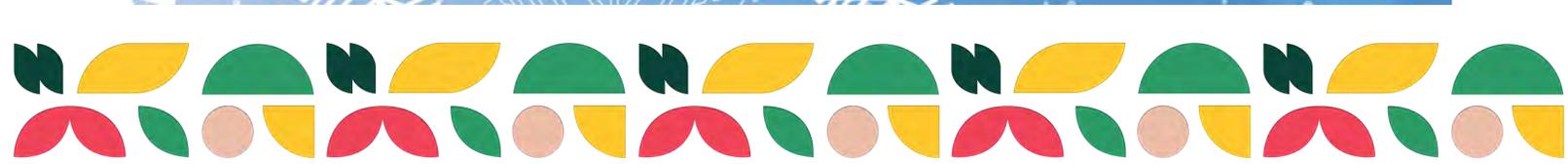
- Senior Questions (9th grade and up)
- Junior Questions (8th grade and younger)
- Cost is \$8/participant

## Classes

- 8 classes: Sheep, Goats, Swine, and Beef
- Classes will be either market or breeding
- 2 classes with questions
- Performance data and/or EPDs may be used

## Questions?

Email Cohen Brandt: [brandcoh@wcusd5.net](mailto:brandcoh@wcusd5.net)





# Interested in Animals?

# Want a scientific career?

See where this passion can take you at

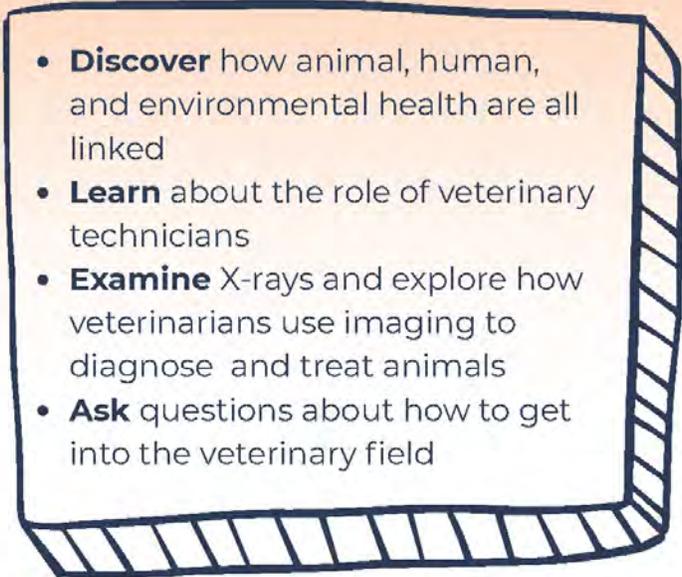


## Veterinary Exploration Day

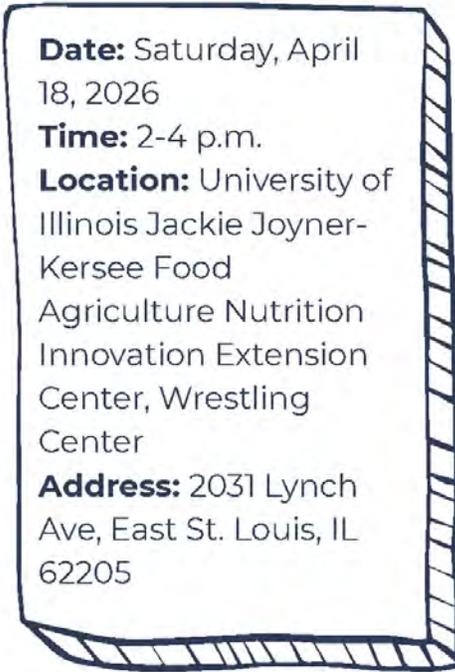
Explore your niche in a variety of areas!



At this **FREE** event, students can...

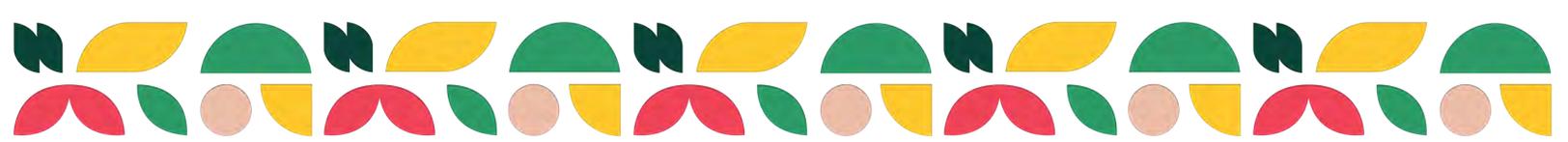
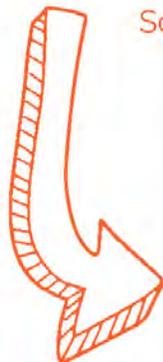


### Veterinary Exploration Day



### Interested?

Scan the QR Code to Register



**APRIL 11TH, 2026**  
**MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**4177 IL-156, WATERLOO, IL, 62298**

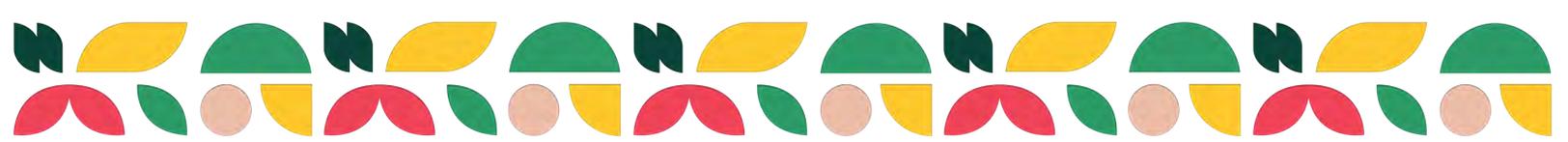
**MoCo**  
*Spring Showcase*

— **ENTRY INFO** —  
**\$15 PER HEAD**  
**\$25 LATE ENTRY FEE**  
**NO SHOWMANSHIP FEE**

*Open to all juniors 21 and under*  
◆ *Market and breeding classes available*  
◆ *Entry on Showman app opens 1/15*  
◆ *Payouts determined by entries*  
◆ *Papers required for breed classes*  
◆ *See Facebook page for rules and more info*

◆ ◆ — **Contact** — ◆ ◆

◆ **Erin Halleran** ◆ **Garrett Brandt**  
**618-570-5514** ◆ **618-340-2826** ◆





# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SHEEP & CRAFT FESTIVAL

SATURDAY APRIL 11 2026

@ MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS Waterloo, IL

## MoCo SPRING SHOWCASE:

- Jackpot-style show after Judging Contest
- More info on Facebook: MoCo Spring Showcase or Erin 618-570-5514 or Garrett 618-340-2826

**OFFERING 4 CLASSES:**  
 SPINNING W/DROP SPINDLE,  
 DRY FELTING, BEG. KNIT / CROCHET  
 SIGN-UP ONLINE @ [MCSHEEPPRODUCERS.COM](http://MCSHEEPPRODUCERS.COM)

## SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:

- » **KIDS CORNER / GAMES & ACTIVITIES**  
Hosted by: *Monroe County 4-H Federation*
- » **BALLOON ARTIST** • 11am-1pm
- » **JUDGING CONTEST BEGINS** • 9:00am  
open to all youth ages 8-19  
*\*Please sign-up prior to contest*
- » **WOOL-PULL Pedal Pull**  
Hosted by: *Monroe County FB Young Leaders*  
Registration/Kids Corner @ 10:30am  
Pull starts @ 11:30am in exhibit (main) building  
{Contestant weight limit~35-120lbs.}
- » **SHEARING DEMOS** • 10am - 2pm • hourly
- » **WORKING SHEEP DOGS** • 11am, 12:30 & 2pm  
Exhibition by *Robin Reasoner*  
{dogs on grounds approx. 10am to 3pm}
- » **LUNCH** • 11am - 1:30pm  
CARRYOUT with Dine-in areas available  
Sampler plate featuring locally grown Lamb -  
*1 Chop + Brat + Shaved Leg + Burger w/2 sides*

## ALL DAY DISPLAYS:

- Spinning, Knitting & Weaving Demos
- Sheep Breeds

## Local Lamb Cuts available to purchase:

- Vacuum sealed for your freezer & available to purchase on the day of the event

## ADVANCE ORDERS TAKEN W/PICK-UP DAY OF:

- Contact Tricia Lutman at 618-830-2183 or email: [info@mcsheepproducers.com](mailto:info@mcsheepproducers.com)

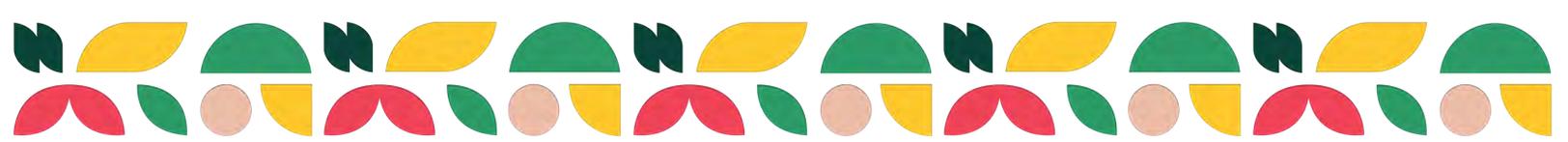
EVENT HOSTED BY:

**MONROE COUNTY SHEEP PRODUCERS**

SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT:



LOCAL SPONSORS:



# ★ 23rd Annual ★ 4-H Day

WITH THE

# Cardinals

**TICKET ONLY**  
**\$28**  
\*All Sales Final  
**T-SHIRT INCLUDED!**



**SATURDAY**  
**16**  
**MAY**

\*Payment is by credit card only

**CARDINALS**



**ROYALS**

**4-H members, alumni, family, and friends are invited to join University of Illinois Extension in partnership with University of Missouri Extension for a St. Louis Cardinals game while they play the Kansas City Royals!**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 13**

- Participate in the parade on field prior to the game.
- Shirt included in ticket price.
- Each ticket order includes an entry into a drawing for autographed baseballs and other great prizes. One 4-H member will be drawn to throw out the first pitch! Drawing winners will be notified after April 27. Prize and drawing winners will be notified after April 27.

\*Please note - groups that wish to sit together **MUST** submit **ONE** order.

**REGISTER HERE:**

<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-4-h/4-h-projects-opportunities/4-h-opportunities/4-h-day-with-the-cardinals>

**TICKET/T-SHIRT QUESTIONS:** Contact Rhonda Shafer at [shaferr@missouri.edu](mailto:shaferr@missouri.edu)

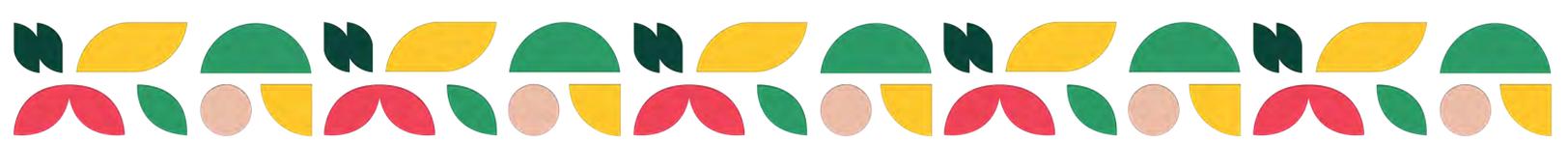
**PARADE/DRAWING QUESTIONS:** Contact Tanner Adkins at [tadkins@missouri.edu](mailto:tadkins@missouri.edu)



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

We are excited about our new 4-H year, and we 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 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, which 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, contact [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.



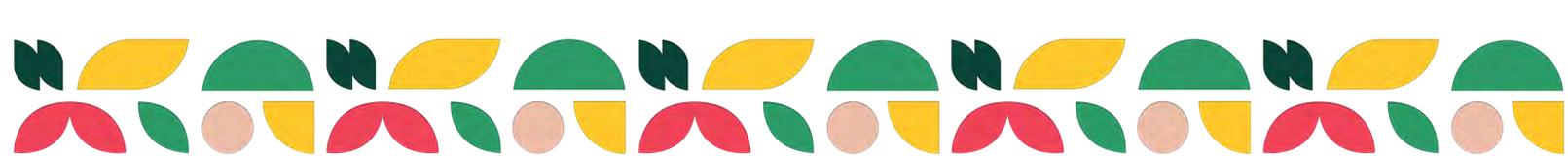
# Check out the Madison County Foundation's 4-H Event Scholarship!

Interested in trying a new 4-H experience but not sure about the cost? Think about applying for a 4-H Event Scholarship! The Madison County Extension Education Foundation is offering up to five half-fee scholarships for this 4-H program year for members to help cover costs to attend 4-H events such as the 4-H camp, the Illini Summer Academies, Outdoor Adventures Camp, or the Jr. Leadership Conference. Maximum scholarship amounts are \$100.

This is a “post-event” scholarship, meaning you must register, attend the event, and complete the requirements before receiving the funds for the scholarship. Applications are due 2 weeks before an event’s registration deadline, along with a separate reference leader from your 4-H leader. (Restrictions on who can serve as a reference are noted on the application.) If a member is selected for a scholarship, they must attend the event and, within 2 weeks after the event, provide a follow-up report on what they learned and how they plan to share the information.

Registrations for Memorial 4-H Camp will open January 13. If you are interested in applying for the camp scholarship, the new application should be available shortly on the Madison County 4-H webpage: [4-H in Madison County | Serving Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties | Illinois Extension | UIUC](#). Scroll down to Scholarships and click on the Madison County Foundation 4-H Event Scholarship link.

4-H members can only be accepted for one scholarship each program year. Should a member be selected for a scholarship but not complete the requirements, that member will not be eligible for future scholarships. Please remember that a limited number of scholarships are available each 4-H program year.

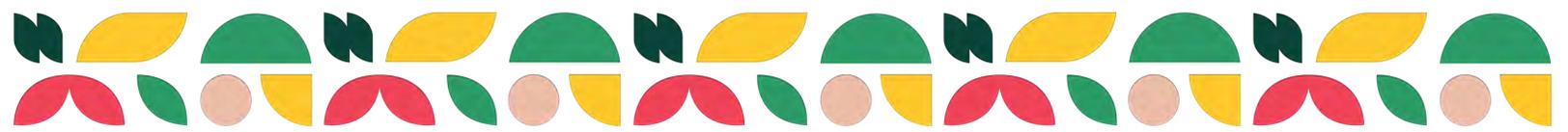


## MADISON COUNTY 4-H SHOWS



- 4-H Public Speaking – **March 23 at 6 pm** Madison County Farm Bureau
- Unit 4-H Horse Show - **May 9 at 9 am** Monroe County Fairgrounds
- 4-H Mini Fair (dogs, cats, and small pets)– **June 20 Dog starts at 8 am, Cat starts at 10 am, and Small pets at 11 am** Madison County Farm Bureau
- 4-H Food Show – **June 23 at 6 pm** Madison County Farm Bureau
- Set Up- **July 15 at 6 pm** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H General Project Show - **July 20 at 5:30 pm** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Bottle Bucket/Calf - **July 21 at 10 am** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Dairy Show - **July 21 immediately following Bottle Bucket/Calf** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Rabbit Show - **July 22 at 6 pm** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Poultry Show - **July 23 at 9 am** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Master Showmanship - **July 23 at 3:30 pm** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Goat Show - **July 23 at 5:30 pm** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Swine Show - **July 24 at 8 am** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Beef Show - **July 24 at 12 pm** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Sheep Show - **July 25 at 9:30 am** Madison County Fair Grounds
- 4-H Project Pick Up - **July 26 at 11 am** Madison County Fair Grounds

Illinois  
Extension **I**



## 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)

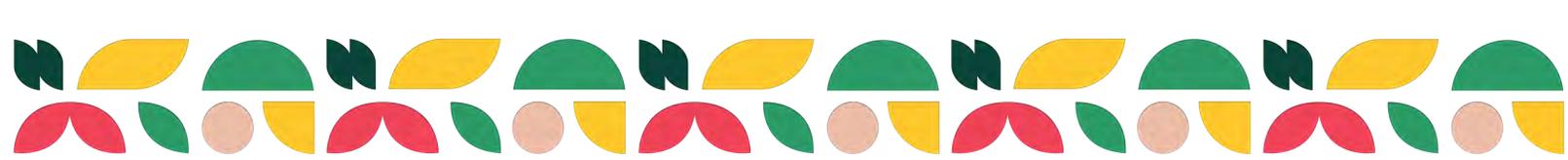
## 2025-2026 4-H MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

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](mailto:j.mucklow07@yahoo.com))

## ▼ Open Sight Shooting Sports Club

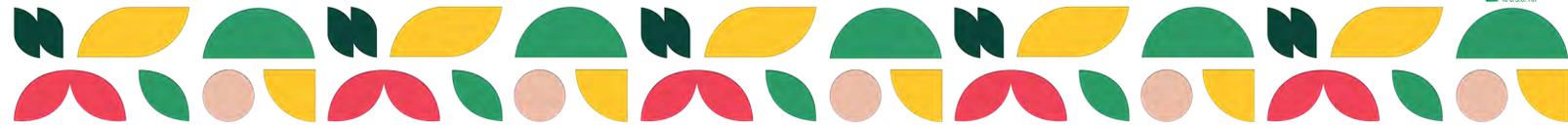
Meeting: Seasonal  
Description: Archery  
Meeting Date: Every other Friday  
at 2:30 pm in Dorsey  
Leader: Mindy Cory  
([mindy.j.cory@gmail.com](mailto:mindy.j.cory@gmail.com))

## ▼ Iron Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal  
Discipline- Rifle  
Location: Alton  
Leader: Darrell Chrisenberry  
([darrell.chrisenberry59@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.chrisenberry59@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](mailto:maxandtams@gmail.com))



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

The office is open Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm and closed for lunch 12 pm - 1 pm.

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



Front

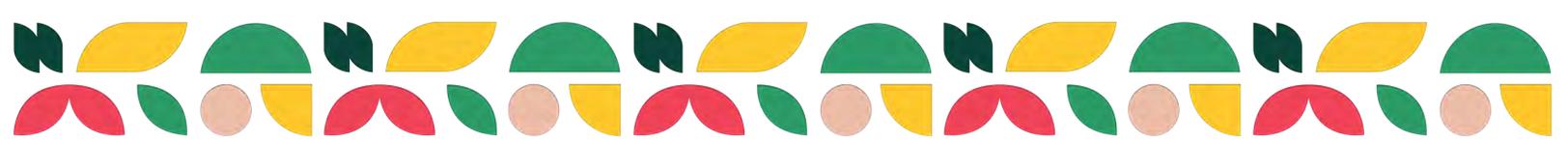
Back

**\$15 per shirt**

There is a limited amount of youth and adult sizes.

Cash or Check ONLY

Illinois Extension





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- March 11 - Madison County Fairground Clean Up and YQCA Training
- March 23- Public Speaking Contest
- March 30 - QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer: Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training (for volunteers)
- March 31 - Teen as Teacher Meeting 6 pm

### April

- April 2 - National Day of Service for Madison County: Cleaning up SIUE Gardens
- April 7 - Leaders Meeting

### May

- May 1 - Deadline to complete YQCA and QAEC
- May 9 - Unit 4-H Horse Show
- May 16 - 4-H Day with the Cardinals



# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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

Find out here:

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



**Illinois Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

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