

ST. CLAIR 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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages 1-18: County Information
Page 19: Calendar of Events

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

Like us on Facebook:

University of Illinois Extension:
St. Clair 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 - 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

- 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.
- Be a senior in high school desiring to pursue an agriculture degree program 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.

Livestock Boosters of Saint Clair County Scholarship

Scholarship Rules:

- Scholarship is open only to high school seniors or college freshmen who have participated in the 4-H Livestock Auction for two consecutive years or more including the current year.
- Applicant must submit a two-page typed paper, double-spaced, with proper grammar and punctuation on either topic of "Your current livestock project" or "What 4-H has meant to you".
- Papers are due May 1, 2026, to: Email: Livestockboosters@gmail.com OR Dan Sliment 7062 Funk School Road Freeburg, IL 62243.
- You can only win once. Only one scholarship per individual.
- A mandatory personal interview with Judges must be completed. The topic is "What I have learned in 4-H".
- Three Judges to be selected by the Livestock Boosters of Saint Clair County Scholarship Committee.
- Judges will rank the applicants based on the paper submitted and interview. The number of scholarships awarded can vary based on the available funds raised from the previous year.
- Winner(s) will be announced at the Livestock Auction, Saturday, August 1, 2026.
- Scholarship money will be disbursed upon proof of full-time enrollment in a vocational or accredited college.
- Scholarship will be awarded as follows: 50% based on the submitted paper and 50% based on the interview.

4-H/FFA Grant

St. Clair County Farm Bureau Foundation provided \$2,500 in total to 4-H members for their projects for the upcoming 4-H fair. Members interviewed with board of director members and explained their project, budget, and future goals. We hope this interview process helped members not only grow in their interview skills, but also in their public speaking and confidence.

Thank you, St. Clair County Farm Bureau, for helping our 4-H members!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING 4-H APPLICANTS

- Ryan Sawyer - Dairy Project
- Lukas Fournie - Poultry Project
- Alex Sawyer - Swine Project
- Brantley Kunkelmann - Swine Project
- Sydney Shryock - Swine Project
- Daniel McComb - STEM Project
- Julie-Anne Erickson - Visual Arts Project



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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/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



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences University of Illinois, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, and Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois
Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



ST. CLAIR COUNTY 4-H SHOWS 2026

- Public Speaking Contest – **March 23, 2026, 6 pm** at Madison County Farm Bureau
- Unit 4-H Horse Show – **May 9, 2026, 9 am** at Monroe County Fairgrounds
- General Project Show – **July 9, 2026** at the Turkey Hill Grange
- Project Pick Up - **July 11, 2026 11 am - 12:00 pm** Turkey Hill Grange
- Rabbit Show – **July 31, 2026 at 9 am** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Poultry Show – **July 31, 2026 at 1 pm** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Swine Show – **July 31, 2026 at 6 pm** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Beef Show – **August 1, 2026 at 7:30 am** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Dairy Cattle Show to follow Beef Show – **August 1, 2026** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Sheep Show to follow Dairy Cattle Show – **August 1, 2026** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Goat Show to follow the Sheep Show – **August 1, 2026** at the Mascoutah Ag Building
- Master Showmanship – **August 1, 2026, 30 minutes after the goat show** at the Mascoutah Ag Building

Illinois Extension

I



I



March 23, 2026 at 6 pm at the Madison County Farm Bureau Auditorium

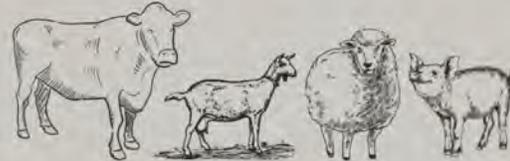
Madison & St. Clair 4-H Public Speaking Show

Illinois Extension



YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA) TRAINING

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



INSTRUCTOR-LED

TRAINING:

APRIL 23, 2026 AT 6:30 PM

ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM BUREAU

1478 EAST STATE RT. 15

BELLEVILLE, IL 62221

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please register by April 22, 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 St. Clair 4-H Shows per USDA requirements.

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

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend, call the Extension office at 618-344-4230



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



APRIL 11TH, 2026

MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

4177 IL-156, WATERLOO, IL, 62298



— 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

618-570-5514

Garrett Brandt

618-340-2826





40TH 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

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:

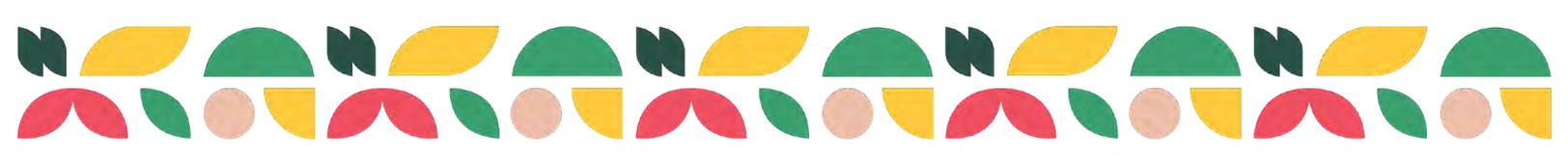
- Contact Tricia Lutman at 618-830-2183 or email: info@mcsheepproducers.com

EVENT HOSTED BY: **MONROE COUNTY SHEEP PRODUCERS**

Partially funded by: **ALB** (AMERICAN LAMB BOARD)

SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT: **ILLINOIS LAMB & WOOL MARKETING BOARD**, **ILLINOIS LAMB & WOOL PRODUCERS INC.**

LOCAL SPONSORS: **ILLINOIS EXTENSION** (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN), **STATE BANK**, **MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG LEADERS** (Farm. Family. Food.), **WATERLOO ANIMAL HOSPITAL**, **MONROE COUNTY 4-H FEDERATION**, **RENEWAL by ANDERSEN** (FRESH SERVICE WINDOWS & DOOR REPLACEMENT), **1st National Bank** (Waterloo), **Gateway FS**



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





Interested in Animals? Want a scientific career?

See where this passion can
take you at

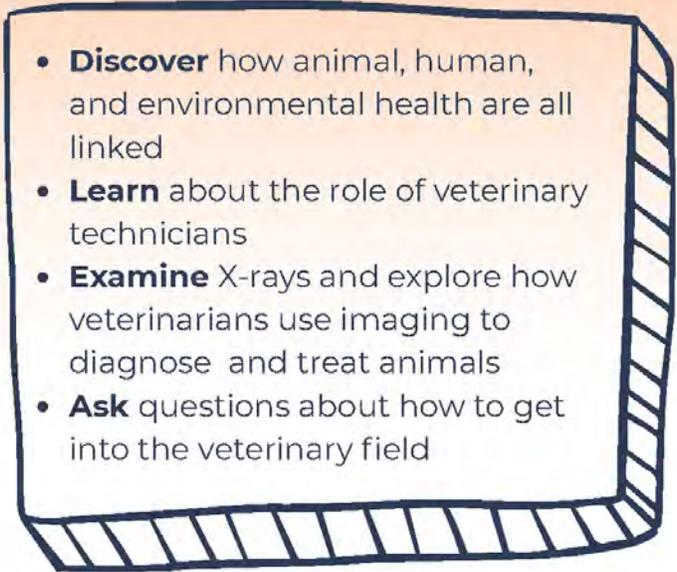


Veterinary Exploration Day

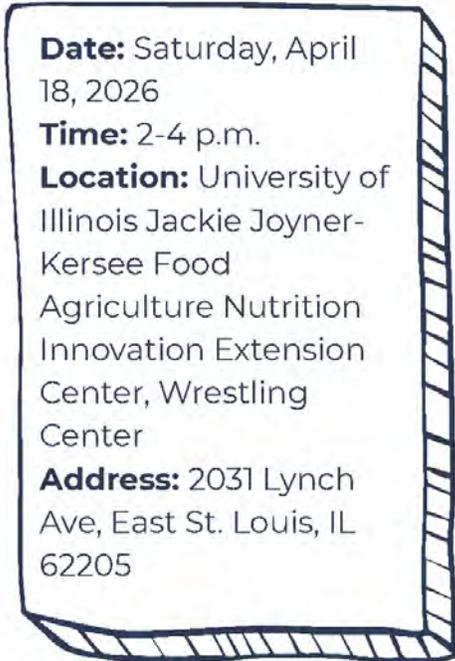
Explore your niche in a variety
of areas!



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

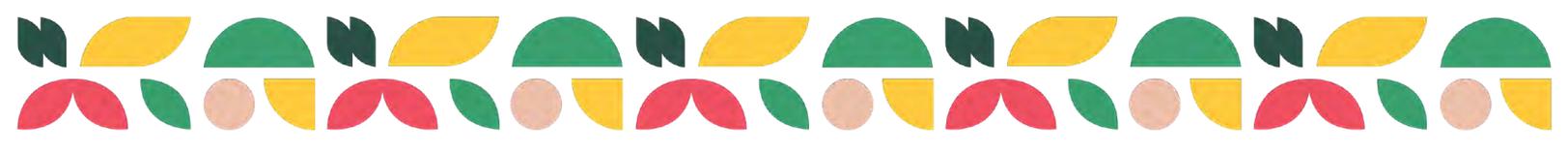
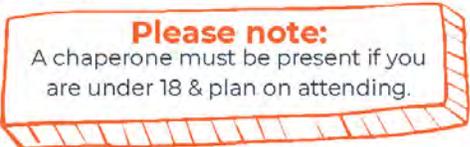
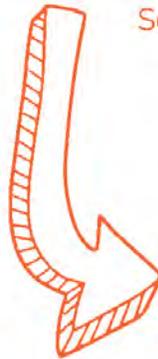


Veterinary Exploration Day



Interested?

Scan the QR Code to Register



★ 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

VS

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

PARADE/DRAWING QUESTIONS? Contact Tanner Adkins at tadkins@missouri.edu



College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
 University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils
 Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in
 programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to
 participate, please contact (618) 939-3434.



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, 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, 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.



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.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend, call the registration office.



Illinois Extension

University of Illinois Extension



Mark Your Calendar for the Live Pig Sale

LIVE PIG SALE

Chasing the Dream & Banners

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

PREVIEW STARTS 11AM - AUCTION AT 1PM

Berkshire - Chester - Duroc - Hampshire - Hereford - Spot - Tamworth - Cross



KEITH IBERG @ IBERG SHOWPIGS 618-201-2745

LARRY HYBBERT @ CAGED TREE FARMS 618-925-3890

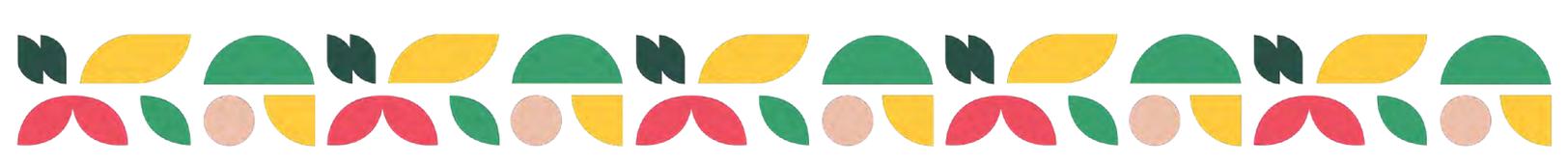
TY OLSON @ A&W GENETICS 309-781-0823

KEITH HUTSON @ PATRICK'S HAMPS 217-473-1138

LUNCH PROVIDED

12862 IBERG RD

HIGHLAND, IL



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

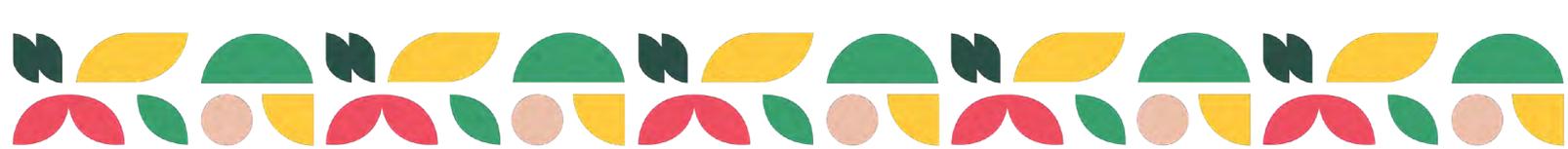
2025-2026 4-H MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

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).



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

Meeting Date: Lebanon

Leader: Ryan Stoks

(rstoksdadd@gmail.com)





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- March 23- Public Speaking Contest
- March 30 - QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer: Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training (for volunteers)

April

- April 14 - Leaders Meeting
- April 23 - YQCA Training at 6:30 pm at St. Clair Farm Bureau

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

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating University of Illinois
Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend, call the registration office.