



# FULTON COUNTY 4-H

## Spring 2026 Newsletter

Spring is on the way, and that means warmer temperatures. Things are heating up in 4-H, too! There are lots of deadlines and “to do’s” this time of year. Be sure to read through the entire newsletter so you don’t miss a thing. As you work on your 4-H projects, let’s strive to make the best better.

*Your questions and calls are especially important to me. I can be reached any of the following ways during regular business hours (8am-12pm & 1-4:30pm M-F). If you reach out using other communication tools, I will respond during our normal work hours. Thanks!*

### Krista Gray

Fulton 4-H Program Coordinator

Office phone: 309-547-3711

Email Krista: [kristakg@illinois.edu](mailto:kristakg@illinois.edu)

Teams phone Krista: 217-300-6714

### Other ways to connect

Facebook:



Webpage:



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*All pictures or illustrations used in the design of this newsletter were taken from Pixabay.com unless otherwise noted.*

## Newsletter Challenge

*Spring flowers will soon be springing up everywhere in Fulton County! At the top of each page, we’ve included a picture of a common flower you will likely see this spring. Can you match the flower with the page number?*

Daffodil page \_\_\_\_

Pansy page \_\_\_\_

Peony page \_\_\_\_

Tulip page \_\_\_\_

Lilac page \_\_\_\_

Crocus page \_\_\_\_

# FOR EVERYONE

## Zsuite Enrollment

Enrollment continues in ZSuite, <https://4h.zsuite.org> for the 2025-2026 4-H year through May 1, 2026. 4-H members must re-enroll each year to stay active in 4-H. The annual program fee is currently \$5 and may be paid through ZSuite via credit/debit card, or at the Extension office if you prefer to pay with cash or check. Program fee waivers are also available as no one is ever denied membership if unable to pay the annual program fee. Remember, you must be completely enrolled in ZSuite, and the program fee paid or waived before you will be eligible to participate in the 4-H shows. Please keep inviting new members to join 4-H!

## Requesting 4-H Project Manuals

If you need any new 4-H project manuals, please email Krista at [kristakg@illinois.edu](mailto:kristakg@illinois.edu). Once your request is filled, you will receive an email to pick up the order at the Extension office. Not every project, particularly in Visual Arts, will have project books. If you have been in the same project level for more than one year, you may continue using the project manual you have. Please contact our office if you have placed an order but have not received a message that the project manuals are ready for pick-up.

## Fulton County 4-H Show Books

The 2026 Fulton County 4-H Show book will be released in April and distributed to club leaders. Please look at this book once you receive it as it contains essential information regarding your 4-H exhibit guidelines and rules. PLEASE DESTROY the 2025 show book and refer to the new one! The Fulton County Fair Books are separate and are generally available mid-June and may be picked up at area banks, the Cuba Livestock Show, and at the Extension office.

## Fair Entry Opens May 4

Starting May 4, each 4-H family will register all their projects to be shown at 4-H shows through FairEntry which may be found at this link [fairentry.com/](http://fairentry.com/). Each exhibitor is responsible for his/her own entry. If you need

help, we are more than happy to assist you; please contact the office at 309-547-3711. 4-H members must be enrolled in the 4-H projects of their choice, by the appropriate project deadlines (Jan. 5/May 1) to be eligible to register for the corresponding exhibit classes in the 4-H Show.

All registrations must be made online through FairEntry from May 4 through June 8, 2026. Please visit the following Family Log In help document at <https://go.illinois.edu/fairentryfulton> for instructions on accessing/creating a FairEntry account.

All exhibits must be registered by the June 8, 2026, deadline in FairEntry. All project exhibit tags will be printed after June 9 and may either be picked up at the Extension office or mailed to member households. Members who are also participating and exhibiting livestock at the Fulton County Fair are required to complete the County Fair Entry Form in addition to the online 4-H Show FairEntry registration. Please see the 2026 Fulton County Fair book, available in June, for those details and entry form.

Again, we are here to help you if you have any questions or need assistance with the FairEntry process. Please call the office at 309-547-3711 and either Krista or Deb will be happy to help you.

## Fair Queen Candidate

4-H Federation has been invited to sponsor a Fulton County Fair Queen candidate. If you are at least 16 years old and would be interested in being 4-H Federation's queen candidate this year, please contact Krista no later than April 10, 2026, at [kristakg@illinois.edu](mailto:kristakg@illinois.edu) or by calling 309-547-3711.



## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Public Speaking/Performing Arts Show

The Public Speaking Contest will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, starting promptly at 10 am at the Checkrow Community Church, located at 3564 E Checkrow Rd., Avon, IL. Doors will open at 9:30 am **The project enrollment deadline in ZSuite for Public Speaking and Theatre Arts if exhibiting at this show is February 28, 2026.** The Performing Arts Show will be held immediately after the Public Speaking Contest. Those members enrolled in Theatre Arts 1, 2, and 3 are invited to perform at this show. Members enrolled in the Theater Arts project may exhibit at the Performing Arts Show by presenting a vocal or instrumental number, dance, dramatic skit, or other type of entertainment. Each performance should be no more than seven minutes long. A piano will be provided. If other equipment is needed, the member must provide it. If the performance requires an accompanist, the member must provide the person, who can be any age. No State Fair Delegates will be selected from those who choose this exhibit option. State Fair Delegates and Alternates will be selected from Theater Arts exhibits at the 4-H General Show on June 20, 2026. Please invite your family and friends to attend both contests!

### YQCA

Fulton County 4-H will offer one in-person YQCA training at the Fulton Extension office on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 10 – 11:15 am **This is an annual required training for all members enrolled in beef, dairy, goat, sheep, and swine, who will be exhibiting a live animal at the summer 4-H shows.** To find out more information and to register for the instructor-led or web-based training, please visit <https://yqcaprogram.org> . Surrounding counties also offer YQCA training, so you may attend one of those if you so choose. **The Fulton County in-person training will be offered for free if you email or call Krista for a coupon code before completing your registration on the YQCA site.** Web-based training is available for a \$12 fee. Please send your certificates of completion to the Extension office or by emailing [kristakg@illinois.edu](mailto:kristakg@illinois.edu) . These certificates are due by June 1 so the certificate

number may be recorded in your ZSuite account for 4-H premium eligibility.

### QAEC

4-H members enrolled in cat, dog, horse, poultry, and rabbit projects must take the **Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC)** training to exhibit & be premium eligible for these live animals at summer 4-H shows. **This training only needs to be completed once in a youth's lifetime.** It can be completed in the ZSuite system, which can be accessed at <https://4h.zsuite.org> . Youth must have a ZSuite account and be enrolled in 4-H to take the training. The training is found in the tab called "Clover Academy." Please contact your leader or our office if you have any questions or need help. This training must be completed in ZSuite by June 1.

### Spring Roller Skating Party

Fulton County 4-H Federation cordially invites you and your family to help usher in Spring during the 4-H county-wide roller-skating party on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 3:30 – 5:30 pm at Canton Skateland (1040 W Hickory St in Canton). 4-H Federation will pay for your entry and skate rental. Federation members decided at their January meeting that the community service project conducted at the skating party will benefit the Humane Society of Fulton County. The roller-skating party is free to attend, but if you so choose, please bring items to donate to our furry friends who are currently sheltered at the Humane Society of Fulton County, Canton. The Humane Society has an Amazon wish list on their website. Please check out the Humane Society's website here for more suggestions from their wish list: <https://www.humanesocietyfc.org/support/> Please bring money for any snacks or drinks you would like to purchase at the Snack Shop. 4-H Federation hopes to see you March 21!



# PROJECT INFORMATION

## Livestock Birth, Ownership & Tattoo Dates

4-H members enrolled in any livestock projects as of February 1 were mailed a packet of information containing livestock birth, ownership, and tattoo dates. This mailing went to all these livestock project member households on February 10, 2026. **PLEASE pay attention to the dates listed in the letter.** If you did not receive this information, or cannot find your copy, please email me at [kristakg@illinois.edu](mailto:kristakg@illinois.edu) and I will send you an electronic file.

ALL cattle and swine to be exhibited at COUNTY & STATE Fairs MUST have an 840 Electronic Identification (EID) tag and a Premises ID number for the location of where the animal was raised. Other than state and county fair steers, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to get their animals EID tagged. For more information on the 840-tag requirement, please visit the Illinois Department of Agriculture at <https://agr.illinois.gov/>

As we move closer to the summer show season, please monitor the Illinois Department of Agriculture website for any announcements regarding Animal Health & Welfare

Information that may affect exhibition of certain animals, such as poultry.

## Dog Obedience Training

All 4-H youth signed up for the dog project, PLEASE watch your email in March for a special opportunity starting in May.

Brian Wilson with Wilson's Dog Training, located in rural Cuba, will be offering dog obedience/training classes to 4-H youth.

More details will be announced to dog project members in March, so please get signed up for the dog project and watch your email for this wonderful opportunity.



## Community Service Spotlight



photo courtesy of Nicole Lettow

The Logan Leaders recently hosted a *Farmers Feeding Farmers* and Meal Budgeting Workshop, and it was a great success! The evening began with an inspiring presentation by senior 4-Her, Maddy Lettow, who shared about the FFA Backpack Program and its important work in combating food insecurity in our community.

Following the presentation, members split into small groups for a Meal Budgeting and Shopping Challenge. Each group brainstormed nutritious, budget-friendly meal ideas before heading to Aldi to put their plans into action. Youth practiced comparing prices, working as a team, and staying within their budget.

For the first time hosting this event, it went very well. The members were highly engaged and had just as much fun mastering self-checkout as they did browsing the aisles. We are proud of their teamwork, leadership, and enthusiasm, and we look forward to continuing this program in the future. – *Club Leader, Nicole Lettow*

Fantastic job, Logan Leaders! Fulton County 4-H is honored to share this community service outreach project. I invite all our clubs to share what they are doing as they pledge their hands to larger service. We at Illinois Extension are proud of each of our 4-H clubs and the work they are doing in their communities.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Fulton County 4-H Scholarships

Are you graduating from high school this year? If so, scholarships in various amounts will be awarded to county 4-H members at his or her graduation or awards program. Fulton County 4-H Scholarship donors understand the value of 4-H members preparing for their future by attending college or trade schools. For each scholarship, the recipient must be a current Fulton County 4-H member and must **actively** participate in 4-H events. **Preference given to 4-Hers who are achievement members.** The application will include a place for the 4-H member to list accomplishments and career goals. Family financial information is not required. **SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE is April 1, 2026.**

The scholarships will be given to seniors in high school; individuals can only receive these scholarships once. To receive a 4-H Scholarship Application, contact the Fulton County Extension Office at 547-3711, or email [kristakg@illinois.edu](mailto:kristakg@illinois.edu). Following is a list of past scholarships provided by donors. **Donors and scholarship amounts may vary from year to year.**

Some of the long-term scholarships and donor families include:

- Hilda Rock Memorial Scholarship donated by Mrs. Rock's family.
- Roberta Mahr Memorial Scholarship donated by the Farmington Lucky Clovers
- Merle L. Jenkins Agricultural Scholarship – donated by Mary Shoop & family.
- Gary Eathington Memorial Scholarship – donated by Cathy Eathington & family.
- Virginia Barnard Memorial Scholarship – donated by Leonard Barnard & family.
- Phillips Scholarship – donated by Roger & Cathy Phillips

Thank you to all these dedicated families who continue to award Fulton County's graduating seniors as they further their education 'To Make the Best Better'.

## Illinois Scholarship - Maddy Lettow

Congratulations to Madeline Lettow of the Logan Leaders 4-H Club! Madeline (Maddy) has been selected to receive the 2026 Illinois 4-H Civic Engagement & Global Living Scholarship! This award consists of a **\$1,250 scholarship** that will be presented at the **Illinois 4-H Celebration of Excellence Awards Banquet** on April 10, 2026. Some of Maddy's projects throughout her years in 4-H year have included creative writing, foods, floriculture, visual arts, civic engagement, and career & leadership development. Maddy has held multiple offices in her club and has been regularly active in the club's activities. Other 4-H activities included yearly 4-H camp attendance, and in 2024, Madeline was one of the Illinois delegates selected to attend the Ignite by 4-H Teen Summit in Washington, D.C. Maddy is also active in Marching Band, Scholastic Bowl, Theater Club, FFA, and student leadership at school. When asked about her 4-H experience, Maddy responds "In 4-H, I truly benefited from 'learning by doing'. The skills I gained in planning, promoting, teaching, mentoring, advocating, and advising have shaped me into a thoughtful, service-minded leader who values teamwork and impact." Congratulations Maddy!



Maddy Lettow

Photo credit: Patricia Mingus Photography



# SPIN CLUBS

## Shooting Sports

The Spring session of 4-H Shooting Sports will begin in April. Please see the chart listed in this newsletter with the meeting dates, locations, and meeting times. **There is a mandatory safety meeting for ALL youth and at least one guardian on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room of the Fulton Extension office.** In addition to registration in ZSuite, you will need to submit the paper enrollment and medical form, along with all applicable supply fees to secure your spot. Spots are limited and are filled on a first come basis once all required forms and supply fee payments are submitted. Please contact Krista with any questions, or if you need financial assistance to participate in this Special Interest club.

### Fulton County 4-H Shooting Sports Spring 2026 Session



Fulton County 4-H Shooting Sports is a Special Interest (SPIN) 4-H Club, shorter in duration, and focusing on one subject.

Disciplines:	Age	Cost	Location	Instructors	Dates	Times
Air Rifle Limit of 6 participants	8-18 as of 9/1/25	\$5 4-H program fee* plus \$10 supply fee	613 West Avenue H, Lewistown	Craig Hand, Ellie Nolan, Jaysen Delpierre, & Brad Robinson	April 12, 19, & 26; May 3, 17, & 24 (six sessions)	1 p.m. Lasts about one hour
.22 Caliber Pistol Limit of 5 participants	12-18 as of 9/1/25	\$5 4-H program fee* plus \$10 supply fee	Lee Roy Knuppel farm, 25676 E County Hwy 27, Canton	Lee Roy Knuppel	April 12, 19, & 26; May 3, 17, & 24 (six sessions)	1 p.m. Lasts about one hour
Smallbore (.22) Rifle Limit of 5 participants	10-18 as of 9/1/25	\$5 4-H program fee* plus \$30 supply fee	Lee Roy Knuppel farm, 25676 E County Hwy 27, Canton	Lee Roy Knuppel	April 12, 19, & 26; May 3, 17, & 24 (six sessions)	2 p.m. Lasts about one hour
Shotgun Limit of 20 participants	10-18 as of 9/1/25	\$5 4-H program fee* plus \$30 supply fee	Jacob's Field, 20516 E County Hwy 22, Canton	Lonn Van Pelt, Lee Roy Knuppel, and Ellie Nolan	April 12, 19, & 26; May 3, 17, & 24 (six sessions)	4 p.m. Lasts a little over an hour
Archery Limit of 20 participants	8-18 as of 9/1/25	\$5 4-H program fee* plus \$15 supply fee	16128 N Peanut Ridge Road, Lewistown	Brad Robinson, Ellie Nolan, and Jaysen Delpierre	April 12, 19, & 26; May 3, 17, & 24 (six sessions)	3 p.m. Lasts about one hour

\*4-H program fees are paid annually and cover involvement in all 4-H clubs. Shooting Sports supply fees are paid for each discipline and each spring/fall session. 4-H Program Fees paid to University of Illinois. Supply Fees paid to Fulton 4-H Shooting Sports club.

**Mandatory Safety Meeting for all – April 8, 6:30 p.m.** at U of I Extension office in Lewistown.

How to register – Enrollment is through ZSuite, and medical form will be available on our website, or you may call to have one emailed to you (547-3711) or pick one up in person at the U of I Extension office in Lewistown. **Signed forms and payment are required prior to participating in any 4-H shooting sports disciplines.**

Deadline to register – Space is limited and filled on first come, first served basis. Final deadline is April 6. You may sign up for multiple disciplines, as long as they are not at the same time. **Payment and signed medical form must be submitted to reserve a spot.** For assistance with the fee, contact the Extension office at 547-3711.

All firearms are provided. The only participants who are allowed to bring their own are the advanced members who have permission from the instructors. Participants will be given eye and ear protection, which they will be responsible for bringing each time to use. If weather causes cancellations, additional dates will be set. Call the Extension office at 547-3711 for contact information.

## Fulton County Outdoors

Fulton County 4-H is pleased to announce a new Special Interest Club is starting this winter and spring! The Fulton County Outdoors 4-H Club will be led by 4-H Shooting Sports instructor Brad Robinson of rural Lewistown. All interested youth are invited to join Brad in the Fulton County Outdoors to learn basic survival skills. Future meeting dates include:

- March 22 at 1 pm – basic first aid
- May 2 at 1 pm – tree and plant identification
- June 7 at 1 pm – shelter building



Enrollment for this special interest (SPIN) club is in ZSuite as either a primary or additional 4-H club. The annual 4-H program fee is currently \$5 and covers this club plus any other of the Fulton County 4-H clubs. Please check this club out!

## Junior Master Gardener

Fulton County 4-H is happy to share that another SPIN club will begin in April! The Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club is an innovative 4-H youth gardening opportunity that will meet in Canton. It is modeled after the highly popular Master Gardener program and offers horticulture and environmental science education through fun and creative activities. Curious youth ages 8–18 (as of Sept. 1, 2025) are invited to dig into the world of plants, science, and stewardship! This 4-H club meets for eight one-hour sessions and follows the nationally recognized Junior Master Gardener curriculum, exploring a little bit of everything, from plants and soil to insects, ecosystems, and caring for our environment. Meetings will be in the Canton Giving Garden, located at 159 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Canton, and will be hands-on, engaging, and designed to spark curiosity at every age level. The first club meeting will be on April 23 from 4 – 5 pm and will meet on 8 different Thursdays during the growing season. Please register in ZSuite and select the Junior Master Gardener as either your primary club or as an additional club.

# IMPORTANT 4-H DATES

Put this page on your fridge so you don't miss a thing!

## March

- 21 – YQCA Instructor-led training – Extension office at 10 a.m.
- 21 - Federation sponsored roller-skating party at Canton Skateland – 3:30 – 5:50 p.m.
- 22 – Fulton County Outdoors Club meeting – Basic First Aid – Brad Robinson's house - 1 p.m.
- 22 – Livestock Showmanship Clinic – Fulton County Fairgrounds – 1 – 3 p.m.
- 28 – Public Speaking Contest/Performing Arts Show – Checkrow Community Church – 10 a.m.

## April

- 1 – 4-H Scholarship applications due to Extension Office
- 8 – 4-H Shooting Sports mandatory Safety meeting
- 12 – 4-H Shooting Sports Spring session begins
- 23 – Junior Master Gardener kick-off meeting – Canton Giving Garden – 4 p.m.
- 25 – State Public Speaking Contest – Champaign

## May

- 1 – 4-H enrollment deadline in ZSuite to be eligible to register and exhibit at 2026 summer 4-H shows.
- 1 – Project add/drop deadline in ZSuite
- 1 – Horse Lease/Ownership forms due
- 4 – FairEntry opens for ALL Fulton County 4-H Summer shows
- 15 – All Sheep and Goat Self Nomination forms with photos due (Illinois State Fair Exhibition)
- 25 - Memorial Day – Extension Office closed

## June

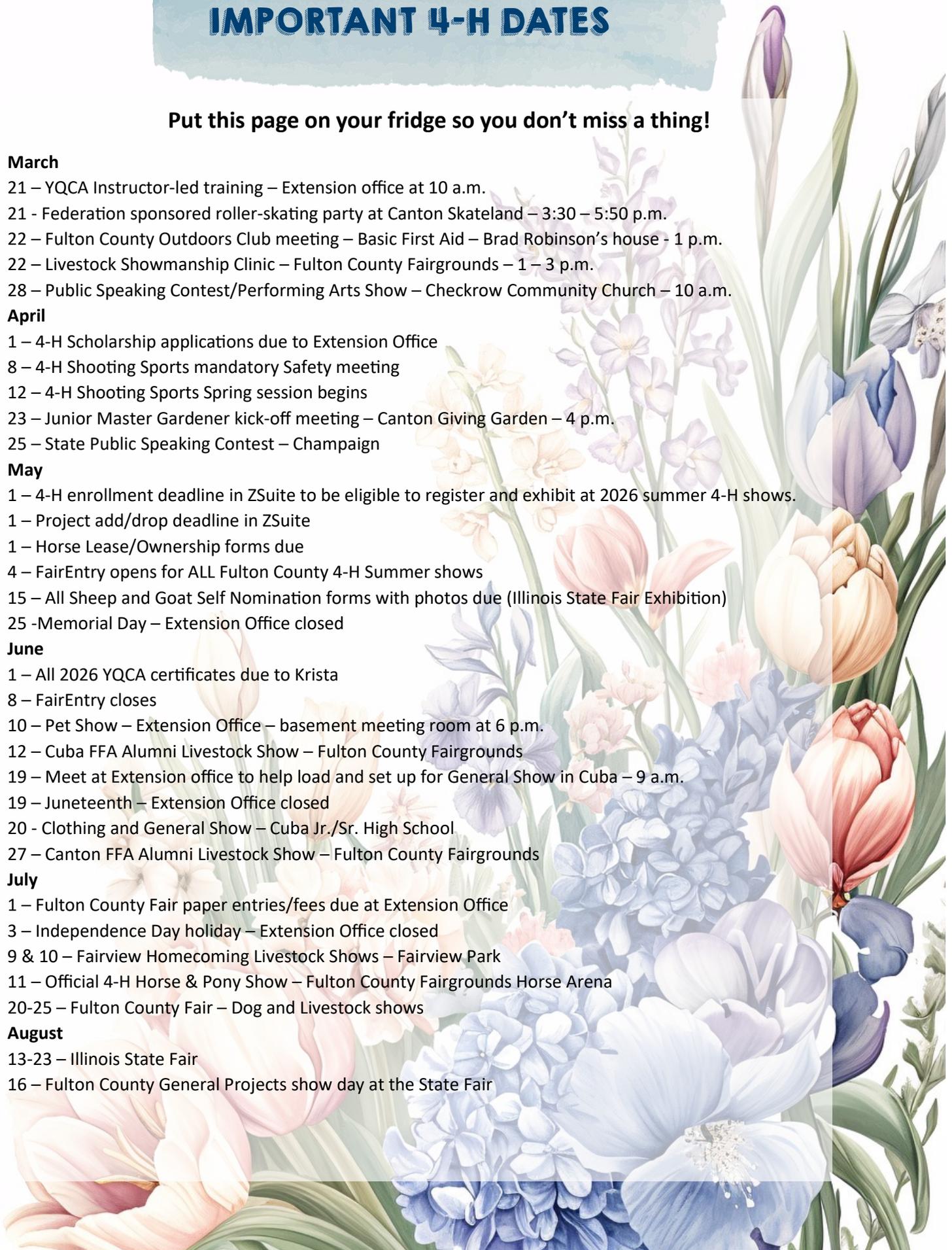
- 1 – All 2026 YQCA certificates due to Krista
- 8 – FairEntry closes
- 10 – Pet Show – Extension Office – basement meeting room at 6 p.m.
- 12 – Cuba FFA Alumni Livestock Show – Fulton County Fairgrounds
- 19 – Meet at Extension office to help load and set up for General Show in Cuba – 9 a.m.
- 19 – Juneteenth – Extension Office closed
- 20 - Clothing and General Show – Cuba Jr./Sr. High School
- 27 – Canton FFA Alumni Livestock Show – Fulton County Fairgrounds

## July

- 1 – Fulton County Fair paper entries/fees due at Extension Office
- 3 – Independence Day holiday – Extension Office closed
- 9 & 10 – Fairview Homecoming Livestock Shows – Fairview Park
- 11 – Official 4-H Horse & Pony Show – Fulton County Fairgrounds Horse Arena
- 20-25 – Fulton County Fair – Dog and Livestock shows

## August

- 13-23 – Illinois State Fair
- 16 – Fulton County General Projects show day at the State Fair





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### Showmanship Clinic

Fulton County 4-H, in partnership with EarlyBird Feed and Fulton County Farm Bureau, will host a free Showmanship Clinic for all interested youth on Sunday, March 22, 2026, from 1 – 3 pm at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown. Representatives from EarlyBird will demonstrate proper showmanship techniques for beef, goat, sheep, and swine livestock exhibitors. All interested parties are welcome to attend. To register, go to <https://go.illinois.edu/fultonshowmanship> or scan the QR code below.




**LIVESTOCK  
SHOWMANSHIP  
CLINIC**  
ALL 4-H & FFA YOUTH WELCOME

Sunday, March 22, 2026 from 1 - 3 p.m.  
Fulton County Fairgrounds - 1325 S Main St, Lewistown, IL