



# MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAMILY



APRIL 2026

# NEWS

## YQCA TRAINING & LIVESTOCK CLINIC

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## 4-H Livestock Clinic & YQCA Training



**Saturday, April 18, 2026**  
**Monroe County Fairgrounds**  
**Check in: 8:30-9:00 a.m.**



### Youth for the Quality of Animals (YQCA)

- Required for all 4-H members exhibiting in *goat, sheep, swine, beef & dairy* projects.
  - 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- Register online by April 16: <https://yqca.learnrow.io/Account/Login>

### Livestock Clinic

- Open to youth (*and parents*) with *poultry, rabbit, goat, sheep, swine & beef* projects.
  - Arrive by 9:45 a.m. (if not taking YQCA Training)

### Livestock 101: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

- Meet your superintendents, learn how to fill out livestock entries, review health requirements, show and auction rules.

### Livestock Showmanship & Grooming Breakout Sessions: 11:15-12:30

- Learn tips about how to successfully exhibit your animal in a show.
- Learn how to lead your animal and how to present yourself and your animal.
  - Learn how to clean, groom & care for your animal prior to a show.

**Presentation & Lunch: 12:30-1:00**  
Sponsored by Gateway FS



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Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



**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

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**Visit our website:**  
[web.extension.illinois.edu/mms](http://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)



## GENERAL PROJECTS SHOWBOOK

The 4-H Showbook is available to view online at <https://go.illinois.edu/Showbook-General>

The Showbook contains show dates and project guidelines for the:

- Public Speaking Show
  - Horse Show
  - Food Demo Show
- Show-A-Rama (general projects)

The 4-H Fair Showbook will be posted soon!



## 4-H SHOW REQUIREMENTS

To exhibit projects at the County and State levels at the end of the year, you must meet the following requirements:

- Attend at least four meetings during the 4-H year in your primary club.
  - Give a talk or demonstration at your 4-H club meeting.
  - Enroll in 4-H by January 1, 2026.
- All livestock project members must show their leader an in-progress Livestock Record Book at their May, June, or July Club meeting before the county fair AND complete their book by September 15.
- Additional show and livestock auction requirements are found in the 4-H Showbooks.



## QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS CERTIFICATION



**Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification  
(QAEC)**

This training is required for all members enrolled in:  
HORSE, RABBIT, POULTRY, DOG, CAT & SMALL PET  
projects shown live or via an Animal Science project.

<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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## STATE & COUNTY FAIR LIVESTOCK HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The 2026 State and County Fair Livestock Health Requirements from the Illinois Department of Agriculture are posted online at  
<https://go.illinois.edu/FairHealthRequirements>.

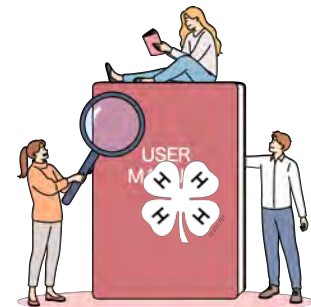


## 4-H FAMILY HANDBOOK

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>



# YOUTH COOKING SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



## Youth Cooking School Flavors Around the World

Pack your passport and grab your apron! Join us for a hands-on culinary adventure where young chefs will explore flavors around the world while building real life kitchen skills.

**Grades: completed 3rd-8th grade**

**Cost- \$70**

Sessions	
Morning	8:30-11:30 a.m.
Afternoon	12:30-3:30 p.m.



**Registration opens April 1st!**

[go.illinois.edu/YouthCooking  
School2026Ages9-14](https://go.illinois.edu/YouthCookingSchool2026Ages9-14)

Dates	Location
June 1-4	Immanuel Lutheran Church <b>Waterloo</b>
June 8-11	Immanuel Lutheran Church <b>Waterloo</b>
June 15-18	Madison County Farm Bureau <b>Edwardsville</b>
June 22-25	Turkey Hill Grange <b>Belleville</b>



(618) 939-3434  
[sscheibe@illinois.edu](mailto:sscheibe@illinois.edu)



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# NEW: YOUTH COOKING SCHOOL JUNIOR!



Participants will learn basic kitchen safety and practice early cooking skills such as mixing, measuring, and simple cutting while preparing easy, fun recipes. Along the way, they'll grow in kitchen confidence and gain an understanding of healthy eating basics.

## GRADES: completed Kindergarten-2nd grade

Date	Location
July 6-9	Monroe County Annex  901 Illinois Ave., Waterloo

Sessions	
Morning	8:30-10:30 a.m.
Afternoon	12:30-2:30 p.m.

**Cost- \$50**

**REGISTER NOW**

[go.illinois.edu/YouthCookingSchool2026JuniorChefEdition](https://go.illinois.edu/YouthCookingSchool2026JuniorChefEdition)



(618) 939-3434  
sscheibe@illinois.edu



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## EDUCATIONAL HIKE SERIES FOR YOUTH & ADULTS!



# Monroe County Outdoor Explorers

Guided walks and talks in nature for youth and adults of all ages!

### Wildflowers

April 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Salt Lick Point Land & Water Reserve, Valmeyer



### Geology

May 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Camp Vandeventer, 3463 Trout Camp Rd., Waterloo

### Trees

June 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Baebler Educational Farm, 4022 JJ Rd., Waterloo

**Please register in advance:**

**April 7:** [go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersWildflowers](https://go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersWildflowers)

**May 5:** [go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersGeology](https://go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersGeology)

**June 9:** [go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersTrees](https://go.illinois.edu/OutdoorExplorersTrees)



Bring a drink and appropriate shoes/clothing for light hiking.

\*All youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



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Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



**4-H**  
**AIR RIFLE CLUB**

**First Meeting: April 9, 6:30p.m.**  
Baebler Educational Farm , 4022 JJ Rd., Waterloo

**Subsequent meetings:**  
2nd Thursday of the each month until September.

**Register: <https://4h.zsuite.org> and choose**  
**"Shooting Sports: Air Rifle"**

\*Open to youth ages 8-18 by Sept. 1, 2025.  
Questions? Contact Kelly Brandt at [kmbrandt@illinois.edu](mailto:kmbrandt@illinois.edu)




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**4-H**  
**FISHING CLUB**

**First Meeting: April 17, 2026**  
**Parent info meeting @ 6:00p.m.,**  
**with fishing immediately following.**  
Baebler Educational Farm , 4022 JJ Rd., Waterloo

**Subsequent meetings:**  
May 15, June 19, August 14, September 11  
\*Parents highly encouraged to join members at meetings.

**Register: <https://4h.zsuite.org> and choose**  
**"Fishing Club."**

\*Open to youth ages 8-18 by Sept. 1, 2025.  
Questions? Contact Kelly Brandt at [kmbrandt@illinois.edu](mailto:kmbrandt@illinois.edu)




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## 4-H DAY WITH THE CARDINALS

# ★ 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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## MONROE COUNTY 4-H TEENS AS TEACHERS

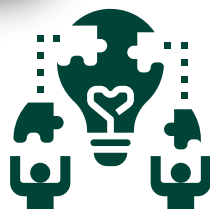
The Monroe County 4-H Teens as Teachers program continues to empower local teens through hands-on leadership and career exploration. This summer, our 4-H Teen Teachers will bring **Ag in the Classroom** lessons to children in daycares across the county, helping young learners discover the world of agriculture through fun, engaging activities.

To kick off their preparation, the teens recently toured the **Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners in Waterloo, IL**. During the visit, Brad Nobbe and Jeff Matzenbacher gave a tour of the store, repair shop, and operations facilities. They also shared the many career opportunities that are available locally and throughout the Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners Company.

Programs like 4-H Teens as Teachers give young people the chance to build communication skills, gain teaching experience, and develop confidence — all while making a positive impact in their community.



**THANK YOU Sydenstricker  
Nobbe Partners!**



# SHEEP FEST

4-H members are encouraged to participate in the youth Sheep & Goat Judging Contest at 9:00 a.m. in the cattle barn! Prizes will be awarded!



## 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**

LOCAL SPONSORS:

- Illinois Extension UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
- STATE BANK
- MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG LEADERS Farm, Family, Food.™
- WATERLOO ANIMAL HOSPITAL
- ILLINOIS LAMB & WOOL MARKETING BOARD
- ILLINOIS LAMB & WOOL PRODUCERS INC.
- Partially funded by: ALB AMERICAN LAMB BOARD
- MONROE COUNTY 4-H FEDERATION
- RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
- 1st National Bank
- Gateway FS



# SPRING SHEEP SHOWCASE

**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**



## 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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## 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 available 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 available here:  
[https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord\\_Guide](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.

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## RECORD KEEPING & AWARD APPLICATIONS

The 2025-2026 4-H Award Applications are available on our website:  
[https://go.illinois.edu/Monroe\\_AwardApp](https://go.illinois.edu/Monroe_AwardApp)

Before filling them out, you can keep track of your 4-H activities throughout the year with the 4-H Experience Log:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/MyExperienceLog>



# GARDENBUDS



# GROW WITH 4-H GARDENBUDS

Open to youth ages 5-8\*

\*Must have completed Kindergarten

**PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN HOW TO GROW VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS, COOK WITH PRODUCE, EXPLORE POLLINATION & INSECTS, LEARN ABOUT WEATHER, PLANT PARTS, THE PLANT LIFE CYCLE, AND MORE!**

## MEETING DATES

**JUNE 2, 9:00-11:30 A.M.**

**JUNE 23, 9:00-11:30 A.M.**

**JULY 14, 9:00-11:30 A.M.**

**AUGUST 4, 6:00-7:30 P.M.**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 6:00-7:30 P.M.**

**OCTOBER 6, 6:00-7:30 P.M.**

Register: [www.zsuite.org](http://www.zsuite.org) and choose

"Gardenbuds" club by May 26.

Limited to 15 participants.



\$30 fee\* includes supplies and snacks for 6 sessions.

\*Fee payable by cash or check at first session.



Call 618-939-3434 for more info.



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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>

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## 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>





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1	Youth Cooking School Registration Opens!
April 7	Monroe Co. Outdoor Explorers: Wildflowers @ Salt Lick
April 11	Sheep Festival & Youth Sheep/Goat Judging Contest
April 13	4-H Day with the Cardinals-REGISTRATION DEADLINE
April 18	YQCA Training & Livestock Clinic, Mo. Co. Fairgrounds
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 5	Monroe Co. Outdoor Explorers: Geology @ Camp Van.
May 9	Horse Show, 9:00 a.m., Monroe County Fairgrounds
May 16	4-H Day with the Cardinals, Busch Stadium, STL
June 1	Food Demo Show, 6:30 p.m., Monroe Co. Annex
June 9	Monroe Co. Outdoor Explorers: Trees @ Baebler Edu. Farm
June 27	Show-A-Rama, 8:30 a.m., (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 about STATE EVENTS here:

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/86/481277986.html>



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