

# 2026 MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAIR SHOWBOOK

**Livestock, Agronomy, Horticulture, Plants/Soils**

\*Entries must be completed online: <https://faireentry.com/Fair/SignIn/23047>

## Monroe County Fair: July 19-26 Monroe County Fairgrounds

*All Shows are Open to the Public*

### **4-H/YOUTH EVENTS:**

#### SUNDAY, JULY 19

1:30-3:00 p.m. 4-H Agronomy & Vegetable Gardening Judging  
5:00 p.m. 4-H Market Lamb & Goat Weigh-In

#### MONDAY, JULY 20

8:00 a.m. 4-H Poultry & Rabbits must be cooped  
8:00 a.m. 4-H Poultry Weigh-in  
8:30 a.m. 4-H Poultry Judging  
9:00 a.m. Steers must be in designated stalls  
10:00 a.m. 4-H Steer Weigh-in  
10:30 a.m. 4-H Rabbit Weigh-in  
12:30 p.m. 4-H Rabbit Judging  
5:00 p.m. 4-H Sheep Judging  
6:00 p.m. Livestock health papers must be provided to superintendents

#### TUESDAY, JULY 21

7:30 a.m. Superior Young Producer Contest (Rabbit & Poultry)  
8:00 a.m. 4-H Market Swine Weigh-in  
10:30 a.m. 4-H Master Showmanship Contest  
11:00 a.m. Livestock health paper inspection  
1:00 p.m. Superior Young Producer Contest (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Swine)

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

8:00 a.m. 4-H Swine Judging  
9:30 a.m. Rooster Crowing Contest (Fair Junior/Open Class)  
11:30 a.m. 4-H Dairy Judging  
3:00 p.m. 4-H Steer Judging  
6:30 p.m. 4-H Goat Judging

#### THURSDAY, JULY 23

8:30 a.m. 4-H Beef Breeding Stock Judging  
6:00 p.m. Youth Market Animal Auction  
9:30 p.m. Livestock may leave grounds



## **Monroe County Office**

901 Illinois Ave., PO Box 117  
Waterloo, IL 62298  
Phone: 618-939-3434  
Fax: 618-939-7708

## **Office Hours:**

Monday- Friday:  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch

## **Facebook:**

University of Illinois Extension:  
Monroe County 4-H

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

## **Website:**

<https://extension.illinois.edu/mms/4-h-monroe-county>

## **Instagram:**

monroe\_county\_il\_4h

## **DISCLAIMER**

“The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in the Premium Book.

## **FAIRGROUNDS DIRECTIONS**

To travel either from the north or south to the Monroe County Fairgrounds, take Rt. 3 to the (Rt. 3 & Rt.156) 4-way stop. (MotoMart is on the west corner and Nice Twice is on the east corner) turn west onto Rt. 156. Travel west on Rt. 156 approximately ½ mile. The Fairgrounds is on the right side of the highway.

4-H exhibits for projects in horticulture & crops are in the Commercial Building on the west end of the fairgrounds. The 4-H livestock are in the appropriate specie barns on the north side of the fairgrounds.



**Illinois Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois | U. S Department of Agriculture| Local Extension Councils Cooperating  
University of Illinois provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 618-939-3434.  
Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

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# MONROE COUNTY 4-H SHOW GUIDELINES

## **DISCLAIMER**

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## **TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIZES, GIFTS, OR AWARDS**

*Program Participants (including minors) will be required to provide their Social Security number or foreign national tax ID number prior to receiving a prize, gift, or award to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security-protected software (PEAR). Participants will not be eligible for a prize, gift, or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided.*

Projects are valued on a point system based on grades of Blue, Red & White. Some more difficult and time-consuming projects are given higher values. The dollar amount is then calculated using an X factor, which depends on the total premium dollars allowed by the State of Illinois. **The X factors are as follows: General Projects: Blue (4), Red (3), White (2); Horse: Blue (5), Red (4), White (3).**

Exhibiting in the 4-H Exhibit is a privilege. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to follow the general rules of this division and the exhibit requirements for the specific class entered. The University of Illinois Extension personnel or their assigned agents do not assume liability for loss, theft, or damage to any exhibit. To see the complete list of rules for the Illinois State Fair General Project Show, please visit the Illinois State Fair page on the Illinois 4-H Website: [go.illinois.edu/4HGeneralProjectGuidelines](http://go.illinois.edu/4HGeneralProjectGuidelines)

- 4-H Shows are open to all enrolled 4-H club members for the current 4-H year who:
  - **Are age 8 but not yet age 19 by September 1 of the previous year.**
  - **Have enrolled by January 1 of the current year.**
  - **Have attended at least four (4) club meetings in their club during the project year prior to a show.**
  - **Presented a talk and/or demonstration at their club meeting during the project year.**
- All exhibitors must be currently enrolled in the project for which they are exhibiting through <https://4h.zsuite.org> by January 1 to exhibit for the current year. Entries must be made online in Fair Entry. Instructions are found here: <https://go.illinois.edu/MonroeFairEntryDirections>
- **Project Manuals:** Some projects require a project manual, book, workbook, or guide. These are indicated with a book icon. Project books can be purchased from [shop4-h.org](http://shop4-h.org) or, in some cases, have a free PDF resource available on the [project's page on the Illinois 4-H website](#).
- Youth must bring project(s) at designated judging times to ensure a proper judge is present.

- Conference judging is not about preparing a presentation. Judging is meant to be a conversation between the judge and 4-H member (or group) about the project and the learning experience. You may bring notes if you wish. Tips on creating an engaging display board are available at [go.illinois.edu/4HDisplayTips](http://go.illinois.edu/4HDisplayTips).
- 4-H members are responsible for exhibiting ALL of their projects and are expected to be present while their project is evaluated.
- 4-H members are required to be present during a County 4-H Project Show to be eligible for State Fair consideration. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Extension office at 939-3434. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.
- If a 4-H member must be absent for a 4-H show, they should consult the County Extension office. Exhibitors will have the option to fill out an Absentee Exhibitor Form to aid in the explanation of their project (excluding live animals) for the County show *only*. This will not, however, allow eligibility for the State Fair.
- **INNOVATION CLASSES** are open to all 4-H members in the project areas listed. Members who choose to exhibit in the Innovation class may be enrolled at any level of the project they are studying. Members choosing to exhibit in the Innovation class decide the best way to show off their project mastery and knowledge for the year in that project category. Some suggestions are provided for each category, but members may choose any method they want to demonstrate project learning, as long as it does not fit into any other class in that category. Only selected project categories have an Innovation option.
- Exhibits illustrating inappropriate subject matter and/or graphics are not acceptable. Extension Staff reserves the right to remove exhibits deemed inappropriate or dangerous for youth audiences. The content of any 4-H competitive presentation does not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the University of Illinois Extension program or the Illinois State Fair.
- Some exhibit areas may have size limitations. Read the descriptions carefully. Please choose a display size that is most appropriate for the exhibit you are bringing. Larger does not always mean better; use good judgment in creating your exhibit. If an exhibit is selected for the State Fair, please note that you may need to carry your project from a distant parking lot to the exhibit area.

#### **COPYRIGHT AND CLOVER USAGE:**

- Copyright Reminder: It is illegal for youth to use an image or brand that someone else owns as part of their 4-H project exhibit without the permission of the copyright/trademark holder.
- Copyrighted or trademarked designs are not acceptable; this includes team logos, school logos, and/or characters from television, movies, such as Disney characters, Iron Man, etc.
- More details in the new "Copyright Guidelines Tipsheet: [go.illinois.edu/II4HCopyrightGuidelines](http://go.illinois.edu/II4HCopyrightGuidelines).
- Use of the 4-H Name and Emblem: Chartered 4-H Clubs and enrolled 4-H members are authorized to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. This includes permission for an enrolled 4-H member to use the 4-H name and emblem in exhibits you create for personal use as part of 4-H sponsored events. This includes 4-H decorated cookies, a 4-H Clover printed out for use in a scrapbook, etc.

- Please note: Any use of the 4-H name and emblem on items intended as gifts or for sale requires prior permission using this UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT. This should be signed by the County Director. Any use of the 4-H name and emblem for sale or promotion online and/or at statewide events should be signed by the Illinois 4-H Director ([illinois4H@illinois.edu](mailto:illinois4H@illinois.edu)).
- Use of the green clover-shaped image is not protected. The 4-H Emblem is distinguished by the four H's that signify Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. No creative rendering, changing in color or shape of the official 4-H emblem is allowed.
- NO EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY EXHIBITS. This includes Computers, DVD/CD players, etc. Exhibitors MUST furnish any equipment they deem necessary to critique their exhibit properly. Video/Filmmaking exhibitors must follow the guidelines provided to show their project (e.g., YouTube, DVD, USB drive, laptop, etc.).
- All exhibits must remain in place until the time specified.
- All exhibits are open for public viewing.
- 4-H members are not allowed to wear business promotional clothing when showing projects. Members are encouraged to dress in neat and clean attire.
- All exhibits must be products of the current 4-H year, excluding livestock.
- The Danish system of awards will be used for all 4-H exhibits, awarding **Blue, Red, and White** ribbons, according to merit.
- Members must be eight years old as of September 1 of the previous year to be eligible to advance to the State Fair in a general project.
- 4-H members MUST follow the project requirements as stated in this 4-H Showbook for general projects to be eligible for the State Fair.
- As a participant in the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program, you have the responsibility of representing yourself in a positive manner to the public. You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner that will bring honor to you and your family, as well as to 4-H. All participants must adhere to the Code of Conduct that was signed off in ZSuite upon enrollment.

# ILLINOIS STATE FAIR GUIDELINES

## (Agronomy, Horticulture, Plants & Soils)

### DISCLAIMER

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### TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIZES, GIFTS, OR AWARDS

*Program Participants (including minors) will be required to provide their Social Security number or foreign national tax ID number prior to receiving a prize, gift or award to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security-protected software (PEAR). Participants will not be eligible for a prize, gift, or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided.*

- Exhibitors must be present at the County 4-H Show and be pre-selected for State Fair representation by their county 4-H Extension program as a State Fair Exhibitor (except for livestock). Exhibitors must follow county guidelines for eligibility.
- Exhibitors must be currently enrolled as a 4-H member and have been at least 8 years old as of September 1, 2024. Parents and leaders should make provisions for the adequate care and supervision of exhibitors.
- Exhibitors must follow the project requirements exactly as listed in this Showbook, unless other directions are provided.
- State Fair Designated Conference Judging Exhibit Day for Monroe County is **Saturday, August 15, 2026**. Due to the nature of the conference judging process, exhibitors must be present with the exhibit that they have made for judging on their assigned county exhibition day. Scheduling adjustments for religious reasons may be requested by contacting the Illinois State 4-H Office@ [illinois4H@illinois.edu](mailto:illinois4H@illinois.edu) by August 1, 2026.
- Members may enter ONLY ONE exhibit class at the Illinois State Fair. This also applies to exhibitors who are enrolled in projects in two different counties. If they are identified as a state fair delegate in two counties, they will have to choose one individual and/or group project to exhibit.
- All exhibitors from a county will exhibit on the same day. A 4-H member may also show in the junior livestock show, but they must be present at the required time for their general project judging. If possible, attempts will be made to accommodate livestock exhibitors within the judging time span, but no premium will be awarded if the exhibitor misses their judging time.

- The County Extension office will provide official exhibit tags for all exhibitors prior to the state fair. This entry tag should be completely filled out and securely attached to the exhibit.
- Some exhibit areas may have size limitations. Read the descriptions carefully. Please choose a display size that is most appropriate for the exhibit you are bringing. Larger does not always mean better; use good judgment in creating your exhibit. Exhibitors will need to carry their project from the distant parking lots to the fairgrounds.

## **FOOD SYSTEMS**

### ***Agronomy, Horticulture, Plant & Soil Science***

**Exhibit Time:** Sunday, July 19, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

**Location:** Monroe County Fairgrounds-Commercial Building

**Judging Time:** Sunday, July 20, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

- **Crops & Cover Crops**
- **Horticulture: Vegetables/Herbs/Fruits**
- **Plant & Soil Science**

- All 4-H Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant & Soil Science projects will be judged from 1:30-3:00 pm on Sunday, July 19, 2026, in the Commercial Building between 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm and will be judged in order of arrival on this day.
- 4-H members must be present to discuss their project work with the Judge.
- 4-H exhibits will be released on Saturday, July 25 for pick-up. *Horticulture/Crop projects not picked up will be discarded.*

**\*NOTE: MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER THEIR EXHIBITS IN JUNIOR AND OPEN CLASS WHERE POSSIBLE. (REFER TO FAIR PAPER FOR INFORMATION AND ENTRY BLANK.)**

## **AGRONOMY**

Each county may submit three entries total from 50170, 50171, 50172, 50173, 50191.

### **Soybeans** (SF 50170) *Record Book – Required*

Exhibit five fresh plants (include root systems that are washed) that are representative of the member's 4-H project field; **OR** exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include an explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord), or an FFA crops record.

### **Corn** (SF 50171) *Record Book – Required*

Exhibit two fresh plants of field corn (include root systems that are washed) that are representative of the member's 4-H project field; **OR** exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include an explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. *Sweet corn should be exhibited in Vegetable Gardening unless it is being raised under a commercial contract by the exhibitor.* Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord), or an FFA crops record.

### **Small Grains** (SF 50172) *Record Book – Required*

Exhibit one gallon of the current year's crop of oats, wheat, rye, or barley that is representative of the member's 4-H project field; **OR** exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include an explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord) or an FFA crops record.

### **Hay** (SF 50191) *Record Book – Required*

Exhibit one flake from a small bale (or the equivalent volume from a large or round bale) of dry hay in a clear plastic box with a lid or heavy-duty clear bag of the current year's hay crop that is representative of the member's 4-H project field; **OR** Exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include an explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord) or an FFA crops record.

### **Agronomy Innovation Class** (SF 50173)

#### **Open to youth enrolled in any Agronomy project**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Agronomy project. This could be related to, but not limited to, crop production, crop utilization, or agronomy topics of interest to the member. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **HORTICULTURE: VEGETABLES, HERBS & FRUITS**

Each county may submit 3 entries total for 50313, 50314, 50315, 50316, 50317.

### **For youth in any level of Vegetable Gardening.**

All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor as part of their current gardening 4-H project. Exhibitors should be knowledgeable about various aspects of the produce, including but not limited to different varieties, soil testing, fertilizers used, etc. Exhibits should be prepared according to the Illinois Vegetable Garden Guide: [go.illinois.edu/4HVegetableGuide](http://go.illinois.edu/4HVegetableGuide).

Waxes and oils may not be used on vegetables or fruits. Any plant infested with insects will be removed from the exhibit area and will not be eligible for champion awards. General gardening advice and information can be found at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/gardening>.

### **Herb Container Display (SF 50313)**

Herbs should be grown in pots (8" maximum diameter). Categories: Mint, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, and all other herbs. Herbs should be labeled with common and Latin names. Herbs should be in your care for a minimum of three months for state fair exhibits. Remove dead leaves from plants and check that the soil is clear of debris such as dead leaves. When exhibiting herb plants, be sure to grow the plants in the container to be displayed to avoid transplant shock. Exhibits will be evaluated based on cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety. Additional herb resources are located in the project resources section of the Illinois 4-H website.

- Display must include four or more different kinds of herbs. There may be no more than two varieties of any herb. For example, peppermint and chocolate mint would be classified as two different herb varieties.
- In instances where containers display more than one variety of herb, special care should be taken to ensure that each distinct variety is accessible and clearly visible to the judges, to ensure full points for cleanliness.

### **Vegetable/Fruit Display (SF 50314)**

- This class is allowed a 2'6" x 2'6" space for each display.
- Display must include 6 or more different kinds of vegetables or fruits. There may be no more than 2 varieties of any vegetable/fruit. For example, red and white potatoes would be classified as two different varieties. Acorn squash and zucchini would be classified as two different vegetables.
- The number and type of vegetables/fruits used must conform to the Vegetable/Fruit Plate/Display List. *Fruit Plate list is below Vegetable Plate list.*
- Exhibitors must provide the name and variety of all vegetables/fruits used. (i.e. Cabbage – Golden Acre; Cucumber, slicing – Straight Eight; Tomatoes, slicing – Rocky Top; Snap Beans – Contender, etc.).

### **Vegetable Plates (SF 50315)**

- The exhibit must include two single-vegetable plates. (Exhibitor will furnish the disposable plates.)
- Exhibitors must provide the name and variety of all vegetables/fruits used. (i.e. Cabbage – Golden Acre; Cucumber, slicing – Straight Eight; Tomatoes, slicing – Rocky Top; Snap Beans – Contender, etc.). The number of vegetables on each plate must conform to the plate list below.
- Only one variety on each plate.

- An exhibitor cannot show two plates of the same type of vegetable. (i.e., Cannot exhibit red *and* white potatoes or zucchini *and* straightneck summer squash.)

### **VEGETABLE PLATE/DISPLAY LIST**

When selecting vegetables for exhibition, keep in mind that the judge will evaluate them based on cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety. (*Lists are provided by U of I Extension Horticulturists; Items are listed according to the correct definition of vegetables.*)

Asparagus (5 spears)  
Beans, Lima (12 pods)  
Beets (5)  
Broccoli (1 head)  
Brussels sprouts (12 sprouts)  
Cabbage (1 head)  
Cauliflower (1 head)  
Carrots (5)  
Cucumber, pickling, or slicing (5)  
Eggplant (1)  
Garlic (5)  
Kohlrabi (5)  
Lettuce (1 head or plant)  
Muskmelon incl. cantaloupe (1)  
Okra (12)  
Onions, large, dry (5)  
Onions, green or set (12)  
Parsnips (5)  
Peas (12 pods)  
Peppers, large fruited (bell/banana) (5)  
Peppers, small fruited (chili/cherry) (12)  
Popcorn (5)  
Potatoes (any variety) (5)  
Pumpkin (1)  
Rhubarb, trimmed stalks (3)  
Rutabaga (5)  
Salsify (5)  
Squash, summer (any variety) (3)  
Sweet corn, in husks (5)  
Tomatoes, slicing (5)  
Tomatoes, small fruited (12)  
Turnip (5)  
Watermelon (1)

Squash, winter (Acorn, butternut, buttercup, spaghetti, Hubbard, Turks's Turban) (1)  
Beans, Snap, Green Pod or Golden Wax (12 pods)  
Greens (collard, endive, escarole, kale, mustard, spinach, Swiss chard) (1 plant)  
Horseradish Root (1 marketable root specimen harvested this year)

### **Vegetable Gardening Display - Other (SF 50316)**

Present an exhibit of the member's choice that focuses on some aspect of vegetable gardening which does not fit in the categories above. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters that you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include a visual element, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Fruit Plates (SF 50317)**

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- The exhibit must include two single-fruit plates. (Exhibitor will furnish the disposable plates.)
- Exhibitors must provide the name and variety of all fruits used. The number of fruits on the plates must conform to the plate list below.
- Only one variety on each plate.
- An exhibitor cannot show two plates of the same type of fruit. (i.e., Cannot exhibit Gala & Jonathan Apples, Mazzard & Gisela Cherries, etc.)

### **FRUIT PLATE LIST**

Fruit will be judged using the same general criteria used for vegetables. The fruit will be judged for the stage of maturity normal for that season and growing location. Emphasis will be placed on how well fruit approaches market quality. When selecting fruits for exhibition, keep in mind that the judge will evaluate them based on cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety. *(Lists are provided by U of I Extension Horticulturists; Items are listed according to the correct definition of fruit varieties at [go.illinois.edu/fruittrees](http://go.illinois.edu/fruittrees).)*

Apples – 5

Grapes – 2 bunches

Pears – 5

Strawberries (Ever bearers) – 1 pint

Wild Plums – 1 pint

Other Small Fruit or Berries (Do not duplicate entries from the above fruits) – 1 pint

Other Fruits or Nuts (Do not duplicate entries from the above fruits) – 5

## **PLANTS & SOILS**

Each county may submit three entries total from 50280, 50281a, 50281b, 50281c.

### **Cover Crops (SF 50280)**

Exhibit an experimental or educational activity related to one experience from your project; **OR** prepare a display focusing on any activity related to the cover crops project. This could be related, but not limited, to plant growth & development, cover crop benefits, land management, sustainability, or other topics of interest to the member related to cover crops. A cover crop might include any plant that is sown in between primary production crops for the benefit of overall farm health rather than crop yield (examples: pennycress, clover, radish, annual ryegrass, etc.). The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters that you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include a visual element, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Plants & Soils 1 (SF 50281a) *It's More Than Just Dirt – Required***

Prepare a 36" X 48" display or a poster no larger than 36" X 48" and 15" deep that illustrates an activity from the project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of environmental and internal factors that affect plant growth, as well as the function and characteristics of soil. Include your project journal that documents activity recordkeeping requirements, answers activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas in response to each activity.

### **Plants & Soils 2 (SF 50281b) *Stems and Stamens – Required***

Prepare a 36" X 48" display or a poster no larger than 36" X 48" and 15" deep that illustrates an activity from the project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of plant composition, the functions of individual plant parts, plant life cycles, and the many ways plants reproduce.

### **Plants & Soils 3 (SF 50281c) *Sprouting Out and Growing UP – Required***

Prepare a 36" X 48" display or a poster no larger than 36" X 48" and 15" deep that illustrates an activity from the project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between soil and other cycles found in nature. Displays should also provide an example of a leadership or service learning experience focused on environmental stewardship. Include your project journal that documents activity recordkeeping requirements, answers activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas in response to each activity.

# READY4LIFE

Each county may send two entries from 50366a and two entries from 50366b.

## **Ready4Life Career (50366a)**

### **Open to 11- to 18-year-olds in all projects.**

Exhibits in this category must include the following: a) a physical representation of the career, such as a model, prototype, or display/portfolio that includes images of accomplished work; b) verbal or written explanations that demonstrate knowledge of the related career or business fields, potential careers, and the appropriate requirements for achievement in those fields. The judging criteria for this class value the thoroughness of career exploration and pursuit above the workmanship of the physical specimen on display.

## **Ready4Life Entrepreneurship (50366b)**

### **Open to 11- to 18-year-olds in all projects.**

Exhibits in this category must include the following: a) a physical representation of the business product, such as a model, prototype, or display/portfolio that includes images of accomplished work; b) verbal or written explanations that demonstrate knowledge of the related business fields, potential business opportunities, and the appropriate requirements for achievement in those fields. The judging criteria for this class value the thoroughness of the business exploration and pursuit above the workmanship of the physical specimen on display.

# **4-H LIVESTOCK SUPERINTENDENTS**

## **Poultry**

Hank Marquardt: 618-935-2520

Dan Koch: 618-458-7791

Lauren Morgan 618-795-3951

Logan Henerfauth: 618-719-7093

## **Rabbits**

Amanda Marquardt: 618-795-2708

Randy Gummersheimer: 618-939-8024

Jessica Shevlin: 618-806-5466

## **Sheep**

Jon Koch: 618-521-1604

Ray Henerfauth:

## **Swine**

Kim Bergmann: 618-791-0360

Darren Johanning: 618-741-0547

Roger Schaefer: 618-581-6903

## **Dairy**

Joann Hartman: 618-806-4354

Amanda Hartman: 618-806-9852

## **Goats**

Heidi Ruwald: 458-6562

Raeleen Neary:

## **Beef**

Patrick Doyle: 618-340-0355

Melinda Braun: 618-799-8341

Kody Schwarze: 618-223-9935

# YOUTH LIVESTOCK AUCTION RULES

*The Youth Livestock Auction is sponsored by the Monroe County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation. The Foundation's Livestock Auction Committee sets forth the following guidelines for selling livestock at the youth auction:*

1. Only current 4-H or FFA members who are 8 years of age and not yet 19 years of age on or before September 1 of the previous year of the Fair may sell at the youth livestock auction.
2. Youth must be a Monroe County resident and/or reside within the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, or Red Bud school districts.
3. Youth must be a member of a Monroe County 4-H club and/or an FFA chapter in the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, or Red Bud school districts.
4. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Beef Cattle, Swine, Sheep, Goats and/or Dairy Cattle, MUST complete the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training by May 1 of each 4-H year. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Rabbits or Poultry for the *first time* MUST complete the online Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC) by May.
5. Members must attend four 4-H meetings in their primary club (or four FFA chapter meetings of which they are a member of if not in a 4-H Club) prior to the Fair.
6. 4-H members must present a talk or demonstration during the 4-H year.
7. 4-H members must be enrolled in the project they are exhibiting/selling.
8. 4-H and FFA members should have 4-H or FFA Livestock Record Books up-to-date and show their **in-progress** records to their 4-H Club Leader or FFA Advisor by their **May, June, or July club meeting**, prior to the county Fair. 4-H Record Books must be **completed by September 15** and turned into the Monroe Co. Extension office.

\*Note: members **must** complete a Livestock Record Book for any of the livestock species they are selling in the current year, AND in order to sell in the Youth Livestock Auction in the following year.

9. Market animals receiving a blue or red 4-H ribbon are eligible to sell. Those receiving a white ribbon and/or not meeting the weight, or rate-of-gain requirements are not eligible to sell.
10. Exhibitors may sell **two livestock projects of two different species: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit, Poultry, and/or Dairy Cattle Basket (basket= products or certificates with a minimum value of \$50. \*Dairy Goat Baskets will sell with Goats.**

11. Participants should declare the species they plan to sell at the Livestock Entry Day prior to the Monroe County Fair. Any changes should be provided to the U of I Extension office prior to 8 am, Thursday of Fair week.
12. If a 4-H or FFA member receives Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion in any species area, they will have the opportunity to sell the Grand and Reserve Champion regardless of the number of other species they plan to sell, as long as all of the additional sale requirements are met.
13. Auction participants are responsible for helping to recruit potential buyers to the auction. Exhibitors should recruit and invite potential buyers of their livestock prior to the livestock auction via letters or personal visits.
14. Youth are encouraged to dress in neat and clean attire when selling their animal. Members should not wear business promotional clothing during the auction.
15. The seller's immediate family is discouraged from bidding on their child's animal.
16. Payment from the buyer must be made to the auctioneer service before the animal is moved from the Fairgrounds.
17. The seller is responsible for the animal until it is delivered to the buyer's destination and until the buyer's check has been successfully processed by the bank.
18. The exhibitor/seller is responsible for the delivery of the animal to the processor.
19. The exhibitor/seller is responsible if the carcass is rejected by the health inspector.
20. The exhibitor/seller is responsible for making necessary arrangements and/or agreements with the buyer if the exhibitor wishes to exhibit the animal at other fairs.
21. The cost of the thank-you advertisement photo will be deducted from the check the exhibitor receives on the sale of their animal.
22. The exhibitor/seller will receive their animal sale check after the buyer's check has been successfully processed by the bank and internal financial processes have been completed by the Monroe County Extension and 4-H Education Foundation.

**2026 Youth Livestock Auction Sale Order:  
LAMBS-SWINE- POULTRY- RABBITS- BEEF-DAIRY-GOATS**

# ELECTRONIC ID TAG REQUIREMENT FOR COUNTY FAIRS

Per USDA requirements, all beef, dairy, and swine exhibiting at state and county fairs must have an “840” electronic identification (EID) ear tag. Tag numbers will be required on all livestock health papers accompanying each animal and will be verified during vet checks at the fair.

- **What** must have an EID tag?
  - All beef cattle, dairy cattle, and swine exhibiting at a county or state fair must have an “840” EID tag. Cattle under the age of 6 months are exempt.
  - Tags should be put into the ears by owners with an EID button tagger. Taggers may be purchased from a farm supply dealer (i.e., Valley Vet, Nasco, Premier 1).
  - *All steers will be inserted with EID tags supplied by U of I Extension during the initial winter weigh-in this year, as normal.*
  
- **Why** must these animals have an EID tag?
  - The purpose of the tag is to aid in animal disease traceability and reduce the impact of an animal disease outbreak.
  
- **Where** can you get an EID tag?
  - Tags should be inserted by the breeder that you purchase your animal from. If a purchased animal is already identified with an 840 tag, it should not be double-tagged, nor should the current tag be removed/replaced. Use the tag that is already in place.
  - You can request tags for free from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (subject to limited supply).
    - Swine:  
<https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/SWINE%20RFID%20840%20Tag%20Producer%20Order%20Form.pdf>
    - Cattle:  
<https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/RFID%20840%20Tag%20Producer%20Order%20Form.pdf>
  - You can purchase tags from a farm supply dealer (i.e., Valley Vet, Nasco, Premier 1)

\*A Premise ID is needed to order an EID tag.

- **How** do I obtain a Premise ID if I do not already have one?
  - Complete a registration form:  
<https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/filable-premiseform-2019.pdf> and remit to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

For more information, please visit:

[https://www.ilaged.org/connect/admin/attachments/IDOA\\_840%20Tag%20One%20Sheet\\_2025\\_8.5x11\\_7643.pdf](https://www.ilaged.org/connect/admin/attachments/IDOA_840%20Tag%20One%20Sheet_2025_8.5x11_7643.pdf)  
<https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/premises-registration.html>

## 4-H/JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW RULES

1. Youth must be a Junior Showman age status: 8 years of age and not yet 19 years of age on or before September 1 of the previous year.
2. Youth must be a Monroe County resident, and/or reside within the Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, or Red Bud school districts.
3. Youth enrolled in 4-H or FFA must attend four 4-H meetings in their primary club (or four FFA chapter meetings of which they are a member, if not in a 4-H Club) prior to the Fair.
4. 4-H members must present a talk or demonstration during the 4-H year.
5. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Swine, Sheep, and/or Goats MUST complete the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training by May 1 of *each* 4-H year. All 4-H livestock exhibitors enrolled in Rabbits or Poultry for the *first time* MUST complete the online Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC) by May 1.
6. Youth must be enrolled in the project they are exhibiting/selling if in a 4-H club or FFA chapter.
7. 4-H and FFA members should have 4-H or FFA Livestock Record Books up-to-date and show their **in-progress** records to their 4-H Club Leader or FFA Advisor by their **May, June, or July club meeting**, prior to the county Fair. 4-H Record Books must be **completed by September 15** and turned into the Monroe Co. Extension office.  
  
\*Note: members **must** complete a Livestock Record Book for any of the livestock species they are selling in the current year in order to sell in the Youth Livestock Auction in the following year.
8. 4-H members are eligible to exhibit two entries per 4-H class number and must indicate each entry on the livestock entry.
9. If a 4-H or Junior exhibitor has two entries in any class, they are responsible for recruiting the help of another 4-H or Junior age exhibitor if needed.
10. Only the judge, competing exhibitors, and superintendents are permitted in the show ring during livestock show days.
11. ALL cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, rabbits, goats, and horses are subject to the same health regulations as stated for Open Classes in the Monroe County Fair Paper. Health papers should be provided to your superintendent upon arrival.

12. All exhibitors must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. The guidelines can be found online at <https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
13. Exhibitors should refer to the Monroe County Fair Paper for livestock information about the dates and times of entry and removal of livestock from the fairgrounds.
14. 4-H and FFA exhibitors are encouraged to display a sign with their name and 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter to be placed near their animal.
15. Exhibitors are encouraged to dress in neat and clean attire. Members should not wear business promotional clothing when exhibiting projects.
16. All 4-H members must abide by the general rules established by the Monroe Co. Fair Assoc. during the Monroe Co. Fair.

**\*NOTE: HEALTH PAPERS MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE SUPERINTENDENT UPON ARRIVAL  
(NO LATER THAN MONDAY AT 6:00 PM).**

## 4-H BEEF

Superintendents: Patrick Doyle, Melinda Braun, Kody Schwarze

**STEER JUDGING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 3:00 pm**

**BEEF BREEDING STOCK JUDGING: THURSDAY, JULY 23, 8:30 am**

<u>CLASS NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
A0101A	Beef Market Steer, born <b>after January 1, 2025</b>
A0101B	Beef Jr. Heifer Calf, <b>born after January 1, 2026</b>
A0101C	Beef Sr. Heifer Calf, <b>born September 1 - December 31, 2025</b>
A0101D	Beef Summer Yearling Heifer, <b>born May 1 - August 31, 2025</b>
A0101E	Beef Jr. Yearling Heifer, <b>born March 1 - April 30, 2025</b>
A0101F	Beef Jr. Yearling Heifer, <b>born January 1 - February 29, 2025</b>
A0101G	Beef Sr. Yearling Heifer, <b>born September 1 - December 31, 2024</b>
A0101H	Beef Cow/Calf
A0101I	Bull Calf, born <b>after January 1, 2026</b>
A0101J	Beef Rate-of-Gain
A0101K	Beef Carcass

### NOTES:

- Superintendents will weigh market steers on **MONDAY, JULY 20, at 10:00 am**
  - Steers are sold by the pound, and **must weigh at least 900 pounds, not greater than 1450 pounds, and meet a pre-determined rate of gain based on breed.**
  - Exhibitors will designate one steer for sale at the final weigh-in.
  - Steers will be sold in order of a lottery system, with numbers drawn at the final weigh-in.
  - Steers **MUST** be clean and controllable at the final weigh-in. Steers deemed insufficiently halter broken will be ineligible for the show and sale.
  - At the final weigh-in, the ear tag must be attached, and one of the ear tattoos must be legible. *The consequence is the disqualification of the steer.*
- Steers may be subject to drug testing (i.e., tranquilizers, hormones, antibiotics, etc.).
- All steers delivered to a participating processor are eligible to participate in carcass evaluation.
- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at: <https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the steer show by age as of September 1 of the previous year.
  - Beginner: 8-10, Junior: 11-13, Intermediate: 14-16, Senior: 17-19
- Cattle must adhere to EID regulations on page 16. Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.

## 4-H DAIRY

*Superintendents: Joann Hartman, Amanda Hartman*

**JUDGING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 11:30 a.m.**

<u>CLASS NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
A0301A	Junior Heifer Calf- <b>March 1, 2026, and after</b>
A0301B	Winter Heifer Calf- <b>December 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026</b>
A0301C	Fall Heifer Calf- <b>September 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025</b>
A0301D	Summer Yearling- <b>June 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025</b>
A0301E	Spring Yearling Heifer- <b>March 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025</b>
A0301F	Winter Yearling Heifer- <b>December 1, 2024 - February 29, 2025</b>
A0301G	Fall Yearling Heifer- <b>September 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024</b>
A0301H	Junior Best Three Females- <b>born September 1, 2024, or after</b>
A0301I	Two-Year-Old Cow- <b>September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024</b>
A0301J	Three-Year-Old Cow- <b>September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023</b>
A0301K	Four-Year-Old Cow- <b>September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022</b>
A0301L	Aged Cow- <b>born before August 31, 2021</b>
A0301M	Dry Three and Four-Year-Old Cows- <b>September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2023</b>
A0301N	Dry Aged Cow- <b>born before September 1, 2021</b>
A0301O	Pair of Females- <b>any age, owned by the same exhibitor</b>
A0301P	Dam and Daughter- <b>owned by same exhibitor</b>

### NOTES:

- All first and second places will be shown for Grand Champion.
- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
- 4-H dairy exhibitors are eligible to sell a Dairy Cattle Basket containing products or certificates with a minimum value of \$50, as long as they exhibit at least two dairy cows.
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the show for youth ages 8-18 by Sept. 1 of the previous year.
- Cattle must adhere by EID regulations on page 16. Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.

## **4-H GOAT**

*Superintendents: Heidi Ruwald, Raeleen Neary, Wyatt Drewes*

**JUDGING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 6:30 pm**

<b><u>CLASS NO.</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>
A0501A	Aged Doe (over 2 years)
A0501B	Yearling Doe (1 year and under 2 years)
A0501C	Doe Kid (born after September 1, 2025)
A0501D	Buck Kid (born after September 1, 2025)
A0501E	Market Animal (born after April 1, 2025)
	Castrated buck or doe
A0501F	Rate-of-Gain
A0501G	Carcass

### **NOTES:**

- Superintendents will weigh market goats on **SUNDAY, JULY 19, at 5:00 pm**
  - Market goats will be sold by the **pound**. The **recommended weight** at the second weigh-in is **75 lbs**.
  - Market goats have a recommended Average Daily Gain of **.20lbs/day**.
  - The market animal must consist of either a wither or a market female of either meat or dairy type goat.
  - Exhibitors will designate one goat for sale at the final weigh-in.
  - Goats will be sold in order of a lottery system, with numbers chosen during the weigh-in.
- 4-H dairy goat exhibitors are eligible to sell a Dairy Goat Basket containing products or certificates with a minimum value of \$50 as long as they exhibit at least two dairy goats.
- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at: <https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
- Dairy goats must be debudded; however, horns are acceptable for meat goats.
- All goats delivered to a participating processor are eligible to participate in carcass evaluation.
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the show by age as of September 1 of the previous year.
  - Junior: 8-12, Senior: 13-19
- Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.

## **4-H SHEEP**

*Superintendents: Jon Koch, Ray Henerfauth, Garrett Brandt, Lydia Henerfauth*

**JUDGING: MONDAY, JULY 20, 5:00 pm**

<b><u>CLASS NO.</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>
A1101A	Fleece (Must be in a clear, 13-gallon plastic bag, labeled with the name of the sheep breed on a 5x7 card, stapled to the bag. Drop off at the Commercial Building on the first Sunday of the fair from 1-3 pm)
A1101B	Market Animal (wether lamb or ewe lamb, born after January 1, 2025)
A1101C	Ram (1 year and older)
A1101D	Ram Lamb (born after September 1, 2025)
A1101E	Aged Ewe (2 years and older)
A1101F	Yearling Ewe (1 year and under 2 years)
A1101G	Ewe Lamb (born after September 1, 2025)
A1101H	Lamb Rate-of Gain
A1101I	Lamb Carcass

### **NOTES:**

- Superintendents will weigh market lambs on **SUNDAY, JULY 19, at 5:00 pm**
  - Market lambs are sold by the pound.
  - The required minimum Average Daily Gain for is **.50 lbs/day for market lambs for eligibility to sell.**
  - Only wether lambs or ewe lambs will be allowed to be sold in the lamb sale.
  - The exhibitor will designate one lamb for sale at the final weigh-in.
  - Lambs will be sold in order of a lottery system, with numbers chosen at the weigh-in.
- Scrapie tags are required and will be used as an additional form of identification. Market lambs must have scrapie tags by the May weigh-in.
- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
- All lambs delivered to a participating processor are eligible to participate in the carcass evaluation the week following the fair.
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the show by age as of September 1 of the previous year.
  - Junior: 8-12, Senior: 13-19
- Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.

## 4-H SWINE

*Superintendents: Kim Bergmann, Darren Johanning, Roger Schaefer*

**JUDGING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, at 8:00 am**

<u>CLASS NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
A0401A	Gilt farrowed, January 1-15
A0401B	Gilt farrowed, January 16-31
A0401C	Gilt farrowed, February 1-15
A0401D	Gilt farrowed, February 16-29
A0401E	Gilt farrowed, March 1, and after
<b><u>Market Gilt</u></b>	
A0401F	Light Weight
A0401G	Light Medium Weight
A0401H	Heavy Medium Weight
A0401I	Heavy Weight
<b><u>Market Barrow</u></b>	
A0401J	Light Weight
A0401K	Light Medium Weight
A0401L	Medium Weight
A0401M	Heavy Medium Weight
A0401N	Heavy Weight

### **NOTES:**

- Superintendents will weigh market gilts and/or barrows on **TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 21.**
  - They must **weigh 220-290 lbs.** for eligibility to sell and must be paint-branded.
  - Only one weighing will be done, and that weight will be used for the rule weight.
- If a gilt is shown in the Market Animal Class, it CANNOT be shown in the Breeding Gilt classes.
- Swine will be sold in order of a lottery system, with numbers drawn after the show.
- The highest-placing animal must be sold if the exhibitor has two entries.
- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at: <https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the show by age as of September 1 of the previous year.
  - Junior: 8-12, Intermediate: 13-15, Senior: 16-19

- Swine must adhere by EID regulations on page 16. Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.

## **4-H POULTRY**

*Superintendents: Hank Marquardt, Dan Koch, Lauren Morgan, Logan Henerfauth*

**JUDGING: MONDAY, JULY 20, at 8:30 am**

***If there are any issues with the Avian Flu this year, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will determine whether live shows will be permitted.***

***If not, we will offer an alternative show featuring a poster with photos of your poultry. 4-H staff will inform you if we need to host a poster show instead of a live show.***

<b><u>CLASS NO.</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>
A0900A	Market Pen: broiler trio (3 cockerels or 3 pullets, weighing 5-8 lbs. ea. of the same sex and should be a broiler type breed; Cornish/Rock Cross or large meat breeds)
A0900B	Eggs (Requirements: a uniform dozen of eggs in a carton with the exhibitor's name. Eggs must be the same color & size. One egg will be cracked open to judge for freshness. Eggs should be in the carton with the pointed side down and at room temperature, so they are not sweaty. (Eggs must be home-grown.)
A0900C	Breeding Trio (A trio of birds consisting of one male and two females, any age. They must be the same breed and variety and can be birds that are shown in other 4-H classes as singles.)
A0900D	Cock (Must be hatched before January 1, 2026)
A0900E	Hen (Must be hatched before January 1, 2026)
A0900F	Cockerel (Must be hatched after January 1, 2026)
A0900G	Pullet (Must be hatched after January 1, 2026)
A0900H	Miscellaneous (turkeys, guineas and doves) pen of 2, either sex, mature birds
A0900I	Raising Duck-female or male, mature birds
A0900J	Raising Goose-female or male, mature birds

### **NOTES:**

- All birds must be cooped by **8:00 am, MONDAY, JULY 20**, with market pen weigh-in beginning at that time.
  - Exhibitors will sell poultry by the pen. The market pen of 3 will consist of 3 cockerels or 3 pullets and must **weigh 5-8 lbs. apiece for eligibility to sell.**

- Exhibitors must indicate at the show whether they plan to sell and will draw for sale order after judging.
- 4-H Exhibitors are encouraged to enter their poultry in Junior and Open classes at the fair; however, if 4-H'ers ONLY exhibit in 4-H classes, they do not have to leave their poultry the entire week.
- Exhibitors are required to feed & water their own birds with **sturdy** feed/water bowls. Feed will be provided. Exhibitors must furnish crocks for waterfowl and miscellaneous items.
- Each family is limited to enter a maximum of 50 birds.
- **All birds, including waterfowl, must be tested Pullorum-free before entry day.**
- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>
- Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the show, by age as of September 1 of the previous year.
  - Junior: ages 8-12, Senior: ages 13-19

## **4-H RABBITS**

*Superintendents: Amanda Marquardt, Randy Gummersheimer, Jessica Shevlin*

**JUDGING: MONDAY, JULY 20, at 12:30 pm**

<b><u>CLASS NO.</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>
A1001A	Meat Pen (3 rabbits, not over 69 days and must be 3-5 lbs. each) (Suggested to be a meat pen breed: California, New Zealand or other large boned breeds.)
A1001B	Single Fryer (1 rabbit between 3-5 lbs.)  (cannot be one of the meat pen rabbits)
A1001C	Sr. Buck (over 6 months)
A1001D	Sr. Doe (over 6 months)
A1001E	Jr. Buck (under 6 months)
A1001F	Jr. Doe (under 6 months)

### **NOTES:**

- Superintendents will weigh each rabbit in the meat pens and single fryers **on MONDAY, JULY 20, at 10:30 am.**
  - A single fryer is **one rabbit weighing between 3-5 lbs., for eligibility to sell.**
  - A meat pen consists of three rabbits. The weight of **each rabbit in the meat pen should be between 3-5 lbs., for eligibility to sell,** and should not be over 69 days old.
  - *Recommended:* meat pen rabbits should be a meat pen breed (California, New Zealand, or other large, bonded breed).
  - Exhibitors may sell either a meat pen OR a single fryer, which CANNOT be one of the meat pen rabbits. The decision must be made immediately following the judging.
- Meat pens and single fryers will be judged first. Exhibitors will draw for sale orders after the meat pen and single fryer classes are judged.
- The judge will evaluate all meat pens (Open, Junior, and 4-H) at the same time, which should be the first class of the 4-H show. After weighing, the judge will evaluate and place the meat pens for the Open, Junior, and 4-H ratings.
- Meat pen & single fryer rabbits may not be shown.
- Identification must be permanently tattooed in the left ear before the show, or exhibitors will not be allowed to show. No Sharpie "tattoos." Exhibitors should provide the superintendents with a list of tattoo numbers on all of their rabbits on Sunday evening or Monday morning of the fair.

- All 4-H members must follow the health guidelines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare when exhibiting any livestock at county and state fairs in Illinois. Those guidelines are updated annually. Please refer to the IDOA Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for County Fairs at:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockHealthRequirements>.
  
- A Showmanship Contest will be held on the day of the show by age as of September 1 of the previous year.
  - Junior: 8-12, Senior: 13-19
  
- Please refer to additional show and sale rules on pages 14 & 17.

# MONROE COUNTY MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

The 2026 Monroe County Fair Master Showmanship Contest will be held on **Tuesday, July 21, at 10:30 am**. The contest will begin in the cattle arena, then move to the swine arena, and finish in the sheep arena at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. One judge will evaluate each ring of participants. Participants will be scored in each ring based on overall showmanship abilities.

## RULES

- The exhibitor must be a Monroe County 4-H member between the ages of 14-18 (at least 14 by September 1, 2025, and cannot have reached their 19th birthday before September 1, 2025) and meet all 4-H show requirements.
- The exhibitor must be enrolled in a 4-H livestock project.
- Participants must supply their own animals for the competition. Each exhibitor must *own or borrow* each: a steer or heifer, a market or breeding lamb, and a market hog or breeding gilt that is already being exhibited at the county fair. Animals will not be provided for you.
- The winner will be announced at the Monroe County Livestock Auction on July 25.
- The winner will advance to the Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Contest on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 5:00 pm at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The winner must be available to attend this contest and *own or borrow* the said animals listed above that are already being exhibited at the state fair.
- The winner will receive a custom belt buckle, in addition to a t-shirt that is required to be worn during the State Fair contest.
- Participants are eligible to win the Master Showmanship Contest only once in their 4-H career.
- Participants must fill out an entry form and turn in by June 24, 2026.
- This contest will adhere to all guidelines set forth by the Monroe County Fair and must meet the Illinois Exhibition Animal Health Requirements.

# MONROE COUNTY MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST ENTRY FORM

**Entry Form deadline: June 24, 2026**

**Return to:  
University of Illinois Extension –Monroe County Office  
901 Illinois Ave., Waterloo  
OR Livestock Entry Night-Monroe County Fairgrounds**

Exhibitor’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor Age as of September 1, 2025: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Livestock Project (s): \_\_\_\_\_

I will adhere by the Monroe County 4-H Master Showmanship Rules provided.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature Date

# SUPERIOR YOUNG PRODUCER CONTEST

Rabbit/Poultry Coordinator: *Logan Henerfauth*

Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Swine Coordinators:

*James Neary, Lydia Henerfauth, Kaitlyn Ruwald, Olivia Stechmesser*

**This is a JUNIOR Class. Not 4-H. EXHIBITORS MUST MAKE THIS ENTRY ON THE MONROE COUNTY FAIR ENTRY FORM**

<u>Specie</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rabbits	Tuesday, July 21	7:30 am	Rabbit Barn
Poultry	Tuesday, July 21	7:30 am	Rabbit Barn
Beef/Dairy	Tuesday, July 21	1:00 pm	Band Pavilion
Sheep	Tuesday, July 21	1:00 pm	Band Pavilion
Goat	Tuesday, July 21	1:00 pm	Band Pavilion
Swine	Tuesday, July 21	1:00 pm	Band Pavilion

**\*Schedule may be subject to adjustments**

Poultry, Beef/Dairy, Sheep, Goat, and Swine will be split into two groups: Ages 8-12 and 13-18.

## **RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION**

1. Entry is restricted to **ONE** premium number only. The competitor must have at least one animal entered in the junior show corresponding to the premium number entered within this division.
2. The contest will consist of three components within each category:
  - a. **Skill-a-thon** – 5-6 learning stations demonstrating concepts covered in the respective projects. At each station, contestants will be asked 3-5 questions regarding the concept being demonstrated. The total score possible is 100 points.
  - b. **Management Test** – A written examination covering all aspects of production for the species relevant to the premium number. It will contain 20-25 questions totaling 100 points toward the competition.
  - c. **Judging Contest** – Two classes (1 market animal and 1 breeding animal) containing 4 animals each will be placed and scored against official judges placing. The maximum possible score per class is 50 points.
3. There is a \$5.00 Entry Fee to be paid by Winners only. Premium information can be found in the Fair Book.

General categories covered by the Exam and Skill-a thon may include the following:

- Breed identification
- Feed stuff evaluation
- General anatomy
- Reproduction
- Nutrition
- Animal performance criteria
- Animal health