



# MONROE COUNTY 4-H FAMILY



## 4-H SHOWS & REGISTRATION

The 4-H Showbook is available to view online with show dates and project guidelines for the **Horse Show, Food Demo Show, and Show-A-Rama** (general projects) here:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/MonroeShowbook-General>

The 4-H Fair Showbook is available to view online with show dates and project guidelines for **Livestock, Horticulture & Crops** projects here:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/MonroeFairShowbook>

Please **register to exhibit** your projects here:  
<http://monroe4-hfair.fairentry.com>  
using these instructions:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/MonroeFairEntryDirections>

(If you made a profile in Fair Entry last year, you should log in with the username/password you previously used.)

## 4-H SHOW REQUIREMENTS

In order 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.

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### Office Hours:

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

### Monroe County Office

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

### Extension County Director

William Catalano

### 4-H Youth Educator

Emily Reece

### 4-H Program Coordinator

Kelly Brandt

### Office Support Associate

Sue Scheibe

### Office Support Assistant

D'Angelo Young

### 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)



# CONGRATULATIONS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Cohen Brandt  
 Emma Carter  
 Danni Eschmann  
 Eli Johanning  
 Caleb Kern  
 Ellie Landeck

Lindsey Lester  
 Kayleigh Luter  
 Rori Unger  
 Ezra Wells  
 Keegan Yearian



## CLOVERBUD GRADUATION

The Monroe County 4-H County Cloverbuds held their last meeting of the year in April with a lesson on ladybugs and a graduation ceremony for those moving on to a regular 4-H club in the fall.



### Cloverbud Graduates

Front Row, L-R: Luca Smith, Sebastian Nilges, Sophia Nilges  
 Back Row L-R: Walton Reece, Cora Ervin



## PUBLIC SPEAKING SHOW



William Albers (Golden Eagles) and Kaleigh Halleran (Backyard Bandits) participated in the Monroe County 4-H Public Speaking Show on March 23. Congratulations to Kaleigh who was selected to advance to the State Public Speaking Show in Champaign!



## LIVESTOCK JUDGING ACHIEVEMENTS



Great job to the 4-H members who participated in the Waterloo FFA Winter Warmup Livestock Judging Contest on March 28 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds! The Junior Team, consisting of Emma Guebert, Blaklee Schwarze, Landon Koch, Mason Schmitz & Kelsey Schmitz, placed in the top 5 of the participating Junior Teams!



Congrats to Cohen Brandt, Cody Schmitz, Lane Shevlin, and Kaleigh Halleran for representing the 4-H Livestock Judging Team at the DuQuoin Livestock Judging Contest on March 14. The group took 4th place overall, with Kaleigh placing 3rd and Cohen placing 6th individually.



# SHEEP FEST



Thank you to the Monroe County Hoofbeats Club for selling baked goods and drinks at the Sheep Festival!



Thank you to the 4-H Federation for helping with set-up, sponsoring Kid's Corner, and assisting with dining!



Great job to all who participated in the sheep & goat judging contest at the Sheep Festival. Congratulations to the following:

### **SHEEP JUDGING**

#### Ages 8-12

1st Place: Landon Koch (Monroe 4-H)

2nd Place: Josie Weber

3rd Place: Shelby Hick (Monroe 4-H)

#### Ages 13-19

1st Place: Parker Brandt (Monroe 4-H)

2nd Place: Lane Shevlin (Monroe 4-H)

3rd Place: Kaleigh Halleran (Monroe 4-H)

*\*Monroe County Sheep Producers sponsored monetary prizes for the Sheep Judging Contest.*

### **GOAT JUDGING**

#### Ages 8-12

1st Place: Shelby Hick (Monroe 4-H)

2nd Place: Wesley Hick (Monroe 4-H)

3rd Place: Josie Weber

#### Ages 13-19

1st Place: Lane Shevlin (Monroe 4-H)

2nd Place: Cohen Brandt (Monroe 4-H)

3rd Place: Parker Brandt (Monroe 4-H)

*\*GC Brandt Farms sponsored monetary prizes for the Goat Judging Contest.*

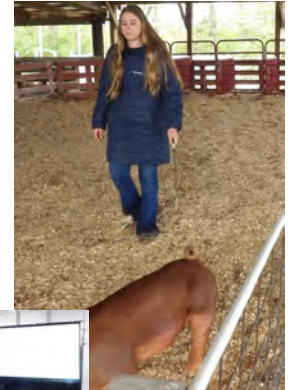


*\*Winners and participants also received prizes from Ketcham's Sheep Equipment.*



## LIVESTOCK CLINIC & YQCA TRAINING

Thank you to the 4-H Livestock Superintendents and 4-H members who helped host the recent 4-H Livestock Clinic in conjunction with the YQCA Training at the Fairgrounds! Members learned about the important information that they need to know for exhibiting their animals at the Monroe County Fair.



If you were unable to attend the in-person YQCA training, please be sure to complete the training online by June 1 at <https://yqcaprogram.org> and send your certificate of completion to Kelly Brandt at [kbrandt@illinois.edu](mailto:kbrandt@illinois.edu). This is required for any youth exhibiting beef, dairy, goat, sheep, or swine at the fair.

## QAEC TRAINING

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

This training is required for all members enrolled in:  
HORSE, RABBIT, POULTRY, DOG, CAT & SMALL PET projects shown live 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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to attend, call the registration office.

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4-H members exhibiting **poultry, rabbits or horses**, you must complete your QAEC training through <https://4h.zsuite.org> if you have not done so already. This only needs to be taken once in your 4-H career.



# CONSERVATION DAY

The annual 5th Grade Conservation Days event was held April 21-22 at the **Waterloo Sportsman's Club**. Students from **Waterloo, SPPCS, Valmeyer, Monroe County Christian School, Columbia, and ICS** learned about fishing, wildlife, trees, bees, recycling, birds, geology, food waste, and water quality. They were also treated to a presentation from the **World Bird Sanctuary** featuring a bald eagle. This event is sponsored by **U of I Extension, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Monroe County Farm Bureau & Ag in the Classroom**, with additional donations from the **Monroe County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation and Schneider's Quality Meats**.



## 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. **Rescheduled to May 19**

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.



## FOOD DEMO SHOW

# 4-H Food Demo Show



June 1, 2026  
7:00p.m.

Monroe County Annex



The 4-H Food Demonstration Show is a fun show opportunity open to all youth enrolled in a 4-H Cooking project.

**The Monroe County Farm Bureau Women's Committee will sponsor awards for the use of WHOLE WHEAT in a Food Demonstration recipe.**

Food demos should be approximately 8-10 minutes in length. Demonstrations may be done as an individual or a team of two members.

Refer to the Illinois Food Demonstration Guide for more guidelines: <https://go.illinois.edu/FoodDemoGuide>

Exhibitors are responsible for furnishing all equipment, supplies and ingredients.

*Note: Participating in a Food Demonstration does not satisfy the 4-H Show requirements for cooking projects and are not eligible for State Fair.*

**Register to participate by May 29:**  
<https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/49056>



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



# 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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# 4-H Sparks at the Library

## Canine Connections

Join us for an exciting event where we explore the fascinating world of our beloved pets and dive into the popular graphic novel series by Dav Pilkey. The workshop will not only focus on the adventures of the half-dog, half-man hero but will also provide insights into the themes of bravery, friendship, and the importance of standing up for what is right!

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026**  
**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**



In this workshop, youth ages 9-14 will learn:

- Character Drawings
- Storytelling
- Veterinary Science
- Dogs vs Cats - Who will win?

Register today by contacting Morrison-Talbot Library at 618-939-6232  
or email [mtl@waterloolibrary.org](mailto:mtl@waterloolibrary.org)

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CONNECT • INFORM • EDUCATE



*Coming Soon!*

**FREE Monroe County Fair Livestock Exhibitor T-Shirts**

Free for livestock exhibitors 18 & under; available for purchase for ages 19+

More information coming in July!

PROUD TO SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH  
**FARM to FAIR**  
MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## STATE & COUNTY FAIR LIVESTOCK HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The 2026 State and County Fair Livestock Health Requirements from the Illinois Department of Agriculture are posted online:

<https://go.illinois.edu/FairHealthRequirements>.



## GENERAL LIVESTOCK INFO

Livestock Birth/Ownership/Tattoo Dates:  
<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockOwnershipDeadlines>

Livestock Exhibition Health Guidelines:  
<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>





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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., Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo
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/62/1773812262.html>



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