

ST. CLAIR COUNTY 4-H FAMILY MAY 2026 NEWS



Hello 4-H Families and Friends,

We are so excited to see what this summer has in store!

Fair Entry Registration is open until June 30. Please register for your exhibit opportunities at:

<https://faireentry.com/Fair/SignIn/23063>. If you are looking for the St. Clair County 2026 Showbook, you can find it here: go.illinois.edu/2026StClairCounty4-HShowbook.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find information on upcoming workshops and events we will be offering. Please take a look and be sure to register for anything that interests you!

I, Meghan Cope, would like to inform all 4-H members, families, and supporters that I will be beginning my maternity leave in mid-June. I expect to be out for approximately 12 to 14 weeks. During my absence, please direct any questions to our unit email at uie-mms@illinois.edu.

We are excited to welcome Melissa Sisler and Lynn Shirley back as St. Clair County 4-H Extra Help this summer. We are also pleased to have Alyssa Elliott and Savannah Hellon join us as Summer Extra Help staff. Additionally, Kylie Ketcham will be serving as our Summer Intern, assisting across all three counties in all Extension program areas.

Thank you,
Meghan Cope
4-H Educator serving Madison and St. Clair Counties
mawolff@illinois.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1-20: County information

Page 21: Calendar of events

Office Hours:

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

Madison-St. Clair County Branch Office

900 Hillsboro Ave.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-344-4230, 618-344-5602 Fax

Monroe County Office

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

University of IL Extension at the JJK FAN Innovation Center

2051 Lynch Ave
East St. Louis, IL 62204
618-875-8939, 618-875-8786 Fax



Extension County Director

William Catalano

4-H Youth Educator

Meghan Cope

Office Managerb

Nicole Hellon

Office Support Assistantb

Emily Wolff

Visit our website:

extension.illinois.edu/mms

Like us on Facebook:

St. Clair County 4-H
University of Illinois Extension-
Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Unit

2026 St. Clair County 4-H Showbook

The 4-H Showbook is ready to view, including show dates and project guidelines:

go.illinois.edu/2026StClairCounty4-HShowbook

*Hard copies of the showbook have been given to your club leader.

St. Clair County 4-H



4-H 2026 Showbook Available

The St. Clair County 4-H Showbook contains all the information you need for showing a project at the 4-H shows.

- The show schedule can be found at the front of the showbook.
- Some projects may require a publication—please review your project requirements carefully.
- Be aware that some project requirements may have changed from previous years.
- Superintendent contact information is located in the back of the showbook under each livestock category.



Contact your club leader or view online at:
go.illinois.edu/2026StClairCounty4-HShowbook

Illinois Extension



4-H Fair Entry is OPEN!

It's time to register your projects for the fair! Don't wait, get your entries submitted before the deadline.

- Register here: <https://fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/23063>
- Deadline: **June 30, 2026**

All 4-H members planning to exhibit projects or livestock must complete Fair Entry to participate in the 4-H Shows. This system is used to enter your projects, select classes, and prepare for judging and shows.

Need help getting started? Check out the Fair Entry guide here: <https://extension.illinois.edu/media/8878/download?inline>

The 2026 St. Clair County 4-H Showbook can be found here: go.illinois.edu/2026StClairCounty4-HShowbook

- Be sure to enter ALL projects you plan to exhibit
- **Double-check your entries before submitting**
- If you plan to participate in 4-H Master Showmanship, you must register in Fair Entry

Don't wait until the last minute—get your entries in today!





FairEntry for Families

Bringing a project to your 4-H Show?

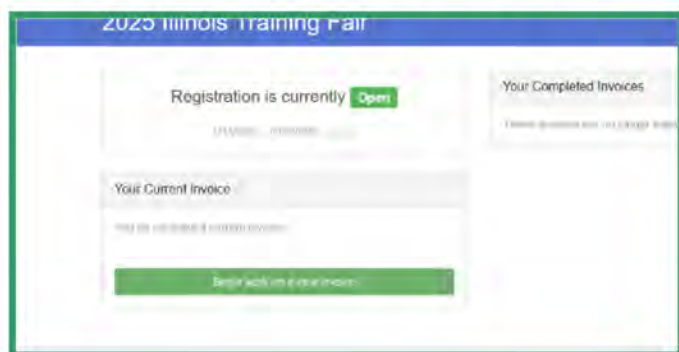
We use FairEntry to keep track of every exhibit that comes to our county fair, from sweet rolls to steers!



Go to fairent.com/Public/FindYourFair and search for your county, or scan the QR code.

Sign in with the email and password you used last year or use the password reset option.

If this is your family's first year in 4-H, create an account.



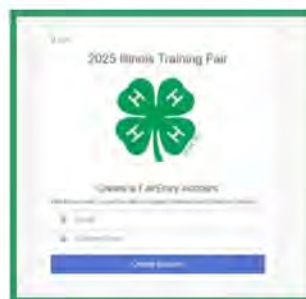
Click Begin Work on a New Invoice and select a 4-H'er from your list OR add a new Exhibitor.



New to 4-H? Start by creating an account!



Enter your email, then fill out the next page with your account info.



Click on the green Begin an Invoice button and start by registering an Exhibitor (your 4-H'er).



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On the Personal Details page, fill in County and current grade, if they are missing. Hit continue and fill in a phone number in the home phone number line.

Confirm that the address listed is correct. This is important - it is where your premium check will be mailed!

Next, choose which project(s) your 4-H'er will bring to the 4-H Show. Select the correct project(s). You may need to select your 4-H Club here as well.

General Projects is where most of your options can be found.

You may be asked to answer other questions, and enter information about animals, such as breed and EID/Scrapie Tag/Tattoo number.

Your county may allow you to enter multiple projects/animals in the same Class at the same time. If so, you will need to change the quantity.

For additional 4-H'ers and projects, repeat as many times as needed.

The last step is to review your entries. THIS STEP IS VERY IMPORTANT!! Please make sure they are correct as you will not be able to change them after the Fair Entry deadline. Continue through the payment page (there is no fee).

Finally, you will click the green submit button. After you hit submit, you may not be able to add projects OR additional children until county Extension staff approve your submission.

Need Help? Contact your local 4-H staff!





If a youth is no longer participating in a project that they signed up in on **Fair Entry** after June 30, they need to contact 4-H Staff (vie-mms@mx.uillinois.edu) as **soon as possible**.

This is necessary for accurate counts in each project category to accommodate youth appropriately.

Thank you



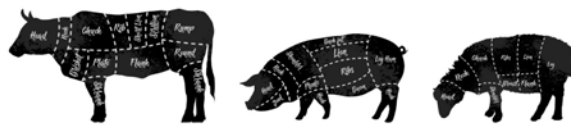
4-H Master Showmanship Reminder

To participate in the 4-H Master Showmanship, please sign up in Fair Entry when you are entering your 4-H projects.

Deadline June 30, 2026

<https://fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/23039>

Each 4-H member will show one animal from each area (beef, sheep, swine). Open to all 4-H members (must find your own animals to show). More information is available in the 2026 4-H Showbook.

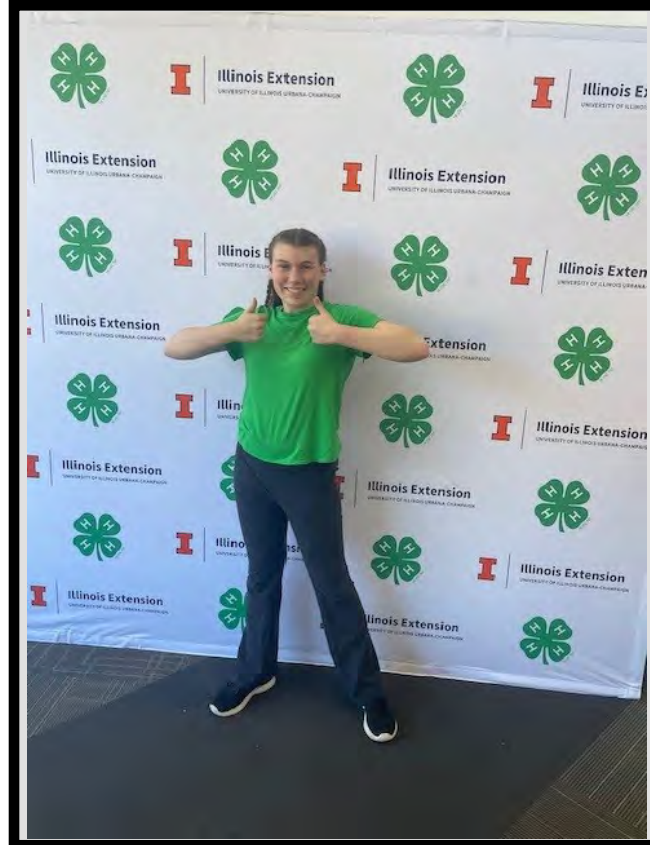


4-H State Public Speaking Contest

Great job to Jilly Stoks for representing St. Clair County 4-H at the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest this past weekend!

A special congratulations to Jilly on earning Reserve Champion—what an incredible accomplishment!

We are so proud of you for your hard work, confidence, and dedication in representing our county so well!



May Club Spotlight

Creative Critters 4-H Club, chartered in 2019 in Mascoutah, IL, was the brainchild of Jessica Erickson (Creative) and Stephanie Lowrance (Critters), and developed in response to founding members and friends eager to take a more active role in community service projects. The Club's regularly scheduled meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the lower level of St. John's United Church of Christ in Mascoutah. Little did they know how that first year would turn out when the whole world shut down due to the global pandemic in March 2020. Stephanie and Jessica pivoted their programming to meet in the parking lot, masked and spaced apart when weather permitted. It was a unique beginning to their history, and members were glad just to be together. In January 2025, Dee McComb joined Jessica Erickson as co-leader, and they are active advocates for their club members.

The Creative Critters hold club workshops ranging from paper quilling, wool felting, tie-dyeing, pillowcase making, world cultures, and gardening, to name a few. In 2023, members established a special sub-committee, Kritter's 4 Kids, which focuses on the life cycle and care of rabbits, chickens, and goats. Additional committee activities include annual knitting demonstrations producing 50 to 80 hand-knitted hats donated every year to winter clothing drives; annually serving pie at St. John's Thanksgiving Community Dinner; food drives; volunteering at the Humane Society's program reading to dogs; and volunteering every other year to serve water and soda at the 100 Years Horsepower Show.

The Club was awarded grants from Farm Credit of Illinois's Community Improvement Grant Program for 4-H and FFA Clubs:

- 2021 – Plastic Lids Project, designed to use recycled plastics from bottle caps and container lids to create outdoor benches or tables. To date, 6 ADA picnic tables (3,300lbs+ of recycled plastic) and 4 benches (1,200lbs+ of recycled plastic), have been installed in Mascoutah.
- 2025 – Print Press Project, a collaboration with the Mascoutah Heritage Museum to install a simple proofing press to utilize their type-setting equipment and create group workshops and/or community centered activities at the museum.
- 2026 – Raised Garden Beds, to be completed this year, the installation of a vegetable garden at the SIUE New Life Head Start/Early Head Start Center.

Also, through a special grant program with St. Clair Farm Bureau, a few individual members were awarded grant funds to pursue their passions even further! We are thankful for their support and encouragement. The Creative Critters 4-H Club is an active group of youth who are passionate about working and learning together. Members enjoy showing projects and animals every year and regularly attend the Illinois State Fair.

Submitted by Jessica Erickson



L-R: Calli Lowrance, Quinn Dickerson, Katy Lowrance, Julie-Anne Erickson, Abigail Odunfa-Jones, Jessica Erickson and Dee McComb.



L-R: Quinn Dickerson, Faith Haas, Abigail Odunfa-Jones, Stephanie Lowrance, Julie-Anne Erickson, Calli Lowrance, and Katy Lowrance.



L-R: Quinn Dickerson, Fynlie Haas, Abigail Odunfa-Jones, Julie-Anne Erickson, Faith Haas, Mave Dickerson





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. Cost to cover supplies is \$70.

Grades:
completed 3rd-8th grade

June 22-25
8:30-11:30 a.m.

Turkey Hill Grange
1375 IL-15
Belleville

Registration opens April 1st!

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

? (618) 939-3434
sscheibe@illinois.edu



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If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend contact the registration office at 618- 939-3434.
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4-H Rock Painting Fun for Everyone!

Join us on June 18th for a relaxing, creative 4-H activity as we paint rocks to place around St. Clair County!

This is a great opportunity to unwind, get creative, and spread kindness throughout the community. Each rock will carry a smile or a positive message for someone special to find.

Bring your creativity and help us make someone's day a little brighter!

Register at: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/48882>



Open to ages 5-18 years old!

4-H Rock Painting Fun for Everyone

Register at
<https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/48882>
or scan the QR Code



Thursday, June 18
10 am - 11 am
St. Clair County Farm Bureau
1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL 62221

*Free to attend!
All supplies will be provided.
Please wear clothing that you can paint in.*

Illinois Extension



2026 4-H General Project Show Schedule

If you need accommodations, please email us at uie-mms@illinois.edu

Time	Clubs
5:30 pm	Project Check-In
6:00 pm	4-H Members who are Superintendents
6:15 pm	First Year 4-H Members and Cloverbuds
6:30 pm	All 4-H Members

Process for the 4-H General Show on July 9th:

- Upon arrival for check-in (5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.), you will receive your exhibit tag. Please attach the tag to your project and place it in the designated area for judging.
- After that, youth and families will head to the top floor of the Turkey Hill Grange and wait to be called back down for judging.
- Judging for 4-H members who are superintendents starts at 6 p.m., then first-year members and Cloverbuds will start at 6:15 p.m., followed by the rest of the 4-H members around 6:30 p.m.
- Once youth have completed their judging, they will return to the top floor to reunite with their family or 4-H group and exit the building following the posted signs. The 4H projects will remain on display at the Turkey Hill Grange until Saturday, July 11, 2026 (project pick up from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.)
- After judging, families are invited to dine at Eckert's or shop in their store. Eckert's has generously offered a coupon for dinner or store purchases. Additionally, they will host the "Dine & Shop Donate" event on the evening of July 9th, 2026, donating 15% of purchases to the St. Clair County Extension and Education Foundation, which supports the St. Clair 4-H Program.





4-H Livestock Record Book Common Questions

Who has to turn in a livestock record book?

It is mandatory for any 4-H member who is participating in a livestock market class to complete a livestock record book.

- Rabbits: class R71: Individual Meat Rabbit and class R81: Meat Pen
- Poultry: class MKT1: Single Broiler, class MKT 2: Pen of 3 Broilers, class MKT 3: Single Roaster, and class MKT 4 Pen of 3 Roasters
- Goats: class DMD 1: Market Animal
- Swine: class 8: Market barrow or gilt
- Beef: class BE 1: Rate of Gain, class BE 2: Feeder Steer, and class BE 3: Individual Market Steer
- Dairy: class DA 1: Rate of Gain, class DA 2: Feeder Steer, and class DA 3: Market Dairy Steer
- Sheep: class 11: Individual Market Lamb and class 12: Pen of 2 Market Lambs

Where do I find the livestock record book?

You can get the livestock record book on the Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Counties web-page at https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/livestock_record_writable.pdf.

Is there a tip sheet on how to fill out the livestock record book?

Yes, the tip sheet can be found here:

https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2020_livestock_record_book_instruction_guide.pdf.

If I show in multiple livestock species for a market class, do I have to have one per each species?

If a 4-H member is showing multiple species in a market class, they must fill out a separate livestock record book for each species.

If I have more than one market animal in same species, can they be put on the same livestock record book?

If a 4-H member is showing multiple animals within the same species for a market class, they can choose to fill out the livestock record book for just one market animal, both market animals, or for the entire herd. For example, if a youth is showing two market wethers in the goat category, they can choose to fill out the record book for only one of them or include both animals in the same book. They can even add in their whole herd to the livestock record book if they want to.

When are livestock record books due?


4-H members must submit their record books to the Extension Office by September 15, 2026.

What happens if I do not submit my livestock record book?

4-H members who do not submit a livestock record book by Sept. 15, 2026, will not be able to show in that livestock market class for the 2027 4-H Show.

Who is keeping track of who has to turn in a livestock record book?

4-H staff are keeping track of who has to turn in a livestock record book.



4-H General Show Projects Public Viewing

NEW LOCATION:

Turkey Hill Grange
Located at 1375 IL-15
Belleville, IL 62220



Friday, July 10
11 am to 6 pm

Saturday, July 11
9 am to 11 am



Come explore the amazing projects created by our St. Clair County 4-H members at the St. Clair 4-H General Show!

- **Judging:** July 9 (closed to the public)
- **Open to View:** After judging, stop by to see the projects and awards!

Discover the creativity of youth across a variety of areas, including:

- Aerospace
- Cooking
- Visual Arts
- Welding
- ...and much more!



Celebrate the talent and hard work of our 4-H members, there's something for everyone to enjoy!



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4-H Livestock Shows Public Viewing

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

**905 Park Drive
Mascoutah, IL 62258**



Show Times



July 31

Rabbit Show - 9 am at the mascoutah AG Building
Poultry Show - 1 pm at the Mascoutah Ag Building
Swine Show - 6 pm at the Mascoutah Ag Building

August 1

Beef Show - 7:30 am at the Mascoutah Ag Building
Dairy Cattle Show to follow at the Mascoutah Ag Building
Sheep Show to follow at the Mascoutah Ag Building
Goat Show to follow at the Mascoutah Ag Building
Master Showmanship to follow 30 min after at the Mascoutah Ag Building

Come out and experience the excitement of the St. Clair County 4-H Livestock Shows!

Watch local youth showcase their hard work and dedication as they present their animals in a variety of shows. It's a great opportunity to support the community, learn more about agriculture, and see the skills 4-H members have developed throughout the year.



Fun for all ages!

Created by University of Illinois Extension Staff!



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Celebrating Our 4-H Seniors

As the school year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to recognize all of our 4-H seniors!

Whether or not you submitted a senior form, your time, dedication, and involvement in 4-H have not gone unnoticed. Each of you has contributed to your clubs, your communities, and the program in meaningful ways.

We are so proud of all that you have accomplished both in 4-H and beyond. Thank you for the impact you've made. We know you have bright futures ahead!

Congratulations to the Class of 2026, and best of luck in your next chapter!

Alex Sawyer **I**

Turkey Hill Busy Bees 4-H Club



Congratulations



11 Years in 4-H Illinois Extension

Kathleen Lowrance **I**

Creative Critters 4-H Club



Congratulations



13 Years in 4-H Illinois Extension

Isaac Cox **I**

Turkey Hill Busy Bees 4-H Club



Congratulations



3 Years in 4-H Illinois Extension



LIVESTOCK & HORSE RECORD BOOKS

All members are highly encouraged to fill out a 4-H Record Book for livestock and/or horse projects exhibiting at a 4-H Show.

It is REQUIRED to fill out 4-H Record Books for any livestock that members are showing in a market class.

Members must complete a livestock record book for the current year to be eligible to show in a market class for the preceding year.

The PDF versions of the books are found 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 found here:

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.



840 TAGS IN BEEF, DAIRY CATTLE, AND SWINE

All swine, beef, and dairy cattle are required to have a USDA official animal identification number ear tag (840 tag). The tag must be both visually and electronically readable. We know that there will be many questions, so here are a few answers to some basic questions:

Who must have the 840 tag?

Beef – all heifers, all cows, and all steers being exhibited at the fair

Dairy Cattle – all heifers, all cows, all steers, and all calves being exhibited at the fair

Swine – all gilts and all barrows being exhibited at the fair

Where do I get the 840 tag?

Breeder in which you purchased your animal from (up to breeder)

Purchase tag from a farm supply store (Valley Vet, Nasco)

Purchase from Department of Agriculture:

<https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/premises-registration.html>

How do I purchase my own tags?

The location where the animal is being kept will have to have a registered Premise ID from the state of Illinois. With the Premise ID, you can purchase tags from a farm supply store such as Valley Vet, Nasco, or the Department of Agriculture.

We don't have a Premise ID, which hasn't been updated. What do we do?

You can obtain an application from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and send it in. The turnaround time is very quick.

If you have a Premise ID but need it updated, contact agr.premises@illinois.gov, and she will help you!

If you need a new Premise ID, you can log onto <https://agr.illinois.gov> and search for "Fillable Premise Form," then fill it out and email it to the address listed on the form.

Will tags be checked when we arrive at the show?

Yes, superintendents will be checking that all beef, dairy cattle, and swine have the tag.

If an animal does not have a tag, they are not allowed to be on the fairgrounds.

There is a chance that a State employee will be at the show monitoring that tags are checked, and if they are not, then 4-H and the fairgrounds can be fined.



2025-2026 4-H HANDBOOK

Here is this year's 4-H handbook for all 4-H members and families:
<https://go.illinois.edu/StClairCounty4-HHandbook>.

The handbook covers what 4-H is, its policies, what clubs do, the event calendar, and much more. If you have any questions, please contact Meghan Cope via email at mawolff@illinois.edu

2025-2026 4-H MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Youth **five through seven years of age, on or before September 1** of the current 4-H year, may enroll in 4-H Cloverbud groups.

Youth who are **eight years of age and have not reached their nineteenth birthday on or before September 1** may enroll in 4-H clubs.

A youth who enrolls in a St. Clair County 4-H club must:

Attend at least four meetings to be called a 4-H member. Youth who do not comply are not eligible to participate in 4-H exhibitions, receive 4-H premiums, or receive other 4-H awards and recognitions available to 4-H members. **(College students can be enrolled when they live away from home and must attend at least one meeting when they are home on breaks or virtually.)**

Present a talk or demonstration at a club meeting during the project year.

Youth enrolled in a livestock market class must turn in a livestock record book by September 15. If not completed by September 15, the youth will not be able to participate in a livestock market class the following year.

Complete enrollment by **January 15 to exhibit projects at 4-H shows**. Youth may enroll after this date, but are not eligible to exhibit projects at shows. Projects can be added up to this deadline, but the addition of projects is not accepted online after this date (except for SPIN Clubs).



St. Clair County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs

Are you interested in joining a St. Clair County 4-H Shooting Sports Club? Below are our clubs that you can join. If you have any questions, contact Meghan Cope via email at mawolff@illinois.edu.

4-H Blasters Rifle Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: 1st Saturday of the month

Discipline- Rifle

Age: 8 - 18 years old

Location: Lebanon

Leader: Ryan Stoks
(rstoksdadd@gmail.com)

St. Clair Hot Shots Archery Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: 1st Saturday of the month

Discipline- Archery

Age: 8 - 18 years old

Location: Lebanon

Leader: Ryan Stoks
(rstoksdadd@gmail.com)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- May 1 - Deadline to complete YQCA and QAEC
- May 5 - Eckert's - Dine and Shop to Donate
- May 9 - Unit 4-H Horse Show
- May 16 - 4-H Day with the Cardinals

June

- June 22-25 Youth Cooking School
- June 30 - Deadline to Enter Projects in Fair Entry

July

- July 9 - General Project Show
- July 9 - Eckert's - Dine and Shop to Donate
- July 10 - General Project Show Viewing 10 am - 6 pm
- July 11 - General Project Show Viewing
- July 11 - Project Pick up 11 am - 12 pm
- July 29 - Livestock Set Up Night
- July 31 - Rabbit Show, Poultry Show, and Swine Show

August

- August 1 - Beef Show, Dairy Show, Sheep Show, Goat Show, Master Showmanship Show
- August 2 - Livestock Clean Up
- August 15 - State Fair Day for St. Clair County

September

- September 15 - Livestock Record Books and Award Applications Due



What's going on with Illinois 4-H?

Find out here:

<https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/42/1495356942.html>



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