



NEWSFLASH



January 8, 2021

#Opportunity4All

Stephenson County
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Director

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4-H Youth
Development
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Office Support
Assistant



[Find us on
Facebook!](#)

Good morning 4-H Families,

I hope 2021 finds each of you in good spirits and good health. We had a very quiet holiday break with just our little immediate family. I dearly miss getting to see our extended families and all the new babies added, as I am sure you can relate.

We will have another Stephenson County-wide virtual meeting on January 25th. Thank you to our Ambassadors for a great meeting in December! We played 4-H Jeopardy and had a demonstration of how to create a bow out of scrapbook paper. Our 4-H Ambassadors have some more great demos and even a 4-H commercial planned for our January meeting! Hope to see everyone there!



Our **January 15th** extended deadline for enrollment is quickly approaching to be able to show at the fair—this deadline includes adult volunteers and leaders. You can join 4-H at ANY TIME, but you MUST enroll by January 15th to participate in the 4-H shows. I cannot say what our future shows will look like for 2021, but we can promise you will be able to have your completed 4-H projects judged and receive feedback— either virtual or in-person. I understand the frustration felt, but remember there is much more to 4-H than the summer shows! Just a reminder to adult volunteers, I need you to send me your birthdate before 4-H Online will allow you to enroll! <https://v2.4honline.com/> You are not “locked into” projects until April 1st, however the way it is set up right now, you need to contact me to change/add/delete projects. Hopefully that will change soon!

The office will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observation of Martin Luther King Day.

See you all on January 25th! Please feel free to email or call me with any questions or concerns.

In peace,

Becky Gocken

STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H INFORMATION:



BEEF WEIGH IN

The time is fast approaching to weigh your 2021 Beef projects. Beef Weigh-In will be held at the **Lena Vet Clinic** just south of Lena on Hwy 73. This year's Weigh-In is scheduled for **Saturday, February 6 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** The scheduled snow date is Saturday, February 13 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Please arrive at the site according to your scheduled time. In order to better facilitate the unloading and reloading of trailers, please enter the Vet Clinic from the west, off of Goddard Rd. To get to Goddard Road, you will need to go one mile west of the intersection of Hwy. 20 and Hwy. 73 to Five Corners Rd. At Five Corners Rd., turn north, and then proceed for one mile to Goddard Rd., turn east to get to the veterinary clinic entrance. **By entering from this direction the line-up of trucks and trailers on Hwy. 73 will be eliminated, thereby alleviating the potential for a very dangerous situation.**

The Lena Vet Clinic will be offering a variety of vaccinations at the time of weigh-in, for those interested. Please do not feel that you must utilize any of the Lena Vet Clinic services; it is not a requirement, it's only offered as a service if you're interested.

If you will be weighing any beef cattle, please take time to complete the enclosed electronic registration link below and return it to us by 8 am on Friday, February 5. This is **required** for registration and participation in the Beef Weigh-In, and allows us to accurately prepare for the day. Additionally, you must be registered as a 4-H member in 4-H Online. You can register for your 4-H membership in 4-H Online at : <https://v2.4honline.com/>

Please register by FAMILY and be sure to list your CELL phone number in the Daytime Phone slot

We are hoping to eliminate as much contact as we can and be as safe as possible, so the following safety measures will be in place for beef weigh-in.

-No extra people will be allowed. Only the exhibitor of the animal that is currently being processed OR one parent/guardian will be allowed out of their vehicles at a time. NOT BOTH.

-Only the exhibitor OR one parent/guardian will be allowed in the "processing" area at a time.

-Everyone must wear a mask.

If you have any questions, or need further clarification, feel free to call the Extension Office at 815-235-4125.

Please complete the required registration ASAP to ensure your timeslot: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22962>.

* If you are planning on exhibiting your steer at the 2021 Illinois State Fair, those steers must be electronically tagged along with the usual tattoo procedure. There is no charge for the electronic tag and you will receive it on weigh-in day.



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H INFORMATION:

STEPHENSON COUNTY
COUNTYWIDE
4-H
MEETING

January 25 | 6:30 pm
Zoom

Zoom link will be emailed on
Monday, January 25th morning!
Our 4-H Ambassador Team has welding
demo planned to share you!

STEPHENSON COUNTY IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 2021

- 1 Beef Steers, Beef Perf. Cows, Dairy Cows, & Milking Dairy Goat ownership (No paperwork to Ext. Office)
- 8 4-H Winter Themed Coloring Contest Deigns Deadline– email to Becky
- 9 **Public Speaking Workshop via Zoom, 9-11 am**
- 11 **Volunteer Meeting for Officer Training– please email Becky ASAP @ rgocken@illinois.edu if you can help lead a virtual break-out session!**
- 12 Last day to register for “I Made That”
- 15 **Enrollment Deadline for 4-H Online (Extended from 12/15/2020)**
- 16 **4-H Ambassador Meeting, 9:30 am, Zoom**
- 18 Extension Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 23 **Virtual Officer Training for JoDavieess, Stephenson, & Winnebago County 4-H Officers, 9-11am**
- 25 **Stephenson County-wide Virtual 4-H meeting, 6:30 pm, Zoom**

FEBRUARY 2021

- 1 **Submission deadline for “I Made That”**
- 6 **Beef Weigh-In, Lena Vet Clinic– Details emailed out 1-6-2021**
- 10 Organizational Leaders Meeting, 6:30 pm, Zoom
- 13 Beef Weigh-In Snow Date
- 15 Re-enrollment and new 4-H member enrollment deadline (extended from December)

MARCH 2021

- 15 Fair Entry opens for Public Presentations– Tentative
- 24 Dog SPIN Club Kick Off Meeting, 6:30 pm, Location TBD

APRIL 2021

- 1 **Final day to add/change projects in 4-H Online**
- 18-24 National Volunteer Week





Illinois Extension



I MADE THAT!

Baking Month Education Kit

Jo Daviess County 4-H Stephenson County 4-H Winnebago County 4-H

January is National Baking Month & Bread is on the Rise!

Learn to bake yeast bread and how to make modifications to fit your family's needs. University of Illinois Extension & 4-H has a fun opportunity to enhance your baking skills!

We are putting together educational cooking kits - designed to inspire the inner chef and help youth gain confidence while working in the kitchen.

Sign-up to receive a January Baking Kit!

The cost is \$5 per kit. Each kit includes a baking guide, yeast bread recipes, a sensory evaluation, plus a bag of flour and yeast to get started.

- Register for your kit at go.illinois.edu/jswIMadeThat
- Your kits will be available the 3rd week of January for you to pick up at one of our Extension offices in Jo Daviess, Stephenson & Winnebago.
- You'll then have a few weeks to utilize your kit and bake your bread.
- Complete your sensory evaluation form and upload a photo of your bread to showcase what you've learned by **February 1**.

This project is ideal for families to do together or for youth with cooking experience. Make time to cook together as a family! All youth are welcome and do not have to be a 4-H member to participate.

There are many benefits of this socially engaging, offline activity, including:

- Youth develop life skills and social skills
- Teamwork and family bonding are reinforced
- Cooking promotes gratitude and appreciation
- Healthy habits and positive memories are fostered

So...let's get baking!

The deadline to register is January 12, 2021

Register at go.illinois.edu/jswIMadeThat



STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H INFORMATION:



4-H Club Officer Virtual Training

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021
9-11 A.M.**

Cost: Free - Hosted by 4-H Volunteers

Register Online @ go.illinois.edu/jswofficertraining or
by calling the Extension office at 815-235-4125



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University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs and research-based information to help Illinois residents improve their quality of life, develop skills and solve problems. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call the U of I Extension office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences - United States Department of Agriculture - Local Extension Councils Cooperating.

4-H Dog SPIN Club Schedule 2021

**Kick Off Meeting: March 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Location TBD**

Traditional obedience class (Beginning Novice, Preferred Novice and Novice) will begin at 6 p.m. Showmanship will begin at 6:45 p.m. Rally will begin at 7:00 p.m. These classes will meet on Wednesdays.



May 19
May 26
June 2
June 9
June 16
June 23
June 30
July 7



July 9 *Last practice session on evening before Dog Show

All classes will be held at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds in the Foresight Commercial Building or outside of the building on the grass (weather permitting).

**The 4-H Dog Show is Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Foresight Commerical Building.**

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ILLINOIS 4-H INFORMATION:




STANDING TOGETHER TAKING
ACTION (STTA)
4-H SPIN CLUB

I



Navigating Social Justice for Teens
Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities

**AN 8-PART
VIRTUAL
SERIES FOR
YOUTH AGES
13 & OLDER**

February 2nd & 16th
 March 2nd & 16th
 April 6th & 20th
 May 4th & 18th

STTA Club meetings will be held every 1st & 3rd Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m. CST.

TOPICS INCLUDE: LEADERSHIP, RACIAL EQUITY, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, SERVICE LEARNING, AND MORE!

APPLY BY JANUARY 8TH, 2020
TO APPLY: [HTTPS://GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/STTA](https://go.illinois.edu/stta)

EXPLORE SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A RESPECTFUL AND NON-JUDGEMENTAL ENVIRONMENT





Save the Date

Virtual

Illini Summer Academies

June 27 - July 1, 2021

ISA will be held virtually.
Details are coming soon!

ILLINOIS 4-H INFORMATION:

ILLINI SUMMER ACADEMIES



If you are curious as to what college or career is right for you, plan now to join us and discover new possibilities at the Illini Summer Academies (ISA)! At ISA you can expect a fun and exploratory experience featuring a virtual academy session and a variety of new workshops and fun virtual activities. For questions, contact us at illini-4h@illinois.edu.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE FIRST ILLINOIS 4-H VIRTUAL ESPORTS SPIN CLUB?

With eSports becoming one of the largest growing tech industries in the world, with an annual revenue of \$1.5 billion with an expectation to reach \$2.2 billion by 2023, it is time that our youth become poised and ready to meet the demands of this growing field.

Are you **at least 12 years old and own a computer or gaming system**? This year Illinois 4-H released a pilot curriculum focused on the growing field of electronic sports, or eSports, and we would like to pilot it with you! As a pilot, we hope to add to and modify the curriculum based on the feedback and input of the youth involved. Under the direction of Illinois 4-H Computer Science Innovator Eric Li, youth will be virtually guided (using Zoom) through the eSports Pilot curriculum, learn the basics of the eSports field, and learn about the hardware and software that makes eSports possible. In addition, youth will be able to play and practice their favorite games as a team, and potentially compete in one or more eSports competitions through the Spring and Summer.

Registration for this opportunity will open on Dec. 1 and close on Jan. 15, with meetings beginning the third week of January. Schedule and goals will be determined/presented in the first meeting with plans on meeting at least twice a month (and more frequently before competitions).

Interested youth can sign up at the link below:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22817>

For questions or comments, please contact the Illinois 4-H STEM Team at Illinois4h-STEM@illinois.edu



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EXTENSION:



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

To stay up to date on all of our programs, visit our web page:
extension.illinois.edu/jsw
and follow us on Facebook @UnitOneExtension and YouTube

Jo Daviess County
204 N Vine, Elizabeth
815-858-2273

Stephenson County
2998 W Pearl City Rd, Freeport
815-235-4125

Winnebago County
1040 N Second St, Rockford
815-986-4357



Fruit Tree Pruning: The "Older Neglected" and the "Just Planted"

January 20, 2021 - Noon - 1:30 PM

January 26, 2021 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM

\$5 Registration Fee

This course will go over the basics of fruit tree pruning, steps to take to get started, and guidance on pruning trees that have never been pruned to those that have just been planted in 2019. This year's fruit tree pruning classes will be held virtual, using the zoom platform. "While you might think that you cannot learn to prune using a virtual format, Grant has developed a color-coded system for teaching people how to prune that works really well to help you understand what to prune and what to leave behind.

Certified Livestock Manager Training

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Friday, January 29, 2021

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Thursday, March 4, 2021

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

\$40 Registration Fee per person



According to the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA), livestock facilities in Illinois that house more than 300 animal units are required to have at least one certified livestock manager. Four webinars (virtual workshops) will be offered. You must attend the whole webinar (about 4 hours) to be eligible for your certificate. After the webinar, those with over 1,000 AU will be required to log in and take the 40-question online test in lieu of the IDoA's paper-based test.

Online training is also available at go.illinois.edu/CLMT



Fruit On Fridays Series

January 15 - Apple & Pear

January 22 - Stone Fruits (peach, cherry & others)

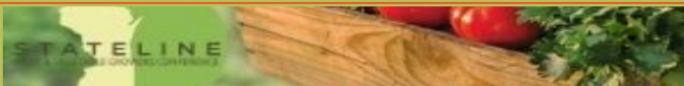
January 29 - Grapes

February 5 - Strawberries

12:00-1:00PM

\$15 for all four sessions or \$5 per session

This webinar series will focus on the basics of fruit production for some of the most common fruits that growers in Northern Illinois plant and grow. Each week, a different fruit will be discussed and give you the information you need to determine if it's right for you, general practices you may need to be doing before/during the growing season, and suggestions of seasonal management and variety selection.



Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference

Thursday, February 18 (Fruit Track) 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Thursday, February 25 (Vegetable Track) 1:00 - 3:30 PM

With additional sessions on Fridays in February.

Friday, February 12 - Hard Cider Production

Friday, February 19 - Pumpkin Varieties

Friday, February 26 - High Tunnel Production Updates

12:00 - 1:00 PM

This conference attracts commercial vegetable and fruit growers from farms in Illinois and Wisconsin, all of whom sell to small and/or wholesale markets, in order to provide them with updated production-related information from Extension specialists at the University of Illinois.

The cost for the entire program (Thursday and Friday sessions) is \$20. Participants may also register just for Thursday sessions (\$10) or Friday sessions (\$15). Participants will receive access to the live presentations, handouts, and YouTube recordings of the sessions.



4-H Virtual Officer Training

January 23, 2021 - 9:00 - 11:00 am

Be your clubs Superhero. We encourage all officers from every club in Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties to attend. Don't have an office?? Don't worry this training is for everyone interested in being an officer now or in the future.

GARDENING QUESTIONS?

Our Master Gardener Helpline is open and ready to help. Fill out our [online form](#) to help us serve you better. Or call us with your question.

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, email ule-jsw@illinois.edu. Early requests are encouraged to allow time to meet individual requests.



Home Energy
Checkup
Webinar

January 12, 2021

6:00 PM

Plan to join Extension Educator Jay Solomon for "Home Energy Checkup with a northern Illinois perspective" an interactive webinar to learn some easy ways to approach identifying energy saving/cost saving opportunities in your home.



RADON: WHY IT
IS STILL AN
ISSUE

Radon: Why Is It Still an Issue

January 14, 2021

1:00 PM

\$5 Registration Fee

Join EES Educator Stanley Solomon for this webinar to learn why radon should still be a concern for Illinois residents. As the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers, radon continues to be the odorless, radioactive gas silently sneaking into many homes.



I Made That! Baking Month Education Kit

Register by

January 12, 2021

\$5 Per Kit

This project is ideal for families to do together or for any youth with cooking experience. We will be putting together educational cooking kits - designed to inspire the inner chef and help youth gain confidence while working in the kitchen. Youth will learn to bake yeast bread and how to make modifications to fit their family's needs.



2021 Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference

6:30-8:00 pm

March 3:
Pasture Ecology and Soil
Health for Grazers

March 10:
Be Creative, Identifying
Alternative Grazing
Opportunities

March 17:
Extending the Grazing
Season

March 24:
Putting the Grazing Pieces
Together

The theme for this year's conference is "Reinvigorating Pastures and Expanding Grazing" which will be brought to you via Zoom.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EXTENSION:



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Fruits on Friday

January 15: Apple and Pear

January 22: Stone Fruits

January 29: Grapes

February 5: Strawberry

go.illinois.edu/jsw



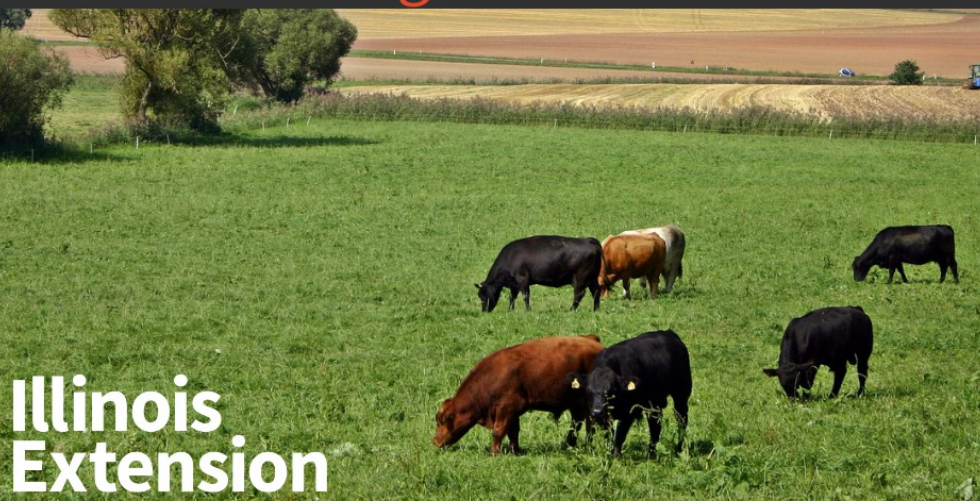
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REINVIGORATING PASTURES AND EXPANDING GRAZING

MARCH 3, 10, 17, AND 24, 2021

6:30 TO 8:00 P.M.

2021 Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference



Illinois
Extension

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EXTENSION:

Extension offers Home Energy Checkup Webinars



With winter setting in once again, we all have that feeling of dread when the electric bill arrives each month: How high will it be this time? We used how much electricity? Maybe it is time to gain a better understanding of how you use energy in your home and look at some simple changes to help reduce that bill. With understanding of where the energy is used, you can make informed decisions about low and no-cost management improvements in your home energy efficiency.

Plan to join Extension Educator Jay Solomon for “Home Energy Checkup with a northern Illinois perspective” an interactive webinar to learn some easy ways to approach identifying energy saving/ cost saving opportunities in your home.

“Every home and family have a unique energy use pattern. Understanding where energy is used in your home is the best way to find cost and energy saving opportunities.” Solomon suggests. “There are often groups of small changes and modification that can add up to big savings, without a lot of expense to home or appliances.”

“Home Energy Checkup with a northern Illinois perspective” will be held on the Zoom on-line meeting platform. There will be two offerings of this webinar: Tuesday, December 15 at Noon, or Tuesday, January 12 at 6 p.m. Each webinar will be an hour in length. Registration is required to attend and can be completed on-line at <https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw> . For more information, call University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125. These webinars are presented as part of an Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation educational grant funded project.

2021 Driftless Region Beef Conference to be held on Jan. 26-28

Lead-off speaker, Dr. Frank Mitloehner, discussing livestock and climate change

The upcoming virtual Driftless Region Beef Conference will feature Dr. Frank Mitloehner, a professor and air quality specialist at UC-Davis, as the leadoff speaker. Dr. Mitloehner will discuss greenhouse gases and the sustainability of beef cattle production. His presentation will explain factors of climate change, livestock impacts, and the importance of ruminant livestock in the midst of growing pressures from environmental groups.

Understanding the facts and fiction behind livestock production and emissions is the first step in debunking the myths of livestock and climate change. “Attending Dr. Mitloehner’s presentation via webinar format will give producers an opportunity to learn and equip themselves to engage in a positive discussion of livestock and climate change,” said Jay Solomon, Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator, University of Illinois Extension.

The conference will have two presenters each evening of Jan. 26-28. All three sessions will run from 7 to 8:30pm. Other speakers include Dr. Kevin Bernhardt, UW Madison Division of Extension, who will discuss Building Farm Resiliency for Surviving Volatile Times; and Shawn Darcy, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, addressing What Consumers Say They Need and Want; and Dr. Paul Plummer, Iowa State University, discussing Antibiotic Resistance in the Beef Industry; and Dr. Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University, shares Being Prepared for a Beef Cattle Pandemic/Secure Beef (both cow-calf and feedlot); and Dr. Brenda Boetel, UW Madison Division of Extension, with a 2021 Market Outlook.

Registration and more information on topics and speakers is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/. Pre-registration is required. Don’t miss this opportunity to register to hear these great speakers at the reduced registration fee of just \$15 this year.

Driftless Region Beef Conference sponsors are Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, University of Illinois Extension, and University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. For more information or to receive a brochure, contact Denise Schwab, Beef Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, at 319-472-4739