



December 2021

The Clover News

University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

Dear 4-H Families,

Happy Holidays from all of the 4-H staff at the Peoria Extension office. We hope you take time to enjoy this special holiday season and stay safe as you spend time with family and friends.

There are several fun activities planned for 2021 so be sure to check out this month's newsletter for more information and for important dates and deadlines.

In the new year, we'll be working with the other counties in our Extension Unit to create a unit-wide newsletter, with highlights and specific information for each of our 4 counties. You will receive this every other month—so watch your mailboxes!

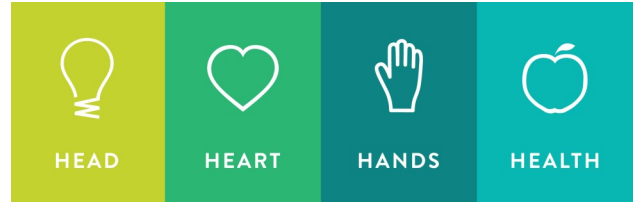
We look forward to working with all of our awesome 4-H members and volunteers to "Make the Best Better" in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Judy & Emily

Judy Schmidt
4-H Youth Development Educator, Metro

Emily Schoenfelder
4-H Youth Development Educator, Multi-County



Holiday Office Closures

University of Illinois Extension Offices will be closed from December 24, 2021 through January 4, 2022. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but wish everyone a very happy holiday season!

Let's Make it Official

Remember, no one is "officially" part of 4-H until they're approved on [4-H Online](#) – and that goes for leaders, too! Be sure that your family gets enrolled so you don't miss out on any 4-H fun! The [Family Enrollment Guide](#) walks you through the whole process.

Note: Some families have been struggling with credit card payments on 4-H online. We recommend that you delete any stored CC info and re-enter prior to payment. You can find instructions to do so [HERE](#).

The 4-H program fee will remain at \$20 per youth participant, with a family cap of \$60. However, no one will be denied membership due to inability to pay. If you need a fee waiver, complete [THIS FORM](#) and return it to your local Extension Office.

You can also request the books or curriculum for projects that you've enrolled in at <https://go.illinois.edu/FMPTPubs>. Books that come as hard copies are \$2 each.

As always, if you have any questions, give us a call!



Around the State...

Citizenship Washington Focus

We are pleased to announce that we will once again be taking a delegation of Illinois 4-H teens to experience the wonders of Washington D.C! We are waiting for a confirmation regarding our travel dates, but we encourage interested teens to begin thinking about being a part of this opportunity to connect with teens from across the country and gain skills that will prepare them to be effective changemakers in their communities! Additional details including confirmed dates; cost; and pre-trip planning will be shared soon!



2022 Equine Events

The 2022 horse contest dates have been set! 4-H State Horse Judging will be February 19th at Black Hawk East in Galva, IL. Registration will begin at 11 AM, and judging starts at noon.

The State Horse Bowl, Hippology & Horse Speaking Contests will be April 23 & 24 on UIUC campus. The regional contest is tentatively set for March 26 at Parkland College. More details coming soon!



Join us for 4-H Volunteer

Café Conversations

Volunteer Café Conversations

Mark your calendars now to participate in the Spring 2022 4-H Volunteer Café Conversations.

Café Conversations is a platform for 4-H Volunteers and 4-H members serving in leadership roles from across Illinois to meet virtually and discuss topics of interest, and share both ideas and challenges. The dates are:

Thursday, February 17, 2022; 7 PM

Thursday, May 19, 2022; 7 PM

We will identify the topics for the next two Conversations in January! Watch for future registration details!



GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED AT THE 4-H

Poultry Workshop

McDonough County 4-H Auditorium
3022 West Jackson, Macomb

February 19 | 10:30-12:00

Open to youth 8-18

REGISTER AT:
GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/POULTRY

No 4-H or Poultry
Experience Required

QUESTIONS TO SHELBY AT SRCARLS2@ILLINOIS.EDU



Around the State...



Intro to 4-H Air Rifle Competition Shooting

Take your existing 4-H air rifle club to a new level! Competition training for 4-H Rifle Club leaders and up to three 4-H Club members will take place on February 19, 2022 from 9am-5pm at Central Illinois Precision Shooters in Bloomington, IL.

Contact Curt Sinclair at sinclair@illinois.edu for flyer and/or register at: go.illinois.edu/4HAirRifleTraining

Adult Volunteer Certification Trainings

Registration details coming in January, but save these dates:

- Sat., March 26, 2022—Tombstone Range, Marion, IL (southern Illinois)
- Sat., May 7, 2022—4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL (central Illinois)
- July 2022—TBD in Northern Illinois

READY TO DO MORE TO HELP FOOD SECURITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Food Advocacy Grants

Funding is available for service learning projects related to food advocacy! Past projects have included community gardens, weekend backpack projects, community mini pantries, and more! Learn more or apply [HERE](#) by Jan 7!



4-H State Robotics Challenge Spacebot: Mission Command

This year's Illinois 4-H Robotics competition will revolve around the work of the 4-H in Space Mission Command Team, which is preparing curriculum and programming options for Illinois youth working with the International Space Station National Laboratories (ISS) and The Lab for Advanced Space Systems at Illinois, Dept. of Aerospace Engineering, (LASSI). These collaborations will enable Illinois 4-H youth to send experiments to the ISS, and build/launch micro satellites into orbit.

The SpaceBot Mission Command Challenge will take place at the **McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, April 16, 2022**. Team registration will open **January 17, 2022** and will close **March 16, 2022**. There will be a \$20 Entry fee per team assessed at the time of registration.

Please contact [Judy](#) or [Emily](#) if you're interested in forming a team, or learn more at the links below.

- **Challenge Download/Documents Folder:** <https://go.illinois.edu/2022CHALLENGE>
- **Register Here on Jan 17, 2022:** <https://go.illinois.edu/4HR2022>
- **Challenge Announcement Video:** <https://go.illinois.edu/224HRVID>

Peoria County Highlights

Club Reports

Edelstein Eager Beavers: Our November 4-H meeting was on Monday the 15th at Ben and Hannah Martin's shed. Our Leader, Michael Herrmann, led the meeting. He updated us on the clover news and then explained what we were going to do for our service project that evening. After the meeting we began our service projects. We filled boxes with various household and food items to give to the residents at the St. Augustine Manor in Peoria. Some 4-Hers tied blankets, some made cards, and others packed the wrapped boxes. For December we will not have a meeting, but some of our 4-Hers will ring bells for Salvation Army at Kroger on December 10th. Our next meeting will be in January.

~ Submitted by Aleah Martin

Laura Winners: The Laura Winners 4-H club held a meeting on November 21st at the Lillie M. Evans Library. We purchased a Christmas tree at Steven's Square and decorated it. We passed out 4H awards to all winners. We also had talks by Carrie Gill and Caitlin and Kinzie Murphy. We talked about enrolling for the upcoming year and we didn't have much more business to settle. After our meeting we enjoyed gondolas and chips. This month we will be having our Craft Show on December 4th. Our next meeting will be held on January 23rd at the Laura Church.

~ Submitted by Brinae Rice

Club Reporters

We love to hear what your club and its members are doing! Send us updates about meetings, service projects, get-togethers, or any other fun and exciting happenings in your club. Submit your information to Emily at eschoe@illinois.edu so we can highlight your club or members activities in the monthly newsletter. Be sure to include the author's name so we know to whom we should attribute your article.

Cloverbud Creation Day

Ready to make and create some really cool things while meeting other Cloverbuds from the comfort of your own home? Then sign up for our Cloverbud Creations Days! We will meet virtually from 4-5 p.m. to make some pretty cool creations, learn a few exciting things, and have lots of fun with other kids. These sessions will be taught by 4-H Teen Teachers and kits will be available to pick up at the University of Illinois Extension offices in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties prior to the first session of camp. Open to youth ages 5-7.

January 18, 2022—Science of Snow

Learn more and register at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=24568&>

Club Activity Opportunity!

Bring an engaging, hands-on activity to your next club meeting...and introduce your kids to the brand new Cover Crop Science 4-H project. Matthew Hagaman, one of the Cover Crop Science project book authors, would love to visit your club! Activities are free for clubs (thanks to a USDA grant) and last about 20 minutes—though times are flexible. Some of the activities he offers include...

- **Engineering a Cover Crop Harvester:** Conduct experiments & compare/contrast results to engineer a model plant harvester.
- **Cover Crop Life Cycles:** Work with plant materials to sequence the life cycle of a pennycress plant.
- **Making Cover Crop Ink:** Experiment with materials to discover how to make an ink, including oil, water, and an emulsifier.
- **Gene Editing with LEGOs:** Examine parts of 2 different pennycress plants, then use LEGOs to understand the process of working with DNA to improve crops.

If you'd like to learn more, contact Emily at eschoe@illinois.edu or Matthew at mthagam@ilstu.edu.

Peoria County Highlights

Web Development through Games Club

Are you interested in learning about web development? You are invited to join this club and learn more about web development through HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Club members will create three projects: a simple homepage, a quiz with ASCII animation, and a text-adventure with navigation. This club is intended to help youth interested in web development learn about and practice some fundamental skills of syntax, design, and problem solving.

Meeting Dates: every Thursday, starting February 10 through March 17. Club will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Illinois Math Academy in Northwoods Mall.

The cost is \$25 (includes 4-H membership fee.) If you are already a 4-H member, cost is \$5. [Fee waivers](#) are available.

All high school age youth are invited to join.

Visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2022-02-10-web-development-through-games-club-begins-winter-session> register or learn more!

Livestock Ownership Dates

We're still waiting to hear about livestock ownership dates for the 2022 State Fair Junior Show. We'll send those out via email as soon as possible, along with enrollment deadlines for livestock projects. Please keep an eye on your inbox!

Remember, youth may join 4-H at any time, but some projects may have special enrollment deadlines to be eligible to exhibit at shows and fairs.

Join Federation!

Are you interested in getting to know 4-Hers outside of your club? Do you want to be more involved with planning 4-H events? Are you interested in increasing your leadership skills? Then join Peoria 4-H Federation! Any young person in 8th grade or above is welcome to join. Our next meeting will be a movie night at Kickapoo Town Hall on Jan 6 at 6pm. Stop by and check it out!

Beef Weigh-In & Tattooing

The 2022 date for the beef weigh-in & tattooing will be **Saturday, February 5, 2022** from **8-10am** at the **Stark County Fairgrounds** (310 Diagonal Street, Wyoming, IL 61491). Plan to be on the fairgrounds no later than 9:30am. Please hold February 12 as a backup date in case of inclement weather. If you have any questions please contact the Peoria Extension office at 685-3140.



4-H Green Communities

Peoria County 4-H has been selected for the 2022 4-H Green Communities Program! We'll be working with the Soil and Water Conservation District to plant 25 trees in our community—and **we need your help!** Trees will

be arriving in early spring (late March/early April), and we'll need lots of hands to plant and care for the saplings. Please consider making this one of your club service projects as you plan for your 4-H year. More details coming soon!

Meet the Federation!

Monthly Federation Member Spotlight:
Kyle Stahl

Club(s): **Edelstein Eager Beavers**

Favorite Projects:
Beef & Welding

Years in 4-H: **7**

Grade: **12**

Desired Superpower: **Flying**

Favorite Color:
Blue

Best Thing About 4-H: **Fair, showing beef, and tug of war!**



Local 4-H EVENTS

DECEMBER

24 Happy Holidays! Office Closed until Jan 4th

JANUARY

- 5 Happy New Year! Office Re-Opens
6 Federation Movie Night—6pm Kickapoo Town Hall
7 Food Advocacy Grant application deadline
17 MLK Day—Office Closed
18 Cloverbud Creation Day

FEBRUARY

- 3 Federation—6pm Kickapoo Town Hall
5 Beef Weigh-In—8-10am Stark County Fairgrounds
17 Volunteer Café Conversations— 7pm
19 State Horse Judging—11am Black Hawk East
19 Poultry Workshop—10:30am Macomb
19 Air Rifle Competition Training— 9am Bloomington



Beekeeping Project

Are you interested in doing a beekeeping project, but don't have anywhere to keep a hive? We can help! Contact Emily at eschoe@illinois.edu and we'll put you in touch with a local beekeeper who can help. Space is limited, and hives will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Connect with Us!

Contact us with any questions and follow along on state and local pages for news, updates, and announcements! If your club has a picture or story you'd like to feature on the social media pages, send it our way!

[Illinois 4-H Facebook Page](#)

Instagram: @illinois4h

Twitter: @illinois4h

[Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit Extension Facebook Page](#)

[Peoria County 4-H Facebook Page](#)

Connection Corner Blog: <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/connection-corner>

Website: <https://extension.illinois.edu/fmpt>

Peoria County Office Phone: 309-685-3140

4-H Staff:

Angie Sassine, Office Support—asassine@illinois.edu

Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator—eschoe@illinois.edu

Judy Schmidt, Metro 4-H Youth Educator—schmid7@illinois.edu

Earl Allen, County Director—erallen@illinois.edu



Illinois Extension

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