



MARCH 2023

Henry, Mercer, Rock Island & Stark

Deadlines:

- March 1—Mercer Scholarships
- March 15— Mercer Public Speaking Registration
- March 20—RI Scholarship App
- April 1—Henry Scholarships
- April 1 - Project Selections in ZSuite—Henry
- May 1-Horse Papers due
- May 19-Henry Fair Entries
- June 1 - RI & Mercer Fair Entries

Events:

- March 4 - Cloverbud Academy
- March 19 - Mercer Public Speaking Contest
- April 1 - Regional Horse Bowl
- April 29 - State Public Speaking

Junior Livestock Conference Report



I had so much fun at the 4-H Junior Livestock Conference on January 21st and 22nd in Decatur, IL. I met many amazing and different people while I was there and made many new friends. The conference was so fun with all the different people and activities there. The officers also made sure that I never felt alone and that I could always talk to someone if I wanted to. My favorite part of the event was making a rope halter and learning about meat judging. We also learned about Ag Sales, Wool Judging, and Plastic Milk. At night, it was so lively with all the games that happened after dinner. If I could, I would gladly go to the event again! - *Morgan Flickinger, Rockridge Royals*



Important Information

- **Enrollment deadline is March 1** (4h.zsuite.org).
- Enrollment fees must be paid either online or via check to the Extension Office before your enrollment can be approved. Exception made for those in clubs who collect the fees.
- Fee waiver requests are available by contacting the office or your leader.
- **Attention Cloverbuds:** There is only 1 project for Cloverbud members called 'Cloverbud Project'. If you selected any other project when enrolling, it was deleted.
- Last year's fair books are up on Zsuite if you need to see exhibit requirements for project enrollment. New books will be out in the March/April time frame.

Scholarship Winner



Desiree Reid, of Joy Eliza Ag, received the Erin Neuleib Scholarship. Desiree is a 10-year 4-H member with a long history of equestrian excellence. Congratulations!

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Club News and Notes



Hamlet Handy Helpers Submitted by Mason Gray

The Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club met on February 12, 2023 at 3:00pm. President, Megan Gray, called the meeting to order. Secretary, Caidel Monson, provided the last month's report, and Treasurer, Addison Monson, gave the treasurer's report. All were approved. Under old business, we received a nice thank-you note from Joyce Smith for the gift card we sent her. We also decided to change our outing to bowling as the weather has not cooperated for Snowstar. Under new business, our club approved donating the spaghetti for the spaghetti supper to the Federation. Our club made a donation for the Mercer County 4-H Fair Awards. March 1st is the deadline for enrollment. As always, check the newsletter for any upcoming events. We voted to approve buying banners for our 100 year celebration. Muireann Zippe gave a talk and demonstration on her cooking project. We made cards and candy for Brookstone residents for Valentine's Day after our meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Peppy Partners Club Report Submitted by Karen Dellitt

Peppy Partners met 1/21/23 with 5 members present and 1 excused. Notice was given about the gift baskets being delivered and the Thank you cards sent. Also, that the tree in the park was taken down on January 3rd. We Welcomed 3 new members: Aysha and Sitara Sloan and Jayda Hearn. We wanted to make sure they either got their books ordered or knew how to. New business was election of officers. They are: President – Ben, Vice-President and Secretary – Amelia, Roll call – Sitara, Treasure – Seth, Parliamentarian – Aysha, Scrapbook & Photographer – Jayda. Reporter – We haven't decided for sure yet. We talked about speakers for the next few months and came up with one in March and several to ask or keep in mind. The fair book design was discussed. Instructions were given to each family and Amelia encouraged them all to try for it. That is due February 10th. The Winter Workshops, cost and dates were discussed. Anyone interested should contact the Extension Office. Specials were given by Seth on his 5-month-old puppy, Bingo and what new tricks he has learned so far. He was very much welcomed and behaved well. Refreshments were provided by the Sloan's'. Everyone was thanked for coming. The next meeting is planned for February 18th and the meeting was adjourned. *One addition we talked about was to have a Fun Day in March, more discussion on that at the next meeting.

Zuma Zippers Report Submitted by: Shiloh Ford-Skadberg

Zuma Zippers 4-H Club of Port Byron held an apple cider donut fundraiser in December and decided to donate a portion of proceeds to a local organization. After discussions at the Jan. 8 meeting, the kids chose QC Paws, which supports the needs of the animals at the Rock Island County Animal Care and Control Shelter in Moline. Club members met at Blain's Farm & Fleet on Sunday, Jan. 22 to spend \$100 on pet supplies, such as food, treats, litter, leashes, training pads, garbage bags, and cleaning supplies. They debated on what to purchase by comparing prices, sizes, quantities, and what the shelter needs. They also learned about requesting sponsors, with Farm & Fleet donating an additional \$40 for the club to spend.

Zuma Zippers alumnae and artist Denise Murphy of Mount Vernon, IA led the club in an alcohol ink painting project. The kids painted two tiles and a small canvas.



The club, pictured left, helped collect trees for their winter service project. The evergreens were

brought to a local goat farm and "recycled" as a food source. Pine needles are high in vitamin C and antioxidants and act as a natural dewormer. The club plans to do this project again next year.



Congratulations!



The Hamlet Handy Helpers and the Saddle Teens clubs from Mercer County were each winners of the State Club Award in Community Service. They will receive a monetary donation as a prize. Great job to both clubs members and leaders!

Club News and Notes



State Fair Date

Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Stark members who are selected to show general projects at State Fair will show on

Sunday, August 13

Henry County Fair Dates

The Henry County Fair Dates moved back to the 3rd Week of June. The final show schedule is still being determined, but here are some important dates:

General Projects—Saturday, June 17

Livestock Auction—Thursday, June 22

Project Check-out—Sunday, June 25, Noon– 1 p.m.

Shooting Sports Training:

For anyone interested in becoming a certified shooting sports instructor, there will be a training on Saturday, May 6 in Monticello. It is a one day training and is open for all disciplines. If you are interested in becoming an instructor or a county coordinator, contact your local Extension office.



MERCER PUBLIC SPEAKING

Youth thinking about participating in the State Public Speaking contest must first qualify at the county level. Even if you aren't interested in going to state, the county contest is a great way to build public speaking skills in a friendly environment.

Mercer - March 19, 2023 @ Brookstone of Aledo
Register by March 15 @

go.illinois.edu/MercerCo4-HSpeech23

For a full list of entry categories visit:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2023-03-19-mercercounty-4-h-public-speaking-contest>

Workshop Series Photos

Participants had a learning about eSports from the WIU gaming club. WIU was a great host and gave all participants pizza, a gaming headset, and a t-shirt.



Participants in the LEGO workshop got to design and build their favorite bird. This workshop was hosted by the Great Brick Lab in Milan.



The Geneseo Art League hosted a soap carving workshop for 5 4-H members



MORE NEWS & notes

Magical Muggles Report Submitted by William B.

Magical Muggles met on February 2nd to make snacks and package sack meals for the homeless. We packaged over 70 meals that included sandwiches, chips, fruit, homemade treats and water. Our group made chocolate chip cookies, brownies, blueberry muffins and apple muffins as our homemade treats. The meals were delivered to Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport to be handed out. We had about 15 members and 6 adults participate in this project.

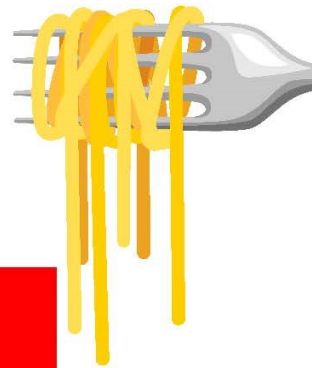
Magical Muggles held their meeting on Monday, February 20th 2023. The meeting was called to order. The pledges were said. The January meeting report was read by William B. Reminder that enrollment is due March 21st. Tom Lagomarcino talked to us about our service project. All the meals were handed out. Members were asked to find facts about the Philippines, to help start our group project. We worked on a Philippines packet with partners and we made parols (Filipino Christmas ornaments). Our next meeting will be Monday March 20th, 2023. We will have a guest from the Philippines.



HELP 4-H RAISE FUNDS FOR
THE MERCER COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Drive-thru Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser

Sunday, April 2, 11 AM - 1 PM
Mercer County Senior Center
137 W Main St, Aledo, IL



A delicious way to help the Mercer County Teen Federation raise funds for the Mercer County Senior Center.



**You can pre-order your meal by calling
309-373-3636 or 309-371-6158.**

All proceeds will go to support building renovations at the Senior Center.



NEWS & notes

Livestock Info

Livestock Ownership Dates

Market Animals

Barrows:

Farrowed: On/After January 1, 2023 (RI, Stark, State Fair)

Owned: June 1, 2023 (RI, Stark, State Fair)

Henry— Farrowed on/after 12/15/22; Owned 4/1/23

Mercer—Farrowed on/after 12/01/22; Owned 5/1/23

Premiere Barrows (carcass): must be weighed/tattooed

Farrowed: On/After February 10, 2023

Owned: June 1, 2023

Market Wethers & Market Ewes:

Self-nomination required for state fair

Lambled: On/After January 1, 2023

Owned: May 15, 2023

Meat Goat Wethers:

Self-nomination required for state fair

Born: On/After October 1, 2022

Owned: May 15, 2023

Breeding Animals

Heifers:

Ages: Sept. 1, 2021-March 31, 2023

Owned: June 1, 2023 (RI, Stark, State Fair)

Henry—April 1, 2023

Mercer—May 1, 2023

Gilts: Same as barrows

Ewes & Rams:

Yearling Ewes Born - Jan. 1—Aug. 31, 2022

Ewe Lambs Born - After Sept. 1, 2022

Ram Lambs Born - After Jan. 1, 2023

All Owned: June 25, 2023 (RI, Stark, State Fair)

Henry— April 1, 2023

Mercer— May 1, 2023

Meat Goats: Owned by May 15, 2023

Dairy Goats: Milking Does 1/1/23; Kids 6/1/23

Livestock Ethics Trainings

The animal ethics trainings are **required**. There are two different trainings. Please follow the rules for the one that fits the type of animal you show. If you plan to show animals in both categories, you are required to complete both trainings.

QAEC - for cats, dogs, horses, poultry & rabbits.

This training is only required ONCE per 4-H career. It is free and can be accessed here:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>

YQCA - for cattle, goats, sheep & swine

This training is required once per YEAR. It is \$12 to complete online at yqcaprogram.org. Remember that this is a new website as of last spring. In person trainings are being discussed.

We will be holding an in-person YQCA training on **Wednesday, March 8** in the Milan Office at 6 p.m. To register, you must log-in to yqcaprogram.org, select the training, and pay \$3. The payment must be done via the YQCA website in advance. We cannot do it for you and we cannot accept cash. Please complete this process by Monday, March 6.

State Fair Entry Deadlines

Horses—Ownership/Lease/Registration papers due to county office by **May 1, 2023** with pictures of each side of the horse. State Fair entry forms due to state fair office by **June 1**. State Fair entry forms must include a copy of the ownership/lease/registration papers and pictures.

Livestock—Entries due to the state fair office by **July 1**. Office will not accept late entries.

State Fair Market Animals

Premiere Barrows: Must be weighed and tattooed between February 10 and April 15, 2023. Pigs must be tattooed within 35 days of birth and not weigh more than 1lb/day of age. Contact the Extension Office to set up a tattoo date.

Market Wethers, Ewe Lambs & Meat Goat Wethers:

Must self-nominate between March 15 and May 15, 2023.

Nomination forms available through Extension Office and require a picture showing Scrapie ID tag affixed in animals' ear.

Other Dates to Note:

Regional Horse Bowl—April 1 @ BHE

State Livestock Judging—June 20, 2023 @ U of I Stock Pavillion

State Horse Show—July 23 –29 in Springfield



NEWS & notes

Scholarships

RI Bert Blood Scholarship

The Rock Island County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation and the Rock Island Rotary Club are co-sponsoring college/trade school scholarships for 4-H members and alumni. Eligibility: Rock Island County 4-H members who are seniors in high school and plan to attend college or trade school in the fall of 2023 are eligible to apply for one of three scholarships that will be awarded in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,250 and \$1,000. Rock Island County 4-H alumni who will be enrolled as sophomores, juniors and seniors in college or trade school in the fall of 2023, and that have at least a 3.0 grade point average, can apply for one of two \$500 scholarships (Note: past winners of the high school senior scholarships can apply for the alumni scholarship. Past winners of the alumni scholarship are not eligible to win again).

The application process:

Scholarship application, high school or college transcript, and two reference forms are due by **Monday, March 20, 2023**. They can either be submitted through the online application process or dropped off or mailed to the Rock Island County Extension office.

All scholarship checks will be made out to the college or trade school to which the winners are enrolled.

The three high school winners will be invited to attend a scholarship luncheon sponsored by the Rock Island Rotary Club to be held on Tues. April 11 from 11:30 am – 1 pm at the Quad City Botanical Center where they will receive notification of their award amount and have the opportunity to share a brief speech about their 4-H experiences.

The high school application is at: <https://form.jotform.com/230194933960157>

The alumni application is at: <https://form.jotform.com/230195578533159>

Bert Blood Reference form :

<https://form.jotform.com/230226414850145>

The reference form should be completed by two references (ie a 4-H leader, boss, teacher, coach.) and is also due March 20.

Your transcripts can either be mailed by your school, or emailed using McCala's email mmmille@illinois.edu

Mercer County Scholarships

4-H Memorial Scholarship

4-H Memorial Scholarship was established by memorial funds from Dylis McCutchan and Daniel McLaughlin and memorials made to honor Dylis and Daniel. Dylis was a leader of Hamlet Handy Helpers for over 40 years. Daniel was a Mercer County 4-H alumni and a long-time member of the Young Riders 4-H club. Both of these individuals knew first-hand the value and impact that 4-H can have. The scholarship funds continue to grow as more people donated in memory of loved ones. As a result, the scholarship committee continues to increase the scholarship payouts and/or scholarships available. The Memorial Scholarship is open to current Mercer County 4-H members graduating from high school. It is intended for educational purposes at a college, university or trade school.

Deadline March 1, 2022. For more info go to:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/4-h-mercercounty>

Patti Jeanne Higgins 4-H Scholarship

This scholarship is for one year, available to high school seniors or persons enrolled in the first year of college, university, technical, or vocational school. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded each year. Applicant must be a resident of Mercer or Warren County. Applicant must have been actively involved in 4-H for a minimum of three years. Preference will be given to applicants who are or were a member of the Alexis All-Star 4-H Club. Applicant is required to verify acceptance to or present enrollment at a college or university prior to receiving the grant. Applicant shall be required to submit a written application. In addition to eligibility guidelines, the following will be considered in selecting recipients: Academic performance and honors Rank in class ACT score Financial need Character and personality: Consideration shall be given to maturity; industriousness and motivation; intellectual interest; moral character; and demonstrated leadership. Completed Application due on or before, **March 1, 2023**. Applications can be found at

<https://extension.illinois.edu/4-h-mercercounty>

Attention Henry County Seniors

The Henry County 4-H Foundation scholarship application is available now and due **April 1**. The link to the application is: <https://form.jotform.com/210386131269049>. Contact Jennifer for questions or additional information.





NEWS & notes

Around the State

State Events

Legislative Connection - Two dates will be selected between March & May 2023. Any youth who is trained in Speaking for IL 4-H will be invited to attend.

State Public Speaking Contest - April 29, 2023
Held at Parkland College in Champaign. Formal Speech and Illustrated Speech categories will now have two age divisions:

- Beginner: 8-13 as of Sept. 1, 2022
- Advanced: 14+ as of Sept. 1, 2022

Poetry/Spoken word is now a separate category under the Original Works heading.

State Robotics Competition - May 13, 2023

Illini Summer Academies - June 25-29
Held at the University of Illinois. Open to youth who have completed 9-11th grades. Graduating 8th graders and graduating seniors are no longer eligible to attend.

4-H Camp Registration



Spring Family Camp will be back again May 19-21. Bring the whole family to enjoy a weekend of camp fun. Planned activities include: Swimming, Boating, Fishing, Arts & Crafts, Zip Lining, Rock Climbing, STEM Activities, and more!

Fees: Cabin Rental—\$215; each cabin has 10 beds
Participant Fee—\$84/person for 8+; \$56 for 4-7 year olds

Registration and Information here:

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/event/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-family-camp>



4-H Hooks



Get your tackle ready! The 2023 **4-H Hooks-Us-Together Statewide Fishing Tournament** will run from April 1 – June, 30 2023. Details on how to register coming in March!

- April – Crappie State 4-H Tournament
- May – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament
- June – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament



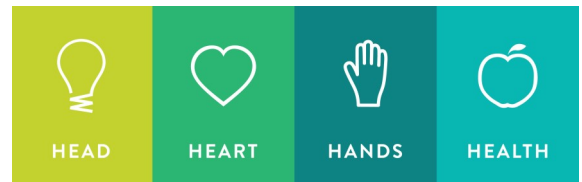
Illinois & Indiana are teaming up for the 2023 Citizenship Washington Focus Trip where teens will be able to experience their nation's capital during one of the most amazing weeks to experience Washington D.C. as they travel **July 2 – 7, 2023!** The delegation will be traveling by bus, with a stop in Gettysburg, for a visit at the battlefields.

Register by March 6, 2023 to reserve your spot! Illinois is limited to 10 youth.

Target Audience: 4-H Members ages 14-18 (As of May 1, 2023)
Estimated Cost: \$2,000
Register through ZSuite events
Questions: Pat McGlaughlin, patm@illinois.edu

4-H members and clubs continue to demonstrate they are **True Leaders in Service**, as they work to support both their personal and club goals of making a difference in their community while focusing on the 4th “H” and pledging their HANDS to larger service!

Please share your story of how you and/or your club are supporting your community by going to the Illinois 4-H website's Community Service page, <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/participate/4-h-community-service>. To be identified as having participated in the National 4-H Day of Service, you first must click on the “Register Your 2023 Event” box and share your plan for positively impacting your community. Once you have completed your service outreach efforts, then be sure to go back to the webpage use click the “Report 2023 Community Service” box and report what you accomplished and how you and your club made a difference. The accomplishments of both individual members and clubs will be highlighted on the Illinois 4-H Website. This site is now open year-round and you can report multiple events.



Illinois Extension Sport Fishing 4-H SPIN Club



Meeting Dates:
Saturdays, April
29, May 6, 13, 20, 27,
June 3, from 9-11 a.m.

Supplies Needed-Please bring to all meetings.

Rod and reel in good working condition with fresh line;
Size 4 Aberdeen Eagle Claw hooks;
Split shot and small bobbers;
Fingernail clippers or kids Fiskar scissors for cutting line;
Small needle nose pliers for hook removal;

If you are a bassmaster bring:

Weedless jigs with trailers, Plastic worms and spinnerbaits.
• **No lure with treble hooks will be used during this class.**

The first meeting will be April 29, from 9a.m. to 10a.m. at **Aledo Central Park**, followed by meetings located at various ponds around the area from 9 to 11am. Pond locations will be announced at the first meeting. Youth must have their own rides to the ponds each week. Open to 10 kids ages **8 to 15**. **Pre-register by April 15**. Supply fee is **\$10** and your cost of your own supplies, plus a \$20 program fee for non-4-H members. We provide the bait. Members are responsible for the supplies listed above. If you have any questions please call Tracy Pestle, Mercer County 4-H Coordinator, at (309) 513-3100. Current 4-H members pre-register through ZSuite by adding the Mercer County 4-H Fishing club to your profile using the link below. New 4-H members pre-register using the link below; Create an account; select the Mercer County 4-H Fishing club and pay the 4-H program fee at time of registration. If you have questions or problems contact Tracy Pestle at (309) 513-3100.

Current 4-H Members Register online at: <https://4h.zsuite.org/households>

New 4-H Members register online at: <https://4h.zsuite.org>

For questions or problems registering please contact Tracy Pestle; fowlerpe@illinois.edu or 309-513-3100

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HENRY, MERCER, ROCK ISLAND, & STARK UNIT

email: uie-hmrs@illinois.edu
web: extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/

Rock Island County Office

321 W 2nd Ave
Milan, IL 61264

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Henry/Stark Office

358 Front Street
Galva, IL 61434

Phone: 309-932-3447; FAX 309-932-3454

Mercer County Office

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Viola, IL 61486

Phone: 309-513-3100; FAX: 309-513-3101

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Galva Office Hours

Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

closed for lunch 12–12:30 p.m.

Viola Office Hours

Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

closed for lunch 12–12:30 p.m.

Milan Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

closed for lunch 12–12:30 p.m.



Scribbles and Scrawl

Greetings,

4-H Enrollment is always open, but March 1 is the deadline for anyone planning to exhibit at the county fairs. After that deadline, we start preparing the fair entry website. Please get your enrollments in asap if you are behind this year.

Projects can be added/changed via ZSuite until the time we are ready to open the fair entry website. Fair books are about to be sent to the printer and will be given to leaders for distribution at March/April meetings.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in one or more of the Winter Workshop Series. All those held so far have been fun and informative. There are still a few more opportunities to come, so stay tuned.

Jennifer, Teresa, Tracy, & McCala



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