



I ILLINOIS
Extension



Stephenson County

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Dear Stephenson County 4-H Members and Parents:

We are excited to announce that we will have a **Master Showmanship Contest (MSC)** at the 2024 Stephenson County Fair. The contest will be coordinated by the Stephenson County Farm Bureau and Stephenson County 4-H. The winner of the local competition will represent Stephenson County at the Illinois State Fair MSC event on Friday, August 9, 2024.

The local contest will take place on **Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** starting in the Swine Show Ring. Rules are as follows:

1. The exhibitor must be between the ages of 14-18 as of September 1, 2023. -birthdate between 9/1/2004 and 9/1/2009. (child cannot have reached their 19th birthday before September 1, 2023)
2. The exhibitor must be currently enrolled in any Stephenson County 4-H livestock event.
3. An exhibitor may participate in the Master Showmanship Contest for a consecutive year if the following permit:
 - a. The exhibitor has not previously been recognized as the Overall Winner of the state MSC.
 - b. The exhibitor is chosen as the overall county/fair winner.
 - c. County rules and guidelines are followed to and adhered to
 - d. County contest rules permit an individual to be the county winner multiple times.
 - e. The exhibitor must be able to attend and participate in the state contest **Friday, August 9, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.** (OR 30 minutes following the conclusion of all Junior Livestock shows) at the Illinois State Fair. If the county winner cannot participate in the state contest, then the local Extension Office may select an alternate.
4. Participants in the MSC at the Illinois State Fair and the County fair must supply their own livestock for the competition. Each contestant must own or borrow each: a steer or heifer, a market or breeding lamb, and a market hog or breeding gilt. The Stephenson County Farm Bureau Young Leaders and Stephenson County 4-H will help locate the animals for you to show at the county level, if needed.
5. The county event will simultaneously run three species contest with one judge in three (3) separate rings.
6. A cash prize, and a special award will be given to both the champion (\$200) and reserve champion (\$100) Master Showman. The champion will represent Stephenson County at the state level (per #3 above). Prizes will be donated by Stephenson County Farm Bureau.
7. Contest organizers maintain the right to expel any individual who has violated any of the rules or regulations, or who exhibits improper conduct that is unbecoming of a 4-H member.
8. In the event of a state contest cancellation, contest organizers (Stephenson County Farm Bureau Young Leaders and Stephenson County 4-H) are not liable for any lost revenues, expenses incurred, or schedule inconvenience, and are not bound to issue any awards or prizes at the state level.
9. The county and state contests will adhere to any and all guidelines in relation to the Illinois State Fair issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. State contest guidelines are posted at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/4-h-stephenson-county> under 4-H Resources at the bottom of the screen.
10. Contest results, placings and photos will be posted to the 4-H Facebook Page and local newspapers following the contest.
11. Registration for the county event is being coordinated through University of Illinois Extension– Stephenson County, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport IL 61032 (on Highland College campus).