

Saline County 4-H Connection



Monthly News for Saline County 4-H Members

December 2024/January 2025

TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER!

912 S. Commercial, Suite 4, Harrisburg, IL 62946
618-252-8391



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This way for fun and info!




Illinois Extension
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And a Peaceful, Happy, and Healthy 2025 to you all!

I Merry Christmas from all of us at the U of I Extension Saline County 4-H Office. 

The Extension office will be closed from December 24, 2024 to January 1, 2025.



Federation Christmas Party and Lights Parade

Please join us **Thursday, December 12th** to represent Saline County 4-H and walk in the Harrisburg Christmas Lights parade. The parade begins at 6 pm. Our float is usually parked in front of East Side Intermediate School on Church Street in Harrisburg. Arrive no later than 5:30 p.m.

A parent/guardian must accompany any 4-H youth 10 years or younger. Wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather - it could be very COLD! You must "light" yourself with battery lights (we have some battery lights that we will bring). Wear your favorite Christmas clothes or Santa hat. Come and join your 4-H friends and celebrate Christmas!

VERY IMPORTANT...

The Parade ends at Southern FS/Lion's Club on South Main Street. The float will not come back to East Side School, and since I am walking, I cannot transport you back. You must make arrangements for someone to meet you at the end of the parade route. Any youth not accompanied by an adult will have to make arrangements with Nancy ahead of time to walk to meet a parent/family member after the parade.

Pizza and Decorating



We will decorate the Float on Tuesday, December 10th, beginning at 4 pm at the Livestock Building. Let me know if you are able to help us decorate. We are having our Pizza Party while we decorate. We may even play a few games.

Federation officers and delegates - we will take a picture with 4C's Board Members and make our donation at 6 pm. Please plan to be there.

You must RSVP to nlambert@illinois.edu by December 6th so we will have enough pizza and drinks for all.

Cards for Carrier Mills Nursing & Rehab Residents

We are participating in a Christmas Community Service for the residents at Carrier Mills Nursing and Rehab. Each of the 84 residents will receive a Christmas gift on Christmas Eve. 4-H is providing the Christmas Cards. Can you help? We will need 84 Christmas cards.

Please consider making cards or buying cards and writing a nice note inside. You can mention that you are a member of Saline County 4-H. I know the residents would be so appreciative.



Return your cards to Nancy at the Extension office no later than December 10th. This is a great county-wide community service activity for your club.



Gingerbread House Contest

Are you looking for some December Fun? Join in our Saline County 4-H Gingerbread House Contest.



Show us your most creative house - use your imagination! Maybe your house is a cabin in the woods or a seaside condo. Maybe you want to make a model of your own house, or a national landmark, or the Livestock Building at the fairgrounds. Your "house" can be gingerbread or even graham crackers! Use your favorite icing and candies!

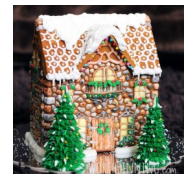
The contest dates are December 1 - 15. During that time frame, submit one or two pictures of your Gingerbread House by email to Nancy at nlambert@illinois.edu. Please include the architect's name, age, and contact phone number in the email. Do not include any of this information in the photo(s).

Judging will take place at 6 pm on December 15th, so no late entries will be accepted.

There will be prizes for the best Gingerbread House in each of these categories:



Cloverbud - ages 5-7
Junior - ages 8-12
Senior - ages 13-18
Adult - ages 19+



And there will be an Overall Best of Show! Prizes are sponsored by the Saline County 4-H Federation. (Big thanks to Federation delegate Makayla Miller for the idea to hold this contest!)

Winners will be notified and announced on December 16th. And the winners can collect their prize at the Extension office through December 20th.

Good Luck! I can't wait to see your *Gingerbread House!*





VIRTUAL ORNAMENT WORKSHOP


12/14 @ 10:00 AM
REGISTER BY 12/7

<https://forms.gle/btmzaCetHow2B92n6>

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact your Extension Office.
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.




Virtual Ornament Workshop 

You won't want to miss the Virtual Ornament Workshop on Saturday, December 14th, at 10:00 am.

An in-person option is available at the Gallatin County Extension office in Ridgway, or there is a Zoom option if you want to stay home in your PJ's. Ornament Supply Kits are \$5 per person and will be available for pick up through your local Extension office for Zoom participants. Registration closes on December 7. You must register in advance to get a supply kit.

 You will receive an email with the Zoom link at the address you provide at registration. This would be a fun morning for a 4-H club, a family group, or a friend group get-together.

Scan the QR Code or use the link to register! 

Junior Leadership Conference

Caitlyn Pluta and Halle Whitlock attended the 4-H Junior Leadership Conference in November. These Saline County 4-H'ers learned a lot about leadership and had a great weekend!



Big thanks again to the Saline Co. Stockmen for sponsoring the conference scholarships!

Illinois 4-H Hippology Team - National Champions!


Saline County 4-H's own Hannah Wenzel and her team - Ellis (Knox Co.), and Allison and Talisa (Carroll Co.) are the 4-H Hippology Overall National Champions for 2024! The contest took place in November at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, KY. There were 30 teams of four from all around the country.

In addition to this amazing accomplishment, Hannah placed 7th High Individual - Stations and 9th High Individual - Written phase. She was also 9th High Overall Individual. The team placed 1st in Stations and 1st in the Written phase, 6th in Problem Solving, and 7th in Judging.


Congratulations! We are so proud of you Hannah and team!





 **Like** Saline County Illinois 4-H Facebook Page

Look for our Saline County Illinois 4-H page and request to join the closed group. I will keep the page updated with photos, meetings and events notices, and information to help you during the 4-H year.



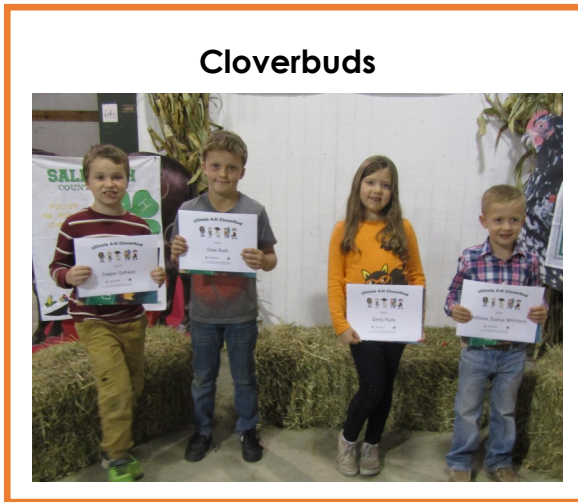
Achievement Night Pictures



Federation Officers



Retiring Members



Cloverbuds



First Year Members



Junior Leaders



10 Year Members

More Achievement Night Pictures



4-H Display, Secretary Book, Handbook

4-H Poster Contest



Friends of 4-H - Swine Parents



Alumni Honoree - Austin Evans



County Medals & Blue Awards



30 Year Volunteers
Kevin & Mary Wilson



First Year Volunteers





Leader News...Club New Year Packets



Club leaders should have received their New 4-H Year packets at Achievement Night. Included in the packet, along with Youth Enrollment Forms and Project Forms, are the Club Officer Forms, Club Program Forms, Club Progress Goals and Club Committee Forms. Please return your packet to the Extension office by December 16, 2024.



Welcome to our New Saline County 4-H Club Clovers and Critters!

We have a new 4-H Club - Clovers and Critters
with leader Sara Oxford!

Please join me in welcoming them to Saline County 4-H!

4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment in ZSuite

ZSuite is now open. Emails with instructions went out in October to all current members and adult volunteers. If you would prefer a paper enrollment form, please let our office know. The enrollment fee in 4-H is \$20 per child.

Illinois 4-H has a maximum per family enrollment fee of \$60 or 3 youth. To receive the multi-child discount for the fourth member, choose pay by check as the method of payment. Our office will then be able to apply the multi child discount. If you have problems with re-enrolling, please contact our office. We are looking forward to a great 2024-25 4-H year.



Have you been attending meetings or events for the 2024-25 year already? If so, your enrollment should be complete and your enrollment fee paid, in order to be covered by the insurance policy. **If you have not enrolled, do so ASAP!**

For Your Information

You will often see RSVP and a date/time to do so in the newsletter or on a flyer or Facebook post. Or you will see a deadline to submit 4-H paperwork, forms, records, contest entries, etc.

Those RSVP dates and deadlines are listed for a reason. Perhaps we are providing supplies or food and need time to prepare. Or, more likely, we want to make things fair for everyone, or we are, in turn, meeting a state deadline and need you to meet your deadline.

I encourage club leaders to adhere to these RSVP dates and deadlines and to remind your club members to do so also. It's good to get youth in the practice of being "on time".

These deadlines will be strongly enforced at the county level.

Livestock Committee Meeting

Saline County 4-H Livestock Committee will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office. All Livestock Committee members (newly appointed members from each club) and others are invited to attend.



Agenda items will include electing officers and choosing superintendents, discussing the new 840 tag requirements, setting dates for the Weigh-Ins for the Rate of Gain Contest and reviewing the livestock rules and the Livestock pages for the 2025 4-H Handbook.



Federation Meeting



The Saline County 4-H Federation will hold a business meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Extension Office. We would love to have representatives from each club in attendance as we plan for the 4-H Rally, National/International Night, Public Presentations, workshops and other county events.

We are having a Soup and Sandwich Potluck supper. Call the office by Friday, January 10, 2025 to let us know what you plan to bring.



Management Committee Meeting

Saline County 4-H Management Committee will hold its first meeting of the year on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office. All Management Committee members and Federation officers are encouraged to attend. All Saline County 4-H members and volunteers are invited to attend as well. In addition to electing officers, we will be discussing any changes that need to be made to the 4-H Handbook for this year, as well as looking ahead to the 2025 Saline County 4-H Shows and events and discussing 4-H records. See you there!



Federation Report

If you were wondering what goes on at the Federation Meetings, here is a little look into our meeting.

We met before the Fall Party on November 2nd. We started the meeting with the pledges, followed by the treasurer's report and the secretary's report.

After a brief discussion of old business, we moved on to new business.

We will be putting a float in the Holiday Lights Parade in Harrisburg on December 12 again this year. We set the date to work on decorating the float as December 10, beginning at 4 pm. We will have pizza and maybe a few Christmas games too. We also voted to donate \$200 to the 4C's Homeless Shelter and to purchase candy for the Holiday Lights Parade.

After we adjourned the meeting we had a great time at the Fall Party, socializing with other 4-Hers, enjoying hotdogs and smores cooked over the fire and competing in a fun scavenger hunt.



Caroline Tanner, Federation Reporter



ATTENTION 4-H ARTISTS - 4-H HANDBOOK COVER CONTEST

4-H members of all ages...It's time for the **2025 4-H Handbook Cover Contest**.

Entries are due to the Extension office by **Friday, January 31, 2025**.

The entry rules for the contest are:

1. Submit original design on white paper (8 1/2 X 11 in).
2. Leave 1-inch margins on all sides.
3. Please use black ink. (Pencil will not copy well)
4. Use the words "Saline County 4-H" and the year "2025" somewhere on your design.
5. Put your name, your age, and your 4-H Club on the front of your entry.
6. Entry should reflect 4-H in Saline County.
7. If you want to use a clover in your design, we request that you use the official 4-H emblem. Contact the Extension office and we will print out a 4-H Clover for your use.
8. One entry per 4-H member may be submitted.
9. Entries must be received by 4 pm on Friday, January 31, 2025.



Remember, there is a monetary prize at Achievement Night for the winner.

GOOD LUCK!



Cabin Fever Day in Hamilton County



By mid-January...you might be tired of the cold and ready for some fun.

Consider attending Cabin Fever Day at the Hamilton County Extension office on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday - January 20, 2025.

This free event will be held from 9 am - Noon and is open to all 4-H youth in Unit 24.

Junior High and older youth will make tie blankets that will serve as a community service for veterans.

Grade school youth will work on crafts and make Valentines for Veterans as their community service.



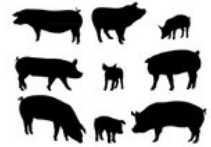
Lunch will be provided.

Call the Hamilton County Extension office (618-643-3416)
if you want to attend this fun day!

The office is located at:
100 S. Jackson Street, McLeansboro, IL



New Livestock Requirement for Beef and Swine Exhibitors



We wanted to give you a heads up and plenty of time to take advantage of this new requirement for Beef and Swine Exhibitors.

Beginning in 2025, individual identification of each Beef and Swine animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). The tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.

Producers can order tags directly, including through the free tag program with the Department of Ag, or utilize your veterinarian. This link will give you information on ordering tags: [Animal Disease Traceability \(illinois.gov\)](#).

This second link is 2024 County Fair Health Requirements. When you open it, changes for 2025 are in red. <https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/fair-exhibition-requirements.html>

If you are raising animals on your own farm, you have to have a premise ID to order 840 tags.

These steps will need to be taken before the 2025 weigh-ins (Likely Weigh-In dates are Beef on Feb. 1 and Swine on April 5). If you purchase your livestock from someone else you will need to make sure they have registered 840 tags and are already tagged or you will need to tag the animal with your tag before the weigh-in.

This is a MANDATORY requirement by the state. Please take care of ordering and tagging your animals, so there is no chance of not being able to exhibit at the 2025 Saline County 4-H livestock shows.



2025 Junior Livestock Conference - Wild, Wild West Jan. 25-26, 2025 - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield



Come join the State 4-H Livestock Ambassador Team and get hands-on experience at this year's Junior Livestock Conference! This year's theme is the Wild, Wild West and provides activities built around the science and disciplines of livestock production and exhibition.

You don't have to own livestock to attend the conference and join in the fun!

The Crowne Plaza Springfield is located at 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL.

This conference is only offered every other year and is open to any 4-H member in 7th, 8th, or 9th grades. Youth must be enrolled in ZSuite prior to registration.

Cost for this conference is \$170. This fee covers lodging, a conference t-shirt, meals, conference supplies and all activities.

The deadline to register is January 2, 2025. But don't delay if you want to attend. The conference is limited to the first 100 youth who register. This conference usually reaches capacity before the registration deadline. A waitlist will be activated once capacity is reached.

Participants may visit [Jr. Livestock Conference website](#) to register.
Short URL: go.illinois.edu/20254HLivestockConference

All required forms will be included in the online registration.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

S T C H R I S T M A S M
I R P T Y H O L I D A Y
M E R R Y O T O Y S N F
I E U R P R E S E N T S
C A N D Y C A N E S A C
W O N O R N A M E N T S
G I N G E R B R E A D R
H E R E I N D E E R R U
S J K V R I B B O N O Z
S N O W F L A K E S W E

Christmas
Santa
Holiday
Tree
Ornaments

Presents
Snowflakes
Gingerbread
Merry
Candycane

Reindeer
Toys
Ribbon



4-H CALENDAR



December 2024

- 1-15 - Gingerbread House Contest...Winners announced on 12/16.
- 6 - RSVP for Federation Christmas Pizza Party and the Harrisburg Christmas Lights Parade
- 10 - Decorate Parade Float - Pizza and Games, 4 pm, Livestock Building. Cards for CM Nursing Home due.
- 12 - 4-H Float in Harrisburg Lights Parade, 5:30 in front of East Side School
- 14 - Virtual Ornament Workshop, 10:00 am
- 16 - 4-H Club Forms due in to the Extension office.
- 25 - Merry Christmas! Extension office closed Dec. 24 - Jan 1.



January 2025

- 1 - Happy New Year!
- 2 - Extension Office re-opens after Christmas Break
- 9 - Livestock Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Extension office
- 13 - 4-H Federation Meeting, 5:30 pm, Extension office
- 13 - Management Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Extension office
- 20 - Extension office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 20 - Cabin Fever Day, 9am-Noon, Hamilton County Extension office
- 25-26 - Junior Livestock Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield
- 31 - Handbook Cover Entries Due by 4:00 pm

Happy
New Year!



February 2025

- 1 - Steer Weigh-in, 1pm, Fairgrounds



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