



Hamilton County Clover News

Cabin Fever Day Planned

Tired of the cold and dreary weather? Mark your calendar for a fun day of learning and crafting! Monday, January 20 4-H will partner with HCE to host Cabin Fever Day.



Youth and adults will make several different items including bracelets, Valentines for Veterans and Lap Robes for the Honor Flight.

All youth in junior high and older will be making throws or leading crafts for younger youth. If you would like some leadership contact the office and plan on serving as a project leader at this event.

Any and all adults are welcome to help make throws. We are also accepting donations of cotton, red, white and blue or patriotic fabric, and quilt batting for lining. You do not have to know how to sew to participate. Lunch will be provided! Call 643-3416 by January 17 to sign up! This will count as a Unit 24 4-H activity!

Federation Meeting Scheduled

The next Federation meeting will be held Monday, January 6 3:30. This meeting will be to finalize plans for Cabin Fever day. Please plan to join us!

Food Advocacy Grant Winners

Thank you to all the amazing 4-H youth leaders and clubs who submitted an application for the 2024 Food Advocacy Grant program. We saw a total of 26 projects submitted from every part of the state, and we were able to select 14! It's an inspiration to see so many of you dedicating your time and talent to fighting food insecurity where you live. Keep up the great work! We're proud of you. Look for an announcement about the next Food Advocacy Grant opportunity in the Spring of 2025.

Congratulations to:

Hamilton County
Foxes Free Boutique and Pantry
Funny Farmers 4-H Club
Way to go Shiloh!



December 2024

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JOIN THE TEAM. CHANGE THE WORLD.



Fall Festival Parade

Thank you for all that walked in the Fall Festival Parade. You all did such a great job. You were very respectful of our veterans and their uniforms. Everyone that worked on the float or rode or walked with us deserves congratulations. We place 3rd! Special thanks for Gracie Walker and her parents for all their work on building the float and pulling it.



Farm Credit Illinois Offers Scholarships

Once again Farm Credit Illinois will offer \$2,500 scholarships for high school seniors planning to study agriculture in college. Apply at www.farmcreditil.com/scholarship. Submission deadline is Monday, February 28, 2025.

International Night success

International Night was held Tuesday, September 17 in the courthouse basement. 4-H members did a great job of presenting their countries. Funny Farmers presented Ireland, Barbwire Gang presented Madagascar and Piopolis Busy Bees did Honduras. The booths were open to the public at 5:30 and all enjoyed the displays and food. Thank you to Rhonda Millenbine and Susan Johnson for serving as judges. Congratulations to Barbwire Gang for winning the Traveling Trophy for best display. Thank you to those who stayed for the HCE portion of the meeting as we learned about Malaysia and enjoyed dinner and a speaker. Thanks to Janel Kassing for teaching us about this country.



4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Certification Trainings

Interested adults don't have to be expert marksmen to become involved in the program and have fun, meet new people, and encourage the next generation of youth!

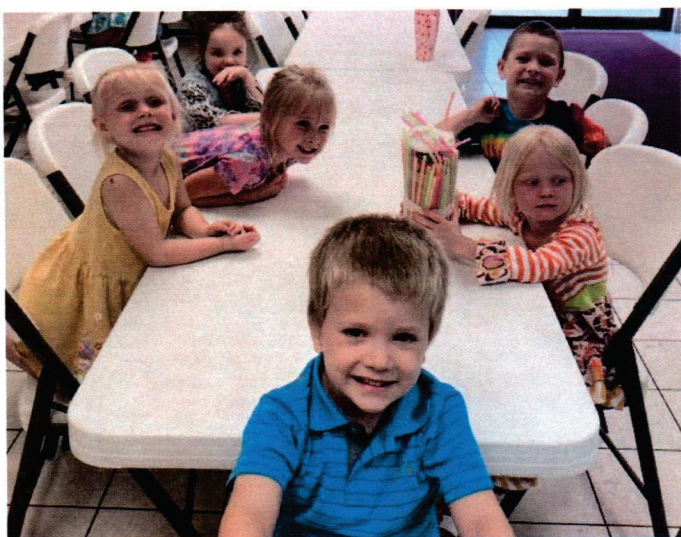
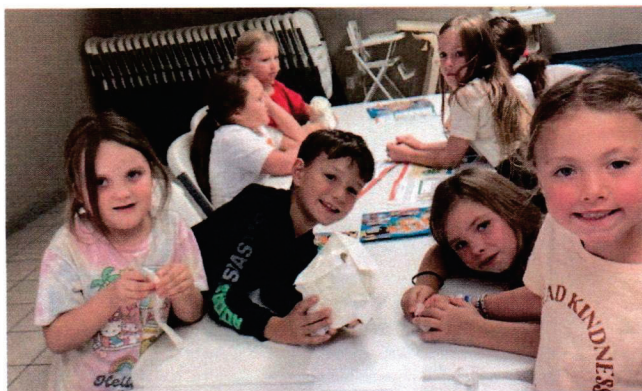
All sessions are 9am-5pm. 2025 dates include:

- March 15 in Kane County (northern Illinois)
- May 10 in Piatt County (central Illinois)
- July 19 in Franklin County (southern Illinois)

Contact your local Extension Office for more info or to get registered. Registration for each session will close one week prior so we can plan accordingly. Disciplines offered will be Archery, Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, and Coordinator. We hope to see you there!

Hamilton County Welcomes New Club

On Tuesday, September 10 Lindsay Adams and Paula Hatfield visited Mercy Heights School to enroll their entire student body of age eligible youth into the 4-H program. The group learned about 4-H and what to expect in the coming months. They learned about STEM and each group worked to build a device to protect a raw egg. They all did a great job and had tons of fun. They demonstrated creative thinking, team building, cutting and taping skills. In October they learned all about birds, November we learned about taste buds and December we learned about hand washing and making cookies.



We plan to visit their school once a month to conduct learning opportunities and welcome them into Hamilton County 4-H.

Illini Summer Academies Design Team

The Illini Summer Academies (ISA) Design Team is an opportunity for young leaders to build their communication, teamwork, and event-planning skills in a supportive and collaborative environment. Team members will play a direct role in planning and implementing the 2025 ISA which will be held on campus at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from June 22-26.

Applicants are eligible for consideration if they are a high-school student in Illinois and have provided the name and contact information of a reference that can speak to their leadership and communication skills. Follow-up interviews will take place in early January 2025. Only five leadership positions are available. Selected applicants will be able to register for ISA '25 free of charge where they will have some additional responsibilities alongside their role as a student attendee.

Requirements:

Applicants must be available for a 1.5-hour planning meeting monthly from Jan. - June 2025 as well as complete assigned tasks independently or in small groups.

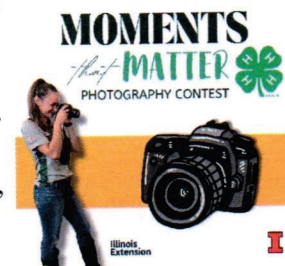
Applicants must be able to be present at the entire 2025 ISA event.

Deadline for Applications: Sunday, December 22

For more information about Illini Summer Academies, please visit our event webpage.

Photography Contest

Illinois 4-H is excited to offer a virtual photo contest to youth 8-19 years of age. In the "Moments That Matter" 4-H photo contest, youth are encouraged to capture the moments in life that hold deep meaning, joy, and significance.



Through this theme, we encourage participants to look beyond the surface and photograph experiences, people, and places that resonate on a personal level. Submit one (1) to two (2) images with no or minimal editing, along with one-two sentences on why this moment matters to you by 11:59 (CST) on February 3rd, 2025.

Find more information and participate at go.illinois.edu/momentsthatmatter.

4-H'ers Honored at Achievement Night

The annual Achievement Night program was held Monday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hamilton County Courthouse basement.

4-H leaders were recognized with the following years of service.

Barbwire Gang

Dianna Hatfield 12 yrs.

Sydney Meagher 5 yrs.

Elaine Miller 3 yrs.



Funny Farmers

Audera Willis 7 yrs.

Pioneer Country Kids & Clovers

Michele Lueke 20 yrs.

Piopolis Busy Bees

Jewell Wilson 47 yrs.

Deanna Erwin 33 yrs.

Ethan Erwin 7 yrs.

Hamilton Co 4-H Federation

Audera Willis 5 yrs.

At-Large

Leslie Davis 2 yrs.

These **Teen Teachers** were recognized.

Emilee Cox Hayden Davis

Katie Lakin Gracie Walker

Shiloh Willis

Cloverbuds

Fin Barrow

Gus Barrow

Bristol Bernard

Warren Bishop

Aden Brown

Jonathan Brown

Raylee Camden

Paisley Durbin

Alexavier Halley

Kodie Mefford

Nivenah Mendoza

Jackson Miller

Harper Reyling

Wrigley Robinson

AJ Schumacher

Nolan Summerville

Wyatt Webb

Ainsley Willis



1st Year Members

Elizabeth Halley

Isabella Halley

Levi Harris

Lyla Mefford

Brynnleigh Mendoza

Zahara Mendoza

Nomie Rawls

Harper Schumacher

Rylanne Wilson

Outstanding First Year 4-H members.

Lyla Mefford

Brynnleigh Mendoza

Zahara Mendoza

Harper Schumacher

Rylanne Wilson



Experience Awards

Bronze

Brynnleigh Mendoza

Zahara Mendoza

Silver

Benji Bernard

Addy Brown

Shaina Brown

Brooklin Durbin

Lyla Mefford

Luke Schilling

Faith Showalter

Johnathon Showalter

Bella Smith

Brinkley Sutton

Sky Tolbert

Layna Wilson

Rylanne Wilson

Gold

Blu Barrow

Brody Bilderbeck

Leah Bowling

Brantley Carlton

Delaney Carlton

Emilee Cox

Hayden Davis

Lainey Davis

Aydan Hood

Corbyn Hood

Emma Hood

Natalie Lemke

Cecelia Lueke

Harper Schumacher

Serenity Smith

Gracie Walker

Shiloh Willis

Granger Wilson



Emerald Experience Award Nominees

Emilee Cox-Leadership, Gracie Walker

Project Learning – Blu Barrow, Brody Bilderbeck, Hayden Davis, Lainey Davis, Emma Hood, Aydan Hood, Harper Schumacher, Shiloh Willis, Granger Wilson

Excell Awards

Communications – Blu Barrow

Community Service – Katie Lakin

Leadership – Shiloh Willis

Personal Growth – Lainey Davis

Project Mastery – Gracie Walker

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Junior High School Member Award and \$25.00 is **Emma Hood**.

This year's recipient of the Outstanding High School Member Award and \$25.00 is **Brody Bilderbeck**.

Victory Awards Winners

8-9 Year Olds

Barbwire Gang

Harper Schumacher Granger Wilson

Funny Farmers

Bella Smith

Pioneer Country Kids

Finn Bowling

Piopolis Busy Bees

Faith Showalter

10-11 Year Olds

Barbwire Gang

Blu Barrow Benji Bernard

Funny Farmers

Lainey Davis

Piopolis Busy Bees

Sky Tolbert Johnathon Showalter

12-14 Year Olds

Barbwire Gang

Gracie Walker Brody Bilderbeck

Funny Farmers

Hayden Davis

Pioneer Country Kids

Cecelia Lueke

15-18 Year Olds

Barbwire Gang

Emilee Cox Aydan Hood

Funny Farmers

Shiloh Willis

Pioneer Country Kids

Gavin Douglass

Piopolis Busy Bees

Laynna Wilson

Overall Victory Award Winners

8-9 Year Olds

Harper Schumacher Granger Wilson

10-11 Year Olds

Lainey Davis Benji Bernard

12-14 Year Olds

Hayden Davis Brody Bilderbeck

15-19 Year Olds

Shiloh Willis Aydan Hood



State Fair Recognition

Receiving Participation:

Hayden Davis, Nomie Rawls, Johnathon Showalter

Receiving Grand Champion

Emilee Cox, Emma Hood

Receiving Inspire Award

Lainey Davis, Aydan Hood, Corbyn Hood, Gracie Walker, Shiloh Willis, Granger Wilson

Scholarship Winners

Illini Summer Academies \$50

Shiloh Willis

Youth Leadership Conference \$50

Gracie Walker

2024-2025 Livestock Conference \$50

Brody Bilderbeck and Gracie Walker.

Citizenship Washington Focus Shiloh Willis

Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser

1st place / \$25.00 – Blu, Fin, and Gus Barrow (72)

2nd place / \$15.00 – Emilee Cox (32)

3rd Place / \$10.00 – (Tie) Raylee Camden and Brinkley Sutton (15 each)

2024 Mum Sale

1st place / \$25.00 – Raylee Camden (52)

2nd place / \$15.00 – Jackson Miller (38)

3rd Place / \$10.00 – Natalie Lemke (35)

Trophy Winners

Beef	Granger Wilson
Clothing & Textiles Showalter	Johnathon
Collectibles	Emilee Cox*
Electricity	Gracie Walker
Goats	Brody Bilderbeck
Horticulture	Granger Wilson
Intercultural	Granger Wilson
Interior Design	Gracie Walker
Natural Resources	Granger Wilson
Photography	Emilee Cox*
Plants & Soils	Emilee Cox*
Poultry	Gracie Walker
Rabbit	Delaney Carlton
Robotics	Aydan Hood
Sheep	Brody Bilderbeck
Small Engines	Emilee Cox*
Small Pets	Shiloh Willis
Swine	Brody Bilderbeck
Tractor	Delaney Carlton
Video	Emma Hood
Visual Arts	Shiloh Willis

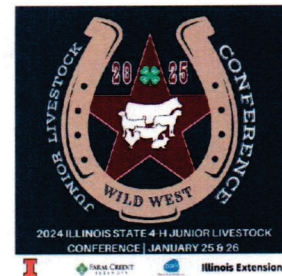
Junior Livestock Conference Planned

Join the State 4-H Livestock Ambassador Team at the 2025 Junior Livestock Conference, where this year's theme of the Wild, Wild West meets hands-on learning!

Whether you own livestock or not, there's plenty of fun and discovery waiting for you.

- Dates: January 25-26, 2025
- Location: Crowne Plaza, Springfield
- Who can attend: 7th-9th grade 4-H members
- Cost: \$170 (includes lodging, t-shirt, meals, and activities!) Illinois 4-H
- Register by: January 2, 2025

Space is limited to 100 participants, and this event fills fast—don't wait to lasso your spot!



Join the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team!

Are you a teen aged 16-19 who thrives in a leadership role? Do you want to make a real impact on your fellow 4-H members?

The Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team is searching for passionate and dedicated teens to join our team! This program offers an incredible opportunity to develop your leadership skills while giving back to the 4-H community.

Here's what you'll do:

- * Plan and implement the state Jr. Leadership Conference
- * Develop and deliver the Speaking for Illinois 4-H
- * Provide essential support for many exciting statewide 4-H events,
- * Gain valuable experience by serving on planning committees and advisory groups, including the Illinois 4-H Alumni Board and the Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee.

Become an ambassador for the Illinois 4-H program, inspiring others and leaving a lasting legacy.

Ready to take your leadership skills to the next level? Apply today!

Application deadline: December 31, 2024

Apply online: go.illinois.edu/4hylt

Don't miss this chance to make a difference!

Summer Youth Camp at 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello

Summer Youth Camp dates for 2025 at 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello, IL are set! Early Registration for 4-H Members will be January 13-26. General Registration opens February 3rd. Camp dates and additional information is available on our website or check the events list at the bottom of this email for dates.

2025 4-H Reel Adventure Family Fish Camp

Mark your calendars! Family Fish Camp at 4-H Memorial Camp will be May 2-4, 2025. Information about the program and registration will be available on our website.

Camp Corral- Summer Camp for Children of Military Families

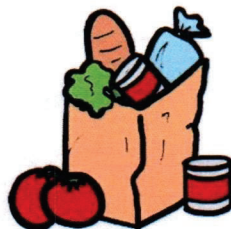
4-H Memorial Camp is once again partnering up with Camp Corral to host a 6 day/5 night summer youth camp for children ages 8-15 who have a parent or legal guardian that served in the military. Dates for 2025 are July 6-11. This program is free for participants. For more information, please visit our website.

Camp Counselors and Program Staff needed!

Do you want an awesome summer job that allows you to live away from home, work with your peers, and teaches some great life skills? Employment with us is all of that and more! We are looking for counselors (16+ years old by the beginning of employment) and program staff (18+ years old by beginning of employment) to help provide amazing camp experiences for our youth campers. We begin accepting applications December 2nd. Dates of employment, job descriptions, application link and other information will be available on our website.

Blessing Box Needs Restocked

The Blessing Box at the GIFT Garden has been used a lot lately and is very low right now. If you would like to donate any non-perishable food items or hygiene items that would be greatly appreciated. If you donate just let me or Kathy know so we can get it recorded. This would be a great time to get some county wide community service to list on your records.



Attention Beef and Swine Exhibitors

We wanted to give you a heads up and plenty of time to prepare for this new requirement for cattle and swine. Beginning in 2025, individual identification of each 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, or utilize their veterinarians. The

Department has tried to provide producers with ample time to prepare by pushing the notice out more than a year in advance and

offering the free tag program, for which we have partnered with organizations to have on site distribution events. Here is a link to

the information on ordering tags through the department of both producers and veterinarians: Animal Disease Traceability ([illinois.gov](https://agr.illinois.gov)).

<https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/fair-exhibition-requirements.html> The second link is 2024 County Fair Health Requirements. If you open it, changes for 2025 are in red. The big thing is cattle and swine must have 840 tags. If you are producing your own on your farm, to get 840 tags, you have to get premise id. Calves under 6 months do not require a CVI. Depending on your 4-H show date, early January calves could be required on the CVI.

So in short, if you raise and produce your own stock then you will need to get a premise id and order 840 tags for your cattle and swine herd. This will need to be done before the 2025 shows.

3). If you purchase your livestock from someone else you will need to make sure they have registered 840 tags already tagged or you will need to do this with yours before weigh in. This is MANDATORY by the state so if not done then you will not be allowed to show at the 2025 Hamilton County 4-H Livestock Show or the Hamilton County Fair or any other show throughout the state!



Upcoming Dates

December 20-January 5	Office Closed for Holidays
January 6	Federation Meeting 3:30 p.m.
January 14	4-H Meeting at Mercy Heights 12:30 –2:00 p.m.
January 14	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.
January 20	Cabin Fever Day 9:00 a.m.
February 11	4-H Meeting at Mercy heights 12:30-2:00 p.m.
February 11	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.
March 11	4-H Meeting at Mercy heights 12:30-2:00 p.m.
March 11	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.
April 8	4-H Meeting at Mercy Heights 12:30– 2:00 p.m.
April 8	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.
May 13	4-H Meeting at Mercy Heights 12:30-2:00 p.m.
May 13	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.

4-H is Online 24/7

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global>



Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce 1st Place Float and \$100! Thanks for all your help!



Reminder! This year we will again be enforcing the 6 meetings rule. You must attend at least 6 club meetings or 3 club meetings and 3 other county activities in order to be able to show and sell at the auction. We will be collecting secretary books on June 1 to make sure everyone has met their quota! Don't wait until this summer it will be too late!

Youth Sponsors: Consolidated Grain and Barge, Wabash Valley Service Company, Dahlgren Building Center, Farm Credit Services, Honeysuckle Vine Events, McNeil Consulting, David & Susan Johnson, Town & Country Veterinary Clinic, Twilight HCE Unit, Dahlgren HCE Unit, Happy Neighbors HCE Unit, Hamilton County Home & Community Education, Wuebbels Repair, LLC, Trudee Wynn Country Financial, Larry Pauketat, Lisa Cross Financial Advisor, Food Park, Wilson's Computers, Corteva, York Pharmacy, Dick and Lucille Auten, Christopher Johnson, Bunge SCF, Hamilton County Rotary, Hamilton Memorial Hospital District, McLeansboro Kiwanis, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Roger Swartz, Banterra Bank and Insurance, Hamilton County Telephone Co-Op, Miller's Welding, Peoples National Bank, Posey County Co-Op, Southern FS, Legend Ag/Stone Seed Group, KA Rich Inc., Hamilton County Telephone Foundation, City of McLeansboro, Katrina Roberson, EA, Monsanto, Hall's Sawmill, Maschhoffs, McLeansboro Elks, Mike Harre/The Big Red Barn, SECLR Farms, SN Partners, Fairfield National Bank, H & R Agri Power, Miller Seed Solutions, Woodrow Farms, Aydt Farms, Waier Farms.