

Saline County 4-H Connection



Monthly News for Saline County 4-H Members

February/March 2025

TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER!

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



What's Inside?

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Insert - Community Service and 840 Tags

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any of these programs, please contact University of Illinois Extension at 618-252-8391. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.



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Lots of important info inside, especially for Livestock Exhibitors.



You MUST Re-enroll to Participate!

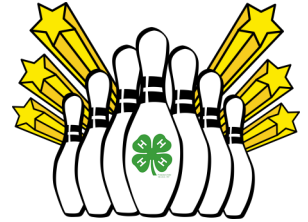


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UNIT 24 COSMIC BOWLING

Calling All 4-H Members and Volunteers...You are invited to a fun evening of COSMIC BOWLING at Ross Cottom Lanes on **Friday Night, February 21, 2025** from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



The cost is only **\$4.50** per game, per person. If you bowl 2 games or more, the shoe rental will be waived.



So...Bowl one game - \$4.50 + \$3.50 shoe rental = \$8.00

Bowl two games - \$4.50 + \$4.50 + \$0 shoe rental = \$9.00

We are joining 4-H members from Hamilton, Hardin, Pope, and White Counties for a fun Unit #24 Bowling night! This will be a great time to meet 4-H members from other counties and renew old friendships.

Don't forget to bring your bowling money and extra money for snacks and drinks.

In order to have enough lanes reserved, you must RSVP by February 14th!

COSMIC BOWLING COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year we are collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House Charities as our Cosmic Bowling Community Service. Then in the Spring or early Summer, we are planning to visit a facility in Evansville as a Unit 4-H group, take a tour, and deliver the items. Please see the flyer insert with a list of items, and donate if you can. As soon as we have secured a date for the tour, I will let you know.

Thanks so much for your generosity!

It's Time for the Saline County 4-H Rally!!!!



Rally Night is scheduled for **Monday, March 3, 2025** from 6 - 8 pm at the **Eldorado Elementary Gym.**



Clubs may begin setting up at 5 pm. We need participation from ALL clubs! Please call the Ext. office by February 18 to let us know your club's game and/or food



This is a fun way to earn money for your club's activities and increase your membership by inviting a friend to the Rally.

All Saline County K - 8th grade youth will receive a Rally Flyer invitation.

Clean-up time is 8-8:30 pm. Clubs are responsible for cleaning up their area following the Rally.

Remember to bring your own tables, chairs, extension cords, etc.

See You There!

Rally Night Community Service



Bring a can of soup of any kind to support the 5th Annual Together We "Can" Southern Illinois Canned Soup Drive. Donations will be taken to Heaven's Kitchen to be distributed all over Southern Illinois.



Cake Walk

Plinko

Laser Tag

Livestock Information



The Saline County 4-H Livestock Committee held a business meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7 pm at the Extension office. Members present elected officers and superintendents.

Livestock Committee officers are:

Chairman - Dan Evans, Vice Chairman - Tim Arnold, and Secretary - Hallee Whitlock.

Livestock Superintendents are:

Beef - Dan Evans ; **Dairy Cattle** - Jane Carlile; **Swine** - Sara Oxford;
Meat Goats and Dairy Goats - Nathan Feazel; **Sheep** - Brianna Johnson & Tim Arnold;
Rabbits - Jodie Vinyard; **Small Pets and Poultry** - Amy Richey

Thank you to our committee members, officers, and superintendents for your willingness to serve.

Weigh in dates (all held at the Saline County Fairgrounds at 1 pm):
Beef - February 1, Swine - April 5, and Lambs and Meat Goats - May 3.

The next 4-H Livestock Committee meeting will be held on **Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7 pm** at the Extension Office. We will be finalizing the livestock pages for the handbook, the July Show schedule and choosing judges for each show.

Future meeting dates: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 8 pm and Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7 pm.

4-H Beef Weigh-In

The Saline County 4-H Beef Weigh-In will be held on Saturday, February 1, at 1 pm at the Fairgrounds.

The required 840 tag must be in the animal's ear before the weigh-in.

Market Beef projects not weighed for Rate of Gain must be tagged with an 840 tag and reported to the Extension office within 10 days after the weigh-in - Tuesday, February 11. 840 Tags numbers for Breeding Beef projects must be reported by May 15.

Important Livestock Tagging Changes

We are no longer using the A and B Tags for Rate of Gain and Non-Rate of Gain. We will use the required 840 tags for Beef and Swine projects and the required Scrapie tags for Goat and Lamb projects.

MARKET ANIMALS - Rate of Gain and Non Rate of Gain

RATE OF GAIN - 840 Tags for Cattle and Swine projects and Scrapie Tags for Goat and Lamb projects must be placed in animal's ear before weigh-in.

NON RATE OF GAIN (all Market Animals) - 840 Tag (Cattle or Swine) or Scrapie Tag (Goats or Lambs) must be placed in the animal's ear and the number turned in to the Extension office within 10 days of weigh-in.

BREEDING ANIMALS - 840 Tag number (Cattle - including Dairy or Swine) or Scrapie Tag number (Goats or Lambs) must be turned in to the Extension Office by May 15.

All Breeding and Market Livestock Projects (Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, and including Dairy Cattle and Rabbits) must be entered on the Livestock Registration Form by May 15th - No Exceptions. (Report Tattoo # for Rabbits)

Yearly YQCA Certification

Attention Beef Cattle, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Goat, and Sheep Exhibitors!

4-H members exhibiting animals entering the food production system will be required to complete the annual **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals** certification (YQCA). **Youth MUST complete this training prior to the Saline County 4-H livestock shows.** This does not apply to youth exhibiting animal or veterinary science poster projects.

Youth may attend an instructor-led class - \$3, or complete the training online - \$12.

An Instructor-Led YQCA training is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th beginning at 11 am at the Saline County Fairgrounds Livestock Building. The Stockmen's Association will provide lunch at noon.

The Swine Weigh-In will follow at 1 pm.

An Instructor-Led training is also planned for May 3rd in White County.

As soon as the classes have been set up in the YQCA program, instructions will be sent to exhibitors. Please be aware, though, that youth must register and pay the fee, take the pre-test, attend the class, take the post-test, and be certified by Extension staff in order to complete the process to exhibit.



Federation News

The Saline County 4-H Federation held a business meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Extension office. Those present enjoyed a potluck soup supper and discussed Cosmic Bowling, the 4-H Rally, and Public Presentations.



Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, at 5:00 pm at the Eldorado Elementary gym right before the 4-H Rally.

Management Committee

Saline County 4-H Management Committee held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office. Members present elected officers, discussed the Livestock Committee and Federation Reports, looked ahead to the 2025 Saline County 4-H Shows and events, discussed Cosmic Bowling, the 4-H Rally, and Public Presentations.

Serving as Saline County 4-H Management Committee Officers this year are:

Chairman: James Bond, Vice-Chairman: Tim Arnold, Secretary: Hannah Wenzel

The next Management Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7 pm.

Future meeting dates are: Monday, June 16 at 8 pm, Monday September 8 at 7 pm, and Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7 pm.




BY SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Mail Call

Area Veterans will be flying out on the Southern Illinois Honor Flight on May 6

Let's shower these Veterans with thanks and well wishes through cards and letters received during their Mail Call on their trip home.

Also, thank you to those who are working on the 100 blankets we are donating once again!

Have your cards & letters to the local Extension office by April 1

Thank You Cards for Veterans

Is your club looking for a Community Service activity? This would be a great way to serve! You can make homemade cards or buy cards and write a nice "Thank You for Your Service" message.

Bring them to the Extension office no later than April 1st. If you would like more information about making Lap Blankets for the Veterans, please contact the office.



Speaking for Illinois 4-H - Become a 4-H Ambassador

Ignite your passion for 4-H and become a powerful advocate! Join the 2025 Illinois 4-H Speaking for Illinois 4-H Training. Develop your confidence and leadership skills while learning to communicate your 4-H story to anyone. Learn from expert speakers, participate in interactive workshops, and get ready to make your voice heard!

The next Speaking for Illinois 4-H training is planned for February 10, 2025 from 7 - 8:30 pm over Zoom. Register now at: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/35557>

To learn more visit the [Speaking for Illinois 4-H Website](#) or contact Illinois 4-H Leadership Specialist, Katie Duitsman at pilcher3@illinois.edu.

Secure your spot and make your mark on 4-H!

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Attention 4-H Public Speakers and Demonstrators...

The Unit 24 Public Presentations Contest is planned for Thursday, March 20, at 6 pm at the White County Extension Office in Carmi.

The contest will include speeches, food demonstrations, other demonstrations and flower arranging.

The State 4-H Public Speaking Contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025 at Parkland Community College in Champaign, IL. Deadline for submissions is April 7.

Members who want to participate **MUST** be enrolled in 4-H with their fee paid and enrolled in their project (Public Presentations, a Foods project, a Floriculture project, etc.) no later than **March 15**. Call the Extension office with details about your Speech or Demonstration by **March 15**. Lois will send out Fair Entry Registration information to participants.

Each County will be awarding their own State Fair and County Champion Ribbons.



Test Your Knowledge at Trivia Night



Hamilton County 4-H will host a **Unit 24 4-H Trivia Night** on **Monday, March 17** beginning at **6:00 p.m.** in the Hamilton County Courthouse basement.

All clubs from any of our Unit 24 counties are invited and can enter as many teams as they like. There is no fee to participate and prizes will be awarded.

Since it is St. Patrick's Day, teams are encouraged to dress in green.

All ages are encouraged to play along. There will be many different topics and categories.

Please contact the office at 618-643-3416 or pjhatfie@illinois.edu by **March 10** with your entries.

A taco bar meal will be provided at 5:30.

Youth are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Blessing Box. This will provide you with a Unit-wide Community Service project for your records.



Dog Obedience Classes Begin April 29, 2025



Dog Obedience, Showmanship, and Agility classes will begin on Tuesday, April 29. Classes will be held at instructor Cheri White's Shop at 613 W. Elm St. in Harrisburg. Classes will continue each Tuesday for 9 weeks, concluding on Tuesday, July 8. (There will be no classes on Tuesday, June 17.)

On April 29, **first year exhibitors** should arrive at **6 pm** for an introduction to the course. **Bring your dog's shot records, but leave your dog at home.** Exhibitors attending classes for their second year or more should arrive at **7 pm** with their dogs and shot records. If you have questions about these classes, please call Cheri White at 618-926-0787.



The **Dog Agility 4-H Show** will be held at **Cheri White's** on **Tuesday, July 15 at 7 pm.** Dog Care, Obedience, and Showmanship - along with Cat Care - will be held on **Thursday, July 17 at 6 pm** at the Fairgrounds.

Have You Re-Enrolled for the 2024-25 4-H Year?

If not, drop everything and do it now! Can't remember how? Call the Extension office and we will send the instructions again. Remember, enrollment in ZSuite, including payment, must be completed before youth may attend any 4-H events or club meetings.

I Join the Club

4-H Horse Bowl & Hippology

DO YOU LOVE HORSES?

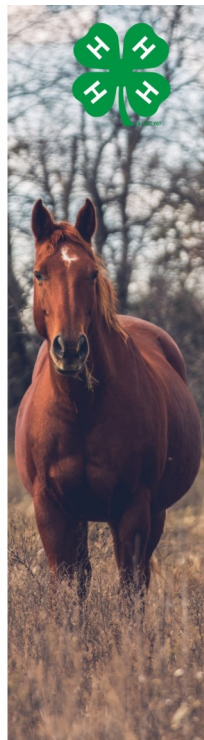
COME JOIN THE FUN AND LEARN ALL ABOUT HORSE BREEDS, COLORS, NUTRITION, HEALTH, ANATOMY, TACK, AND SO MUCH MORE!

OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 8-18
IN HAMILTON, HARDIN, POPE, SALINE & WHITE COUNTIES. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE HORSE TO JOIN!

Meetings start January 16 at 6:00pm in the Saline County Extension Office. With weekly meetings until April. Join us when you can!

If you need more information or want to sign up contact
Raegan Smith.
smithgr1997@gmail.com

Illinois Extension



Horse Bowl/Hippology Events

Are you interested in Horses and want to learn more about them? Classes are underway to prepare for the Regional and State 4-H Horse Bowl & Hippology contests. Classes began on January 16, but there is still time to join in on the fun! Coach Raegan Smith welcomes youth from all Unit 24 counties, and you do not have to own a horse to participate.

Classes will meet weekly at the Saline County Extension office beginning at 6 pm to prepare for the Regional 4-H Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest on April 5, 2025 at SIU-Carbondale and the State 4-H Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest and the Horse Speech Contest scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, 2025 at the U of I Campus.

There is also a Horse Judging Contest to be held on February 2, 2025 at Black Hawk College.

Youth must be enrolled in 4-H to participate in the classes. Call the Extension office to learn more.



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.



CELEBRATING

20
YEARS

ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

in partnership with



Our mission: To empower women in agriculture to be successful through education, networks, and resources.

What is Annie's Project?

This six-week course is a discussion-based workshop bringing women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing and the legal field.

There's plenty of time for questions, sharing, reacting, and connecting with your presenters and fellow participants. It's a relaxed, fun, and dynamic way to learn, grow, and meet other farm women.

Annie's Project meets
Thursdays from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at
Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg IL.
Room G120
**Lite meal or snacks provided at each meeting*

The cost to attend is \$25, which covers the six-session program. If you require financial assistance to participate, please contact Bronwyn Aly at baly@illinois.edu to inquire about scholarship opportunities.

SPRING 2025 SCHEDULE

Course Dates:

February 13 February 20
February 27 March 6
March 13 March 20

Course Topics:

- Understanding risk assessment
- Weathering the storm in agriculture: How to cultivate a productive mindset
- Understanding financial documents
- Business plans
- Spreadsheets for analysis
- Crop insurance
- Resources for farmers
- Production tools
- Diversifying farm operations
- Farmer and grower panel
- Understanding legal documents
- Estate planning
- Farm appraisals
- Other topics of interest
- What have we learned discussion



To register call (618) 695-2441
or online
go.illinois.edu/SICAnniesProject
by February 11



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4-H CALENDAR

February 2025

- 1 - Beef Weigh-in, 1pm, Fairgrounds
- 2 - Groundhog Day - Will he see his shadow?
- 9 - Super Bowl Sunday
- 10 - Speaking for Illinois 4-H Training, 7-8:30 pm, Zoom
- 14 - Happy Valentine's Day!
- 17 - President's Day
- 21 - Cosmic Bowling, 6 - 8 pm, Ross Cottom Lanes. RSVP by February 14.



March 2025

- 3 - 4-H Rally, 6-8 pm, Eldorado Elementary Gym (Short Federation Meeting at 5 pm)
- 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins - Set your clocks forward one hour
- 10 - Livestock Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Extension office
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day - Wear your 4-H Green!
- 17 - Trivia Night in Hamilton County, 6 pm
- 18 - Management Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Extension office
- 20 - Unit 24 Public Speaking Contest, 6 pm, White County Extension office



April 2025

- 5 - Instructor Led YQCA Training, 11 am, Fairgrounds. Stockmen will provide lunch at noon.
- 5 - Swine Weigh-in, 1pm, Fairgrounds
- 20 - Happy Easter Sunday!
- 27 - Experience Award Winners Banquet, 3 pm, Red Barn in McLeansboro
- 29 - First Dog Obedience Classes, 6 pm & 7 pm



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♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥



Hamilton, Hardin, Pope, Saline and White counties



COMMUNITY SERVICE

For a community service project 4-H will be collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House of the Ohio Valley.

The Ronald McDonald House program provides housing to keep families together and provide a warm and loving home away from home. The Ronald McDonald House provides comfort, support and access to resources families during hospital stays.

Items to be collected:

- Toiletries
- First Aid Supplies
- Laundry Supplies
- Disinfecting Spray/wipes
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Rubber Gloves
- Crayons/Colored Pencils (up to 16 count)
- Card Games
- Puzzle books for adults
- Board books for babies and toddlers
- White Queen Size Sheets (300+ thread count)
- White bath and hand towels
- White washcloths and bath mats
- Queen size waterproof mattress pads
- AA and AAA batteries

Due to the medical circumstances of guests, only new and unopened items can be donated.

A field trip to deliver items and tour one of the facilities in Evansville will be planned for Spring.



**Items will be collected
February 1, 2025 - April 1, 2025**

Contact Amy McCarty at the White County Extension office with questions (618) 382-2662



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840 Tags Required for Illinois County Fairs in 2025

STARTING IN 2025

All cattle and swine exhibited at Illinois county fairs will be required to have an electronic 840 tag.

The 840 tag is an approved official animal identification number that allows for the visual and electronic identification of each animal.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), in partnership with USDA, is offering a limited supply of free 840 tags to help producers and veterinarians transition to the new county and state fair requirements in addition the new federal requirements for interstate movement. IDOA also offers a free premises identification number (PIN) that assigns unique numbers to animal agriculture locations. The PIN is used in conjunction with the 840 tag for faster action in the event of an animal health emergency.



TAG AVAILABILITY

EXHIBITION SWINE

IDOA has a limited quantity of electronic 840 tags to be distributed for use in exhibition swine only to facilitate the transition to the use of 840 tags at state and county fairs. Tags are available on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 25 tags per person. Please note that while the tags are provided at no charge, there is a flat shipping rate of \$13 or tags can be picked up in person at the IDOA Block Building in Springfield. When the current supply is exhausted, producers will need to order their own tags or work with their veterinarian.

SCAN FOR SWINE TAG ORDER FORM



CATTLE & BISON

A limited supply of electronic 840 tags are also available for producers and veterinarians for use in replacement cattle and bison. Please note that while the tags are provided at no charge, there is a flat shipping rate of \$30 for orders (minimum order of 100 tags, up to 500).

SCAN FOR CATTLE & BISON TAG ORDER FORM



ORDERING 840 TAGS

To order Exhibition Swine tags or Cattle and Bison tags, scan the codes provided.

Complete the appropriate form and return via email to agr.premises@illinois.gov or fax to 217-558-6033.

Pick-up is available during regular office hours (Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm, excluding state and federal holidays) or a shipping rate of \$13 will be charged.

COUNTY FAIR TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring their animals have the necessary 840 tags and veterinary inspections before arriving at the fair. Animals without an 840 tag may be removed from the fairgrounds.

To order 840 Tags for Cattle or Swine projects, please scan the appropriate QR code to bring up the order form. Fill out the form and return it via email to: agr.premises@illinois.gov or fax it to: 217-558-6033.

There are a limited number of tags available at no charge. However, there is a flat charge to ship the tags.



New 840 Tag Requirement for 2025

Starting this year, all Cattle (including Dairy) and Swine exhibited at Illinois County Fairs will be required to have an electronic 840 tag.

Animals must be tagged before coming to any weigh-in, weigh-out or livestock show. Families are required to have a Premise ID and to order tags. The tag numbers will be tied to your family farm location.

This information was included in the December 2024/January 2025 4-H Newsletter.

Don't delay and risk the chance of not being able to exhibit at the 2025 Saline County 4-H Shows!