



## Hamilton County Clover News

### Experience Award Ceremony Planned



Congratulations to our Experience Award Winners! Hamilton County had a complete sweep with all 11 of our applicants winning Experience Awards. These include:

Blu Barrow

Brody Bilderbeck

Emilee Cox

Hayden and Lainey Davis

Aydan and Emma Hood

Harper Schumacher

Gracie Walker

Shiloh Willis

Granger Wilson

Unit 24 reception in your honor will be held at the Big Red Barn at 4:00 p.m. on April 27. You can invite your family, parents and grandparents. Just call the office to give us a number so we can have enough food and seats!

### Livestock Exhibit Dates Set

Mark your calendars for the 4-H Livestock exhibit dates. It will be earlier this year than it has been for the last several years. This year our exhibits will take place the same week as the Hamilton County Fair and youth may qualify to exhibit in the junior or open shows while at the fairgrounds.

4-H show dates will be Thursday, June 5 and Friday, June 6.

#### June 5

Poultry and Rabbit show-9:00 a.m.

Small Pets, Dog, Cat Show-1:00 p.m.

Weigh-In-4:00-6:00 p.m.

Farm Follies-TBD

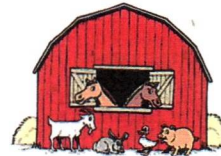
#### June 6

Livestock Show-7:00 a.m.

Hospitality Tent-1:00 p.m.

Awards Presentation-1:30 p.m.

4-H Livestock Auction 2:00 p.m.



### April 2025

#### U of I Extension

*Paula Hatfield*  
Extension  
Program  
Coordinator

*Kathy Oglesby*  
Office Support  
Assistant

*Lindsay Adams*  
Unit Educator  
Youth  
Development

*Angela Messmer*  
County Director

*Hamilton County*  
100 S. Jackson St.  
McLeansboro, IL  
618-643-3416  
Fax: 618-643-3206

### Federation Meeting Scheduled

The next Federation meeting will be held Monday, April 7 at 4 p.m. We will need to vote on the agreement and make plans for the food stand. Please plan to join us!



## JOIN THE TEAM. CHANGE THE WORLD.





## Farm Credit Community Improvement Grants

Congratulations to our 4-H clubs on receiving the 2025 Farm Credit Grants.

Barbwire Gang	Paint Bleachers at fairgrounds
Funny Farmers	Veterans Blankets
Federation	Food stand improvements
Gift Garden	Fill boxes and repair sign
Pioneer Country Kids	Concrete bays at fairgrounds
Piopolis Busy Bees	Flags for public buildings

All of these activities have been registered as National Day of Service activities so if you participate in any of these you can count it as such on your Experience Awards.

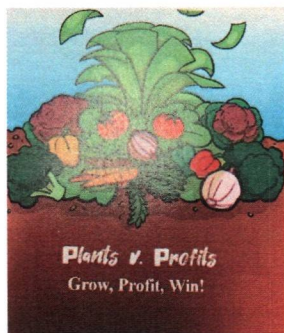
Congratulations and thank you to Farm Credit for offering these grants!



## Plants V Profits Workshop Planned

If you are 10 years of age or older you are invited to attend this upcoming workshop on April 8 at 4:00 p.m. in the courthouse basement. Members will be divided into teams and play the game 'Plants V Profits Grow, Profit, Win!' This game is designed to meet the following educational goals:

- Cover crops are and how they benefit soil health
- Some factors that affect soil health
- That soil health affects future crop growth
- That soil health is most visible in the long term



This game does not require any previous knowledge about soil health, cash crops, or cover crops. Players will learn about each of these ideas while playing, especially if they find the path to success on their own.

Contact the office by April 7 if you plan to attend so we can have supplies ready.

## Unit 24 4-H Trivia Great Success

Once again this year, the Barbwire Gang 4-H Club hosted a unit wide trivia contest in the Hamilton County courthouse on Monday, March 17. Taco Bar food was delicious.

Play began at 5:30 with 7 teams participating.



1st Place Team: Benji Bernard, Granger Wilson, Bristol Bernard, and Gracie Walker

2nd Place team: Elizabeth Halley, Cecelia Lueke, Emma Hood, and Leah Bowling



3rd place Team: Izzy Halley, Reese Wilkerson, Brody Bilderbeck, and Aydan Hood.

Congratulations to everyone that participated—you all did great!





## Farm Bureau Grant

### Recipients

Congratulations to the Hamilton County 4-H members who received the Hamilton County Farm Bureau Project Grants.



Blu Barrow	Fin Barrow
Warren Bishop	Aydan Hood
Emma Hood	Natalie Lemke
Lyla Mefford	Kodie Mefford
Granger Wilson	

Thank you to Hamilton County Farm Bureau for your continued support of 4-H!

## 4-H Archery Team Forming Now

If you are a 4-H member between the ages of 8 and 18 and love the outdoors, archery might be right for you. We are at the very early stages of selecting members.



This will include bulls eye and 3D shooting. If you have a non-4-H friend, ask them to join 4-H and we can get them signed up!

If you would be interested, contact Dianna Hatfield at 618-838-3071.

## Farmers Share Breakfast

Thank you to everyone that got up early to help with the Farmers Share Breakfast at the Union Hall. We planned to serve 200 but ended up serving over 275 meals. You all did a great job!

This was a great opportunity for 4-H and the Farm Bureau to work together to show appreciation for our farmers.



## Cloverbud / Craft Club to Meet

All 4-H Cloverbuds and youth up to 10 years of age are invited to craft club to meet every second and fourth Thursday,. Upcoming dates include March 27, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22. Classes will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the courthouse basement. Snacks will be provided and a simple craft will be taught each meeting. There is no cost to attend. Non 4-H members can attend one meeting but if they want to attend more they will need to join 4-H.

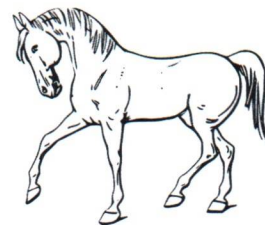


We still have room for more kiddos if you want to sign up!

Thank you to Rikki Wilkerson for becoming the leader of this club!

## Unit 24 Horse Show Scheduled

The Unit 24 Horse Show is scheduled for Monday, June 30, 2025 beginning at 5:00 p.m. It will be held at J BAR S indoor arena



at Norris City. If you plan to exhibit your horse or pony, please contact the office so arrangements can be made.

## Garden and Cooking Classes to Begin

Plans are underway for another summer of gardening and cooking fun. Classes will begin May 29 with cooking in the courthouse basement. The following Tuesday the first gardening class will be held at the GIFT garden. We plan to meet every Tuesday at the GIFT garden and Thursday in the courthouse basement. Classes will end with exhibit day scheduled for July 31 in the courthouse basement. Youth ages 5-12 can attend classes and youth over 12 will be helpers. This is a great opportunity for Teen Teachers to gain leadership skills.





## Livestock Clinic, Skill a thon and YQCA Training

Are you interested in livestock, meeting new people who share your interests and increasing your livestock knowledge?

Mark your calendars for a day of fun and learning on Friday, April 18 at the Hamilton County fairgrounds. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the clinic starts at 9:30.

4-H members will compete in the Livestock skill a thon with feed ingredient identification, breed identification, equipment identification, and YQCA training.

A \$5.00 fee will register each member in all classes except the YQCA training that you MUST preregister for online.

Prizes will be awarded in several categories in both junior and senior divisions. Lunch will be provided. Please contact the Hamilton County Extension office at 643-3416 or by email to [pjhatfie@illinois.edu](mailto:pjhatfie@illinois.edu) with any suggestions or to register.

Throughout the day members will complete the face to face YQCA training. The cost will be \$3.00 and you must be preregistered.

Those who do not complete the training will be removed from the animal science project and will not be eligible to exhibit at county fairs.

Other options for YQCA Training :

April 5 YQCA Training at Saline County 11:00 a.m.

May 10 Livestock Showmanship and YQCA training Carmi 9:00 a.m.



## 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 there are several in the office .

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 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 a premise ID. Calves under 6 months do not require a CVI. So in short, if you raise and produce your own stock, you will need to get a premise ID and 840 tags for your cattle and swine herd. This will need to be done before the 2025 shows.

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, 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!

Make sure to check your Hamilton County 4-H Show book for all animal health requirements.





## Unit 24 Public Presentation Contest

The Unit 24 Public Presentation Contest was held on March 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the White County U of I Extension Office



There were 14 presentations from our unit with three of those from Hamilton County.

### Illustrated Speech

Blu Barrow—"Catholic Saints"

Lainey Davis—"Ringtail Lemurs: An Endangered Species"

### Formal Speech

Shiloh Willis—"Public Speaking is the Worst"

All three received blue ribbons and were selected to advance to state Public Speaking. Congratulations!

## State Fishing Tournament

The 4-H Hooks-Us-Together Statewide Fishing Tournament has been retooled for 2025. It is open to all youth from May 1-July 31 and includes all species. Any entry is eligible to receive prizes through random drawings, but of course the longest large-mouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and channel catfish will receive special prizes and bring great fame to the lucky angler.



## Discover Your Potential at Illini Summer Academies

This is a life-changing personal development experience hosted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for high school students to explore their potential and broaden their horizons.

This immersive experience combines hands-on activities, expert-led workshops, and engaging discussions to inspire curiosity and build practical skills. Whether you're passionate about science, technology, the arts, or social sciences, Illini Summer Academies connects you with like-minded peers and top university resources.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights, develop your talents, and take a step toward your future—all while experiencing life on a world-class university campus!

<https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/33682>

## 4-H Camp

### Sign Up Today!

Adventure awaits you at every turn at 4-H Memorial Camp. Every day is packed with activities that will challenge you to try new and exciting things. Best of all, you get to choose the activities you like the most! Meeting new friends is one of the best parts of camp.

While at camp your child can swim, boat, climb the rock wall, make crafts, fish, take hayrack rides, participate in archery, do fun science experiments/activities, hike, make s'mores over a camp fire and so much more! There will be counselors in every cabin with the campers and staff providing programs at Outdoor Education, Waterfront, Recreation, Arts & Crafts, the Climbing Tower and Creation Station (S.T.E.M. activities). You get to choose from a wide selection of activities during parts of the day and participate in whole group activities during other parts. Whether you are with your cabin group, color team, or just hanging out with some of your new friends, there is always plenty of fun things to do!

### Age Requirements

Participant age for Summer Youth Camp is 8-16 years old.

### 2025 Camp Dates

June 3-7

June 8-12

June 15-19

June 29- July 3

August 2-6

### Fees

\$369 4-H Member

\$399 Non 4-H Member



### Registration

4-H Members- Early Registration is Monday, January 13- Sunday, January 26, 2025.

4-H Members and Non-Members- Registration opens Monday, February 3, 2025.

Registration 4-H Club Members: Go to the ZSuite events page where you will be able to register for 4-H Youth Camps.

Registration Link: <https://4h.zsuite.org/events>



## Ronald McDonald House Tour and Visit the Zoo

Now that you have collected the items to donate to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, why not go along when we deliver them. Join us June 23 as we tour the Ronald McDonald House in Evansville Indiana and make a stop at Mesker Zoo.



Details are not finalized yet but mark your calendar so you can plan to attend. More information will be available in the coming months.

## Shooting Sports Leader Certification

4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Certification Trainings - get ready for 2025!



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:

- 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!

## Registration for the 22nd Annual 4-H Day With the Cardinals is Now Open

Game day is Saturday, May 24 at 1:15 p.m. against the Arizona Diamondbacks. Tickets are \$26 per person. Each ticket ordered will have their name entered into a drawing for autographed baseballs and other great prizes. One 4-H member from Missouri and one 4-H member from Illinois will be drawn to throw out the first pitch! Winners will be notified after May 7 and prizes will be mailed after the game.



Each person who orders a ticket will also receive a specially designed t-shirt featuring the Cardinals and 4-H logos. Groups or families that wish to sit together, must submit on one order. All sales are final and no refunds will be given.

Everyone will have the chance to participate in a parade around the field. Tickets and t-shirts will be mailed on May 7 with more instructions for the day. Order by April 21!

## Unit 24 Community Service Project Planned

This year 4-H members from Hamilton, Hardin, Pope, Saline and White Counties 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 for families during hospital stays.

Items to be collected:

Toiletries

First Aid Supplies

Laundry Supplies

All-Purpose Cleaner

Disinfecting

Spray/wipes

Rubber gloves

Card Games

Crayons / Colored Pencils (up to 16 count)

Adult Puzzle Books

AA & AAA batteries

Board books for babies and toddlers

White queen size sheets (300+thread count)

White bath and hand towels

Queen size mattress pads

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



A field trip to deliver items and tour one of the facilities in Evansville is scheduled for June 23. Items will be collected until the day we deliver.



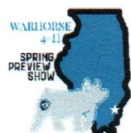
## Stockmen's Youth Rabbit Show & Clinic

The Saline County Stockmen's Association is sponsoring a Youth Rabbit Show & Clinic on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the Saline County Fairgrounds. Registration begins at 9:30 am and the Show will begin promptly at 10 am. This show is open to all youth ages 6-19.

There will be 3 placings in each class, along with awards for Best of Breed and Overall Grand and Reserve Champion. There will be giveaways and drawings for prizes. There is no entry fee. This is a clinic, so bring your questions for the judge. Topics covered include: Nail Trimming, Grooming, Handling, Ear Mites, Sexing Rabbits, Showmanship, and Breed Facts.

Don't have a Rabbit..No Worries! Superintendent Jodie Vinyard has offered to let you borrow a rabbit to show that day. This is your opportunity to tattoo your rabbits for the Saline County 4-H Rabbit Show in July. Rabbit entries with the tattoo number are due on the Livestock Registration Sheet on Thursday, May 15th.

For more information, please contact Rabbit Superintendent Jodie Vinyard at 618-499-5438. Concessions Available: Hot Dogs, Chips, Snacks, and Drinks



### Warhorse 4-H Club Swine Spring Preview Show

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
White County Fairgrounds  
201 Fairground Rd Carmi, IL 62821

Registration Link below:

<https://showman.app/shows#/war-horse-4-h-spring-preview>

Showmanship  
8:00 am

Breeding Gilt Show \$30/entry  
30 minutes after showmanship

Market Barrow Show \$30/entry  
30 minutes after breeding gilts

#### Contact

Justin Williams Cell- 618-383-2645 Email-Justinwilliams4320@gmail.com

#### Arrival

Pens will be available Friday evening after 5:00 pm. We will check people in and weigh barrows until 8 pm. Then resume check in and weighing at 6 am the morning of the show.

#### Check-In

Friday April 19, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm; Saturday April 20 6:00- 9:00 am

#### Health Checks

Health papers required.

#### Other Information

Shavings will be available for bedding and pens must be cleaned before leaving.

#### Refund Policy

Entry fees are non-refundable.

## Showmanship Clinic and YQCA in White County

Current and former 4-H members who have exhibited at the State and National level will be giving Showmanship tips and Daily Care of Cattle, Swine, Goats, and Sheep at the White County Showmanship Clinic.

The clinic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 10, beginning at 9:00 am at the White County Fairgrounds Livestock Barn.

All youth in attendance will complete their YQCA training. But you MUST pre-register at: <https://www.yqcaprogram.org/>, pay \$3 online when you register, and take the pre-test before May 10.

Call the Extension office if you plan to attend.

## Hamilton County Fair

This year the 4-H exhibits will be held the same week as the Hamilton County Fair. There will be several opportunities for the food stand to be open during fair events. Please plan to help several nights.



Fair schedule as of now, subject to change!

Demo Derby	Saturday, June 7
Family Event	Sunday, June 8
4-H Pork Chop Dinner	Monday, June 9
Carnival Begins	Tuesday, June 10
4 Wheeler Races	Tuesday, June 10
Pig Penning	Wednesday, June 11
Rodeo	Thursday, June 12
Tractor Pull	Friday, June 13
Mud Bog	Saturday, June 14

Workers will also be needed at the gate!

\* Notice: The date for the Warhorse Swine Show is April 19, 2025.



## Upcoming Dates

March 25	4-H Monthly Meeting at Mercy Heights 12:30-2:00 p.m.
March 27	Afterschool Craft Club 4:00-5:00 p.m.—Basement
April 8	4-H Meeting at Mercy Heights 12:30– 2:00 p.m.
April 8	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.
April 10	Afterschool Craft Club 4:00-5:00 p.m. Basement
April 11	Community Safety Day—Fairgrounds
April 18	Livestock Skill a thon and YQCA 9:00 a.m.—Fairgrounds
April 24	Afterschool Craft Club 4:00-5:00 p.m.—Basement
April 27	Unit 24 Experience Awards ceremony 4:00 p.m.—Big Red Barn
May 13	4-H Meeting at Mercy Heights 12:30-2:00 p.m.
May 13	Monthly 4-H Workshop 4:00 p.m.
May 28	Opening Day for Farmers Market
May 29	Cooking Class 9:00 a.m.—Basement
June 2	Fair Clean Up 9:00 a.m.—Fairgrounds
June 3	Garden Class 9:00 a.m.—GIFT garden
June 4	Farmers Market 9:00-2:00
June 5	Rabbit and Poultry Show 9:00 a.m.—4-H Livestock Barn
June 5	Cat, Dog and Small Pet Show 1:00 p.m.—4-H Livestock Barn
June 5	4-H Cooking Class 9:00 a.m.—Courthouse basement
June 5	Early Weigh-In 4:00-6:00 p.m.—4-H Livestock Barn
June 5	Farm Follies 6:30 p.m.—4-H Livestock Barn
June 6	Livestock Show 7:00 a.m.—4-H Livestock Barn
June 6	Hospitality Tent
June 6	Awards Presentations
June 6	4-H Livestock Auction
June 7	Gate and Food Stand
June 9	General Projects Show 8:30 a.m.—TBD
June 9	Drive Thru Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser 4:00 -7:00 p.m.
June 23	Deliver goods to Ronald McDonald House and visit zoo
July 5	Ageless Iron Tractor Show Food stand.

## 4-H is Online 24/7

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



**Hamilton County Day at the Illinois State Fair is Friday, August 8. Mark your calendars now!**

**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, Larry Pauketat, Lisa Cross Financial Advisor, Food Park, Wilson's Computers, Corteva, York Pharmacy, 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, 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.