

Winnebago County 1040 N. 2nd Street Rockford, IL 61107 P:(815) 986-4357 F: (815) 986-4329 Website: <u>go.illinois.edu/jsw</u>

• <u>Margaret Larson</u> County Extension Director

• <u>Becky Gocken</u> Program Coordinator 4-H and Youth Development

> • <u>Tammy Bene'</u> Office Support Associate





Find us on Facebook! May 5, 2022

Find Your Spark!

Good morning 4-H Families,

We have lots of great 4-H activities coming up this month and throughout the spring and summer months for families to take advantage of! Yesterday our YLT members participated in helping the earth through planting a couple hundred shrubs at a property in Cherry Valley. This was in collaboration with the Illinois Pheasants Forever. (see photo below) We are looking to expand our Youth Leadership Team– if you are interested, please email or call me!

Please remember our deadline for required ethics training for livestock project participants is <u>June 1st</u> for QAEC and/or YQCA depending on your species (see page 9). If you attended in person, you must log back in, take a short pre-test, post-test and obtain a PDF of your certificate, which needs to be sent to me at the Extension Office– email is fine. Thank you for your cooperation with this!



Also, our summer BBQ/ meat box sales are due to the office by May 25! Don't forget!

Looking forward to the fire station tour on Wednesday! See you then!

~Becky Gocken

IL Green Tree Planting

If you were a part of helping plant trees on April 3 at Rock Valley College, please complete this survey:

Student evaluation form: <u>https://forms.gle/</u> onT1cA5xpzjmM3QF7



2022 Winnebago County Program Books Digital Version:

If you want to view the digital version, it is on our website here down under the Fairs and Shows tab:

https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/4-h-winnebago-county

WINNEBAGO COUNTY @ IL STATE PUBLIC SPEAKING



Emma Moore Winnebago County Public Speaking, Category- Formal Beginner- 2nd Place

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Public Speaking, Category- Illustrated Beginner- 3rd Place







WINNEBAGO COUNTY @ HORSE BOWL & HIPPOLOGY



CONGRATULATIONS WINNEBAGO COUNTY 4-H CLASS OF 2022

HONORING THE



Name: Carter Anderson Hometown: Winnebago, IL What's Next: Attend Illinois State University majoring in Criminal Justice

of

"4-H has taught me to work with others in a team setting, set goals and achieve them and leadership skills from holding officer positions."

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HONORING THE



Name: Leigha Brown 4-H Club: Clover Crusaders

"4-H Has allowed me to take on leadership roles, and to be involved in my community with my briends. It has been a truly positive and enjoyable experience."

Illinois Extension

HONORING THE





Name: Jason Luna Hometown: Winnebago, IL 4-H Club: Centerville Knot Ketchers What's Next: Rock Valley College





Name: Gunnar Shank Hometown: Byron/Winnebago, IL 4-H Club: Winnebago Wide Awakes What's Next: Attend University of Wisconsin Platteville to study Agricultural Crop & Soil and Animal Science. Continue farming and raising animals.

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"4-H has provided me opportunities to build leadership skills and meet new people while showing animals at the fair."



HONORING THE

Name: Tyler Lee Hometown: Durand, IL 4-H Club: New England Banner Future Plans: Lakeland College, Majoring in Animal Science

"4-H has impacted my life by providing me with opportunities to personally grow as individual and in my projects over my 4-H career. The people and connections I have made while participating in events, fairs, and conferences have developed into lifelong friendships. 4-H has allowed me to try new things that I never thought I would have done before or been exposed too from leadership roles to community service activities. 4-H has helped prepare me to grow in my career path as well as a member of society."

HONORING THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY 4-H



Illinois Extension

Emily Cannella Samuel Heinisch Shelby Howard Zachary Kimble Aliah Lask Jeff Mclean Bethany Santiesteban Hefter Allyson Zimmerman







Winnebago County 4-H & Youth Development BASS FISHING SPIN CLUB June 6-10, 2022

Monday -Thursday 11 am- 12 pm Friday 10 am - 12 pm **Torstenson Youth Conservation Educational Center** 13735 Cook Rd, Pecatonica

\$5 for Winnebago County 4-H Members; \$10 for Non-members

This is for Jr. High age youth (ages 11-14) with previous fishing experience. The intention of these lessons is to advance the interest, or spark, of fishing passions to a higher level.



Illinois Extension UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

iversity of Illinois Extension provides educational programs and research-based information to help Illinois residents improve their quality of ife, develop skills and solve problems. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please all the U of I Extension office. Tariy requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Constumer and Environmental Sciences - Unide States Department of Agriculture - Local Extension Council: Cooperating.



EACH KIT IS \$5 AND INCLUDES: June "I Made That!" booklet Freezer jam recipes
Ice cream in a bag recipe

- Select ingredients for your recipes Activities and sensory evaluation

Kits will be available for pick-up beginning June 6 at one of our Extension offices in Elizabeth, Freeport or Rockford, IL.



Illinois Extension



Life at 4-H Camp

We will again be attending Rock River Christian Camp, in Polo, Illinois. 4-H Day Camp will offer a variety of safely-led activities such as: archery, crate stacking, arts and crafts, hiking, zip-line, team building and large group games, as well as end each day with a camp evening program.

4-H Camp is open to a total of 100 youth each day that are between the ages 8-14 by June 14, 2022. Campers do not have to be a 4-H member to attend 4-H Camp. Youth may choose to attend, one, two or all three days for 4-H day camp. Camp runs from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with check-in and check-out procedures.

Camp Location

4-H Camp is at Rock River Christian Camp in Polo, IL. Rock River Christian Camp has 94 acres that have been transformed over the years into a beautiful facility for youth and adults.

Staff at RRCC are certified in First Aid, CPR and AED. There is a qualified first aid person at camp at all times. Campers select their own activities, and are supervised at all times. 4-H Youth Development staff extensively train all camp counselors. We strive to maintain an environment that both encourages personal growth and creates an unforgettable summer experience.





Rock River Christian Camp | Polo June 14-15-16 | 9AM-8PM



Cost \$70 per day Options to choose 1, 2 or all 3 days. Includes lunch, dinner and snack. Must pay in full by credit card.

Registration Information: Registration Due by May 2. Limited space so sign up today! go.illinois.edu/4Hsummercamp

Contact Information Martha Ebbesmeyer, (Carroll, Lee, Whiteside) Youth Development Educator (815) 632-3611, ebbesmey@illinois.edu

Youth Development Educator (815) 758-8194, jbjennin@illinois.edu

4-H Program Coordinator (815) 858-2273, amillr11@illinois.edu

ers will need to be dropped off/picked up each day. Adults/guardians will NOT be allowed to stay.







COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SC University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Co Diversity of Illinois Extension provides regul opportunities in programs If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend contact the registration of

Winnebago County Wizarding World of 4-H JUNE 29, 2022

Prince of Peace Church 2336 Freeport Rd, Rockton

JOIN UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION FOR A NEW YEAR OF MAGICAL FUN! THIS WILL BE A HANDS-ON LEARNING EVENT AND FUN FOR ALL AGES. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND IS OPEN TO ALL YOUTH THAT HAVE COMPLETED 1ST -12TH GRADE. 4-H MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED.

DRIVE THROUGH CHECK-IN: 9:00-9:15 AM

BROOM MAKING AND CAPE CREATION: 9:15 AM

ROTATIONS: 9:45 AM WIZARD TOURNAMENT, CARE OF MAGICAL CREATURES, & CANDLE MAKING CLASS

DRIVE THROUGH CHECK-OUT: 12:00 PM

REGISTER AT GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/JSW **OR CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE AT 815-986-4357**

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 23





Pickup Your Boxes Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Extension Office Parking Lot Noon-1 pm

University of Illinois Extension-Winnebago County 1040 N. Second Street-Rockford, IL 61107

May 2022

4-H SUMMER SIZZLER SALE

Winnebago County 4-H SHOWBOARD is holding its 10th Annual 4-H Fundraiser called the "4-H Summer Sizzler Sale". This fundraiser helps support the 4-H program in Winnebago County. Our hope is that each family will either purchase for themselves or sell at least 1-2 boxes to make this a successful fundraising event.

Please see the attached ad flyer and order form for information about what is included in each box of meat. The boxes sell for \$50 each. This really is a terrific value for all the different products in the box! All the meat products are locally grown and processed at Eickman's Processing in Seward, IL.

Members should begin taking orders now and collect the money at the time of order. Order forms and payments can be turned into the Extension office anytime between now and the end of the sale, but ALL ORDERS MUST be submitted by May 25, 2022. Checks should be made payable to "U OF I EXTENSION—Showboard" and meat boxes can be picked up on Saturday, June 11, 2022 from Noon until 1 pm at the Extension office—1040 North Second Street, Rockford.

Members are responsible for pick-up of their ordered boxes (or they may arrange to have the buyer pick up their own box). If the buyer would like to pick up his/her own box, please confirm the pick-up date and time with the buyer and make sure he/she knows your name and the 4-H. Club you belong to. They will need to know this information in order to pick up their box. Please make a note of this on your order form when you turn it in.

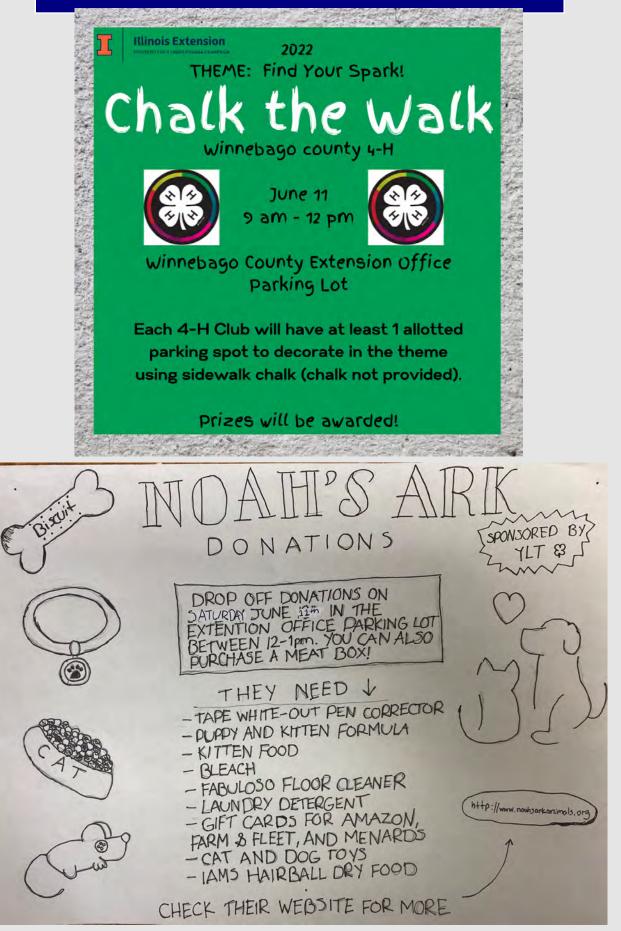
Pick-up of boxes will be <u>Saturday—June 11, 2022 from Noon-1 pm at the Extension Office—1040 N. Second Street</u>. All orders need to be picked up at this time. All checks should made payable to <u>UOFI EXTENSION—Showboard</u>

A straight donation option of \$15 is also available for families that cannot purchase or opt not to purchase or sell a box of meat. Please contact Becky at the Extension Office (815) 986-4357 if you have any questions.

Multiple random boxes will include Special Coupons for a FREE HAM!



- \$50 for the 4-H Member who sells the most number of Boxes
- Clubs will receive 10% of profit generated from their total sales





Attention 4-H Swine, Sheep, Goats, Beef and Dairy Show Participants:

The YQCA annual training is required by the state 4-H office to show in any 4-H Swine, Sheep, Goat, Beef or Dairy livestock show. We have already offered both in-person trainings– please be sure to log back in and send me the pdf of your certificate by **June 1st.** The new site is <u>www.yqcaprogram.org</u> Livestock members received an email on April 11th with all the directions for how to set up a new account, which everyone will have to do. Please follow the PDF directions as the site is a little challenging to navigate.

All other livestock shows still require the QAEC training which can be found at

https://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/ .





WINNEBAGO COUNTY 4-H & EXTENSION FOUNDATION, INC.

1925 South Meridian Road

Rockford, Illinois 61102

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reita Baird, President + H Volunteer

Mary Ann Arenson, Vice President 4 H Volunteer

Kathy Palmer, Secretary 4-H Volunteer

Tim Russo, Treasurer 4-H Volunteer

Roger Christin Winnebago Cty Farm Bureau (Ret)

John Gardner T-Shirtz, Etc.

Connie Gleasman 4-H Volunteer

Mandi Ballard German American State Bank

Allan Carlson 4-11 Volunteer

Winnebago County 4-19 ∞ Extension Foundation, Inc. is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Now in existence for over 48 years, Winnebago County 4-H & Extension Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, continues to expand its programs and offerings to the community. We hope that you will be able to take part in one or more of the existing events that we are offering this year and experience firsthand the pride we take in supporting our cause.

It is our mission to promote, support, and advance the interests of 4-H and other Extension activities through fundraising, and acquiring and managing funds, bequests and gifts. In order to meet and provide services in our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. Without assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we wouldn't be able to serve those in our community each year.

We ask that you help make your commitment to support our current fundraiser. Your generosity will make a difference in our community by allowing us to continue in our work. Remember, that every donation makes a difference, regardless of size.

Our current fundraiser is once again a partnership with Didier Greenhouses (4601 West State Street, Rockford). What a great idea for Easter and Mother's Day. Garden planting is just around the corner and Didier has all your gardening needs. Cards are easy to get, easy to use, can be easily mailed to anyone—and they have no expiration date!

\$20 gift cards are available to purchase. Purchasing your gift card is as easy as filling out the order form below, and send with your cash or check to:

Winnebago County 4-H & Extension Foundation

1925 S. Meridian Road

Rockford, IL 61102

We will mail you your gift card for you to enjoy! Remember to visit us on Facebook, or you can email us at winnebagofoundation2011@gmail.com Thank you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Winnebago County 4-H & Extension Foundation

----- Please cut along dotted line--

of gift cards

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TOTAL

MAIL CARDS TO: Name

Address_

x \$20 =



Members will not be approved until leader's have verified they received payment and/or paid by credit card online this year. You will not be able to enroll in Fair Entry until I have received this information from your club leader.

Project Manuals will be purchased by individual families through a <u>pop-up shop in 4-H Mall</u>. I recommend ordering together to save shipping expenses. An email was sent with directions for obtaining manuals on 11.5.2021 & 2.1.2022. Here is a link to the state 4-H page project resources: <u>https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/project-resources</u>

State 4-H Fishing Tournaments Ready to Go!

Easy to enter, easy to win! Learn rules and how to enter here:

https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-hooksus-together-fishing-tournament

Open to all current year 4-H members, but new rod & reel prizes **only** for 4-H members registered in the 4-H Sport fishing project for the 2021-2022 year. Entries just require a phone, tape measure and then upload information to: <u>https://</u> <u>go.illinois.edu/fish4H</u> <u>May</u> – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament





June – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament

PRESSURE

CANNER TESTING

Call Your Local Extension Office ROCKFORD: (815) 986-4357

FREEPORT: (815) 235-4125

ELIZABETH: (815) 858-2273

SCHEDUI

Illinois Extension

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Before using your pressure canner, have your dial gauge tested for accuracy. The only way to know if your pressure gauge is accurate is to have it tested.

University of Illinois Extension is holding Pressure Canner Testing Clinics beginning this May and will run through July. These events will be held at the local Extension offices, with several dates to choose from. Bring in your pressure canner lid with the gauge attached.

To register call your local extension office or visit <u>go.illinois.edu/</u> jsw

CALENDAR OF WINNEBAGO 4-H EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MAY, 2022			
	1-June 1	10	FAIR ENTRY OPENS FOR ALL MEMBERS TO REGISTER ENTRIES FOR 4-H FAIR
	4	4-6 pm	YLT Meeting– Shrub planting with Illinois Pheasants Forever
	11	6-6:45pm	4-H Rockford Fire Department Tour– Station 6
	11	6-8pm	4-H Camp Counselor Training, Zoom
	15	2 pm	4-H Dog SPIN Club Class
	17	I.	4-H Horse Superintendents Meeting
	22	2 pm	4-H Dog SPIN Club Class
	25	4:00 pm	BBQ MEAT BOX Orders & Payment DUE to Extension Office
	30		EXTENSION OFFICE IS CLOSED for Memorial Day Holiday
JUNE, 2			
, , , , , ,	1		Dog ownership and/or lease paperwork due to Extension Office
	1		YQCA Certificates Due to the Extension Office, QAEC Deadline
		2	•
	5	2 pm	4-H Dog SPIN Club Class
	6-10	11.50	4-H Bass Fishing SPIN Club, Pecatonica
	10	11:59 pm	FAIR ENTRY CLOSES (All entries must be registered by 11:59 pm)
	11	8-10 am	Winnebago County 4-H Chalk the Walk, Extension office
	11	Noon-1 pm	BBQ Meat Box Order Pickup at Extension office parking lot; Noah's Ark donation drop off
	14-16		Northern Illinois 4-H Day Camps
	17		EXTENSION OFFICE IS CLOSED for Juneteenth Holiday
	25	10:30 am	4-H Float Day- Sugar River
	26	2 pm	4-H Dog SPIN Club Class
	29	9-12pm	Wizarding World of 4-H, Prince of Peace Church, Rockton
JULY, 2022			
	4		EXTENSION OFFICE IS CLOSED for Independence Day Holiday
	9	10:30 am	4-H Float Day- Sugar River- RAIN DATE
	8	9:00 am	4-H Clothing Judging – Old Stone Church
	9	2:00 pm	4-H Fashion Revue – Old Stone Church
	10	2 pm	4-H Dog SPIN Club Class
	13	4:00 pm	CLUB BANNERS DUE to Extension Office
	16	9:00 am	4-H Rabbit & Small Pet Show – Fairgrounds – Building #3
	17	2 pm	4-H Dog SPIN Club Class
	22	9:00 am	4-H Dog Show- Forest City Dog Training Club, Loves Park
	23	9:00 am	4-H Cat Show – Fairgrounds – St. Mary's Building
	27	5:30 pm	Setup of 4-H Building at fairgrounds – HELP NEEDED!
	29		4-H General Projects Judging Day – Fairgrounds – Buildings 3 & 4
AUGUS	т 2022		
	1	12 pm	4-H Dog Show State Fair Entries & payments due to Extension Office
	2	8-4 pm	STATE FAIR PHONE CALLS & EMAILS are made to eligible participants
	3	10:00 am	4-H Cake Decorating Contest – Extension Office
	3	1:00 pm	4-H Food Demo Contest – Extension Office
	5 4	12:00 pm	LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR STATE FAIR (If selected)
	4 6	8:00 am	4-H Horse Show – Fairgrounds (grandstand track area)
	0 10	3-6 pm	Pickup of STATE FAIR eligible projects at Fairgrounds (Pecatonica)
	TO	2-0 hill	rickup of STATE FAIN Engine projects at Fairgiounus (recatorica)

4-H Club Meetings— Attendance Policy



All 4-H members must attend 1/3 of their club meetings for the year, from the time of their enrollment, in order to show at the

4-H shows this summer.

ILLINOIS 4-H INFORMATION:



4-H International

Host an international youth this summer

International students come to IL each summer and stay with a host family for about 4 weeks. Host a Japanese or South Korean youth this summer through States' 4-H International! Expand your family's cultural understanding, learn about new foods and customs, and possibly learn a new language, all while sharing your own. Your children will build lifelong friendships and will gain new perspectives on their own country, too! Families are needed for July 23 through August 18 (tentative dates).

Applications are accepted until all placements are made. There is no cost for this program.

Students are matched with a host sibling by age gender and interests. So families hosting, must have a child the between 12-18

Host family selection is dependent on completion of an application and screening process, as well as student availability and personality compatibility.

For more information or to apply, visit: <u>http://www.states4hexchange.org</u>.

Find us on Facebook @ <u>facebook.com/Illinois4hexchange</u> or contact Illinois S4-H Coordinators: Miriam Rosenbohm @ <u>rosenbohm07@comcast.net</u> or Elisha Hughes @ <u>ehugh2@illinois.edu</u>.

Greetings all -

FYI:

I have heard from many of you regarding the IDOA temporary stay on poultry exhibitions. Illinois 4-H will offer a virtual show option in the event the stay does not get lifted before your local fair. Posters are also an option as always. The virtual option will be executed locally in the same manner as we held them in 2020. The virtual option will only be in play if we cannot have the live show. We will keep you updated as we continue to receive guidance from IDOA.

Thanks,

Dan Jennings University of Illinois State 4-H Livestock djjennin@illinois.edu





ILLINOIS 4-H INFORMATION:



The University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences will host ACES Family Academies on July 14-15, 2022. ACES Family

Academies is a two-day learning experience for alumni to bring youth ages 8-13 to stay on campus, eat in the residence halls, and participate in interactive classes, all while learning about ACES majors, programs, and research. Cost is \$125. Registration deadline is June 3, 2022. <u>Full schedule and educational</u> <u>session information is available online</u>.



Crop Scouting Competition August 4, 2022

Crop Sciences Research & Education Center, 4202 South 1st St., Savoy, IL 61874 Check-in and registration start at 8 a.m. The competition starts at 8:30 a.m. and will end by 1:30 p.m.

The competition is open to high school students completing grades 9-12 in the spring of 2022. They will work in teams of 2 to 5 students led by an adult coach. Coaches can be FFA advisers, agriculture teachers, seed dealers, co-op employees, and others. No more than three teams per sponsoring organization (e.g. company, school, club).

2022 4-H State Shoots – SAVE THESE DATES (but keep

- This will be an outdoor event.
- Meals: Lunch, beverages, and snacks will be provided.

• Prizes: \$500 for 1st, \$300 for 2nd, and \$150 for 3rd. **Questions?** Contact program coordinator Chelsea Harbach at harbach2@illinois.edu.

4-H Shooting Sports Leaders Wanted!

Spend a fun day learning range management and leave ready to safely lead 4-H Shooting Sports activities in your county!

Contact your local UofI Extension office 4-H professional and they will process your registration. Certifications in <u>Archery,</u> <u>Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Coordinator, and</u> <u>Hunting/Outdoor Skills (May 7 only)</u> offered. One discipline per day/per person. All programs run 9am-6pm and are active range time instruction.

<u>Sat., May 7, 2022</u>4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL (central Illinois)

<u>Sat., July 16, 2022</u> Bi-State Sportsman's Club, Colona, IL (N.W. Illinois)

Questions? Contact Curt Sinclair at Sinclair@illinois.edu





practicing now!)

<u>4-H State Archery Shoot- Saturday,</u> <u>Sept. 17, 2022</u> at Pekin Archers, Pekin, Illinois

<u>4-H State Shotgun Shoot- Saturday,</u> <u>Sept. 24, 2022</u> at Brittany Shooting Park, Bunker Hill, Illinois

<u>4-H State Rifle Shoot-Saturday,</u> <u>Oct. 8, 2022</u> at Central Illinois

Precision Shooters (CIPS), Bloomington, Illinois

<u>4-H State Pistol Shoot-Sunday,</u> <u>Oct. 9, 2022</u> at CIPS, Bloomington, Illinois



Save the Date June 4, 2022 Summer Sizzle Shoot Chillicothe Sportsman's Club Hosted by Marshall-Putnam 4-H Shooting Sports Registration opens April 25, 2022– closes May 24, 2022 <u>https://extension.illinois.edu/blmp</u>

Our target is fun and we aim for a bullseye!

ILLINOIS 4-H INFORMATION:

WARREN COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

Registration 8 AM Contest 9 AM

Saturday, May 28, 2022 Warren County Fairgrounds Roseville, IL

Junior Division, Ages 8-13 as of January 1 | Senior Division, Ages 14-18 as of January 1
 Team and Individual Awards Presented to Overall and Species Winners
 \$3/person | Checks payable to "University of Illinois Extension"
 Contact Shelby Carlson, 4-H Youth Development Educator at srcarls2@illinois.edu or
 (309)734-5161, or Lynn Shimmin at (309)224-1469 with questions
 Advanced registration requested by emailing Shelby at srcarls2@illinois

Lunch Available for Purchase from Happy Hustler's 4-H Club



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EXTENSION:

SPRING GARDENING WORKSHOPS 2022 IN-PERSON CLASSES

To register for the workshops, please visit our website at **go.illinois.edu/jsw** or call our Winnebago County Extension Office at (815)986-4357. 1040 N 2nd Street Rockford 61107

VEGETABLE GARDENING 101

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - NO COST

What jobs do you and your garden have to complete in order to have a successful vegetable garden this summer? Planning, planting, care of garden, harvesting and taking care of tools are just some of the topics that will be covered.

Presenters: Jeff and Judy White, U of I Extension Master Gardeners

HOSTAS: ORDINARY OR EXTRAORDINARY? WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.-NO COST

Do you think hostas are just those "boring green plants" that grow in the shade? Guess again! Learn about plant selection, care, and companion plants, and how to maximize the potential of these beauties in your garden.

Presenter: Constance McCarthy, U of I Extension Master Gardener

SUN & SHADE CONTAINER GARDENING

MONDAY, MAY 23 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - \$30.00

Design an exciting container! Learn which plants are good Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers. You will get to choose whether you want to make a Sun or Shade container garden. This session cost \$30, which covers the cost of the containers, soils and plants.

Presenter: Ann Somers, U of I Extension Master Gardeners

TOTALLY TOMATOES, PERFECT PEPPERS WEDNESDAY, May 25 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - NO COST

This class will help you determine what varieties to grow, diseases and insects to look out for, methods to trellis for success, and trouble-shooting of these two popular summer vegetables.

Presenter: Grant McCarty, U of I Extension Local Foods and Small Farms Educator



Illinois Extension

U OF I EXTENSION - WINNEBAGO COUNTY 1040 N 2nd Street, Rockford, 61107 (815)986-4357 go.illinois.edu/jsw



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Take steps to help stop avian flu in wild birds, domestic flocks

Written by Emily Steele

April 26, 2022

URBANA, III. – Avian flu cases are on the rise in the Midwest. From canceled poultry shows to advising homeowners to remove bird feeders, Illinois is urging those who come into contact with birds to take steps to prevent the disease from spreading.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is a contagious virus that spreads among wild geese, ducks, and other waterbirds species, as well as some raptors, including bald eagles. Wild birds, which may show no symptoms even if infected, can carry the disease to new areas as they migrate north and transmit it to domestic poultry, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's <u>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</u>.

Avian flu is an extremely infectious respiratory disease that affects all domestic poultry, including laying hens, broilers, and turkeys, as well as waterfowl and game birds. It can spread quickly within flocks causing severe disease and death.

In the last outbreak of avian influenza, more than 200 commercial flocks and 21 backyard flocks in the U.S. were affected, leading to the deaths of more than 50 million birds between 2014 and 2015.

Illinois became one of 33 states with confirmed avian flu cases in wild birds. More cases have been found in Champaign, Fulton, Sangamon, Will, and Cook counties.

The <u>Centers for Disease Control</u> is monitoring the recent outbreak and says it is not an immediate public health concern and no human cases have been detected in the U.S.

On April 21, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources recommended <u>removing bird feeders and</u> <u>birdbaths</u> until the end of May to discourage large gatherings of birds and interactions between waterfowl and songbirds. Hummingbird and oriole feeders do not need to be removed. Any remaining birdseed should also be removed, and bird feeders and baths should be cleaned with a diluted bleach solution that is nine parts water and one part bleach.

<u>Joy O'Keefe</u>, assistant professor and Extension wildlife specialist in the <u>Department of Natural Resources &</u> <u>Environmental Sciences</u>, says removing bird feeders is a precaution that can protect wild and domesticated birds.

"Passerines, or songbirds, that come to bird feeders are not likely to be affected," O'Keefe says. "In the absence of feeders, birds should be able to find natural sources of food from sprouting native plants and emerging insects." She added that property owners can plant native shrubs and wildflowers this spring as natural food sources for birds.

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Take steps to help stop avian flu in wild birds, domestic flocks

Removing feeders is especially important for people who take care of poultry because, while avian flu has not been found in songbirds, feeders can attract wild waterfowl. Flock owners should prevent contact between their backyard flocks and wild birds.

The disease has been detected in commercial and small flock poultry and gamebird operations in 29 states. In April, two cases of avian flu were found in small backyard flocks in McLean and Carroll counties, affecting 80 birds. No commercial producers have been affected in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Agriculture announced an emergency order on April 5 canceling poultry-related events such as sales or exhibits.

Illinois is home to about 9 million commercially produced poultry, mostly laying chickens and turkeys. The number of backyard birds that people keep for egg production is estimated to be 30,000 birds. Small flocks may have a higher risk of contracting avian flu, says <u>Kenneth Koelkebeck</u>, professor and Extension poultry specialist in the <u>Animal Sciences Department</u>.

"Those backyard flocks are mostly outside and waterfowl may be around," Koelkebeck says, "whereas commercial poultry are kept in enclosed buildings."

Poultry producers should follow biosecurity measures to reduce the possibility of their birds contracting avian flu. Protocols, such as keeping free-range birds inside and wearing protective boot covers when entering a chicken coop, reduce the risk of spreading bacteria or viral pathogens. The USDA has biosafety recommendations for backyard flocks available at <u>bit.ly/3L9s1Rb</u>.

"Poultry owners should keep things as clean as they can," Koelkebeck says. "Remove standing water if possible because it will attract migratory waterfowl."

Visible symptoms of avian flu include runny eyes, swelling, and lethargy. When the disease is detected in domestic poultry, the IDOA quarantines the site; flocks are depopulated to prevent the disease from spreading and remove them from the food system. Other area flocks are monitored for the disease.

Flock owners should report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to the IDOA at (217) 782-4944 or USDA APHIS Veterinary Services at 1-866-536-7593. More information about the status of avian flu in domestic bird flocks can be found on the IDOA website at <u>bit.ly/3MnuRIQ</u>.

Report cases of five or more dead wild birds in one area to an IDNR district wildlife biologist at bit.ly/3xIDaVf.

SOURCES: Joy O'Keefe, assistant professor and Extension wildlife specialist; <u>Kenneth Koelkebeck</u>, professor and Extension poultry specialist.

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