



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Find us on Facebook! September 8, 2020

Stronger Together

Good afternoon 4-H Families,

Welcome to the new 4-H year, everyone! The theme this year is "<u>Stronger Together—ACT/</u> LEAD/INSRPIE

This newsletter is filled with all the information you will need to begin our 2020-2021 year. By enrolling in 4-H, you are now a part of one of the largest youth organizations in the nation. We are lifting up youth voices and helping kids get equal access to the resources they need to thrive.

National 4-H Week is <u>October 4–10</u> and I encourage you to find ways to celebrate. The theme this year is *Opportunity4ALL*. 4-H Spirit Day will be held <u>Wednesday, October 7</u> so show your 4-H pride and wear a clover to school, to the store, to go out on a walk, etc. Use the hashtag *#Opportunity4All* or *#National4HWeek* as you share your 4-H activities on social media.

4-H ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2020-2021 WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 21!

Please look through this newsletter closely to find all information regarding policy changes, important dates and deadlines, and information you will need to begin the new year.

Thank you, Becky Gocken

Good afternoon,

With the new 4-H year comes the certainty that 4-Hers will be excited about starting new projects and continuing to work on others, taking on new leadership positions in their clubs, and considering opportunities to be part of the Stephenson County 4-H Ambassador program. We are also facing some continued uncertainty, which may make 4-H look different for the time being. Because 4-H is full of resilient volunteers, families, and members (not to mention staff), I know this will be a fulfilling 4-H year, offering opportunities for all.

In some ways, it seems that the summer and our Virtual 4-H Shows flew by; in other ways it seems that was long ago. The beginning of the new year is always exciting, whether you are a first year member moving up from your Cloverbud years, or a member beginning your 11th and final year. Please know that you have the support of our wonderful, committed volunteers as well as the 4-H/Extension staff to answer questions, provide support and encouragement.

We have decided that this is a fine time to recruit 4-H members and encourage you to invite your friends and family members to consider checking out 4-H. Help us grow this great organization!

Sincerely,

Margaret Larson

COVID-19 UPDATES

GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES

We take the safety of our 4-H community seriously. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure we will be asking families to complete a self-screening before participating in any 4-H meetings or events. Symptoms you should be checking for are:

- \Rightarrow Cough
- ⇒ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- \Rightarrow Chills
- ⇒ Repeated shaking with chills
- \Rightarrow Muscle pain
- \Rightarrow Headache
- \Rightarrow Sore throat
- \Rightarrow Loss of taste or smell
- \Rightarrow Diarrhea
- ⇒ Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- \Rightarrow Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- * Please make sure that you take your child's temperature before attending. Avoid 4-H activity if their temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or over.
- Please use your school's guidelines for 4-H meeting or activity participation. Example: If your class has been sent home to quarantine because of possible exposure- do not attend any 4-H activities until you are cleared to return to school.
- If you have been in close contact with a person that has been lab confirmed to have COVID19- do not attend any 4-H activities until you been given the "all clear" and have met all health requirements.
- * If we have schools that move to long-term remote learning, University of Illinois will revisit guidelines.

Club leaders and Extension staff will plan all meetings and activities with the safety of our members and the University of Illinois' policies and guidelines in mind.

Options will be available for families that choose to engage in 4-H virtually in the upcoming months. Please reach out and communicate with me for more details.

PROJECT INFORMATION

WHAT'S NEW-We have a few new projects this year that you should be aware of this year.

- MAKER- the maker class is now a project. Develop skills in 3D design, electronics, and other rapid prototype techniques. Make gadgets and devices from scratch.
- E-SPORTS— learn about the exciting field of completive electronic sports. Learn about the PC and console gaming industries, software and hardware, and the world of competitive and professional gaming.

<u>MANUALS-</u>After enrolling in 4-H Online an email will be sent by "Qualtrics" asking families which project manuals they would like to request. <u>Please complete this form.</u> The results from these forms will be given to 4-H Staff to order. Orders will only be sent to counties on a quarterly basis. This means– please order everything you will need by <u>December 15</u>! Late orders will not be handed out until the next opportunity which would be sometime in April.

<u>4-H UNIVERSITY APP</u>- The State 4-H Office is launching a free app for all androids and IPhones called "4-H University." Currently, this app will feature "Cooking 101" material and a project manual for the "Technology: Drone" project. They will continue to add material and I know that project information for the new "Maker" project will be added sometime soon. You may find this app on the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

BECOME A STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADOR— Stephenson County 4-H Ambassadors are a youth leadership group. Members range from 10-18 year olds and meet once a month. Members gain skills in public speaking, organizing and implementing county wide activities. They plan community service projects and they have FUN. Ambassadors provides youth another opportunity to expand their 4-H experience and gain the skills they will need to exceed later in life, all while meeting other 4-H members throughout the county. Call Becky if you would like more information!

New Ambassador Applications Due Sept. 11!

<u>4-H ONLINE 2.0</u>

As previously discussed, 4-H Online has a new version. Although the information collected is the same, the appearance has changed. To help families navigate this new version, the State 4-H Office has created an:

- Enrollment video
- Enrollment Guide

You will find these on our website at <u>https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/4-h-youth-development</u>.

EMAIL ADDRESSES- Emailing is the primary mode of communication that the Extension Office uses to alert you of important information. I do not want anyone to miss something because the correct email address has not been provided. An email address is required to enroll using the new **4-H Online** system. <u>Please use your main email address for both the family profile AND your 4-H member email.</u>

Once you have been set up in **4-H Online** it is easy for you to log in and edit, add or update any information including emails, address, phone numbers, etc. at <u>anytime throughout the year</u>. Please write your login information and password down. You will need this come fair time. I am asked all the time what projects a parent's kids are enrolled in because families have forgotten. Although, I am happy to answer those questions, I want you to be aware that t is simple to login in to 4-H Online and look at your family's profile yourself to find out that information... and more!

If your email address has changed– please let me know that information. I email families through Microsoft Outlook which is not tied to 4-H Online so I may miss that update if I do not hear it directly from you.

4-H AT HOME-

4-H AT HOME is a new State 4-H initiative that will allow families access to some great resources that they can do at home. These are self-guide studies and will focus on great topics. All information and activities for each topic are included. Find these by visiting

https://go.illinois.edu/AtHome4H. Currently you fill find information on:

- **Butterfly Adventures**-Caterpillars to butterflies is an amazing life experience for everyone watching!
- **Chick Embryology**-Hatching chicks is a great way to learn about life! Watch as we go through each phase of incubating eggs. On Day 21, we'll watch as the baby chicks crack through their shells and take their first steps.

DATE FOR RE-ENROLLMENTS – VERY IMPORTANT!

<u>NOVEMBER 1</u> IS THE DEADLINE FOR RE-ENROLLMENT FOR ALL RETURNING YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS. Youth who DO NOT re-enroll by the <u>NOVEMBER 1</u> deadline will have LIMITED PARTICIPATION options until they complete re-enrollment.

- Members will not be able to attend club meetings or activities after <u>November 1</u>without re-enrolling.
- Members cannot participate in events or any trips until they have re-enrolled.

It is state policy that youth must be enrolled by a certain date to be covered by the State 4-H insurance plan **before** they participate in any club/county/state activities & meetings.

Please note-there is a very short period of time in between the September roll-over to the new program year, so please re-enroll as soon after **September 21** as you can!

You have until <u>March 15</u> to add/drop projects so do not let picking out projects hold up the process.

<u>New members</u> must be enrolled by <u>December 15</u> in order to participate at the 4-H Fair. If you have a friend that is thinking of joining, <u>please encourage them not to wait</u>!

Lifetime Liability Waivers- All 4-H youth members are REQUIRED to sign and return the lifetime liability waiver in order to participate in ANY 4-H activity. This includes club meetings, activities, camps, workshops, etc. You CANNOT wait to turn in this form until ski day, fair, camp, etc. For liability reasons, I MUST have these in my hand by December 15. Leaders will be instructed to not allow participation for anyone missing this form. Remember if you have already turned in the lifetime liability waiver-you do NOT need to complete another one. This should only apply to previous 4-Hers that took a break for a few years and are rejoining or new members.

All screened adults are required to fill out the lifetime liability waiver if they have not done so. Again you will only need to fill this out once.

ENROLLMENTS NOT APPROVED

It is important that you read your emails. Please do not assume that once you submit your enrollment that everything is good to go. Take just a few moments to make sure I did not "send back your enrollment" or leave you some comments.

If I did send the enrollment back, please read those comments I made, make the necessary changes, then <u>**RESUBMIT**</u> your enrollment. You will be considered inactive or incomplete until the enrollment has been resubmitted **AND** approved.

TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIZES, GIFTS, OR AWARDS— "Program participants (including

minors) will be required to provide their social security number or foreign national tax ID number <u>PRIOR</u> to receiving a prize, gift, or award to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security protected software (PEAR). Participants will NOT be eligible for prize, gift, or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided."

-State 4-H Office

If I require a 4-Her's social security number in order for them to receive their premium, I will contact that 4-Her directly. I will only need SS#s from the 4-Hers who I have

- A. I have not collected their number before AND,
- B. If the premium check will be for more than \$100.

UNDERSTANDING 4-H PREMIUMS-In the past, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has provided funds to local Illinois 4-H members in the forms of premiums (cash prizes) for participation in 4-H shows and exhibitions. Please remember there is no guarantee that those funds will be provided. This is decided on a year to year basis.

MEDICAL RELEASES-The collection of medical release forms will only be required for activities when a youth is away from parents in an overnight capacity OR if they are involved in medium to high risk activities such as livestock shows, skiing, etc.. Here is the rule of thumb....medical forms are **NOT** collected for participation in: regular 4-H club meetings, 4-H workshops, 4-H general projects at fair, or other short term activities. Medical forms **ARE** collected to participate in: Field trips involving transportation without a parent/guardian, all overnight activities, and all livestock shows. **A new medical form will be required for each of those activities.**

Parents: please communicate with your club leaders if your child as any allergies or

conditions you feel the Leaders should know about to participate in activities safely.

<u>IL 4-H PROJECT GUIDE</u>-The IL State 4-H Office has agreed to provide counties printed copies of the guide. Each family will be provided with one copy of the IL 4-H Project Guide when they come in. However, I would like to remind everyone that COVID19 has made the process slower in so many ways and in so many areas, I am not sure when we will get our boxes. In the meantime, you may view this booklet online. Click the following link:

https://issuu.com/illinois4h/docs/ illinois_4-h_project_guide_20-21

YOUTH FRE QUALITY CARE SANIMALS

CERTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR YOUTH EXHIBITING LIVESTOCK

All IL 4-H members exhibiting animals entering the food production system will be required to complete the **Youth for the Quality Care of Animal certification (YQCA)**. This program is the industry-standard certification and is the only program accepted by packers.

- This will be mandatory in order to exhibit at any show and all fairs.
- This certification may be taken <u>online</u> or <u>in person</u>.
- 4-Hers will need to re-certify every year.
- There will be a \$12 fee/ person/year for all online courses. If you choose to take the certification class in person there will be a \$3/per person/per year fee. <u>You will NOT</u> <u>be charged this fee for each species.</u>
- 4-Hers who exhibit only posters will not be required to complete either the **YQCA** or the **QAEC**.

A classroom style training will be offered sometime in in the late winter/early spring. (HOPEFULLY– details on that to come). If we can move forward with an in-person training, it would be offered ONE time in Stephenson County and participants will be asked to preregister and pay in advance.

Keep in mind that if you are planning to exhibit and enrolled in the *goat, sheep, swine, beef, and/or dairy* projects, please note that this and all future communication regarding the YQCA applies to you. Be on the lookout!

Horses, dogs, poultry, rabbit, and cats will still be required to take the Quality Assurance and Ethics (QAEC) training. <u>This training is only required once in the member's career.</u> We encourage you to complete the section for each species you exhibit.... However it is not mandatory that you do so.

THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE ALL MANDATORY CERTIFICATIONS WILL BE JUNE 1.

STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H UPDATES

COUNTY/STATE AWARDS APPLICATIONS

COUNTY: A FEW REMINDERS

1. The "Top 4-Her" Award will be given to individuals 15-18 years of age based on Leader nomination. Recipients will be recognized at the Achievement Banquet. Judging will be based on the nomination and qualifications submitted.

2. The "I Dare You" Award will now be awarded to individuals based on Leader Nomination. Leaders– get out your pens or computer and get those nominations in for the emerging leaders in your Club!

STATE: A LOT HAS CHANGED

1. State Club Awards- deadline September 11, 2020

-Clubs may apply in one or all of the three areas: ENGAGE, EXPERIENCE, EXCEL

-There is an application process for the EXCEL area (3 categories)

-In the EXPERIENCE area clubs will tell their 4-H Story Online

• View the video tutorial here: https://youtu.be/elGd7Y759-E

2. Illinois 4-H Sustaining the Future Award-was created to recognize 4-H members who have exemplified outstanding leadership within the agricultural industry. (Formerly known as the LCP Award)

-ELIGIBILITY: Applications must be 17-19 years (as of 09/01/20).

-APPLICATION: Electronic submissions are due November 1. The application consists of entering your involvement in various activities,

three essay questions, and reference evaluations.

-Apply here: https://www.jotform.com/build/201686303129149

RECOGNITION



The two-tier awards program includes plaques for the top ten scoring members

and invitations to the 2-day Premier 20 Youth Leadership Conference in April. Delegates for this conference are selected based on their outstanding leadership within either 4-H or the FFA Organization. Members are also honored at a state awards ceremony each spring.

STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H UPDATES

3. 4-H INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS
- Offers recognition for members who participate in activities and events.
There are always lots of activities you can do as a 4-H member ranging
from club to national events.
- <u>Deadline September 11– County Extension Office</u>
-Open to 4-H members of all ages.
-Application can be found @ https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards
- A video tutorial will be available soon
-Complete the application listing your experiences during one year in
these 4 areas:
*Participation
*Community Service
*Leadership
*Project Learning
-Bronze, Silver, and Gold will receive county recognition
-Diamond and Emerald will receive State recognition
-Your award level is determined by how many experiences you do in each area:
*Bronze Clover Award: Complete at least 1 experience in each of the four dimensions.
* <i>Silver Clover Award</i> : Complete at least 2 experiences in each of the four dimensions; at least 2 of those experiences must be at the County level or beyond.
* <i>Gold Clover Award:</i> Complete 4 experiences in each of the four dimensions; at least 2 of those experiences must be BEYOND the County level.
* <i>Diamond Clover Award</i> : Complete 6 or more experiences in ONE dimension; at least 4 of those experiences must be BEYOND the County level.
* <i>Emerald Clover Award</i> : Complete 8 or more experiences in ONE dimension; at least 4 of those experiences must be BEYOND the County level PLUS at least 2 must be at the State or National level.
4. IL 4-H SCHOLARSHIP (NEW)
-This merit-based \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to five Illinois 4-H
members in each category listed below.

*Animal Science

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- *Food Systems
- *Healthy Living/Nutrition
- *Leadership
- *Natural Resources & Environmental Science
- *Personal Growth
- *STEM/Robotics

-Scholarships are paid directly to the educational institution of the member's choice.

-Members must be 15-18 years old (as of 9/1/20) and be currently enrolled in the Illinois 4-H program, and must have been a 4-H member for a minimum of 2 years.

-4-H members can win in one area only once in a lifetime. However, that win does NOT make them ineligible in other areas.

-Online application https://form.jotform.com/200997358403158

-Deadline is November 1, 2020

-Find a tutorial video here: https://youtu.be/h0NVQVZ5oBQ

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS-This event has been cancelled. Award winners will have the option to attend in 2021 or take the \$1,000 scholarship. National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, GA (State 4-H Award winner 2020 option – by invitation only) -In the future, the Natinal 4-H Congress will have a separate application. -IL 4-H Congress Winners will expand to approximately 20 individuals -More information to come

Whether you are a first-year 4-H member or a longtime member, it's time to focus on pulling together information for your 4-H award applications. Even younger members can submit the 4-H Experience Application and be eligible for 4-H recognition. Older members can submit both the 4-H Experience Application and the Illinois 4-H Scholarship Application to be eligible for state recognition, scholarships, and/or trips.

STEPHENSON COUNTY IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2020

1	Happy New 4-H Year! 4-H Online is locked down for update migration to 4-H Online 2.0		
11	State Club Awards Submission Deadline; Individual Experience Submission Deadline; All end-of-year club awards & paperwork deadline; 2020 Trophy Choice Google Form Deadline		
21	4-H Online opens for new and returning enrollments		
OCTOBER 2020			
4-10	National 4-H Week Celebration		
18	4-H SC Awards & Achievements, Trophy Drive Thru Pick Up, HCC Building H Drive Up; 2-4 pm		
NOVEMBER 2020			
1	Illinois 4-H Scholarship Submission Deadline		
1	Re-enrollment due date for returning 4-H members		

STATE 4-H INFORMATION:

JUST THE HELP YOU NEED FOR YOUR 4-H CLUB

The Illinois 4-H Website has all of the resources and forms needed to guide 4-H club officers, committees, and members as they plan for the new 4-H program year.

- Go to go.illinois.edu/IL4H
- Click on the **Clubs** tab.
- Scroll to Meeting Resources near the bottom of the page Find these helpful documents:
- **Club Meeting Agenda** this fillable form is a useful fill-in-the-blank form your club officers can use as they plan each section of the meeting. This useful from provides them with the meeting structure they can use to identify who from the club should be in charge of each potential item that may be included in a meeting.
- Club Committee Planning Worksheet the Committee Planning Worksheet is an excellent tool to give to committee members as they plan club events and activities.
- Club Yearly Program Plan this helpful tool guides the club officers and club members as they identify club goals to work toward during the year and brainstorm what programs, events and/or activities to plan for the club to engage members in fun, hands-on learning experiences throughout the program year.
- **More** Don't forget to download your new secretary book, treasurer book, tips for good club meetings, tips for using the 4-H name, and more other important resources.



STATE 4-H INFORMATION:



END OF YEAR AWARD TIME IS APPROACHING

Whether you are a first-year 4-H member or a longtime member, it's time to focus on pulling together information for your 4-H award applications. Even younger members can submit the 4-H Experience Application and be eligible for 4-H recognition. Older members can submit both the 4-H Experience Application and the Illinois 4-H Scholarship Application to be eligible for state recognition, scholarships, and/or trips.

The **Illinois 4-H Experience Award Application** focuses on all of those events and activities that you have experienced during the 4-H year in four areas: *Participation, Community Service, Leadership,* and *Project Learning*. Depending upon the type and number of experiences you can report on, members can receive recognition on the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond or Emerald Clover Award level. Your family calendar, 4-H notes or county summary, checkmarks, and a few written details are all that's needed for even the youngest members to submit this application. This application can be found @ <u>https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards</u>.

The **Illinois 4-H Scholarship** is a merit-based scholarship to award outstanding work in project areas. Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in each of the following categories: Animal Science, Civic Engagement/Global Living, Creative Performing Arts & Communication, Food Systems, Healthy Living/ Nutrition, Leadership, Natural Resources & Environmental Science, Personal Growth and STEM/Robotics. The deadline to apply is November 1. Apply online @ <u>go.illinois.edu/4Hscholarships</u>.



CLUB RECOGNITION AWARD

Is your 4-H Club doing outstanding work in the areas of Community Service, Leadership or Project Mastery?. If so,

you should apply for the Illinois 4-H Club Award! Clubs receiving this award will receive a \$75 cash incentive and an award certificate. This is also a great tool to set goals and plan for the upcoming 4-H year. This application can be found @ <u>https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/</u> <u>awards</u>.

JOIN COLLEGIATE 4-H AT U OF I

A great way to meet people at U of I is by joining C4-H, the registered student organization for 4-H alums attending University of Illinois. For more information, contact Brittney Muschetto at <u>uiuccollegiate4h@gmail.com</u>.



STATE 4-H INFORMATION:



4-H SHOOTING SPORTS FALL UPDATE

After a survey of shooting sports discipline instructors; key volunteers; and state shooting sports venues - the decision has been made to move all in-person state shoots to a virtual tournament format for health and safety reasons. This will allow for smaller, local competitions to be conducted and supervised by certified Level I 4-H discipline instructors who will then report the youth scores centrally through an on-line system. Only Level I certified instructors may enter scores from 4-H members.

Also, we are happy to announce that our 2020 Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports team members who were scheduled to attend the National 4-H Shoot last June (cancelled due to COVID-19) will be invited to shoot at the same national event in 2021 if they are still age eligible. Our 2020 virtual shoot results and the data from 2019 State Shoots will then be used to fill any gaps in the 2021 Illinois team.

The virtual shoot will run for the months of September – December, 2020. <u>Registration will be free</u> and have both a Junior (11-13 years) and Senior (14-18 years) division! Disciplines offered will be compound archery; recurve archery; shotgun (trap); and air rifle. The rules, registration link, and score submittal link are attached to this email and also posted on the Illinois 4-H website at: <u>https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/illinois-4-h-virtual-shoot-fall-2020</u>

Virtual Shoot registration opens Sept. 1st

There are no current plans to conduct an in-person 4-H Shooting Sports adult certification training in the fall of 2020 at this time. This situation is still pending and is dependent on pandemic management guidelines.

PROGRESS IN A NEW SUSTAINABLE AG PROJECT

In collaboration with the Illinois 4-H Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau, and the FarmBot company we are beginning to roll out several pilot sites for the implementation of STEM programming in Ag Education. This educational program is aimed at developing the critical thinking and STEM-related skills of Illinois youth by bringing them into contact with precision agriculture technology and promoting design-thinking approaches to agriculture's greatest challenges. See this link for a short interview with Illinois Farm Bureau to learn more about the progress we've made.

https://vimeo.com/438292870

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and guardians tips on internet security, communication, and creating safety plans.. touch on first aid, snack safety, and following the safety plans.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, email us at uie-jsw@illinois.edu early requests are encouranged to allow us sufficient time to meet your access needs.