



4-H FAST FACTS



A Newsletter for **Montgomery County 4-H Families**

August 2020

We continue to monitor the impact and spread of the novel coronavirus and COVID-19, both throughout the state and in our local communities. Since the beginning of the outbreak, Illinois Extension and state leaders have provided policies and guidance for programming, events, and activities throughout the spring and summer months. As we transition into August, there are updates regarding in-person activities that will affect our 4-H members and families.

As a reminder, policies are currently in place that prohibit any type of in-person 4-H event, meeting, or activity through July 31st. Beginning on August 1st, the following policies will be followed for all 4-H clubs and programs in the state of Illinois:

- **August 1st – 15th:** Groups of 10 or less can meet outside, provided they follow all social distancing regulations; no in-person meetings or events held indoors
- **August 16th – 31st:** Groups of 25 or less can meet outside, provided they follow all social distancing regulations; groups of 10 or less can meet inside, provided they follow all social distancing regulations

It is important to note that the group size limits include all participants, including youth members, volunteers, and any other adults/children (family) that may be present.

Please involve your local 4-H program coordinator in any planning or discussion of in-person activities until further notice. Policies and best practices are changing and updating rapidly, and we want to ensure that all volunteers, members, and family members remain safe while still engaging in 4-H events to the best of their ability. A new 4-H year will still begin on September 1st, but we still do not know what policies or allowed events we will be able to hold.

Regardless of current policies, one of the essential elements of positive youth development is belonging, and we must continue to practice and cultivate that as we move forward. While we think about transitioning back to in-person activities, we still must keep in mind the comfort level and/or health risks of our 4-H families. I encourage all 4-H club meetings and activities to continue to provide an online option, if possible, so that all families can be included. Additionally, members must not be penalized if they cannot attend meetings or events in-person.

We continue to take steps towards opening our offices to the public, but we do not have a specific timeline at this point. Staff continue to work remotely and are available through email or phone if you need assistance or have questions.

I want to thank all of you for your continued patience and perseverance over the past months and in the weeks and months to come. This 4-H year will be one to remember for many reasons, and I am proud of everyone for accepting and adapting to the changes and making the most out of each new opportunity.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sara Marten

Sara Marten

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To keep up with 4-H happenings in Montgomery County, including workshops, check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/montgomery4h>



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**4-H Enrollment will start after
October 1!**

ENTER TO WIN LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONTEST

4-H Top Chef Challenge 30-minute Safe Recipe Contest



**Create an original
recipe that can be
made in 30 minutes
or less**

**Open until
August 17,
2020**

**Make sure your recipe includes
language from the safe recipe
style guide found at
saferecipeguide.org**

**Take a high quality
picture of your
creation & enter to
win prizes!**

**Visit
fightbac.org
for more
info.**

**After entering nationally, enter to
win locally through University of
Illinois Extension! Register at
go.illinois.edu/4Htopchefchallenge**

**Open to
Youth
Ages
5 to 17**

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ILLINOIS 4-H VOLUNTEER CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS



Let's
CHAT

We LOVE to TALK to our Volunteer's!

4-H VOLUNTEER CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS!

Register to participate in the first **4-H Volunteer Café Conversation** on **Thursday, August 20; at 7 PM**. We are so excited to be launching this new Illinois 4-H opportunity creating a platform for 4-H Volunteers from across Illinois to meet virtually and discuss topics of interest, share both ideas and challenges. Volunteers will gain access to tools & techniques to support their volunteer efforts, strengthening 4-H club and member learning experiences. We will address two topics during

each Café Conversation so come with your ideas, questions, and since this is a Café Conversation, feel free to bring a snack as well! This is what we have planned for our first Illinois 4-H Volunteer Café Conversation.

Here are the Specials of the Day:

- Welcome to our Volunteer Cafe - A Few Appetizers to Get Us Started (10 minutes)
- Special of the Day #1 - Successful Member Recruitment Strategies (15 minutes)
- Special of the Day #2 - Club Programming to Energize Meetings (15 minutes)
- Wrap Up - Tips & Tools for your Pantry; AND What's on the Menu for Next Time! (10-15 minutes)

Use this registration link to indicate your intent to participate in this new opportunity. Everyone who signs up will receive an email prior to the event with the Zoom Call registration link and additional instructions. We look forward to chatting with you soon!

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22481>

STATE 4-H GENERAL PROJECT SHOW

Judging for state fair projects is happening now. However results cant be released until all judging throughout the state takes place. They should be posted later this month.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JUNIOR HORSE SHOW

August 29-30, 2020 (English Show Portion)

September 5-6, 2020 (Western Show Portion)

Open to ages 8-21. Held at Du Quion State Fairgrounds, Du Quion, IL

This is not a 4-H sponsored activity but may be of interest to you enrolled in related 4-H project areas. For more information: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Documents/20%20JrHorse.pdf>

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXPO

Sept 11-13, 2020 (beef / sheep / dairy goats / pygmy goats / rabbits / poultry)

Sept 18-20, 2020 (swine / dairy cattle / meat goats)

Open to ages 8-21. Held at Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL.

This is not a 4-H sponsored activity but may be of interest to you enrolled in related 4-H project areas. For more information: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Documents/20%20JrLivestock.pdf>

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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 uiuccollegiate4h@gmail.com.



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 @ <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards>.



TRUE LEADERS IN SERVICE – SHARE YOUR STORY!

4-H members and clubs have continued to demonstrate they are **True Leaders in Service**, as they have worked independently to support both their personal and club goals of making a difference in their community by focusing their energies on the 4th “H” and pledge their HANDS to larger service! Illinois 4-H members and clubs have demonstrated how to **Make the Best Better**, during the COVID-19 crisis by developing plans and taking action collecting and donating food to stock shelves

at local food pantries; reaching out vulnerable populations who may not have family members close to pick up needed supplies; and by making hundreds of face masks face masks to distribute to medical facilities; local businesses; and in communities.

If you did not register your plan for serve outreach, please use this link to share what your plan <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/clubs>. Be sure to also follow-up and report what you accomplished on through your service project. The accomplishments of both individual members and clubs will be highlighted on the Illinois 4-H Website so make sure you go use the reporting link located in the middle of the page where it says, CLICK HERE to report your 4-H Community Service Activity to provide your club update!

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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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 @ <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards>. **This application is due to the local Extension office September 4, 2020.**

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 @ go.illinois.edu/4Hscholarships.

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 form 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.

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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. Registration will be free 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 nwebsite at: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/illinois-4-h-virtual-shoot-fall-2020>

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.

4-H Virtual Fair

The 2020 4-H Virtual fair was a success. We saw so many amazing projects from members around the county.

You can log into Fair Entry to view your awards and the comments left by judges. [Fairentry.com](https://www.fairentry.com)

In case you missed it, the Journal News July 6 issue, included a photo spread of our 4-H members and their projects. We have also posted the photos and results of the fair on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Montgomery4-H

Good luck to those going to state fair!