



Hamilton County Clover News

Candy Making



Very Successful

Thank you to all who helped make candy this year. We have had a very successful year and have sold almost 4,000 pieces of candy.

Christmas on the Square



Thank you to everyone that helped make Christmas on the Square successful! You may have helped build the float, set up the booth, serve food at Breakfast with Santa, sold candy or other goods at the Holiday Bazaar, rode on the float or helped with games in the basement. Your contributions were greatly appreciated.

Federation Meeting Scheduled

The next Federation meeting is scheduled for January 8 at 3:45 p.m. We will be discussing Cabin Fever Day and the Blacksmith Workshop. Please plan to join us!

Cabin Fever Day Planned

Tired of the cold and dreary weather? Mark your calendar for a fun day of learning and crafting! Monday, January 15 4-H will partner with HCE to host Cabin Fever Day. Youth and adults will make several different items including Bless Your Heart Beads, Valentines for Veterans and Lap Robes for the Honor Flight.

All youth junior high and older will be making throws or leading crafts for younger youth.

Any and all adults are welcome to help make the throws. We are also accepting donations of cotton red, white and blue or patriotic fabric, and quilt batting for lining. You do not have to know how to sew to participate.



Lunch will be provided! Call the office at 643-3416 by January 12 to sign up! This will be a unit activity!

January 2024

U of I Extension

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JOIN THE TEAM. CHANGE THE WORLD.



After School Craft Club

Do you like making crafts and having fun with friends? Make plans to join our after school craft club. It will be open to 4-H members grade 2nd—5th ! It will meet every Tuesday afterschool until 4:30 beginning January 9. There will be no cost to participate but you must reserve your spot by calling 643-3416. We could also use older youth to assist.



Lego Maker 4-H Event Held

The Lego 4-H event was on November 4th. The event had many Lego activities such as painting, building, and bingo. Everyone that came had a blast. The car building was the favorite of all the kids. They could build a car and race it down a track. Prizes were given both for bringing a build and winning some of the games. We plan to have the 2nd annual Lego Maker event next year.



By: Aydan Hood, Barbwire Gang

Test Your Knowledge at Trivia Night

The Barbwire Gang 4-H Club will host a unit 24 4-H Trivia Night in March beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse basement. All clubs are invited and can enter as many teams as you like. There is no fee to participate and prizes will be awarded. Watch your email for more information!



The Regional Showcase Coming to Du Quoin State Fair

I am excited to share an additional showing opportunity for 4-H'ers in the lower 49 counties this year – “The Regional Showcase” in partnership with the Du Quoin State Fair. While this additional showing opportunity will not pay out Premiums, there will be awards (Rosettes for General Projects and Banners for Livestock) sponsored by a local donor.



The donor has also agreed to cover the expense of the livestock judges. Registration for the event will open on March 1 (show book will be available this date as well) and close on August 1.

Date Information:

General Projects show will be Saturday, August 17 (the Saturday before the Du Quoin State Fair starts). 4-H Exhibitors will be able to keep their project up through the duration of the Fair.

The Livestock Shows will take place the following weekend on Friday, August 23 and Saturday, August 24. The Department of Ag has waived the 72-hour rule for this event. There will be a \$5 stalling fee per animal.

Friday will be the Goat and Sheep show as well as the swine weigh-in.

Parking is free the first night.

Saturday will be the Beef, Dairy and Swine shows. \$10 parking

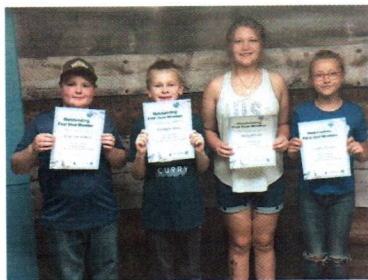
Blacksmith Workshop Planned

Funny Farmers 4-H club will host a Blacksmith Workshop on Saturday, January 13 at the home of Drew Smith near Dahlgren. He will demonstrate basic techniques and explain how the process works. Watch your email for updates in the next few weeks!



Achievement Night Held

The annual 4-H Achievement Night was held on October 23 in the courthouse basement. There were 67 in attendance. The prince Wrigley Robinson led the American pledge and Princess Ainsley Willis led the 4-H pledge. Leaders and Teen Teachers were recognized. All Clover-buds were recognized and those present were each awarded a certificate and bag of goodies.



The First Year and Outstanding 1st Year Members were announced as follows: Addy Brown, Shaina Brown, Corbyn Hood and Granger Wilson.



Individual Experience Awards were awarded in Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Bronze: Addy and Shaina Brown



Silver: Benji Bernard, Finn Bowling, Hayden Davis, Brooklin Durbin, Corbyn Hood, Luke Schilling, Faith Showalter, Johnathon Showalter, Brinkley

Sutton, Sky Tolbert and Laynna Wilson.

Gold: Blu Barrow, Leah Bowling, Emilee Cox, Lainey Davis, Aydan Hood, Emma Hood, Maddie Karcher, Cecelia Lueke, Serenity Smith, Gracie Walker, Shiloh Willis, Granger Wilson and Ava Winternheimer.



Six members records are being submitted for state judging.

Maddie Karcher, Emilee Cox, Lainey Davis, Gracie Walker, Shiloh Willis and Granger Wilson.



EXCEL Awards were presented to

Communications

Nola Launius

Community Service

Shiloh Willis

Leadership

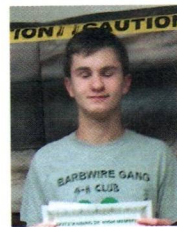
Emilee Cox

Personal Growth

Gracie walker

Project Mastery

Aydan Hood.



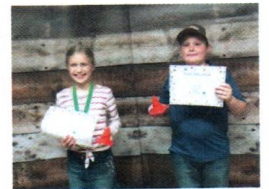
Outstanding Senior High Member
Aydan Hood

Outstanding Junior High Member
Gracie Walker



Victory Award Winners
8-9 year olds

Blu Barrow, Granger Wilson, Faith Showalter, Finn Bowling



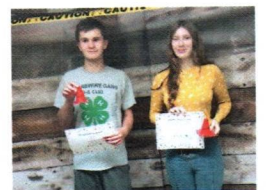
10-11 year olds

Emma Hood, Benji Bernard, Lainey Davis, Leah Bowling,

Sky Tolbert, Johnathon Showalter

12-14 year olds

Gracie Walker, Aydan Hood, Shiloh Willis, Cecelia Lueke, Brooklin Durbin



15-19 year olds

Emilee Cox, Maddie Karcher.



Overall Victory Award Winners

8-9 year olds Blu Barrow and Granger Wilson

10-11 year olds Lainey Davis & Benji Bernard

12-14 year olds Shiloh Willis and Aydan Hood

15-19 year olds Emilee Cox

Those that exhibited at the **Illinois State Fair** were recognized.



Emilee Cox, Lainey Davis, Aydan Hood, Corbyn Hood, Emma Hood, Nola Launius, Gracie Walker, Shiloh Willis and Granger Wilson.

Trophy Winners were recognized as follows:

Animal Science	Blu Barrow
Beef	Cecelia Lueke
Clothing & Textiles	Emma Hood
Dog	Granger Wilson
Electricity	Gracie Walker
Family Heritage	Corbyn Hood
Food & Nutrition	Shiloh Willis
Geology	Gracie Walker
Goats	Granger Wilson
Horse	Gracie Walker
Horticulture	Emilee Cox
Intercultural	Granger Wilson
Interior Design	Emilee Cox
Natural Resources	Granger Wilson
Photography	Emilee Cox
Poultry	Shiloh Willis
Rabbit	Gracie Walker
Robotics	Aydan Hood
Sheep	Gracie Walker
Swine	Cecelia Lueke
Video	Emma Hood
Visual Arts	Shiloh Willis
Woodworking	Gracie Walker



Outstanding Secretary Book went to Blu Barrow and **Outstanding Treasurers Book** went to Leah Bowling.

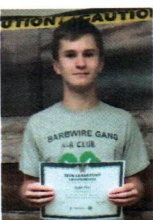


The **Electricity Award & Livestock Conference Award** went to Gracie Walker.



Illini Summer Academies scholarship went to Aydan Hood & Shiloh Willis

Junior Leadership Conference award winners were: Emma Hood and Gracie Walker



Teen Leadership Conference Scholarship
Aydan Hood



Club of the Year went to Funny Farmers

Friend of 4-H went to Burnt Hill Cattle Company and

4-H Alumni went to Logan Karcher



4-H Members Ignite Their Future Leadership Path

Over 100 seventh and eighth grade youth learned ways to improve their leadership skills at the 2023 space-themed 4-H Junior Leadership Conference held Nov. 4-5 at the Decatur Hotel and Conference Center in Decatur.

“This event helps youth from all over Illinois gain a new experience at the state level,” says University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development educator Johnna Jennings. “They gain essential life skills like networking, independence, and all the skills we are hoping for our next generation of leaders.”

Seventeen Youth leadership Team members worked together to plan and lead the conference with the goal of helping youth to feel empowered to go back to their clubs with stronger leadership skills.

“Participants gain confidence and skills they need to step up and start being leaders in their clubs and communities,” says Katie Duitsman, University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development specialist. “It gets them learning about themselves and hopefully gaining the courage to continue to get more involved in their home communities.”

The two-day conference put leadership skill-building into action with space-themed workshops that helped youth to build public speaking skills, learn how to effectively overcome obstacles, and how to be community leader. Team mixing and team building activities helped youth forge new friendships and build their 4-H network.

Part of leading is serving, and attendees also worked together to package 12,744 meals to take back and donate in their home communities after the conference ends.

“I helped plan the community service workshop” says Andrea Schaffnit, a first-year Youth Leadership Team member from Adams County. “This will help teach youth about hunger in their communities and how they can make a difference and impact.”

The conference was organized and taught by members of the Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team, a team of uniquely-trained high school and college-aged 4-H members and young adult 4-H alumni.

“The Youth Leadership Team members gain program planning experience that includes everything from budgeting, designing, and leading,” says Duitsman. “They put their leadership skills into practice and are mentors to the participants on site.”

A portion of the conference expenses was covered by the Illinois 4-H Foundation which raises private funds to support the Illinois 4-H program. Additional sponsors included Growmark FS.

Our very own Gracie Walker attended and had a great time!



Upcoming Dates

January 3	Office opens
January 8	Federation Meeting 3:45 p.m.
January 9	Afterschool Craft Club
January 13	Blacksmith Workshop
January 15	Cabin Fever Day 9 a.m.
January 16	Afterschool Craft Club
January 23	Afterschool Craft Club
January 30	Afterschool Craft Club
January 31	Sustaining the Future Award Deadline
February 6	Afterschool Craft Club
February 13	Afterschool Craft Club

4-H is Online 24/7

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



Holiday Office Hours

The Hamilton County University of Illinois Extension office will be closed beginning Monday, December 18– Tuesday, January 2. If you need something please feel free to call my cell number at 618 839-3070. Happy Holidays!

Enrollment and Fees Due

Reminder that if you have not turned in your 2023-2024 new year enrollment it is overdue! You are not considered an active member until you re-enroll and pay your \$20 program fee each year! Once again, if you plan to exhibit at the shows and sell in the auction you must attend a minimum of 6 meetings and events! Please get your enrollments and fees in ASAP!

Tentative Fair Dates

The 4-H exhibit dates have tentatively been set for the week of June 17-22. More information will be available after the first of the year!

Youth Sponsors: Hamilton County Coal, Rubenacker Farms, Consolidated Grain and Barge, Wabash Valley Service Company, Dahlgren Building Center, Farm Credit Services, SynEnergy Partners, Thomas Farms, Honeysuckle Vine Events, McNeil Consulting, Hamilton County Home & Community Education, Larry Pauketat, Lisa Cross Financial Advisor, Food Park, Wilson Computers, Corteva, York Pharmacy, Auten's Pizza, Christopher Johnson Seed LLC, Bunge SCF, Hamilton County Rotary, Hamilton Memorial Hospital District, McLeansboro Kiwanis, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Roger Swartz, Banterra Bank and Insurance, Peoples National Bank, Posey County Co-Op, Southern FS, City of McLeansboro, McLeansboro Elks, Mike Harre/The Big Red Barn, Fairfield National Bank, H & R Agri Power, Woodrow Farms, Justin Drake Country Companies, Archer-Daniel-Midland, Aydt Hardware, Bowling and Associates CPA Firm LTD, Countertop Creations, Lynn Braden State Farm Insurance, Edward Jones-Tim Millenbine, Country Mutual Insurance-Chad Mitsdarffer, Fender Mender Auto Body, Hamilton County Water District, Lakeland, Gary & Mary Little, Burnt Hill Cattle Company