



## **Activities and Events**

### **County Level**

- **County 4-H Fair**  
The Edgar County 4-H Fair provides an opportunity for members to have their project work evaluated and placed on display for public viewing.
- **BBQ Bash**  
The BBQ Bash is the annual preparation for the 4-H Pork Chop BBQ. The BBQ Bash is held on Thursday evening before the BBQ at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Paris.
- **Pork Chop BBQ**  
The Edgar County 4-H Pork Chop BBQ is an annual event held on the fourth Saturday in June at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Paris. The 4-H Federation sponsors the BBQ as their major fundraising project for the 4-H program.
- **Dog Obedience Classes**  
Offered in the spring as an 8-10 week class to teach basic dog obedience skills. Classes are held at the 4-H Fairgrounds and attendance is a requirement in order to show at the Dog Show.
- **Project Workshops**  
A variety of hands-on workshops are planned throughout the year to familiarize younger 4-H'ers with the different projects areas that are offered.
- **4-H Federation**  
Federation meets monthly and is an organization to provide the older youth of Edgar County with added opportunities to make new friendships, develop leadership, to improve citizenship, to increase interest in 4-H, to plan programs to meet the needs and interests of all 4-H'ers, and to exchange ideas to carry out the local program. Any 4-H member in eighth grade and older is eligible to participate in Federation by attending the Federation meetings.
- **Livestock Judging Team**  
Members can sign up to be on the team and practice with the coach and judge at a variety of contests throughout the year. They will also represent the county at the State 4-H contest held in June each year.
- **Cloverbuds**  
The Cloverbud 4-H program is open to youth ages 5-7 years old. The youth participate in hands-on, non-competitive learning activities related to 4-H project areas. Cloverbuds meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 pm. Club leader is Stevie Drake.

## Regional and Unit Level

- **4-H Camp**

4-H Camp is held in June or early July at 4-H Memorial Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello, IL. Cost of the camp is approximately \$195. The five day camping experience is designed for youth ages 8-15. Campers participate in lots of hand-on projects, such as rocketry, conservation, cooking, performing arts, sports, and crafts. It also wouldn't be camp without hikes, campfires, rock climbing, boating, fishing or swimming!

## State Level

- **Illini Summer Academies**

Teens from across Illinois gather to explore college curriculum, meet new friends, and get a taste of college life during 4-H Illini Summer Academies. Delegates spend four days with University of Illinois professors and graduate students while they try out college majors and learn about potential careers. Illini Summer Academies is open to youth who have completed 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration opens in March with the academies held in June.

- **Illinois Junior Leadership Conference**

The Junior Leadership Conference is for 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H members. This event is organized and conducted by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Team. Workshops help participants develop leadership skills, learn about 4-H opportunities, and explore 4-H project areas. Details are available from the Extension office in late November. The conference is usually held in late February.

- **State Judging Contests**

In mid-June, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana hosts judging contests in livestock, dairy, poultry, and horses as well as skill competitions in forestry, horticulture and rocket launching. Winners of these events become candidates to compete in Invitational Judging Contests held at the Illinois State Fair in August as well as in national competitions. All 4-H members are eligible to participate in these competitions.

- **State Fair**

Members selected as having the top exhibit in their general project represent Edgar County at the State Fair. State Fair begins the second Friday in August. State Fair exhibitors must be 8 years old by September 1 of the current 4-H year, including livestock exhibitors. For more information, see "State Fair Policies" section.

## **National**

- **Citizenship Washington Focus**

Travel to Washington, D.C. for one summer week filled with new experiences, sightseeing and learning about our nation's capital and the governmental process. Delegates stay at the national 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD. Citizenship Washington Focus is open to teens ages 14-18. Apply for this trip in the fall. Cost is about \$1,000 with the possibility of an available scholarship from Federation.

### **4-H Event Assistance**

The Edgar County Federation provides financial assistance for members who attend regional, state and national 4-H events as funds are available. All event assistance opportunities are announced in the Green Pride Press, our county 4-H newsletter. Assistance for 4-H Camp require the 4-H'er to write a short essay due to the Extension office by May 1.

## **Honors & Recognition**

We value the hard work of our 4-H members and provide several ways to recognize the outstanding accomplishments in all phases of a 4-H member's career. Some awards are given locally for participating in the 4-H program and for making progress toward your individual goals. Other awards are competitive. Each step of the awards program is voluntary.

### **The Illinois 4-H Recognition program focuses on three areas of recognition Engage, Experience and Excel:**

**ENGAGE.** This highlights the recognition and inclusion of *all members* into the 4-H community. There is no application process required to receive this recognition. Local Extension offices will create its own plan for welcoming new members and honoring all members who become **engaged** in the 4-H program. This may include: newsletters, social media highlights, news stories, t-shirts and other special membership items.

**EXPERIENCE.** The Illinois 4-H program offers many EXPERIENCES for its members. This area offers recognition for members who are involved in diverse **4-H experiences** in club, county, multi-county, state, national and international levels. Submit the My Experience Award Application listing experiences during one year in these 4-H areas:

- Participation
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Project Learning

Recognition is based on the number of your experiences, achieve one of 5 levels:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold
- Diamond
- Emerald

**EXCEL.** 4-H members who EXCEL in their work can compete for county and state honors in specific award areas. There are several different EXCEL Awards. For members who were 15-18 years of age on September 1 of the current 4-H year you may apply for the Illinois 4-H State Award. Submit the Illinois 4-H Award Application in one or more of these 5 areas:

- Communications
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Personal Growth
- Project Mastery

State winners will receive either a \$1,000 college scholarship, OR a trip to National 4-H Congress, OR another national travel opportunity.

### **Recognition for Competition**

**Electricity Achievement Award** – The Illinois Electrification Council (IEC) provides a plaque to one 4-H member from each county for outstanding achievements in electricity. Members may only receive this award once.

**David Lindsey 4-H Swine Recognition Memorial Award** – This award is presented in memory of David Lindsey who raised swine and was eager to teach 4-H'ers all he knew. 4-H'ers are nominated by a club leader and a winner is chosen by committee. Award is given during the Swine Show at the 4-H Fair.

**Marlene Pratt 4-H Memorial Award** – This award is given in memory of Marlene Pratt to a 4-H'er between the ages of 8-10 based primarily on the satisfaction the member gets out of 4-H and their positive attitude towards others. This award was established in 1983 to honor her active involvement in her 4-H Club and was established by the Scott's Victory Club. 4-H'ers are nominated by a club leader and a winner is chosen by committee. Award is given at the 4-H Fair in July.

**Mary Frances Fruin Conservation Award** – This award is given each year to an Edgar County 4-H Club who has conducted outstanding programming in the area of natural resources conservation. Clubs submit an application and a winner is chosen by committee.

**Outstanding Federation Member(s)** – This award is given to deserving Federation members for their dedication, leadership skills and hard work in serving the county 4-H program through the 4-H Federation.

**10 & 11 Year 4-H Member Award** – This award is given to honor all 10 and 11 year 4-H members to recognize their dedication and achievement throughout their 4-H career. Awards are presented at club meetings in the fall.

**Completion Member Award** - A plaque will be given to each completion member during a special recognition ceremony at the 4-H Fair. All 4-H members who are aging out of the program are eligible.

Updated February, 2019

**State Award Opportunities** – 4-H'ers 15 – 18 years of age may apply for State Awards. Candidates must complete the Illinois 4-H Award Application and submit to the county office in early January.

**NOTE:** All award applications and nomination forms are available on our website at:  
[web.extension.illinois.edu/cce/](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cce/)

**Club Awards** – The Illinois 4-H Program makes available to all 4-H clubs that excel the opportunity to apply for the Illinois 4-H Club Award in January. On the county level, clubs may participate in the Clover Club Challenge. These awards will be presented to clubs during the fall.