



4-H



NEWSLETTER

November & December 2023

University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

Dear 4-H Families:

This is the time of year when 4-H clubs are meeting monthly, members are selecting projects, and events are being planned for the coming months. It is also a time to think of all the things we are thankful for.

Is your club planning a community service activity with the holidays coming up? If not, try to think of one to suggest at your next meeting- use your imagination! Thanks to all our 4-H leaders, other volunteers, and members in the Fulton County 4-H Program. We welcome many new 4-H families to our program this time of year. **Starting in January 2024, the paper newsletter will transition to email. If you want us to print a copy of the email and mail it to you, PLEASE let us know.**

We want to continue providing relevant and timely information to each family in Fulton County . Please watch for this email and make note of dates that apply to your family. As always, call us if we can help you in any way to get more out of 4-H.

Share your time, talents, and resources and continue to “make the best better” in 4-H. Have an enjoyable holiday season with those you care about most.

Krista Gray
Rachel Van Cleve
Fulton 4-H Program Coordinators

Your questions and calls are very important to us. We can be reached via Office phone 309-547-3711, Email kristakg@illinois.edu or rfv@illinois.edu Teams phone 217-300-6714 – Krista; 217-265-9819 – Rachel during regular business hours. If you reach out to either or us using other communication tools, we will respond during our normal work hours.



ZSuite Enrollment

Enrollment continues in ZSuite, <https://4h.zsuite.org>. Thank you to those who have already enrolled/re-enrolled. Please enroll and submit your program fee payment by November 30 to receive the “early-bird” registration fee of \$15 per youth. Now is the time to invite new members to join 4-H! Please check with your club leader if you have questions about payment of the program fee. After November 30, the program fee reverts to \$20 per youth, so register and pay soon to save 25%!

Cloverbud Cuties



The Cloverbud Cuties of Canton/Lewistown held their 3rd club meeting on November 2 at the Canton Fire Department. Firefighter Russell and Assistant Chief Hanlin met with 16 club members, 2 club leaders, and several interested parents. Firefighter Russell started the tour by reading a story to the group, guiding the club members through the onsite Fire Station Museum, firehouse kitchen, exercise room, and sleeping quarters. Assistant Chief Hanlin completed the tour in the fire truck bay where all the trucks and equipment are housed. Club members got to see all the fire trucks, which included the ladder truck. The Assistant Chief showed the Cloverbuds the different equipment that is stored on fire trucks, turned on the bright flashing LED lights for the kids, and let them see their parents through the thermal device tool, which helps them locate people trapped inside burning buildings. The Cloverbuds had lots of questions for the firefighters! At the end of the tour, the Cloverbud Cuties and the club leaders presented the firefighters with thank you cards that they made for them at their October club meeting.

Enrollment Deadlines

The following projects have a January 5, 2024, deadline. All other project enrollments and changes are due May 1, 2024. To be eligible to exhibit at the 2024 4-H Shows enrollment deadlines must be met.

Beef (for production animals)

Dairy (for production animals)

Goat (for production animals)

Horse (for production animals)

Poultry (egg production)

Sheep (for production animals)

Swine (for production animals)

Basically, any livestock project where production is the main focus needs to be enrolled in by early January each year.

Be aware that a young person may join 4-H at any time of the year, but to show at the 4-H Shows, the above deadlines are in place.



Unit 4-H Staff

In our four-county Extension unit, a team works together to provide 4-H programming. Each county has an individual 4-H program plus we all work together on unit-wide events and program planning.

Krista Gray

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

Rachel Van Cleve

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

Katharine Girone

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

Lynda Sharp-Lower

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator

Judy Schmidt, Metro 4-H Youth Educator

Earl Allen, County Director

Deb Balagna, Fulton County Office Support

Paula Lane, Mason County Office Support

Angela Sassine, Peoria County Office Support

Julann Schierer, Tazewell County Office Support



November

24-Thanksgiving- office closed.

25- Office closed

30-Enrollment discount ends.

December

22-January 1, 2024- Office closed

January

5- Livestock project deadline enrollment in ZSuite

15- Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

10- Beef Weigh-In/Tattoo at Fairview Sale Barn

17- Clover Clinic at Spoon River College

March

4-Horse Committee Meeting- Fulton County Extension Office

TBA- Public Speaking/Performing Arts Contest

April

1- Fulton County College Scholarship applications due

May

1-General project enrollment closes in ZSuite

1-Horse Ownership/Lease forms due

June

19- Small Pet Show

22- General Show at Cuba High School

July

13 – Official 4-H Horse & Pony Show

Club Photos Needed!

Please send us pictures of your club activities and holiday meetings! We enjoy seeing what is going on in Fulton 4-H! Several Fulton County 4-H clubs will be gathering in November and December for community service activities, parades, and parties. Please share! Your club may be featured in an upcoming news release or 4-H email. Please let us know who to credit when sending us photos.

Thank You Notes

If you received an award of any type at the annual Achievement Program, **PLEASE** send the thank you card that was included with your award to the donor. Without the generosity of these donors, we would not be able to continue with the nice awards, trophies, keychains, and t-shirts the Achievement members receive. Please take a few moments and write your donor a note to show them your appreciation of what you received. A little thoughtfulness and appreciation mean a lot to these kind donors.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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National 4-H Week Displays



National 4-H Week was observed October 1 – 7 and three of our county's 4-H clubs created colorful window displays inviting youth to 4-H.



Our 4-county unit theme this year was “Make Time for 4-H”. The Busy Bees 4-H Club won 1st place with their window display at MidAmerica National Bank in Lewistown. 2nd place was a tie between the Checkrow Volunteers 4-H Club with their window display at Rosy's Pizza in Bushnell and the Smithfield Up and Coming 4-H Club with their display at Jule's Ice Cream & Coffee in Cuba. Congratulations to all 3 clubs for taking the time to promote 4-H in their communities!



Requesting 4-H Project Manuals

If you need any 4-H project manuals, please complete a request at go.illinois.edu/FMPTPubs. Once your request has been filled, you will receive an email to pick up the order at the Extension office. If you prefer to have your club leader give them to you at your 4-H meeting, please let us know. This request system will automatically email you any free, downloadable project resources when you select those items through the site.

Most project manuals have not been updated since last year, so if this is your second year or more in the same project, you may use the manual you received previously. The only manual that has been updated is Passport to the World.

Orders will be filled as they come in with the supply we have in stock. I will be placing a large publications order on December 1 to hopefully have in your hands prior to Christmas break.



Members and Volunteers Recognized

Fifty-three 4-H members were honored at the Fall Celebration Event held at the Fulton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 21. Project awards, Best of Species, Best of Non-Livestock, Outstanding First Year Members, “I Dare You”, Club Community Service, Club Health and Safety, Best Head of Five Cattle, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter of the Year awards were presented to deserving 4-H members. The Fulton County 4-H week window display participants were also recognized. After the awards ceremony, baked treats and drinks were provided by Fulton County HEA and Illinois Extension-Fulton 4-H for all in attendance. Gorgeous weather and great fellowship was enjoyed by all!

I Dare You Award

This award is presented to older teens who exhibit leadership, citizenship, and good character. This year's recipient is Makenna Johnson of the Busy Bees 4-H Club in Lewistown. The recipient of this award receives a book and a National Leadership Award certificate. Congratulations to Makenna on achieving this honor!



Beef Weigh In

If you want your steer(s) to be eligible for the County Rate of Gain Contest, the Illinois State Fair Junior Show, or the Illinois State Fair Premiere Contest, you must bring your steer(s) to be weighed and tattooed on the following date:

Saturday, February 10, 2024 — At the Fairview Sale Barn, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. (arrival times).

This will be the only steer weigh-in this year in Fulton County. Volunteers from Avon will volunteer at this one again instead of hosting one there.

Please arrive during the 2-hour time block listed. I will be sending letters to all Fulton County 4-H members enrolled in the beef project. **PLEASE** read the letter once you receive it and respond to the instructions.

In the event of extremely severe weather, call Rachel at 217-971-4482 that morning, to see if the weigh-in has been postponed. Any cancellation notice will be posted on the Fulton County 4-H Facebook group page.

Steers must be castrated prior to tattooing. If possible, exhibitors should be present during tattooing. Electronic ear tags will also be used.

If you are only weighing in the steer(s) for County Rate of Gain purposes, you don't have to get the tag, but without the tag, your animal will NOT be eligible to go to State Fair Junior Show — and you CANNOT get the tag later.

Each livestock member may nominate up to 10 steers for the State Fair Open and Junior Premiere Classes. Junior Premiere Steers are eligible for the Open Premiere Class, if they are properly entered at the time that State Fair Open entries are made. To qualify, carcasses must grade at least low select, have a yield grade lower than 4.0, and weigh 950 pounds or less. To qualify for the State Fair, calves must have been born on or after January 1, 2023. They must be owned and personally cared for by the exhibitor since February 1, 2024.

Art Supply Donations

Fulton County 4-H is fortunate to have volunteers and organizations support our program. One of our partner organizations is Fulton County HEA. Not only do they provide delicious treats at the annual 4-H Achievement Program, but they also generously supply funds to purchase awards, plaques, and gifts that the 4-H members receive at the program. New this 4-H year, some of the HEA members are donating art supplies to our office for 4-H members to use as they create their Visual Arts projects. These supplies may be checked out and used by 4-H members. If you would like to stop by the University of Illinois Extension office in Lewistown to see what is available for use, please call or email one of us. More supplies will be added throughout the year. Thank you Fulton County HEA members!

Livestock Ownership Dates

Listed below are the **tentative** dates by which animals must be owned **and personally cared for by the exhibitor** to be shown at the County 4-H Shows and State Fair.

BEEF

Steers - February 1, 2024 (calved on or after 1/1/23)

Cows - January 1, 2024 (born before 9/1/22)

Heifers - June 1, 2023 (State Fair — birthdates from 9/1/22 to 3/31/24; County Fair — birthdates from 9/1/22 to 3/1/24)

- DAIRY

Calves and Heifers - June 1, 2024

Cows - January 1, 2024

- DAIRY GOATS

Kids and Yearlings not in milk - June 1, 2024

Milking Does - January 1, 2024

- MEAT GOATS

All meat goats — May 15, 2024

Wethers—Must be registered and tattooed in the name of the exhibitor only by May 15, 2024 (must be born on or after October 1, 2023)

- POULTRY AND RABBITS

June 1, 2024 (or out of stock owned prior to June 1)

- HORSES — Ownership and/or lease forms must be on file with the Extension Office by May 1st each year.

- SHEEP

Breeding Sheep - June 1, 2024

(Yearling Ewes = birthdates 1/1/23-8/31/23)

(Ewe lambs = birthdates 9/1/23 and after)

(Ram lambs = birthdates after 1/1/24)

State Fair Wethers - May 15, 2024 (lambled on or after 1/1/24) (County Fair — ownership by June 1, 2024).

- SWINE

May 1, 2024 (for County Fair)

June 1, 2024 (for State Fair)

State Fair and County Fair gilts must be farrowed on or after 1/1/24.

For State Fair, all barrows must have been farrowed on or after January 1, 2024 and must be the property of the exhibitor since June 1, 2023. Premier barrows must have been farrowed on or after February 10, 2023.

For County Fair Rate of Gain, barrows must have been farrowed on or after February 10, 2023 (or on or after January 15, 2023, if not Rate of Gain).

Note that these are ownership, not enrollment deadlines. Livestock enrollment deadlines, in most cases, are prior to the ownership deadlines.

**HELP SHAPE
THE FUTURE OF OUR
ASSOCIATION!**



Apply to be a member of
the Illinois 4-H Alumni
Advisory Committee



Applications Due
November 15

Illinois
Extension



Are you 4-H Grown?

The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association seeks talented 4-H alumni leaders to serve on a new Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee to represent our diverse alumni population, increase alumni engagement, recognize alumni accomplishments, and support the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association's strategic goals. The Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee will comprise nine regional directors, three young alumni directors, two student ambassador directors, and one Collegiate 4-H ambassador director. The committee will launch this Spring. For more information about the Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee expectations and to download the nomination form, visit: go.illinois.edu/il4halumniadvisory. Completed applications are due November 15, 2023



4-H Show Book Artwork

Again this 4-H year, we will be accepting artwork submissions for the Fulton County 4-H Show Book. Even though the Show Book will not come out until the Spring of 2024, now is a great time to get those creative juices flowing! Use your imagination! You may sketch, paint, make a photo collage, create something on the computer; the ideas are endless! Please consider participating; in addition to bragging rights, your name and photo will be included on the inside cover. We will also be awarding prizes to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries.

CLOVER CLINIC IS COMING!

February 17, 2024

Spoon River College, Canton




Clover Clinic is Back!

Clover Clinic is back and will be held in Fulton County this year! Please mark Saturday, February 17, 2024, on your calendar and make plans to spend the day with knowledgeable Clover Clinic presenters at Spoon River College in rural Canton. We are very excited to offer Clover Clinic in our county this year and **ENCOURAGE** you to attend! More information will be emailed to all families enrolled in ZSuite as well as posted on the Fulton County 4-H Facebook page when the online enrollment is available. Clover Clinic is for all youth ages 8 and up; invite your friends! Please do not miss out, particularly since this will be held in our county! More information regarding the various classes will be announced in December.

Ways to Stay Informed!

Thank you for your interest in staying informed about all the great things that 4-H is doing in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties! As you may know, the Illinois 4-H State Office has begun sending information about state and national 4-H opportunities directly to you via email. Due to this change, and our desire to pass along timely and relevant local 4-H info, we've decided to switch our paper newsletters to an Eblast (email newsletter) format beginning in January 2024.

However, we want to be sure that you can still receive 4-H info in a format accessible for you. If you would like us to print the Eblast and mail you monthly hardcopies, please submit your contact info and mailing address at the link below. Additionally, if you are not currently receiving the biweekly 4-H Happenings Eblast, or you would like to add an additional email address to the Eblast list, you can provide that info as well. This will ensure you are on our digital mailing lists moving forward.

Request a hardcopy or add an email address:
Go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter

