



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



# Fulton County 4-H Newsletter *January/February 2021*



Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit



**Dear 4-H Families:**

**It's 2021, finally! — Happy New Year! Let's get ready for a great year of 4-H activities and events. Special thanks to the 4-H clubs that did community service recently. Welcome to all our new 4-H families!**



**This newsletter contains dates you'll want to know about. If you have steers or other animals that may need to be tattooed, that information is here.**

**Thanks for the nice turnout at the 4-H Achievement Open House in November. Many deserving 4-H members were honored for their hard work.**

**I have had people ask me what 2021 will be like, as far as 4-H events. We simply don't know yet, but I have to start planning as if they will be back to somewhat normal. You know I will keep you posted as we go along...**

**This newsletter is one of our ways of communicating with every 4-H family in Fulton County, but it's up to you to read it!!! As always, call us at 547-3711 if we can help you in any way to get more out of 4-H. *Please read this 4-H newsletter!!!***

**Visit our website!**

<https://extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/4-h-fulton-county>

**Join our facebook group —  
Fulton County 4-H**

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Extension Program Coordinator  
4-H Youth Development  
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**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

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## 4-H Enrollments

Check with your leader to make sure you are enrolled in the right projects, or email [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu) to ask. May 1, 2021 is the deadline for making changes (except for those livestock production projects which had a January deadline — see the November/December 4-H Newsletter). Young persons may join 4-H at any time of the year, but to show at the 4-H Shows, they must be enrolled at the County Extension Office by May 1st of each year.

**To be a 4-H member in this 2020-21 4-H year, youth must be at least 8, and not more than 18, as of 9/1/20.**

**Youth must be enrolled to participate in club meetings and activities. We are asking for paper enrollments this year. If you are attending 4-H club meetings, in person or online, you must be enrolled.**

## 4-H Virtual Fun Night

4-H Federation members are busy planning a 4-H Virtual Fun Night via Zoom. This will be on —

**January 23, at 5:00 p.m.**

You must sign up by one week ahead of time by emailing [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu) or calling 547-3711. Then we will send you the Zoom sign-in information, mail you bingo cards(!), and tell you the app you'll need to download ahead of time.

There will be games including trivia, scavenger hunt, and bingo. This is open to all 4-H members. Sign up and have some fun!



I pledge:

my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,  
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,  
my **HANDS** to larger service, and  
my **HEALTH** to better living.



for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.

## 4-H Meetings

As this newsletter is going to print, we are still to only have 4-H meetings via Zoom or another virtual platform. 4-H Leaders will be notified when we can get back to in-person meetings, and the numbers allowed when we do.

## 4-H Federation Meeting

4-H Federation will meet on February 28 at 2 p.m. This will probably be by Zoom, but that is not yet determined. Please email [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu) or call 547-3711 if you want Zoom sign-in information or to see if the meeting is in person or not.

## 4-H Spark Camp Virtual Workshops

We are excited to announce the winter sessions of 4-H Spark Camp. They are a fun way to learn new things and connect with new people. Emails were recently sent with registration information, plus it was posted on our Facebook page.

Space is limited, and we ask that you please consider only registering for the sessions that you are able to attend online at the designated time. If the date and time don't work for your schedule, please select the option within the registration link to receive the materials list and recording.

You can see which sessions are still available, and complete the registration process at [go.illinois.edu/4-HSparkCamp](http://go.illinois.edu/4-HSparkCamp).

4-H Spark Camp is free and open to all young people, but is most appropriate for elementary and middle school youth. All sessions will be held on Zoom, and connection details will be emailed out to those registered. Some sessions also include a supply kit that can be picked up at your local Extension office a few days prior to the session.

## Steer Tattoo and Weigh-In Date

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 6, 2021** — At the Fairview Sale Barn, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. (arrival times).

**Please wear a mask or other face covering.**

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

No pre-registration is required, but you must arrive in the time frame listed.

**In the event of *extremely* severe weather, call 338-2543 that morning, to see if the weigh-in has been postponed. Any cancellation notice would also be given over WBYS AM 1560 and on our 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 State Fair, calves must have been born on or after January 1, 2020. They must be owned and personally cared for by the exhibitor since February 1, 2021.

## Barrow Weigh-In and Tattooing

### Rules For Barrows —

To be eligible for the County Rate-of-Gain Contest or the Illinois State Fair Premiere Contest, your barrow(s) must be weighed and tattooed before they are 35 days old. All pigs must be tattooed by April 15, 2021. Tattooing of barrows is done at the Extension Office, **by appointment only**, and must be done by the deadlines listed. Call 547-3711 to schedule an appointment.

**You only have to do this if you are showing in the Rate of Gain class at the Fulton County Fair, or if you are showing Premiere (carcass) at State Fair.**

For State Fair, all barrows must have been farrowed on or after January 1, 2021. For State Fair Premiere Barrows and County Rate of Gain Contest, the farrowing date is on or after February 10, 2021.

Barrows must be castrated and ear-notched prior to tattooing. Both purebred and crossbred pigs are eligible. Each exhibitor may nominate a maximum of 25 barrows at the time of tattooing. Pigs cannot weigh more than the equivalent of 1.0 pounds per day of age when tattooed.

**Please read the rules and deadlines carefully, and check the age and weight per day of age to determine when you may need to have your barrows weighed and tattooed.**

## Weighing and Tattooing Sheep and Meat Goat Wethers

This information will be in the March/April newsletter.

# YQCA and Quality Assurance — Animal Project Information

## **Cat, Dog, Horse, Poultry, and Rabbits**

If a 4-H member is taking Cat, Dog, Horse, Poultry, or Rabbits – They are required to complete Quality Assurance and Ethics training, one time during their 4-H years. The website for that is – <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>

## **Animal Science Posters or Displays at 4-H General Show**

For any animal projects -- If a 4-H member is showing a poster or other display (not a live animal) at 4-H General Show, they do NOT have to do any type of ethics training. They can do it if they want to. It is still a good learning experience.

## **Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, and Dairy Cattle (with live animals as a project)**

*Statewide requirement is that members in these projects must complete YQCA – Youth for the Quality Care of Animals, in order to show and be premium eligible.*

Must be done every year they are in the project. **Premiums are only given to those exhibitors who complete it. State Fair entries will only be approved for those who complete it.** There are two options –

Youth may attend one in-person training at the Extension Office, *which WE HOPE* can be offered several times in the spring, one hour long.

- Pre-registration online is required.
- \$3 per person online payment ahead of time is required.
- Adults may attend with their kids, but do not register. Adults may not be certified in this by attending, just youth.

**or**

Youth may take training online individually. <http://yqca.org>

- Cost for this is \$12 per person.

## **Fulton County 4-H Offers College Scholarships**

Fulton County 4-H announces college scholarships being offered to Fulton County 4-H members.

Several scholarships, in various amounts, will be awarded to county 4-H members at his or her high school graduation or awards program. The scholarships are sponsored by individuals or groups, **and are listed as possibilities, pending funding decisions by the grantors.**

One group of scholarships is given in memory of Hilda Rock, by her family. Mrs. Rock was a 4-H leader in the Cuba area for many years.

The family of Gary Eathington will sponsor a \$500 scholarship to a member pursuing an Animal Science or Agriculture degree, preferably a student attending the University of Illinois. Gary was a 40-year 4-H leader from Avon, who passed away in 2012.

In memory of Roberta Mahr, a devoted former 4-H leader who passed away in 1997, a \$100 scholarship will be awarded to a 4-H member. The Roberta Mahr Memorial Scholarship is sponsored by the Farmington Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.

In memory of Merle L. Jenkins, a dedicated supporter of youth in Fulton County, the \$150 Merle L. Jenkins Agricultural Scholarship is also available, sponsored by his family.

The Virginia Barnard Memorial Scholarship will be given to one student, preferably a Canton High School student majoring in agriculture or home economics, and beginning studies at Spoon River College. This \$500 scholarship will be given as two \$250 payments over a two-year period.

The \$500 Phillips Scholarship is sponsored by Roger and Cathy Phillips of St. David. Mr. Phillips says 4-H helped him a lot in his youth, and he wants to give back by helping a 4-H member with his/her education.

For each scholarship, the recipient must be a current 4-H member; must also be an achievement member; and must actively participate in 4-H events. The application will include a place for the 4-H member to list accomplishments and career goals. Family financial information is not required.

The scholarships will be given to seniors in high school; therefore, these scholarships can only be received once by individuals.

To receive a 4-H Scholarship Application, contact the Fulton County Extension Office at 547-3711, or email [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu). The deadline for submitting an application is May 1, 2021.

## **IAA Foundation Scholarships**

The IAA Foundation provides college scholarships to Illinois Farm Families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, spouses, or their children whose course of study relates to agriculture. Carefully read all the specific requirements on the website before you apply. Apply online before February 15, 2021.

[www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org).

(continued in next column — )

## Horse Knowledge

If you would like information on participating in the Regional or State 4-H Horse Bowl (quiz contest) or 4-H Horse Speaking Contest, or in Horse Judging, call the Extension Office at 547-3711, or email [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu) . We have a 4-H volunteer who is willing to help coach/lead these 4-H Horse Project activities. Let us know if you're interested!

Events are typically held in April in Champaign, but that information is not available yet. Much will depend on whether or not we can have in-person events by then.

## 4-H Shooting Sports

We hope to have a spring session of 4-H Shooting Sports, *pending COVID restrictions at the time*. Complete information will be in the March/April 4-H Newsletter. This will hopefully begin mid-April and run through the end of May or early June.

## Welcome, New 4-H Members!

We are so glad to have a large number of new 4-H members!! Please feel free to call the Extension Office at 547-3711, or email [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu) any time you have questions. Really — any time!

## For New Families — What Is This Thing Called a 4-H Show?

In the next two 4-H newsletters will be information on the summer 4-H shows we hope we can have, where members exhibit their projects. These are typically held on various dates, in various places. The 4-H Show Book will be available around April 1st, which will tell you what you need to exhibit for your project, where, and when. Last year's 4-H Show Book is on our website. It's a good reference, but some things will change, so be sure to look closely at your project requirements in the new book when it comes out. Always feel free to call the Extension Office with questions, 547-3711, or send an email to [jblout@illinois.edu](mailto:jblout@illinois.edu) .

In 2020 we could not have in-person events, so 4-H members emailed or brought in photos of their projects and a page of answered questions about how they did their projects. We don't know yet what the summer will bring, but we hope for in-person events.



4-H General Show 2019

## Attention — New 4-H Leaders

If you have not already done so, please complete your ANCRA (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act) training online, and send your signed certificate to Janis at the Extension Office.

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/extensionprotection/index.cfm>



# 4-H CALENDAR

## January

- 18 Extension Office closed for Martin Luther King Day  
23 4-H Virtual Fun Night, 5 p.m. via Zoom — see article

## February

- 6 Weigh in steers at Fairview Sale Barn, 8-10 a.m. arrival time frame  
28 4-H Federation Meeting, 2 p.m., possibly by Zoom — see article

Our “4-H On the Air” radio program continues to air on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on WBYS 1560 AM.

## Extension Office Hours

The Fulton County Extension Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed during the lunch hour, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The answering machine is left on when we are out of the office, or when we are away from the phone. Our office is located in the lower level of the Farm Bureau Building, on the north edge of Lewistown.

We are not currently open to the public, but our office is staffed during office hours. Our front entryway is never locked, and we have a 4-H basket there for dropping off enrollment forms or other items to us. If you need to pick something up, please let us know, and we'll leave it out there for you.

**If you are a person who needs a reasonable accommodation to participate in any of the listed programs or events, contact Janis Blout at University of Illinois Extension, Fulton County Office, phone 309-547-3711.**

### ***Cancellation Notices***

***If we need to close the office or cancel an activity due to weather, we will make the announcement over WBYS-AM 1560.***

***We will also post it on our Facebook group page.***

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## Unit 4-H Staff

In our four-county Extension Unit, a team works together to provide 4-H programming. Each county 4-H Program is separate, but all work together on unitwide events and program planning.

Janis Blout, 4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County  
Deb Balagna, Office Support, Fulton County  
Joli Pierson, 4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County  
Cathy Ludolph, 4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County  
Katharine Girone, 4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County  
Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator  
Judy Schmidt, Metro 4-H Youth Educator  
Earl Allen, County Director

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