



McDonough County 4-H Clover

April 2020

To Make the Best BETTER



Lisa Torrance
County Director

Shelby Carlson
Youth Development Educator

Beth Chatterton
4-H Program Coordinator
chattert@illinois.edu

Lorie Schwerer
Office Support Staff
schwerer@illinois.edu

McDonough County 4-H
3022 W Jackson St
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 837-3939

Monday Through Friday
8:00-Noon
1:00 –4:30

extension.illinois.edu/hkmw

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program, please contact your county
Extension Office

Dear 4-H Families and Friends,

What unique time to be in 4-H. The impact of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) continues to create uncertainty and concern both globally and here in our community. In accordance with University of Illinois policy, Illinois Extension has deployed public health strategies designed to protect everyone's health and safety. Effective immediately, ALL face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery. This means that all 4-H club meetings are cancelled through May 31, 2020. Information about cancellations can be found on our Facebook page and our website.

If you have not received your fair book, it can be found at <https://extension.illinois.edu/hkmw/4-h-mcdonough-county> Scroll to the bottom of the page and look under the "Fairs and Shows" tab. Consider this book your guide to a successful 4-H fair. If we need to make any changes or updates, you will find them in your newsletter.

This time of year, there are many deadlines approaching. Be sure to check out the back page to keep up with all the important dates! Several contests have been cancelled or changed and usual policies have had to be modified. Please ask Beth Chatterton or your leader any questions you might have.

Yours in 4-H,

Shelby R. Carlson

Illinois 4-H Message from 4-H Director

See new blog post from IL 4-H Director at

<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/our-illinois-4-h-story/2020-03-30-message-illinois-4-h>

4-H Event Update

- April 4 ~ WIU 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - Canceled
- April 10 ~ 4-H Workshop Day - Canceled
- April 10 ~ Welding Workshop - Canceled
- April 18 ~ Share-The-Fun - Canceled
- April 26 ~ Public Speaking Contest - Postponed to Mini Fair, June 26
- May 1 ~ McDonough County 4-H BBQ - Postponed to October
- May 1 ~ Horse Lease and Ownership Papers to Office - Postponed to June 1
- May 1 ~ YQCA Certification Due - Courses only available on line now
- May 9 ~ State Robotics Challenge - Postponed *See details below
- May 30 ~ Warren County Livestock Judging Contest - Canceled
- June 1 ~ State Fair Junior Horse Entry Forms - Postponed to June 20th
- June 8 ~ Deadline for Fair Entry in 4-H Fair
- June 15 ~ State Livestock Judging Contest

Foundation Hall of Fame Ceremony Set

The Illinois 4-H Foundation will honor one volunteer leader from each county at a ceremony during the Illinois State Fair. The celebration begins at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18 as part of Ag Day at the fair right before the Sale of Champions activities begin. Supporters and families of the recipients are welcome to attend.

Entry Deadlines Approaching

The deadline to enter the Illinois State Fair Junior Horse Show has been extended to June 20. The deadline to enter the Illinois State Fair Junior Livestock Show is July 1. The show is open to current Illinois 4-H and FFA members. 4-H membership is 8 to 18, thus youth who were 19 and older on Sept. 1, 2019 and too old for 4-H can only enter as FFA alumni. Your entry forms **MUST** be signed by either the county 4-H office where you are a member or by your local FFA instructor who must verify your membership.

Reminder that May 1 is horse ownership/lease papers due date

May 1 is the deadline to file horse ownership/lease papers with the local Extension office. In addition to the ownership/lease papers, a photo of each side of the animals is required. We strongly encourage members who own or lease more than one horse to file paperwork on ALL potential exhibit horses by the deadline. If a horse is injured or dies, it may be replaced **ONLY** by a horse whose paperwork is already on file by the deadline. A horse may only be owned or leased to and exhibited by ONE 4-H or FFA member at the State Fair Junior Horse Show. Download the form @ <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/projects/horse> .

Study Food Science and Win Cash

Science is cool, and now it pays! A \$50 cash prize will be awarded to the top food science project in each county by the Chicagoland Food Science Foundation. Look for more information this summer.

*State Robotics Challenge

Date: TBD | Virtual Competition

The state's robotics clubs are encouraged to continue working on their robots until we determine the new date and logistics of a potential online virtual competition. Details including date, format, and registration are expected to be finalized and announced the week of April 6.

- For up to date information, please visit our Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/il4hrobotics>
- Download the challenge at go.illinois.edu/2020CHALLENGE.
- Watch the video at youtu.be/IEAv1USEGS8.

New Statewide Leadership Opportunity: Illinois 4-H Food Advocacy Team

The Illinois 4-H State Office is pleased to announce the launch of a new statewide leadership opportunity for Illinois youth seeking to improve food security and food access in their community. The Illinois 4-H Food Advocacy team is a group of teens and young adults from across the state of Illinois who are recognized for their dynamic leadership and who want to increase their impact on the future of food in Illinois. Team members will influence the annual Illinois 4-H Food Action Summit event and provide support for Food Systems programming in Illinois. You will also be eligible for state and nationwide opportunities.

If you're looking for a way to serve your community while strengthening your leadership, communication and advocacy skills, this is the next step for you. Applications, along with one professional reference, are due to the Illinois State 4-H Office by Saturday, May 2nd, 2020. For more information please contact Mark Becker (mbbecker@illinois.edu), Illinois 4-H Food Systems Specialist.

Application Link: <https://go.illinois.edu/Illinois4-HFoodAdvocacyTeamApplication>

Professional Reference Link: <https://go.illinois.edu/Illinois4-HFoodAdvocacyTeamReference>

NEW: 4-H State Scholarship Opportunities

The Illinois 4-H Awards program will be expanding for the 2019-2020 program year! We will be offering five \$1,000 scholarships in each of our program areas. More information, applications and training video will be released prior to May 1st. The applications will be due November 1st. We thank our generous donors and the Illinois 4-H Foundation for providing this opportunity for our members!

NEW: Illinois 4-H Virtual Fishing Fun-Fest

4-H members currently enrolled in Fishing 1, 2, or 3 are eligible to win big this spring! Between April 17 – May 15 these 4-H members can enter a statewide fishing contest (Fun-Fest) via smartphone. New spinning rod and reel combos will be given away weekly to the longest largemouth bass and channel catfish entered. The simple contest details can be found on the Illinois 4-H Events Page and Illinois 4-H Facebook page. Contact Curt Sinclair at sinclair@illinois.edu with questions. Stay safe and enjoy the sunshine on the lake!

NEW: 4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Certification Field-Day Training Dates:

Western Illinois:

Saturday, June 13 at Gardner Camp, Hull, IL. Register between April 1 – June 3.

Northern Illinois:

Saturday, Sept. 12 at Torstenson Youth Education Center, Pecatonica, IL. Register between July 1 - September 2.

The Illinois 4-H program needs adults willing to serve as mentors and share their passion of shooting sports. Here's what you need to do:

- Contact your local Extension office and complete the required forms and background checks. Most Extension offices cover training fees with 2 year commitment from volunteers. Your local Extension staff will complete your registration.
- Complete a 3-hour online training module at home.
- Attend a 9-hour hands-on field day which runs from 9 AM to 7 PM.
- \$85 fee covers two meals; all equipment and ammunition; on-line curriculum fee; instructors manual; complete full-day individual instruction; and Level I instructor cap.

Project Highlight: Civic Engagement

By Shelby Carlson

4-H civic engagement programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. Youth learn about civic affairs, build decision-making skills and develop a sense of understanding and confidence in relating and connecting to other people. These life skills help grow 4-H youth into true leaders. Our citizenship programs engage youth in programs, organizations, and communities where they share a voice, influence, and decision-making authority. 4-H citizenship programs equip young people with confidence and leadership skills to be leaders today and tomorrow.

4-H members contribute hundreds of thousands of hours back to their community every year. Service is a hallmark of all 4-H programs, teaching youth about the importance of giving back, improving our communities and developing innovative solutions to solve problems, large or small. 4-H members learn skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, community engagement and build a sense of compassion, confidence, and pride. Think about what steps you can take to contribute to your community during this time.

Keeping in Touch While Keeping Your Distance

Social distancing can cause feelings of isolation when you halt your normal daily routine and seclude yourself from others. To help with this, why not make use of your time at home and start on your “someday” projects?

- **Organize** family pictures. Get the family involved and go through them together. Photos are wonderful triggers for reminiscing about life events and sharing family stories.
- **Declutter** your closets and junk drawers. Sort and Pitch. Have a decluttering party or cleaning competition!
- **Read** for pleasure. Set aside a time each day to read as a family.
- **Get moving** and get outdoors. Take a walk in your yard and notice nature.
- **Reach out to your friends and family** through phone calls, texts, emails, and social media. Bring back the art of letter writing.

Social distancing is a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of disease, but it can also be a gift of time. For more ideas on how to stay busy at home, what you can do in your garden, healthy eating and general wellbeing During this time check out the University of Illinois Extensions Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UIExtension/>

Beat the Stay at Home Boredom

- Check out the Livestock E Quiz. Choose between 3 different levels (Elementary, High School, and College) in any livestock species. <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/quiz/>
- Become a Heart Hunter! Join the thousands of families across the nation by decorating your window(s) with hearts and then go “Heart Hunting” when you go for a family walk around your neighborhood or on your way to the grocery store.
- Discover a new recipe, learn how to read food labels, get moving and save money at University of Illinois Extension’s Eat, Move, Save website <https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/eat>
- The McDonough County Health Department is collecting homemade face masks for use as PPE supplies run low worldwide. There is a donation box inside our front door at 505 E. Jackson, Macomb for drop-off of donations M-Th 7:30-5. These masks are then delivered daily to the McDonough District Hospital where they are laundered prior to use. Pattern link <https://www.mdh.org/sites/www/Uploads/files/Downloads/ClothMaskPattern1.pdf>
- Start a garden
- Create a scavenger hunt in your house by looking for: an item with wheels, a book that starts with the letter of your first name, something red, a picture of your pet, etc OR create a scavenger hunt for a walk around the neighborhood by looking for: a recycling bin, a car that’s your favorite color, a license plate from out of state, a bird, etc.



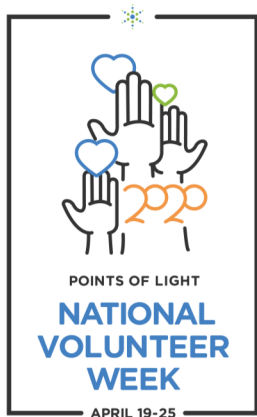
Be a True Leader in Service

April 25 | Nationwide

Join 4-H members and clubs across Illinois and the nation on **Saturday, April 25** as part of **True Leaders in Service!** 4-H clubs serve their communities all year long however the month of April has been selected as a time for ALL 4-H clubs to join together to roll up their sleeves in service to local communities. In the current COVID-19 situation, it is important that we all

follow CDC and safety guidelines, but there are still ways to serve safely and practice social distancing – write and mail cards to those who are socially isolated, organize a group online to teach and share something from your 4-H project, sew PPE masks to donate locally. If you have ideas for a statewide, COVID-safe service project, this is a great opportunity to plan and promote something for others to participate in. Send your ideas to Illinois4H@illinois.edu.

Make your plans now on how you'll help others. Find resources @ go.illinois.edu/4Hdayofservice. Later in 2020, you can register your projects there! The goal of the 4-H True Leaders in Service day is to encourage 4-H members in every county to make a positive difference. Service projects can be done by individuals, by 4-H clubs, or as a countywide service project. No matter what the project is, this will be a day to make a difference.



Celebrate 4-H Volunteers

April 19-25

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities.

Please help us thank our volunteer leaders. Leave a message at <https://go.illinois.edu/VolunteerThankYou>

Congratulations

Join us in congratulating our McDonough 4-H'ers on their 4-H Illinois State Awards. Anna Curley received the Emerald Experience Leadership Award. Erin Curley received the Emerald Experience Leadership, Legacy of Leadership Scholarship, and the State Personal Growth Award. Congratulations ladies!



"4-H symbolizes the beginning. It was because of 4-H that I showed cattle, joined student council and FFA, and developed my love of agriculture. It has led me to this point today. It is the beginning of everything, my past, present, and future."
~ Erin Curley



"Learning By Doing. Whether it is practicing new photography tips or watching a video on how to clip show goats, applying what you learn is key."
~ Anna Curley

Superior Young Producer Scholarship Program,

This is offered by the Illinois State Fair to 4-H members in Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, and Horses as an educational activity at the Illinois State Fair to promote youth development and personal growth. Three \$1,000 scholarships will be provided in horses and three \$1,000 scholarships will be provided in dairy. A total of nine \$1,000 scholarships will be provided in a combined contest for beef, sheep, and swine contestants.

McDonough County Superior Young Producer Award

Locally McDonough County has a SYP Award in the area of Beef – Horses-Sheep-Swine. On **June 26, between 8:00 am-3:30pm** at the McDonough Extension office participants can take the test. However, you will need to contact the office by June 22th if you are interested in participating.

Purpose: To create an educational activity at the McDonough County 4-H Fair which promotes youth development & personal growth through knowledge of the livestock industry & career development. Also, to provide a local contest for those who are interested in pursuing the Superior Young Producer contest at the Illinois State Fair.

How old do you have to be:

There will be 3 age divisions for the McDonough County Superior Young Producer (SYP): *Junior* 8-12 y/o, *Intermediate* 13-14 y/o, and *Senior* 15-18 y/o as of September 1st, 2019.

Taking an animal project? READ THIS

For members enrolled in dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats:

- The YQCA is a new livestock quality assurance program that is replacing PQA which no longer exists. All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to certify in the YQCA program each year starting for the 2020 show season. Attend either a face to face class or certify on-line via the website yqca.org The YQCA program is for youth ages 8-21. The online version is broken into age divisions as follows: juniors 8-11, intermediate 12-14, senior 15-18, and young adults 19-21. This certification is needed each year with test out options of 1-3 years. Youth exhibiting swine at the Illinois State Fair and 4-H fairs are no longer required to be PQA plus certified. The estimated cost for the face-to-face training will be \$3 and \$12 for the online version.

For members enrolled in horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats:

- The Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for youth in horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs and cats. You only need to take it once in your lifetime. Those who don't complete the training will be removed from the animal science project and will not be eligible to exhibit at county fairs. The website is open year round @ web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/. NOTE: Youth must be logged on to a computer for this program, either a desktop or laptop; not an iPad or iPhone.

Look for These Changes at the Illinois State Fair

- Exhibits must be in place by 9:30 AM and remain on display **until 4 PM**. (new release time)
- The awards will include **Champion Medals** for the highest score in each project class and **Reserve Medals** for the second highest score in each class. Cash premiums from the state will be paid to the medal winners. **Innovation Awards** will be given to exhibits judges find inspiring, innovative, or creative and are not based on scores. Medal winners cannot receive the innovation award in 2020.
- **New projects** at the state fair include: Child Development, Leather, Sports Nutrition, Family Heritage, and Shooting Sports
- The **State 4-H Public Speaking Contest** will be held at the same time as the state fair. Youth can compete in a speech and also bring a project to the General Project Show. Youth must be selected in their county contest to advance and will speak the same day as their county exhibit day.
- **Ewe lambs** are now eligible for the premier show.
- The **junior poultry show** begins Monday, Aug. 17.
- The **State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest** will be held at the state fair on Monday, Aug. 17.
- The **junior rabbit show** begins August 17.
- Check out all the livestock ownership deadlines online @ go.illinois.edu/4Hlivestock.
- The office will not have extra admission tickets for the state fair this year. Please plan accordingly.