



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

# McDonough County 4-H Clover

December 2020

## To Make the Best BETTER



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**Monday Through Friday**  
**8:00-Noon**  
**1:00 -4:00**

[extension.illinois.edu/hkmw](http://extension.illinois.edu/hkmw)

### COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Local Extension Councils Cooperating  
University of Illinois Extension provides equal  
opportunities in programs and employment.  
If you need a reasonable accommodation to  
participate, please contact your local extension office.  
Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow  
sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

## Dear 4-H Families and Friends,

Happy Holidays from your 4-H Extension Team! Happy Holidays to you! Our 4-H year does look a little different this year, but there are still many deadlines and events you should be aware of. Crack open this newsletter and rediscover the gift of 4-H. If you have any questions, please contact us. As a reminder, you must be enrolled in all livestock and companion animal projects by **January 1<sup>st</sup>**! This year, 4-H online won't allow you to add projects after you have enrolled. Don't worry! All you need to do is give Beth a call or email and she will get that added for you. Again, Happy Holidays and enjoy your time with your families!

Please remember that the Extension Office will be closed December 24th through January 3rd and will resume normal business hours January 4th. This means if you have questions about registering for your livestock project, we won't be available right away. Contact us prior to January 1 at 11:59p.m. to have met the deadline to add livestock projects. Please don't delay. Registration is open now!

Yours in 4-H,

Shelby R. Carlson

## Virtual 4-H Meeting Options

Some of you may not be comfortable meeting in person. Some clubs may not be able to offer a virtual option. That's okay! Our office will be offering a virtual meeting option if you are unable to meet with your club virtually or in person.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30.**  
**Email Shelby at [srcarls2@illinois.edu](mailto:srcarls2@illinois.edu) to for more information or to get the meeting link.**



**I PLEDGE...MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING**

## Unit-Wide Policies

- The new year begins September 1. Please make sure you read and understand the policies. We are trying to keep the deadlines consistent so it is easier for everyone to remember the dates. If a deadline lands on a weekend, the paperwork needs to be turned in the drop box on Monday prior to 7:59 a.m. before the office opens.
- **October 11** - RISK forms need to be turned into the office by all new members and those who do not have one on file. Medical forms need to be turned into your leader.
- **December 1** - Re-enrollment, project selection, and RISK forms need to be completed. **If you were a member last year, and you miss the December 1 re-enrollment deadline, you will not be eligible to participate in the 2021 4-H shows at the fair.** Check with your club leader about the \$20 program fee. Each club will be invoiced for the total amount due.
- Members will need to **attend at least four meetings** a year to be eligible to participate in your county's 4-H fair. **This year attending meetings virtually as well as in person counts for attendance .**
- At minimum members must complete **a talk or demonstration**. However, clubs may require both.
- Secretaries are required to **send attendance sheets to the Extension Office monthly** after each 4-H meeting. Attendance reports may be emailed, scanned, mailed, or dropped off. We ask that you use the online Secretary Record Book. You may print it out.
- Treasurers need to make sure they are **balancing accounts monthly** and providing reports during each meeting. Also, make sure you are using the required online Treasurer Record Book.
- **January 1** – Livestock and Companion Animal (dogs and cats) Project Enrollment deadline. This is the last date you may add **ANY livestock** project and still be eligible to show that project at the county 4-H fair.
- **March 1** – General Project enrollment deadline. This is the last date you may add a general project and still be eligible to show that project at the county 4-H fair. Remember that you already turned in your enrollment in December, but if you need to add a general project you may do so before this deadline.
- **May 1** - Horse project members' ownership/lease papers and pictures due to the office.
- **May 1 – Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)** yearly certification is required of all livestock project members (aside from cats, dogs, horses, poultry, and rabbits). For all other animals, QAEC will still be required. If you plan to show livestock at the county and/or state fair, this is now a state requirement for all of us at the county level. Ask your local extension office about ways to complete this training online or in person. **For all other animals (cats, dogs, horses, poultry, and rabbits), QAEC will still be required.**
- **June 1** – Dog project members' ownership/lease papers due to the office.
- **4 weeks before show** – Online entries will be due at the close of the day. This is where you tell us what projects you are bringing to the fair. Keep in mind—do not delay!

## ILLINOIS 4-H YOUTH LEADERS HIGHLIGHTED IN UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS VIDEO COMPETITION

On November 15th, Dr. Megan Dailey, Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems Director at the University of Illinois, announced the winners of their Food Systems Video Challenge. The first-place prize went to Julia Heller, a 4-Her from Ogle County currently serving as the Illinois 4-H Food Advocacy Team President and studying Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Second place was awarded to Elaan Bader, a 4-Her from Montgomery County and a Food Advocacy Team member. Both video submissions focused on the role which each of us plays in shaping our food system. Future video challenge competitions will be made available to 4-H members around the state who want to play a role in a healthier, more sustainable future. See the winning video submission on the Metropolitan Food and Environmental System Facebook feed here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/MFSTIllinois/>  
For more information, contact Mark Becker, [mbbecker@illinois.edu](mailto:mbbecker@illinois.edu).

## NUTRIEN ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN GRANT

In coordination with the National 4-H Council and the Illinois 4-H Foundation, youth leaders will work with an industry leader in addressing topics of sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. Teams must consist of three youth leaders and one adult mentor. Applications are due December 31st, 2020. Projects will be supported up to \$1,000.

Link to application: <https://go.illinois.edu/NutrienCAP>

For more information, contact Mark Becker, [mbbecker@illinois.edu](mailto:mbbecker@illinois.edu).

## NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE UPCOMING 2021 NATIONAL YOUTH AGRI-SCIENCE SUMMIT

At the National 4-H Youth Summit on Agri-Science, high school students develop the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security, and sustainability. Students will work with each other and experts in the agricultural community in this collaborative, hands-on educational setting. The summit will be an opportunity to meet like-minded peers from across the country, learn more about career opportunities, and network with professionals in the field of Agri-science. As a cornerstone of the experience, participants are challenged to identify and develop action plans that address issues related to agriculture in their community.

For more information visit: <https://4-h.org/parents/national-youth-summits/#!agri-science>

For more information, contact Mark Becker, [mbbecker@illinois.edu](mailto:mbbecker@illinois.edu).

### What is Federation?

The purpose of the 4-H Federation is to cooperate with the University of Illinois Extension 4-H program in unifying and strengthening the 4-H Youth Development program in McDonough County. Federation bands together the local 4-H clubs into a central representative body for the improvement of the 4-H club program. Federation makes recommendations regarding the 4-H program, carries out unit-based 4-H activities and events such as camps, contests, fund-raising activities, recreational events and achievement night. Anyone interested in becoming a part of Federation is welcome! Please contact Beth for more information; 309/837-3939 or email [chattert@illinois.edu](mailto:chattert@illinois.edu).

***Our next meeting will be on Sunday, December 13th at 1 p.m.***

## ILLINOIS 4-H FOOD ADVOCACY TEAM ANNOUNCES FOOD ADVOCACY GRANT

Want to do more about food insecurity where you live? With the support of the Illinois 4-H Foundation, youth leaders throughout Illinois will have the opportunity to receive financial support for projects addressing food security, food access, and food justice in their neighborhoods and communities. Applications are due Monday, December 21st for review by the Food Advocacy Team. For more information and ideas for service-learning projects, see the online application: <https://go.illinois.edu/FoodAdvocacyGrant>  
For more information, contact Mark Becker, [mbbecker@illinois.edu](mailto:mbbecker@illinois.edu).

## BARRED OWL NEST BOX CHALLENGE

It's not too late to jump in on the Barred Owl Nest Box Challenge. Last year over 30 sets of boxes were installed, and are set to be monitored this coming spring! New boxes must be made and set by mid-January at the latest to give momma owl time to find and choose her favorite style of nest box! For details and instructions, contact Curt Sinclair at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu)

## WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE FIRST ILLINOIS 4-H VIRTUAL ESPORTS SPIN CLUB?

With eSports becoming one of the largest growing tech industries in the world, with an annual revenue of \$1.5 billion with an expectation to reach \$2.2 billion by 2023, it is time that our youth become poised and ready to meet the demands of this growing field.

Are you **at least 12 years old and own a computer or gaming system**? This year Illinois 4-H released a pilot curriculum focused on the growing field of electronic sports, or eSports, and we would like to pilot it with you! As a pilot, we hope to add to and modify the curriculum based on the feedback and input of the youth involved. Under the direction of Illinois 4-H Computer Science Innovator Eric Li, youth will be virtually guided (using Zoom) through the eSports Pilot curriculum, learn the basics of the eSports field, and learn about the hardware and software that makes eSports possible. In addition, youth will be able to play and practice their favorite games as a team, and potentially compete in one or more eSports competitions through the Spring and Summer.

**Registration for this opportunity will open on Dec. 1 and close on Jan. 15, with meetings beginning the third week of January.** Schedule and goals will be determined/presented in the first meeting with plans on meeting at least twice a month (and more frequently before competitions).

Interested youth can sign up at the link below:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22817>

For questions or comments, please contact the Illinois 4-H STEM Team at [Illinois4h-STEM@illinois.edu](mailto:Illinois4h-STEM@illinois.edu)

## 2020 VIRTUAL 4-H SHOOT UPDATE

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/illinois-4-h-virtual-shoot-fall-2020>

Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports leaders have submitted 267 scores from 124 registered 4-H shooters in the ongoing 2020 4-H Virtual State Shoot! This statewide competition runs through December 31, 2020 and awards will be given to the top five finishers in shotgun, archery, and air rifle in January, 2021.

For a list of local 4-H participants or any other questions, please contact Curt Sinclair at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu).

## 4-H VOLUNTEER VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ILLINOIS 4-H VIRTUAL STEM CURRICULUM TRAINING!

We would like to invite you, your volunteers and teen teachers to the **Illinois 4-H STEM Curriculum Training!** This remote-access training is your opportunity to receive hands-on experience in using **Quads Away (Drones)**, **DIY Make and Build (Maker)** and our new **eSports Pilot Curriculum**. Many things have been updated or added to these materials since their introduction to better align with your programming needs in a virtual space. Updated versions of each will be sent out to all participants (and posted immediately following the training). This training is not meant to produce content experts, but rather process experts with the skills needed to incorporate these materials into your programming. This training will be broken into 3 separate, 2 hour trainings focused on each curriculum topic. Attendees can feel free to attend one or all of them. During the training, participants will be briefly guided through each curriculum and will have the opportunity to do some of the included activities from each. In addition, participants will have the chance to explore SPIN and community club options with the 4-H STEM Team, and other PYD professionals and volunteers. For those that choose to enroll in the Maker training Before December 6th, they will receive a set of materials to complete Activity 1: Popsicle Flashlight from the DIY Make and Build Curriculum.

**Who:** 4-H Educators, Program Coordinators, Volunteers, Club Leaders, Teen Leaders, the University of Illinois Extension IT department, and invited partner-organization members.

**Date and Time:** Friday, December 11th, 2020

- **9:00 AM to 11:00 AM- Quads Away (Drones)**
- **12:00 PM to 2:00 PM- DIY Make & Build (Maker)**
- **3:00 PM - 5:00 PM- eSports Pilot Curriculum**

**Where: Zoom call.** A link will be provided with the day's agenda and other details before the training. Please share this opportunity with your local volunteers, club leaders and teen leaders and note that you can register for this training. **Please note that registration closes on Thursday, December 10th, 2020, but to receive Maker materials, you must be registered by December 6th.**

Please feel free to send any questions or concerns to myself or The Illinois 4-H STEM Team at [illinois4h-STEM@illinois.edu](mailto:illinois4h-STEM@illinois.edu).

If you have not registered there is still time, use this link and sign up today:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22105>

## ILLINI SUMMER ACADEMIES

If you are curious as to what college or career is right for you, plan now to join us and discover new possibilities at the Illini Summer Academies (ISA)! At ISA you can expect a fun and exploratory experience featuring a virtual academy session and a variety of new workshops and fun virtual activities. For questions, contact us at [illini-4h@illinois.edu](mailto:illini-4h@illinois.edu).



## 4-H Can Make a Difference

Our clubs do an amazing job helping others in the community! This is a very busy time for community service and every extra helping hand counts. COVID has presented some unique challenges to our 4-H clubs but everyone is rising to the occasion. Please keep us in the loop of any projects you have planned this season so we can help get the word out. You can do so by emailing Beth Chatterton at [chattert@illinois.edu](mailto:chattert@illinois.edu) or calling the office at 309/456-3820 or 217/300-3916.



The Scotland Clever Clovers helped with Flags of Love on Veteran's Day.



Active Good Hoppers visit the Bird's Nest in Macomb to make felt Gnomes at their November meeting.



## 4-H Club Activities Not Pictured

Our clubs have been busy this year and sometimes aren't able to get a picture in. Good things happen all the time.

Blandinsville Blue Ribbons created door decorations for the residents of Country View Care Center and Wesley Village & created stocking filled with care for WIRC Project Santa children.

4-H Helping Hands rang bells for Salvation Army

And so many more.....






4-H Goal Diggers created door decorations for the residents of Court Yard Estates in Bushnell and make goodie bags for the teachers of Bushnell Prairie City Schools.



Social us on social media!

# December 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 	18	19
20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Date to Remember

December 1	Re-Enrollment Deadline
December 17	Gift Wrapping Workshop
December 22	4-H Reindeer Zoom Games
December 24–	Office Closed
January 1	
January 1	Livestock Project Deadline
February 6	YQCA Training in McDonough
February 15	Steer Weigh In Bushnell
March 1	General Project Deadline
May 1	Horse Paperwork Due
May 1	YQCA/QAEC Due
June 1	Dog Paperwork Due

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## ***Happy Birthday To You, Happy Birthday To You.....***

A very Happy Birthday to all the 4-H members born in December! We want to celebrate with you! Please stop into the Extension office anytime during this month to pick out a 4-H birthday gift and let us wish you a "Happy Birthday."



Join us for a fun interactive gift wrapping class on ZOOM December 17 from 5-6 p.m. We are going to learn how to wrap gifts like a pro and even make a bow!

For more information and registration go to

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22849&preview=yes>

Join us for a fun afternoon of trivia and games on ZOOM December 22 from 3-4 p.m.

For more information and registration go to

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22854&preview=yes>

