

4-H FAMILY MADISON COUNTY JULY 2025 NEWS



Hello!

July is Madison County 4-H Fair month!
Please make sure to read your showbook for
dates, times, and guidelines for your projects.
If you have any questions about guidelines or
a project area, please do not hesitate to reach
out. I am here to help!

Thank you,
Meghan Cope | 4-H Program Coordinator
Serving Madison and St. Clair Counties |
mawolff@illinois.edu

Madison County 4-H

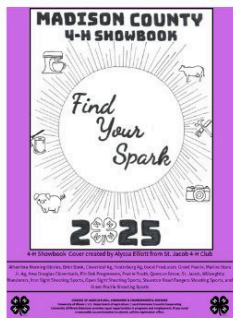


4-H Showbook Available

The Madison County 4-H Showbook contains all the
information you need for showing a project at the 4-H
shows.

- Show Schedule is in the front of showbook
- Some projects might require a publication.
- Some projects might have changed requirements
- Superintendent contact information is in the back of the
book with each livestock category

Contact your club leader or view online at:
<https://go.illinois.edu/2025MadisonCounty4-HShowbook>



Congratulations to Alyssa Elott the 2024 4-H Showbook Cover Design Winner!

Illinois Extension

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Office Hours:

Monday- Friday: 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch

Monroe County Office

901 Illinois Ave., PO Box 117
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-3434, 618-939-7708 Fax

Madison-St. Clair County Branch Office

900 Hillsboro Ave
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-344-4230

University of IL Extension at the JJK

FAN Innovation Center

2051 Lynch Ave
East St. Louis, IL 62204
618-875-8939, 618-875-8786 Fax

Extension County Director

William Catalano

4-H Youth Educator

Emily Reece

Madison & St. Clair 4-H

Coordinator

Meghan Cope

Office Support Specialist

Nicole Hellon

Visit our website:

extension.illinois.edu/mms

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Madison County 4-H

University of Illinois Extension—
Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Unit

Follow us on Instagram:

Madison, Monroe, St. Clair- IL

What do I need to know about the 4-H General Project Show?

4-H General Show Club Exhibit/Check-In Times are on the next page.
July 21 | Madison County Fairgrounds | Basement of the Expo Building

Everyone meets at the check-in table, which will be set up in **front of the Expo Building** this year! Look for the check-in signs! Extension staff or volunteers will then help your child get to where they need to be. You will need to attach your exhibit tags to your projects upon arrival and before being judged. The back doors of the Expo Building, where the ramp is located, are to be used **ONLY for large projects**. Conference judging takes about five minutes per project. Judging times vary based on the number of entries.

Members will bring their projects in and complete conference judging. Once all projects are judged, members are free to go. All projects will be on display throughout fair week, July 22 – July 27!

Please bring your project book if your project area indicates that you need it at judging. You can find this out in the Madison County 4-H Showbook 2025.

<https://go.illinois.edu/2025MadisonCounty4-HShowbook>

If members cannot attend, please drop off projects at the Extension office (900 Hillsboro Ave Suite 4, Edwardsville, IL 62025) by noon on Friday, July 18, and fill out the Absentee Exhibitor form located in your Showbook on page 14 or in the following link:

https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/absent_from_judging_form_fillable.pdf.

Ribbons will be awarded to each completed project: blue=met requirements, red=needs some improvement, white=needs much improvement. We have a new ribbon this year called the Inspire ribbon. This ribbon is an award given to exhibitors who present unique, innovative, or inspirational exhibits. The award is not based on points but on the judge's discretion.

Project pick-up will be July 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are unable to pick up your projects, please contact your leader to pick them up. At project pick, youth who are selected for State Fair Delegate need to confirm if they will be attending the State Fair on August 8. If a Delegate declines to go, then the Alternate will be asked.

Please dress for the weather! Bringing a bag chair is also a good idea. Families are asked to please wait outside the Expo Building.

Parking can be found as directed by fairground staff in the grass lot across the school or the asphalt parking lot. Large project drop-off is available at the back of the Expo Building, where the ramp is located. **ONLY** large projects will enter through those doors, but make sure to grab your entry tags first at the check-in desk.

***Be sure to HAVE FUN and BE PROUD of what you have created!**



2025 4-H General Project Show Club Schedule



Project drop off is when your club time is. If you need accommodations, please let Meghan Cope know by emailing her at mawolff@illinois.edu

Time	Club
5:30 p.m.	4-H Youth Superintendents
6:00 p.m.	Alhambra Morning Glorie, Prairie Youth, Cloverleaf Ag.
6:15 p.m.	Willoughby Wanderers, Good Producers, Fosterburg AG
6:45 p.m.	Pin Oak Progressors, Marine Stars Jr. Ag, Quercus Grove
7:15 p.m.	St. Jacob, Brier Bank, Grant Prairie, New Douglas Cloverbuds



4-H Club Watch Schedule for General Projects

Club	Date	Time
Extension	Monday, July 21	3 pm - 8 pm
Alhambra Morning Glories	Tuesday, July 22	11 am - 2 pm
Good Producers	Tuesday, July 22	2 pm - 5 pm
New Douglas	Tuesday, July 22	5 pm - 8 pm
Grant Prairie	Wednesday, July 23	11 am - 2 pm
Grant Prairie	Wednesday, July 23	2 pm - 5 pm
Fosterburg Ag	Wednesday, July 23	5 pm - 8 pm
Quercus Grove	Thursday, July 24	11 am - 2 pm
Pin Oak Progressors	Thursday, July 24	2 pm - 5 pm
Prairie Youth	Thursday, July 24	5 pm - 8 pm
St. Jacob	Friday, July 25	11 am - 2 pm
Marine Stars	Friday, July 25	2 pm - 5 pm
Prairie Youth	Friday, July 25	5 pm - 8 pm
Briar Bank	Saturday, July 26	11 am - 2 pm
Cloverleaf Ag	Saturday, July 26	2 pm - 5 pm
Good Producers	Saturday, July 26	5 pm - 8 pm
Willoughby Wanderers	Sunday, July 27	11 am – 1 pm



ATTENTION ALL 4-H FAMILIES AND MEMBERS

If you have been chosen to be a State Fair Delegate for a 4-H project area, please contact Meghan Cope via email at mawolff@illinois.edu or call 618-307-5428. She needs to know if you will be attending the State Fair or not with your project by **July 27th, 2025.**





4-H ANIMAL WELFARE

During fair season, 4-H members have an opportunity to showcase our practice of ethical and humane treatment of animals and demonstrate our commitment to safe food production practices. While showing livestock, we are under the watchful eye of the public. Many people attending a local fair may have no idea how livestock is raised. Practicing these guidelines may prevent public misconceptions about livestock production.

1. Provide fresh, clean water to animals at all times. Feed animals on schedule.
2. Keep your pens clean and dry with good bedding at all times.
3. Take extra care on days of extreme weather or activity.
4. Sort and load animals safely and with concern for them.
5. Train animals to lead or be handled at a young age long before the fair.
6. Arrange for veterinary care in case of an animal emergency.
7. Handle animals in a very humane way.
8. Adhere to all antibiotic, drug, and feed additive withdrawal times.
9. Avoid stressing the animal.
10. Keep animals clean; a clean animal is viewed as a healthy animal.
11. Use show sticks, whips, and canes for showing only and never forcefully hit an animal.
12. Review your 4-H project manual and follow the care recommendations.
13. Have a plan of action should a problem arise, and know which fair official or 4-H leader to contact to help solve it or answer questions.
14. Some words, such as "slaughter" or "killed," may cause a negative reaction from people unfamiliar with food production. IF ASKED what happens to your market animal after the fair, consider using words such as "harvested" or "sold to packing company."
15. If questioned or challenged by a stranger or group:
 - a. Remain calm, be polite, and answer any question the best you can. If you do not know an answer, tell them you will find an adult to explain more.
 - b. Do not argue or confront an individual or group who may have a different view about livestock production. Individuals may try to initiate a confrontation and use video of the incident on social media. If confronted, walk away, find an adult in authority, or call 911 if you feel threatened.
 - c. It is natural to think that giving people information will change their minds, but in some extreme cases, people may not want to learn; they want to confront to gain media attention. It is best to walk away without engaging in these situations.

Following these recommendations will reflect a positive image of our livestock industry and the 4-H program, as well as demonstrate the solid animal stewardship practices that are our 4-H tradition.

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.

Prepared by: Dan Jennings, University of Illinois Extension 4-H Animal Science State Educator

One may contact Dan Jennings at 217-333-5269 or via email at djjennin@illinois.edu.





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Talking Points Best Practices:

- **Don't feel obligated to speak "on the record"** – it's fine to politely decline an interview or to decline to speak unofficially on a topic
- **Appoint a spokesperson for your county to handle the tougher questions** – The county superintendent of your species is a good point person for addressing tougher questions and topics. If any statements or questions make you feel uncomfortable, don't hesitate to ask an adult for help
- **Don't feel like you have to respond to unfamiliar facts or statistics** – if a fact or statistic comes up that you are not familiar with, it's perfectly fine to say, "That's not something I'm familiar with," or "I can't speak to that, but I can speak to xyz."

Talking Points

Why do youth show livestock at the fair?

Exhibiting livestock is a visual appraisal of the hard work, care, and dedication youth go through as part of the educational process of livestock projects. Showing livestock teaches youth the value of hard work, dedication, sportsmanship, communication skills, work ethic, and more.

Don't you think it is unfair to keep your animal tied up/in pens/in stalls all day?

Animals are able to change positions and lie down throughout the day. Youth ensure their animals are comfortable by making sure they have access to food and water, clean bedding, and fans for air circulation.

Isn't the extreme heat or high temperatures going to bother your animal?

Youth take extra precautions for their animals during extreme heat, much the same as people need to take extra precautions when the weather is very hot. Animals have fans and space to allow air movement, clean and dry bedding, and tarps and draping to protect from the sun. If needed, youth can take their animals out to the wash rack to rinse them down during the hottest part of the day. Often during extreme heat, youth will hand water animals vs. having water sit out. This ensures access to cooler, cleaner water and youth can monitor how much water the animals are actually getting to make sure they're staying hydrated.

Why doesn't your animal have any food or water?

Youth carefully monitor animal rations – allowing for overfeeding can make the animals too warm. Hand watering the animals also allows youth to monitor how much water they are getting and provides cooler, cleaner water vs. water that sits out.

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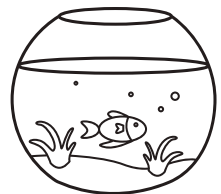
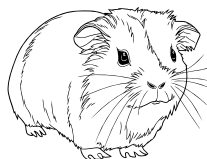
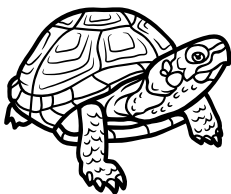
Mini Fair

4-H Small Pets Show 2025

Kenzee Mersinger - Blue Ribbon

Zion Hobson - Blue Ribbon

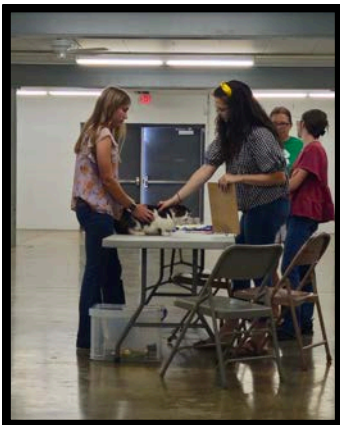
Sam Ulrich - Blue Ribbon



Mini Fair

4-H Cat Show 2025

Grand Champion Junior Cat - Addyson McKinney
Reserve Champion Junior Cat- August Ernst
Grand Champion Senior Cat - Kara Leach
Reserve Champion Senior Cat - Mia Abernathy
Best Decorated Cat Cage for Junior - August Ernst
Best Decorated Cat Cage for Senior - Mia Abernathy
Junior Showmanship - August Ernst
Reserve Junior Showmanship- Paisley Warren
Senior Showmanship - Mia Abernathy
Reserve Senior Showmanship - Kara Leach



Mini Fair

4-H Dog Show 2025

Senior Showmanship Champion - Elsie Lively
Reserve Senior Showmanship- McKenna Day
Jr. Showmanship Champion - Gracie Carnes
Reserve Jr. Showmanship - Kyla Briggs
Grand Champion Beginner Novice 1 - Kyla Briggs
Reserve Grand Champion Novice 1 - Mason Willis
Grand Champion Preferred Novice - Hannah Hobson
Reserve Grand Champion Preferred Novice - Zion Hobson
Grand Champion Novice - McKenna Day
Reserve Grand Champion Novice - Elsie Lively
Grand Champion Rally - Kyla Briggs
Reserve Champion Rally - McKenna Day
Grand Champion Dog Costume - Gracie Carnes
Grand Champion Puppy Care - Mason Willis
Grand Champion Trick - Hannah Hobson
Reserve Grand Champion Trick - Sam Ulrich
Grand Champion Dog Care - Zion Hobson
Reserve Grand Champion Dog Care - Hannah Hobson

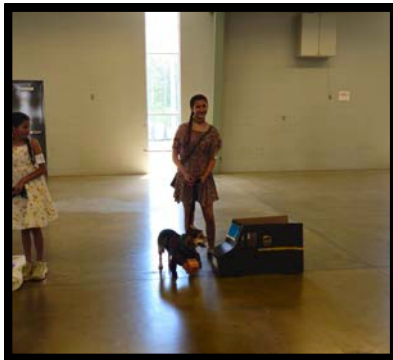




Mini Fair



4-H Dog Show 2025



4-H Food Show

STATE FAIR DELEGATES:

- OLIVER REDING - COOKING 101
- AVERY FRY COOKING 201
- EVE SEXTON - COOKING 301
- PAIGE HESS - COOKING 401
- ALYSSA ELLIOT - 401
- AUBRE MCKINREY - FOOD DECORATING
- KARLIE KNEBEL - FOOD DECORATING

STATE FAIR ALTERNATES:

- MACIE BURNS
- ALLISON REDING
- AMELIA REDING
- SCARLETT HENDRICK

INSPIRE AWARD WINNERS:

- HOLLIE DAY
- LAUREN GREY
- ALLISON REDING
- PAIGE HESS



Food Show



840 TAGS IN BEEF, DAIRY CATTLE, AND SWINE

We are excited about our new 4-H year and hope you are! We have a couple of changes for livestock that we would like to bring to your attention as the new year has begun.

840 Tag Requirement

New this year, all swine, beef, and dairy cattle are required to have a USDA official animal identification number ear tag (840 tag). The tag must be both visually and electronically readable. We know that there will be many questions, so here are a few answers to some basic questions:

- Who must have the 840 tag?
 - Beef – all heifers, all cows, and all steers being exhibited at the fair
 - Dairy Cattle – all heifers, all cows, all steers, and all calves being exhibited at the fair
 - Swine – all gilts and all barrows being exhibited at the fair
- Where do I get the 840 tag?
 - Breeder in which you purchased your animal from (up to breeder)
 - Local Veterinarian
 - Purchase a tag from a farm supply store (Valley Vet, Nasco)
 - Purchase from the Department of Agriculture:
<https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/premises-registration.html>
- How do I purchase my own tags?
 - The location where the animal is being kept will have to have a registered Premise ID from the state of Illinois. With the Premise ID, you can purchase tags from a farm supply store such as Valley Vet, Nasco, or the Department of Agriculture.
- We don't have a Premise ID, which hasn't been updated. What do we do?
 - You can obtain an application from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and send it in. The turnaround time is very quick.
 - If you have a Premise ID but need it updated, contact agr.premises@illinois.gov, and she will help you!
 - If you need a new Premise ID, you can log onto <https://agr.illinois.gov> and search for "Fillable Premise Form," then fill it out and email it to the address listed on the form.
- Will tags be checked when we arrive at the show?
 - Yes, superintendents will be checking that all beef, dairy cattle, and swine have the tag.
 - If an animal does not have a tag, they are not allowed to be on the fairgrounds.
 - There is a chance that a State employee will be at the show monitoring that tags are checked, and if they are not, then 4-H and the fairgrounds can be fined.



4-H Livestock Record Book Common Questions

Who has to turn in a livestock record book?

It is mandatory for any 4-H member who is participating in a livestock market class to complete a livestock record book.

Where do I find the livestock record book?

You can get the livestock record book on the Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Counties web-page at https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/livestock_record_writable.pdf.

Is there a tip sheet on how to fill out the livestock record book?

Yes, the tip sheet can be found here:

https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2020_livestock_record_book_instruction_guide.pdf.

If I show in multiple livestock species for a market class, do I have to have one per each species?

If a 4-H member is showing multiple species in a market class, they must fill out a separate livestock record book for each species.

If I have more than one market animal in same species, can they be put on the same livestock record book?

If a 4-H member is showing multiple animals within the same species for a market class, they can choose to fill out the livestock record book for just one market animal, both market animals, or for the entire herd. For example, if a youth is showing two market wethers in the goat category, they can choose to fill out the record book for only one of them or include both animals in the same book. They can even add in their whole herd to the livestock record book if they want to.

When are livestock record books due?

4-H members must submit their record books to the Extension Office by September 15, 2025.

What happens if I do not submit my livestock record book?

4-H members who do not submit a livestock record book by Sept. 15, 2025, will not be able to show in that livestock market class for the 2026 4-H Show.

Who is keeping track of who has to turn in a livestock record book?

4-H staff are keeping track of who has to turn in a livestock record book.

Do 4-H leaders have to check livestock record books before the 4-H shows?

Leaders are encouraged to check in with the 4-H members to see if they have started their record books or need assistance. If help is needed, please refer to the attached tip sheet or contact our unit email (uie-mms@illinois.edu) to reach one of our 4-H staff for support.



Madison County Shooting Sports 4-H Clubs



Are you interested in joining the Madison County 4-H Shooting Sports Club?

Below are our clubs that you can join. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office.

▼ Grant Prairie Shooting Sports

Meeting: Seasonal
Discipline- Shotgun
Location: New Douglas
Leader: Jennifer Mucklow
(j.mucklow07@yahoo.com)

▼ Open Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting: Seasonal
Description: Archery
Meeting Date: Every other Friday at 2:30 pm in Dorsey
Leader: Mindy Cory
(mindy.j.cory@gmail.com)

▼ Iron Sight Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal
Discipline- Rifle
Location: Alton
Leader: Darrell Chrisenberry
(darrell.chrisenberry59@gmail.com)

▼ Staunton Road Rangers Shooting Sports Club

Meeting Date: Seasonal
Discipline- Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun
Location: Edwardsville
Leader: Max and Tamsey Bremer
(maxandtams@gmail.com)



Check out the UPDATED Madison County Foundation's 4-H Event Scholarship!

Interested in trying a new 4-H experience but not sure about the cost?

Think about applying for a 4-H Event Scholarship! The Madison County Extension Education Foundation is offering up to five half-fee scholarships for this 4-H program year for members to help cover costs to attend 4-H events such as the 4-H camp, the Illini Summer Academies, Outdoor Adventures Camp, or the Jr. Leadership Conference. Maximum scholarship amounts are \$100.

This is a “post-event” scholarship, meaning you must register, attend the event, and complete the requirements before receiving the funds for the scholarship. Applications are due 2 weeks before an event’s registration deadline, along with a separate reference letter from your 4-H leader. (Restrictions on who can serve as a reference are noted on the application.) If a member is selected for a scholarship, they must attend the event and then, within 2 weeks following the event, provide a follow-up report on the event, what they learned, and how they plan to share the information.

Registrations for Memorial 4-H Camp will open January 13, so if you are interested in applying for the camp scholarship, the new application should be available shortly via the Madison County 4-H webpage: 4-H in Madison County | Serving Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties | Illinois Extension | UIUC. Scroll down to Scholarships and click on the Madison County Foundation 4-H Event Scholarship link.

4-H members can only be accepted for one scholarship each program year. Should a member be selected for a scholarship but not complete the requirements, that member will not be eligible for future scholarships. Please remember that a limited number of scholarships are available each 4-H program year.



DOWNLOAD THE ILLINOIS 4-H STATE FAIR APP!



Stay in the know with everything you need to know!

Get alerts when your project is ready to be picked up and other important alerts!

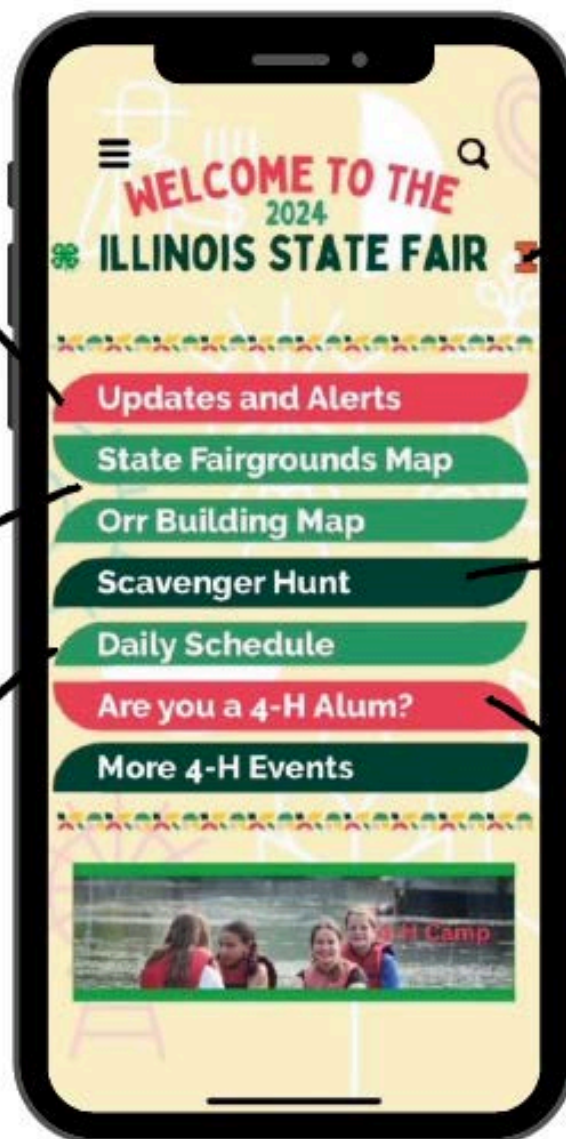
View maps of the State Fair and Orr Building

View maps of the State Fair and Orr Building

Explore the fair while you are here! Complete the scavenger hunt for a chance at a prize!

Check out the daily schedule!

Learn more about registering as a 4-H alum!



READY TO DOWNLOAD?

Open up your camera app and scan the QR code. You can also head to go.illinois.edu/4HFair for clickable links to download the app from the website, through iOS iTunes download or through Google Play for Android.

FOR A STEP BY STEP OF WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU SCAN



1

CHOOSE YOUR PHONE TYPE

After the QR code opens, choose your download type.



2

OPEN THE APP

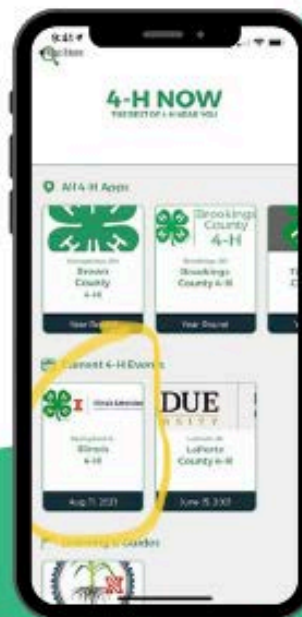
The app is called "4-H Now," and the icon looks like what's below



3

OPEN THE STATE FAIR EVENT

After you open the app, you'll see this screen, just choose the event highlighted below.

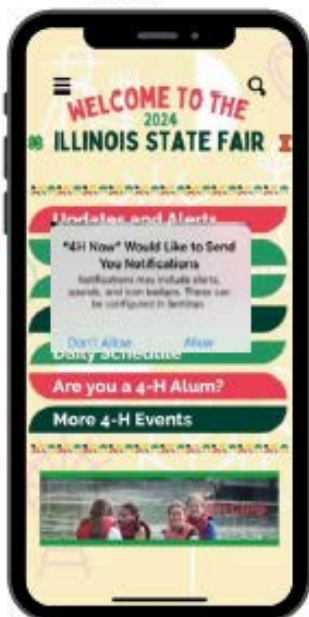


If you don't see the event on the home screen, just search "Illinois 4-H" in the search bar on the top left of the screen.

4

ALLOW NOTIFICATIONS

Please choose to allow notifications, so you can get push notifications about any updates or alerts throughout the event.



5

CHOOSE YOUR ALERTS

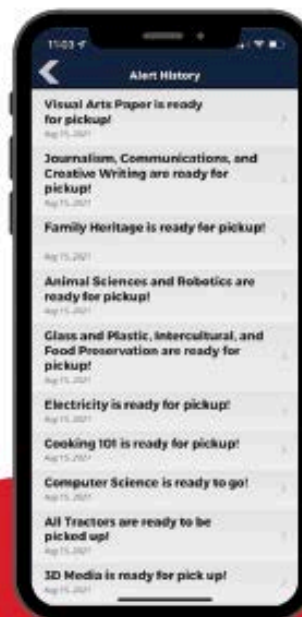
Scroll to "Alert Management" from the main screen of the app. Toggle "on" the days you would like to receive alerts.



6

USING THE APP

Notifications during the event will push to your phone, so if you're actively using it, you'll see a pop-up on your screen, but it may also go to your notifications center.



You can always check past alerts in the app by going to the main menu in the app and alert history



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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 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT THE ILLINOIS 4-H OFFICE.

RECORD KEEPING & AWARD APPLICATIONS

The 2025 Award Applications are posted on our website:
<https://go.illinois.edu/MadisonCountyAwardApplication>

You can also keep track of your 4-H activities with the 4-H Experience log to help prepare for filling out the Award Application:
<https://go.illinois.edu/MyExperienceLog>

LIVESTOCK RECORD BOOKS

All members are encouraged to fill out a 4-H Record Book for livestock and/or horse projects exhibiting at a 4-H Show.

It is REQUIRED to fill out 4-H Record Books for any livestock that members are showing in a market class.

Members must complete a livestock record book for the current year to be eligible to show in a market class for the preceding year.

The PDF versions of the books are found here:

<https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord>.

They may be filled in on your computer, or you may print them off and fill them in by hand (neatly).

The Instruction Guide is found here:

https://go.illinois.edu/LivestockRecord_Guide
to help you through the process of filling the book out.

Books are due at the Extension office by **September 15**.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2025

- July 16 Fair Set Up at 5:30 pm
- July 21 -General Show at 5:30 pm, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 22 - Bottle Bucket/Calf at 9:30 am Madison County Fair Grounds
- July 22 - Dairy Show at 10 am, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 23 - Rabbit Show at 6 pm, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 24 - Poultry Show at 9 am, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 24 - Super Showmanship at 4 pm, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 24 - Goat Show after the Open Goat Show, at Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 25 - Swine Show at 8 am, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 25 - Beef Show at 12 pm, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 26 - Sheep Show at 9:30 am, Madison County Fairgrounds
- July 27 - Project Pick Up at 11 am, Madison County Fairgrounds

August 2025

- August 8 - State Fair Day for Madison County

September 2025

- September 15 - Award and Livestock Record Books Due



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