



Fall 2020



Mason Clover Notes

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

A NOTE FROM JOLI

Dear 4-H Families,

As I prepare this last newsletter of 2020, I am so grateful for the tremendous effort which is taking place in our county to help keep the 4-H spirit alive during these unprecedented times. 4-H clubs have been meeting via virtual platforms, state level shooting sports competitions were completed using a virtual score entry process; 4-H virtual workshops have been taking place; clubs have been exploring new ways to provide community service; and donors have been extremely generous to our county 4-H program.

The resilience of the volunteers to keep these programs alive, generosity of community, and most of all the spirit of our youth with desire to participate, upholds the old English proverb...Where there is a will, there is a way.

This year has been challenging for all of us. Remember, if it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you! In the new year, 4-H will continue to face the challenges and make changes to keep youth involved, and to provide new opportunities for belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a bright new year!

Joli

Joli Pierson
Extension Program Coordinator
4-H Youth Development



4-H ENROLLMENT TIME!



4-H members & leaders, Cloverbud club members & leaders, shooting sports coordinators, and instructors:

If you haven't completed your online 4-H enrollment you need to do so as soon as possible! Please go to the online enrollment link v2.4honline.com to complete your enrollment.

There is an annual 4-H membership fee and payment is required of all members to participate in club activities. This year, with many thanks to the Havana National Bank for their donation to the Mason County 4-H program, membership fees have been discounted by half.

Cost is \$10 per member with a \$60 per family cap for membership fees. Anyone needing reasonable accommodation to participate, should contact the Extension office at (309) 543-3308 for a fee waiver.

LIVESTOCK ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Mark your calendars! January 4, 2021 is the deadline to enroll in large livestock projects including **Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats** to be eligible to exhibit in those project areas at the Mason County 4-H Show. Please log in to v2.4honline.com or contact the Extension office to double check your livestock project enrollment.

STEER WEIGH-IN & TATTOOING

Steer Weigh in and tattooing will be held February 6, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at Greenhaven Animal Clinic in San Jose. Clinic staff have set the following requirements: only one person per calf enter the building, everyone must wear a mask at all times, and all other riders **MUST** stay in the vehicle.



Fulton County 309-547-3711

Janis Blout, 4-H Program Coordinator
jblout@illinois.edu

Debbie Balagna, Office Support
dbalagna@illinois.edu

Mason County 309-543-3308

Joli Pierson, 4-H Program Coordinator
jkiperso@illinois.edu

Paula Lane, Office Support
pclane@illinois.edu

Peoria County 309-685-3140

Cathy Ludolph, 4-H Program Coordinator
ludolph@illinois.edu

Julann Schierer, Office Support
jschiere@illinois.edu

Tazewell County 309-347-6614

Katharine Girone, 4-H Program Coordinator
girone1@illinois.edu

Sheila Bolliger, Office Support
sbollige@illinois.edu

Unit

Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator
eschoe@illinois.edu

Judy Schmidt, Metro 4-H Youth Educator
schmid7@illinois.edu

Earl Allen, County Director
erallen@illinois.edu

Online

web.extension.illinois.edu/fmpt

Facebook- [Fulton County 4-H](#) (closed Group)
[Mason County IL 4-H](#) (closed Group)
[Peoria County 4-H](#)
[Tazewell County IL 4-H](#)

Local 4-H EVENTS

January 2021

- 04 **DEADLINE** Mason County 4-H Livestock project enrollment
- 04 Registration opens for Winter SPARK Camp virtual workshops
- 07 Happy Handful Club 4-H Club virtual meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 08 **DEADLINE** to cash 2019 4-H Show Premium Checks
- 09 Happy Handful Cloverbud Club virtual meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club virtual meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 Kountry Kritters 4-H Club virtual meeting, 3 p.m.
- 18 Mason County 4-H Federation virtual meeting, 7:30 p.m.

February

- 04 Happy Handful Club 4-H Club virtual meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 06 Steer Weigh-in & Tattooing Greenhaven Animal Clinic, 11:30a.m.
- 08 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club virtual meeting, 7 p.m.
- 15 Mason County 4-H Federation virtual meeting, 7:30 p.m.



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>

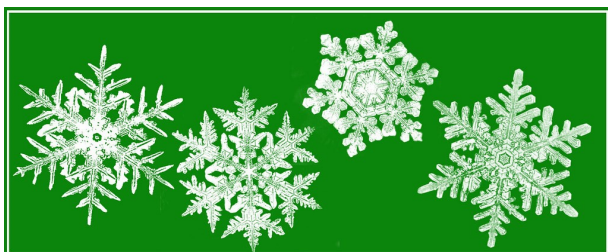
For more information, contact Mark Becker, mbbecker@illinois.edu.

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.



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.

SAVE THE DATE! REGISTRATION FOR 4-H SPARK CAMP VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS: WINTER EDITION!

Winter virtual workshops will be offered in January and February. Workshops fill up quickly! Watch for an email with class descriptions and registration information. Registration will open January 4, 2021. Make sure you are enrolled in 4-H so you will receive the email! Go to v2.4honline.com to get enrolled!



4-H SHOOTING SPORTS UPDATE

2020 VIRTUAL 4-H SHOOT



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. Mason County state participants include: Owen Dye, Ryan Dye, Jessilyn White, Cooper Thomas, Austin Kluthe, Ben Snider, and Eve Snider



For a list of local 4-H participants or any other questions, please contact Curt Sinclair at sinclair@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

QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS (QA&E)

The Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for all youth that enroll in **horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats**. Members must take the training whether they own a live animal or not. It is advised that they complete this one time as soon as they are enrolled in the project area. Failure to complete QA&E will result in the member's animal science project enrollment being cancelled and they will be ineligible to exhibit at county fairs. The website is open year round @ <http://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. The program cannot capture the information for county staff to see when it is completed using iPads or iPhones.

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)

The YQCA is a livestock quality assurance program. It also replaces the Quality Assurance & Ethics (QAEC) program for youth in the following species; **dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats**. All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to certify in the YQCA program yearly. Youth must certify online via the website <http://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 annual with test out options of 1-3 years. The cost is \$12 and paid online.

REMINDER!

Youth who recently received 4-H premium checks for the 2019 4-H Show should cash those checks no later than January 8, 2021 or they will be void.



MASON COUNTY 4-H FEDERATION NEWS

Mason County 4-H Federation members have been meeting monthly by using the Zoom platform. The following club officers were elected: Madi Hofreiter, President; Skylar Stark, Vice President; Bryleigh Morris and McKenna Bleem, Co-Secretaries; Libbie Johnson, Treasurer. Members were nominated and gave their speeches during the October meeting. Voting was held using the Google Survey tool following the meeting.

In October, members co-hosted a blood drive with the Mason County Farm Bureau. The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center brought the mobile blood unit to the Farm Bureau parking lot in Havana. Nine units were collected, which will help up to 27 patients in need of lifesaving blood products. Many of the donors were high school students donating for their first time.

For their December service project, members are collecting NEW men's, women's, and youth socks of all sizes. All socks collected will be donated to the Fulton-Mason Crisis Service for victims of abuse and other crises. Collection boxes can be found at the following locations through December 22: Havana High School, Havana Jr. High School, Havana Farm & Home Supply Store, Havana Police Department, Market Street Boutique, and Stelter-Hofreiter, Inc.

Photo at right: Mason County 4-H Federation President, Madi Hofreiter, displays some of the first socks to be collected for the sock drive for Fulton-Mason Crisis Service. 119 pairs filled the box in the first three days of collecting at the Havana Farm & Home Supply Store. Socks can be donated through December 22, 2020.

Below: Mason County 4-H Federation member, Jessilyn White, donated blood for the first time at the blood drive co-sponsored by the 4-H Federation and Mason County Farm Bureau. The mobile blood unit arrived from the Springfield Central Illinois Community Blood Center.



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

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.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

Please take time to thank the following recent donors to the Mason County 4-H program. Their contributions to the program/individual clubs helps to provide program support and needed supplies, equipment, and programming fees. Their contributions are greatly appreciated!

Havana National Bank
Havana Farm & Home Supply Store
Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank
Mason County Soil & Water Conservation District
Joe Weghorst (Mason County Shooting Sports Club)



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.



CLUB REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

What's happening in your club? We'd love to hear about it so we can highlight your club activities and events! Please remember to submit your monthly club meeting report and photos to the Extension office at: jkpierso@illinois.edu



JUST THE HELP YOU NEED FOR YOUR 4-H CLUB



The Illinois 4-H Website has all of the resources and forms needed to guide 4-H club officers, committees, and members as they plan for the new 4-H program year.

Go to go.illinois.edu/IL4H

Click on the **Clubs** tab.

Scroll to Meeting Resources near the bottom of the page

Find these helpful documents:

Club Meeting Agenda – this fillable form is a useful fill-in-the-blank form your club officers can use as they plan each section of the meeting. This useful form provides them with the meeting structure they can use to identify who from the club should be in charge of each potential item that may be included in a meeting.

Club Committee Planning Worksheet – the Committee Planning Worksheet is an excellent tool to give to committee members as they plan club events and activities.

Club Yearly Program Plan – this helpful tool guides the club officers and club members as they identify club goals to work toward during the year and brainstorm what programs, events and/or activities to plan for the club to engage members in fun, hands-on learning experiences throughout the program year.

More – Don't forget to download your new secretary book, treasurer book, tips for good club meetings, tips for using the 4-H name, and more other important resources.





University of Illinois Extension
Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit
Mason Branch Office
127 S. High St., Ste. 1
Havana, IL 62644



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 attend, call the registration office. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture by the Director, Cooperative Extension Service, and University of Illinois.