



# 4-H NEWSLETTER

July & August 2023



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

## Note from Joli...

Summer is officially here! School is out and it is time to do some fun things! ... Vacations, time with friends, ball games, swimming, gardening, reading, and of course the 4-H Show!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the 4-H Show this summer! Keep in mind the event isn't all about exhibiting your 4-H projects and getting the "Best of Show" ribbon. It is about having fun, making friends, learning from others, and making lifelong memories. It is a time to come together and show your 4-H spirit!

The 4-H Show is a culminating event for you to show the mastery you have in a 4-H project area, but also in areas of responsibility, sharing, caring, generosity, and kindness. The world could use a little extra kindness, so let's show them what you've got! You never know... there might be a prize for showing kindness!

Read through this newsletter to find out all the extra happenings at this year's 4-H General Project Show Day, Wednesday, July 26 and other summer events! It's going to be a lot of fun and we certainly hope you will join us!



Until next time,  
*Joli*

## Remember the Requirements

The 2023 4-H Show is less than one month away! Have you taken time to complete all of the requirements necessary to exhibit your projects? Take some time to put all of the final touches on your projects and be prepared to answer the conference judging questions. Be sure to read the 4-H Show Book and follow the exhibit requirements for your project area. 4-H Show Books are available at the Extension office. Call the office at (309) 543-3308 if you have questions regarding project exhibition requirements.

## Club & Member Records Due

Illinois 4-H Experience Recognition Award applications and Club Recognition Award forms, and all club [Secretary](#) and [Treasurers](#) Books, **completed** Annual Financial Statement, along with all fiscal documentation (bank statements, receipts, bills, etc.) are **due to the Extension office no later than Friday, September 1, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Please be sure to use the most current books found here:**

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/media/2975/download?inline>  
<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/media/2976/download?inline>

Along with the Club Secretary and Treasurer Books, please make sure you have a club fiscal review committee review the club financial records. The committee should consist of three individuals who are not involved in the spending of funds or decision making process of spending funds. After a complete audit of club financial records, the Annual Financial Statement should be completed and signed by the committee. Secretary and Treasurer Books, along with the Annual Financial Statement are a requirement of the Illinois State 4-H Office. **Clubs will not be allowed to be active for the 2023-24 4-H year if these records are not received by the deadline.**

## Traveling Trowel Award



The 4-H Club Gardens are looking great! Thank you to everyone who has helped plant, weed, mulch, and keep the gardens watered during this hot, dry summer! I am looking forward to seeing all of the "Sunflowers for Ukraine"

themed gardens. Keep up the great work! Remember, clubs should plan to have 1-2 members be the spokespersons for the club garden during judging, which will take place after all horticulture/floriculture judging is complete on Wednesday, July 26. Keep in mind, one club will be awarded the annual Traveling Trowel Award at the awards ceremony on Saturday, July 29 at 5:45 p.m.



# 4-H Events

## Show Some Gratitude

Much work goes into preparation for the county 4-H Show & Jr. Fair. Please take time to thank your 4-H leaders, show superintendents, judges, and fair board members. Most are volunteering their time, services, and knowledge to provide a fun show experience for everyone.

Also take time to write a note of thanks to anyone who sponsors an award or scholarship you receive. Showing your gratitude always looks good on you!

## July

- 3 Fair Entry deadline
- 15 Happy Handful 4-H meeting, 9 a.m., Fairgrounds
- 20 Mason County fairgrounds clean-up day
- 26 Mason County 4-H General Project Show Day
- 26-30 Mason County 4-H Show and Jr. Fair

## August

- 13 Mason County Day at Illinois State Fair

## September

- 1 Beginning of the New 2023-24 4-H Year!
- 1 Club/Member Records due to Extension office
- 16 2023 State 4-H Archery Contest
- 23 2023 State 4-H Shotgun Contest

## October

- 7 2023 State 4-H Rifle Contest

## Mason 4-H Shooting Sports News

Illinois 4-H State Shoots in rifle, pistol, archery, and shotgun are intended to provide an opportunity for 4-H members to compete with those with like interests from throughout Illinois and registration opens July 15th! Eligible participants: Minimum age of 12 years by Sept. 1, 2023 and currently enrolled in an active 4-H Shooting Sports Club.

Illinois 4-H State Archery Shoot, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 at Pekin Archers, Pekin, IL. Fee: \$20

Illinois Ducks Unlimited 4-H State Shotgun Shoot, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 at Brittany Shooting Park, Bunker Hill, IL Fee: \$20 *Sponsored by Illinois Ducks Unlimited*

Illinois 4-H State Rifle Shoot, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023 at Central Illinois Precision Shooters, Bloomington, IL. Fee: \$20

Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club members who would like to participate at the IL State 4-H Shooting Sports Competitions should contact Joli Pierson at the Mason County Extension office (309)543-3308 to be registered.



## Unit 4-H Staff

In our four-county Extension unit, a team works together to provide 4-H programming. Each county has an individual 4-H program plus we all work together on unit-wide events and program planning.

### Krista Gray

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

### Rachel Van Cleve

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

### Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

### Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

### Katharine Girone

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

### Lynda Sharp-Lower

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator

Judy Schmidt, Metro 4-H Youth Educator

Earl Allen, County Director

Deb Balagna, Fulton County Office Support

Paula Lane, Mason County Office Support

Angela Sassine, Peoria County Office Support

Julann Schierer, Tazewell County Office Support

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND 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 participate in this program, please call 309-543-3308. 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.

## Fun 4-H Show Day Activities

Pack a picnic and bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy while waiting for the 4-H conference judging sessions. There will be family friendly yard games such as giant Uno, checkers, bags, giant Jenga, and a few new games this year! There will also be an art table for youth to keep their hands busy with coloring and creating while waiting.

### Calling all Cloverbud Members...

There will be a special art project workshop for all Cloverbud members at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 26. The workshop will be held at the picnic tables under the pavilion near the fair office. Supplies will be limited to enrolled 2022-23 Cloverbud members.

This project will be led by Kountry Kritters 4-H Club leader, Dinah VanDelinder. We would love for youth to leave their final artwork to be put on display for the week of the fair. Projects can be picked up on Sunday, July 30 before noon.

### Painting in the Shade...

This fun, instructor led project will begin at 1 p.m. under the shade trees near the Auditorium Building. Art instructor, Kim Dunnigan, will be leading the class. All youth will create their own bright, cheerful version of Kim's special design for the day! We hope you will choose to leave your artwork on display for the week of the 4-H & Jr. Show Fair! There will be a sign up sheet to join in the fun at the art table under the shade tree on Wednesday, July 26. Supplies will be limited, so sign up early!



## IL State Fair Project Promotion

This year the time frame to get projects promoted to the Illinois State Fair is earlier than previous years. Members should be on the lookout for 4-H State Fair Select and State Fair Alternate ribbons along with registration information on your projects!

If you are awarded either of these ribbons on your 4-H project/s at the county 4-H Show, you should report to Extension staff in the 4-H Show Office **no later than Friday July 28 at 4p.m.** to register the project you wish to take to the Illinois State Fair 4-H Show.

Members/families can report to Extension staff at anytime, however we will be in the fair office specifically for Illinois State Fair registration from 8-8:30 a.m. and at 3-4p.m. on Friday, July 28.

Keep in mind, if you receive more than one State Fair select ribbon, you may only choose one project to exhibit at the Illinois State Fair. This may give those who received State Fair Alternate ribbons the opportunity to exhibit at the State Fair as well.

**Mason County 4-H exhibition day at the Illinois State Fair will be Sunday, August 13.**

## 4-H Cloverbuds

### Bring a project to the 4-H show!

Mason County 4-H Cloverbud Club members will have the opportunity to exhibit a project at the Mason County 4-H Show on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Cloverbud members/groups should check in their exhibits at the South Exhibit building from 8-9 a.m. "Judging" will begin at 9 a.m. 4-H Cloverbud members do not need to enroll in a 4-H project or complete an entry in order to participate in this fun 4-H Cloverbud class.

Think of this opportunity as a stepping stone, or practice, to becoming an older 4-H Club member. Members will bring a "project" to exhibit. Projects should be completed by the Cloverbud member. Examples would be an art project, a plant or vegetable grown and cared for by the exhibitor, a picture, or a poster display detailing a favorite hobby or interest. Live animals will not be allowed for this class. Project size should be suitable for tabletop display.

Youth will conference judge as older 4-H members do. They will meet with a "celebrity" judge who will make the experience fun and inviting. They should be prepared to answer a few questions and tell about their project.

**Cloverbud Clubs** are also welcome to exhibit a group project. Club members, along with their leader, will meet together with the judge and explain their project or experiment. Leaders are encouraged to work on group projects during club meeting times and prepare youth for sharing about the exhibit.

All members who exhibit in this class will receive a participation award. Entry is not required, however, club leaders should advise the Extension office if they plan to have a group exhibition so we can allow for exhibit space.

## "Club Tug" Contest

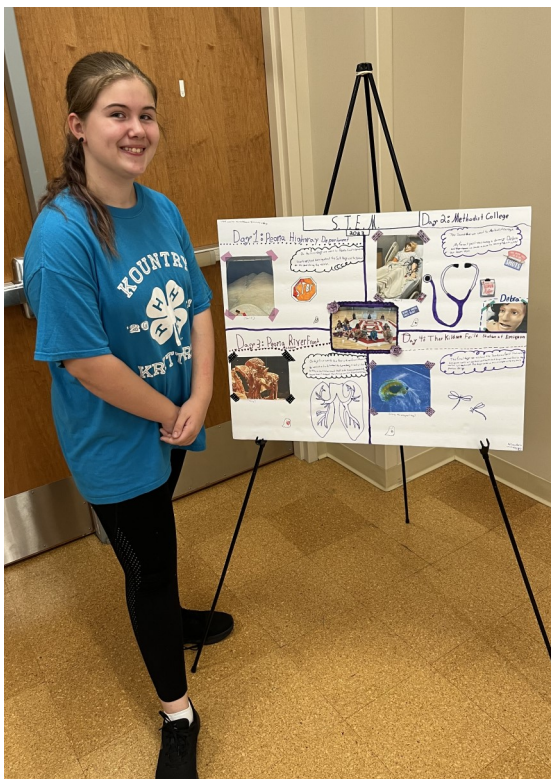
Gather your club members! The all new Annual Club Tug of War Contest is on! Mason County 4-H Federation members will be hosting the event on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 2:15 p.m. at the Horse Arena on the north end of the fairgrounds. Club members should work together to get their strongest team formed. There is no limit to the number of participants, however, a team can have no more than 1000 pounds total weight of tugging participants. Participants must be an active member in the club they represent. Club team sign up will be in the Auditorium Building from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26. Team members will be weighed and added to the team roster.

Clubs should gather their members and cheer on the tugging team! The overall winning club team will earn the annual "Club Tug" traveling trophy and bragging rights until next year!

Additional teams can be formed for more fun and competition. Fun participation prizes will be given to all! Wear your club shirts, plan to get dirty, and start strengthening those muscles!

## 4G STEM Camp

Cozette Marte, member of Kountry Kritters 4-H Club, recently attended 4G STEM Camp at Bradley University the week of June 26-30. Girls+Gadgets+Games=Genius! The 4G STEM Camp introduces girls to careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The camp included hands-on activities, lab experiments, and field trips to area businesses which offer STEM-related careers. The participants visited the Peoria Highway Department, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Methodist College, and Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon Preserve.



Cozette Marte displays a poster describing some of the things she learned at 4G STEM Camp.

## First Time at State Fair?

First time exhibiting your 4-H project at the State Fair? Get the scoop on what to bring, planning your stay in Springfield and more! Download a copy of our **First-Time Fairgoer Brochure** at <https://uofi.box.com/s/woy39jswx57okl2uc2a2iz1rmedix6jh> or en Español at <https://uofi.box.com/s/2vm0mik46c2um61gj02q3cgctk54rjwc>.

## The State Fair Twilight Parade

4-H members 12 & up are invited to help represent Illinois 4-H at the Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade! Please sign up by August 8: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/22067>  
**Time:** August 10, 5:00pm meetup time  
**Meeting Spot:** North Circle at Lincoln Park- 1601 North 5th Street  
**Attire:** 4-H shirt and comfortable walking shoes  
**Age:** 4-H members 12 and up  
**Parade Route:** Staging for the Twilight Parade is in the north circle at Lincoln Park. It proceeds through the park, down Sangamon Avenue and enters Fairgrounds at the Main Gate. It follows Main Street and then turns right on Illinois Ave. and disperses after the SFPLD fire station. Kick-off is at 5:30pm and the last unit of the parade is normally completed around 7:15pm.



The “4-H Can Make a Difference” Can/Non-Perishable Food Drive is back at the Illinois State Fair this year! We will be collecting food to see which county brings in the most (by weight). The top three counties in the state will receive a prize! We will be located inside the Orr building on the south side by the Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Booth. We cannot wait to see the huge amount of items that counties bring in!



Represent Illinois at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia! This five-day national conference is an opportunity for youth from across

the country to develop their leadership skills. Members have the opportunity to go to trainings, listen to nationally recognized speakers, participate in community service projects and network with 4-H members from across the United States. The next 4-H Congress will be held November 24-28, 2023 and costs \$2000 with partial scholarships available. Complete the National Congress Application at <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/21512> in Zsuite by August 1, 2023.

4-H Camp  
Registration



## Fall Family Camp

Dates for Fall Family Camp are Sept. 8-10, 2023 and registration is open now! Find more info and registration materials at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-family-camp>



The State 4-H Office is looking for volunteer judges and project assistants who are eager to provide a great State Fair experience for our youth. Help in the air-conditioned Orr Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds on any or all of the days: Aug 11-13. Apply

online at <https://go.illinois.edu/StateFairHelp>. We hope to see you at the fair!



4-H State Shoots in rifle, pistol, archery, and shotgun are intended to provide an opportunity for 4-H members to compete with those with like interests from throughout Illinois and registration opens July 15th!

**Illinois 4-H State Archery Shoot** – Sat, Sept. 16, 2023 at Pekin Archers, Pekin, IL. Fee: \$20

**Illinois Ducks Unlimited 4-H State Shotgun Shoot** – Sat, Sept. 23, 2023 at Brittany Shooting Park, Bunker Hill, IL. Fee: \$20 *Sponsored by Illinois Ducks Unlimited*

**Illinois 4-H State Rifle Shoot** – Sat, Oct. 7, 2023 at Central Illinois Precision Shooters, Bloomington, IL. Fee: \$20

Learn more at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/state-shoots>.

## State Fair Mobile App

Headed to the Orr Building in August? The State Fair Illinois 4-H General Project Show has gone mobile! View the schedule, maps, exhibitor info, and more. Find us in the iOS and Google Play App Stores or visit [https://grandstandsites.com/gc=Illinois\\_4-H](https://grandstandsites.com/gc=Illinois_4-H).



STEM Academy is an exciting opportunity that will allow young people to build their own voice assistant, explore Chat GPT, and learn about AI. Youth will get hands-on experience with machine learning, natural language processing, and robotics, all while creating their project. This year's STEM Academy will also educate students about ethics in using artificial intelligence. Youth will hear from leaders in the field of machine learning, as well as others who navigate the use of ChatGPT and other voice assistants. Cost is \$25. Location: Goodwill Commons, 2319 E War Memorial Dr, Peoria, IL 61614. Register by July 3 at [go.illinois.edu/STEMacademy](https://go.illinois.edu/STEMacademy).

## 4-H Outdoor Skills Challenge



Ready to challenge yourself and then prove it to your 4-H Leader or another trusted adult? You could teach them a thing or two! Learn these skill levels and compete for some great prizes that will help you enjoy the outdoors! Five winners will be drawn on July 15, 2023 for a very high quality 4-H

Everyday Sportsman's Multi-Tool (\$50 value) that will last a lifetime!

<https://go.illinois.edu/4-HOutdoorSkillsChallenge>



Do you want to learn more about livestock, but don't want to own your own cow? Join the Dairy Special Interest (SPIN) Club! The Dairy SPIN Club will start meeting on June 17 at Linden Hills Dairy Farm (8412 W Middle Rd, Peoria, IL 61607). They will meet twice a day on Saturdays: June 17, June 24, and July 1. They will have morning and afternoon sessions. Members are encouraged to bring their lunches. All 4-H members are welcome! For more details, contact Fred Rosenbohm at 309-256-6819.

## Raising Funds for Federation

Did you know that all of the funding for the Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Federations is raised by the 4-H Food Stand at the Fulton County Fair? This year we'd love all our Federation members to join in the fun, help raise funds for our groups, and take time to give back!

Join us on Saturday, July 29 in the 4-H Food Stand at the Fulton County Fairgrounds (1377 S Main St, Lewistown, IL 61542). We'll work together to serve meals during one of the busiest days of the fair. You'll get a free meal during your shift, and you can choose what shift you want to work: 11am-3pm or 3-7pm. Plus, you can earn community service hours! Bring your family to help in the food stand – or let them enjoy the rides, exhibits, shows, and food!

If you can join us, contact Rachel (Fulton County 4-H Coordinator) at 309-547-3711 or [rfv@illinois.edu](mailto:rfv@illinois.edu) by July 10. Be sure to let her know your address so we can mail you a fair pass. Learn more about the Fulton County Fair at <https://fultonfair.com/>. We're excited to see you there!



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



University of Illinois Extension  
Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit  
Mason County Branch Office  
127 S High ST, Ste. 1  
Havana, IL 62644  
**Return Service Requested**

*See you at the...*

**4-H  
SHOW!**

**4-H Show & Fair Dates**

**FULTON**  
County Fair - 7/24-29

**MASON**  
July 26-30

**PEORIA**  
July 12-14

**TAZEWELL**  
July 31-Aug 2