



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

## Note from Joli

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and you are staying on track with your New Year's goals and resolutions!

Welcome to all of our new 4-H families! I am looking forward to meeting you in the coming months! As always, everyone should continue to invite friends and family to attend club meetings or other 4-H events! This is the best way to show others all the 4-H program has to offer!

Thank you to those who have completed your 4-H enrollment and paid membership fees! And a huge thank you to our 4-H leaders who have been diligent in recruiting and helping members get enrolled!

New this year!...We have made some changes with our 4-H newsletter format, and we will be sending it to you bi-monthly. You can still look forward to reading our county news, as well as state, and national 4-H information. Now more than ever, it is important for club reporters to send me your club articles so we can share them. I know you are doing great club activities, and community service projects, as well as learning from guest presenters on a variety of topics. Others would love to read about it and see your meeting and activity photos, so send them my way! You can email them to me at [jkpierse@illinois.edu](mailto:jkpierse@illinois.edu). Please remember to make sure photo releases are signed for anyone in photos!

Now is a great time to get started working on your 4-H projects! Winter is the perfect time to take in the beauty of nature surrounding us! Get out there and take some photos! If cold weather is not for you, stay inside and warm up by practicing your baking skills, do some visual arts projects, work on your garden plans, or complete your YQCA & QAEC trainings!

Stay warm and healthy everyone!

*Joli*

## 4-H Enrollment vs. Fair Entry

4-H Enrollment and Fair Entry are two separate registrations and can be confusing, even to experienced 4-H families. Read on to help understand the difference between them and when they each need to be completed in Mason County for the 2021-22 4-H year.

4-H members and leaders, as well as shooting sports coordinators, instructors, and assistants, and other 4-H volunteers, should all take a few minutes to re-enroll in 4-H as a member or volunteer **annually**. The new 4-H year begins on September 1 and re-enrollment can begin after that date. Go to <https://v2.4honline.com> to update your profile and complete your enrollment/s for the year. Getting your enrollment completed will ensure that you are on the 4-H mailing list to receive 4-H news, club, project and volunteer information.

For 4-H members, enrolling in general projects by the May 1, 2022 deadline will ensure you are eligible to exhibit in those project areas at the 2022 4-H Show in July. Please take time to double check the projects you are enrolled in before the deadline!

Livestock project enrollment deadline has passed for this year (January 4, 2022 for beef, swine, goats and sheep projects.) Anyone can join 4-H after the May 1, 2022 project deadlines, however they will not be eligible to exhibit at the 2022 4-H Shows.

Please keep in mind, **enrolling in 4-H is not the same as completing your 4-H Show Entry!** After the May 1, 2022 4-H project enrollment deadline passes, we will begin processing information for members to complete their 4-H Show entries. Members will receive information and instruction about completing 4-H Show entries from the Extension office. 4-H Show entries will be due by midnight July 1, 2022 and will need to be completed online at [faireentry.com](http://faireentry.com).

If you have questions about 4-H enrollment or 4-H Show entries, please call or email us! We understand it can be confusing and we are happy to help!

# Illinois 4-H Project Selection & Publication Order Form

We will be placing an order for members' 4-H project manuals soon! Please complete the Project Selection & Publication



Order Form provided at your club meeting or at the Extension office. Return the form to your club leader or to the Extension office. Once we receive the project manuals, they will be distributed to club leaders or you can request to pick them up at the Extension office.

Members must be enrolled in the 4-H project in order to order/receive the manual. There will be no charge for project manuals this year, however we do request you don't order if you have the same book from a previous year. We encourage you to recycle manuals by returning any gently used books to your club leader or the Extension office.



## January 2022

- 5 – Extension office re-opens after holiday break
- 10- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club, zoom meeting
- 10- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 13-16- IAAF Convention and State Fair Queen Pageant
- 15- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting via zoom
- 17- Martin Luther King Jr. Day– Extension office closed

## February

- 5- Mason County Steer Weigh-in and Tattooing
- 12- Back-up date for Steer Weigh-in and Tattooing (only in case of cancellation on 2/5/22)
- 13- Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting
- 14- St. Valentine's Day
- 14- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 14- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting
- 19- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting
- 21- Presidents' Day

## March

- 13- Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting
- 14- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 14- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting
- 17- St. Patrick's Day
- 19- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting

## April

- 10- Mason County 4-H Shooting Sport Club-safety meeting (tentative)
- 10- Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting
- 11- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 11- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting
- 15- Good Friday
- 16- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting
- 17- Easter
- 22- Earth Day
- 27- Administrative Professionals Day

## May

- 1- 4-H General Project Enrollment Deadline
- 1- 4-H Shooting Sports Club meeting
- 8- Mother's Day



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## 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

### Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

### Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

### Katharine Girone

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

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## Steer Weigh-In & Tattooing

Steer weigh-in and tattooing is scheduled for Saturday, February 5 from 11:30 AM—12:30 PM at Greenhaven Animal Clinic in San Jose. **Please arrive a few minutes early to the weigh-in! We have only a short time to work through the process. Mason County will be immediately followed by another county.** In case of inclement weather on the day of the event, an alternate date is set for Saturday, February 12 at 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. You will be contacted should we need to use the alternate date.

If you want your steer/s to be eligible for the County Rate-of-Gain Contest, the Illinois State Fair Junior Show, or the Illinois State Fair Premiere Contest, you must bring your steer/s to be weighed and tattooed on the above date. Steers must be castrated prior to tattooing. If possible, exhibitors should be present during tattooing.

All steers will be electronically tagged as well as tattooed with the box “A” tattoo for 2022. We will be using the new federally approved electronic ID tags this year which allows for out of state travel. All State Fair Junior Show Steers - Premiere and non-Premiere steers must be weighed at the time they are tagged and tattooed in 2022.

Please report the number of steers you plan to bring to the weigh-in and tattooing event by contacting Joli Pierson at the Extension office. phone:(309) 543-3308  
Email: [jkpiero@illinois.edu](mailto:jkpiero@illinois.edu)

## Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club News



Anyone interested in 4-H Shooting Sports projects (Shotgun, Rifle, Archery, or Hunting & Wildlife) should enroll in the Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club. Once you have selected the club, select the projects you wish to participate in. You can enroll at <https://v2.4honline.com>. Get enrolled now so you will receive any club news and updates!

The club has set a tentative start date of Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2p.m. The first meeting will be a mandatory informational and safety meeting for members and their parents. Most club events will take place at the 4-H shooting sports range in rural Havana. Watch for more updates!

Anyone interested in volunteering with this club should contact Joli Pierson at the Extension office.

## Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC)

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 Quality Assurance & Ethics training 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 at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>

NOTE: Youth must be logged on to a computer for this program, either a desktop or laptop; not a tablet, an iPad, or iPhone. The program cannot capture the information for county staff to see when it is completed using those devices.



## Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

YQCA is a livestock quality assurance program. It should be completed by anyone enrolled in the following 4-H animal species projects; **dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats**. All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to certify in the YQCA program **annually**. Failure to complete YQCA will result in the member's animal science project enrollment being cancelled and they will be ineligible to exhibit at county fairs. 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. Mason County 4-H members should complete the online training then email, or bring a copy of your completion certificate to Joli Pierson at the Extension office by the July 1, 2022 deadline. Email: [jkpiero@illinois.edu](mailto:jkpiero@illinois.edu)

## Horsin' Around Special Interest Club

Do you know someone who is horse-crazy and wants to learn all about horses? We have the perfect Special Interest Club for them! Youth do not need a horse join our fun study group called "Horse Bowl and Hippology".

The group will meet via Zoom for practices on Wednesdays at 3 pm for about three months starting in January to learn lots of different equine science topics and study different reference materials; all to prepare for a Horse-themed quiz bowl game, "Horse Bowl". Members will have a chance to compete at the regional Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest.

If interested, please text/call Vera Betzelberger at 309-231-6375 or [verabetzelberger@yahoo.com](mailto:verabetzelberger@yahoo.com).

## Web Development through Games Club Begins Winter Session

Register at [Go.illinois.edu/WebDev](http://Go.illinois.edu/WebDev)

Are you interested in learning about web development? You are invited to join this club and learn more about web development through HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Club members will create three projects: a simple homepage, a quiz with ASCII animation, and a text-adventure with navigation. This club is intended to help youth interested in web development learn about and practice some fundamental skills of syntax, design, and problem solving. It will help you learn to use the correct coding language to communicate with others, and to give you the independence to make decisions on your own when developing your own work.

### Web Development through Games Club

**Meeting Dates:** every Thursday, starting February 10 through March 17. Club will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Illinois Math Academy in Northwoods Mall. The cost is \$25 (includes 4-H membership fee.) If you are already a 4-H member, cost is \$5. Fee waivers are available.

High School age youth invited to join.

For more information contact Judy Schmidt, [schmid7@illinois.edu](mailto:schmid7@illinois.edu)



## Connection Corner Blog

[extension.illinois.edu/blogs/connection-corner](http://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/connection-corner)

Local 4-H educators Judy Schmidt and Emily Schoenfelder write a weekly blog that provides us with timely information, activities, and resources that help us stay connected to loved ones, the world around us, and ourselves.

Recent posts include:

- [3 ways to reduce stress this holiday season](#)
- [Exploring new cultures during the holidays](#)
- [3 ideas to help reduce stress for busy families](#)
- [Youth Mental Health First Aid can help you reach out to youth in crisis](#)

## Club Activity Opportunity!

Bring an engaging, hands-on activity to your next club meeting...and introduce your kids to the brand new Cover Crop Science 4-H project. Matthew Hagaman, one of the Cover Crop Science project book authors, would love to visit your club! Activities are free for clubs (thanks to a USDA grant) and last about 20 minutes—though times are flexible. Some of the activities he offers include...

- **Engineering a Cover Crop Harvester:** Conduct experiments & compare/contrast results to engineer a model plant harvester.
- **Cover Crop Life Cycles:** Work with plant materials to sequence the life cycle of a pennycress plant.
- **Making Cover Crop Ink:** Experiment with materials to discover how to make an ink, including oil, water, and an emulsifier.
- **Gene Editing with LEGOs:** Examine parts of 2 different pennycress plants, then use LEGOs to understand the process of working with DNA to improve crops.

If you'd like to learn more, contact Emily at [eschoe@illinois.edu](mailto:eschoe@illinois.edu) or Matthew at [mthagam@ilstu.edu](mailto:mthagam@ilstu.edu)

# Livestock Ownership Dates

Listed below are the tentative dates by which animals must be owned and personally cared for by the exhibitor in order to be shown at the County 4-H Shows and State Fair.

## BEEF

Steers - February 1, 2022 (calved on or after 1/1/21)  
Cows - January 1, 2022 (born before 9/1/20)  
Heifers - June 1, 2022 (State Fair — birthdates from 9/1/20 to 3/31/22; County Fair — birthdates from 9/1/20 to 3/1/22)

## DAIRY

Calves and Heifers - June 1, 2022  
Cows - January 1, 2022

## DAIRY GOATS

Kids and Yearlings not in milk - June 1, 2022  
Milking Does - January 1, 2022

## MEAT GOATS

All meat goats — May 15, 2022  
Wethers—Must be registered and tattooed in the name of the exhibitor only by May 15, 2022 (must be born on or after October 1, 2021)

## POULTRY AND RABBITS

June 1, 2022 (or out of stock owned prior to June 1)

HORSES — Ownership and/or lease forms must be on file with the Extension Office by your County deadline each year.

## SHEEP

Breeding Sheep - June 1, 2022  
(Yearling Ewes = birthdates 1/1/21-8/31/21)  
(Ewe lambs = birthdates 9/1/21 and after)  
(Ram lambs = birthdates after 1/1/22)  
State Fair Wethers - May 15, 2022 (lambd on or after 1/1/22) (County Fair — ownership by June 1, 2022).

## SWINE

May 1, 2022 (for County Fair)  
June 1, 2022 (for State Fair)  
State Fair and County Fair gilts must be farrowed on or after 1/1/22.  
For State Fair, all barrows must have been farrowed on or after January 1, 2022 and must be the property of the exhibitor since June 1, 2022. Premier barrows must have been farrowed on or after February 10, 2022.  
For County Fair Rate of Gain, barrows must have been farrowed on or after February 10, 2022 (or on or after January 15, 2022 if not Rate of Gain).

**Note that these are ownership, not enrollment deadlines.** Livestock enrollment deadlines are determined by your County 4-H office.



Join us for 4-H Volunteer

*Café Conversations*

## Volunteer Café Conversations

Mark your calendars now to participate in the Spring 2022 **4-H Volunteer Café Conversations**.

Café Conversations is a platform for 4-H Volunteers and 4-H members serving in leadership roles from across Illinois to meet virtually and discuss topics of interest, and share both ideas and challenges. The dates are:

**Thursday, February 17, 2022; 7 PM**

**Thursday, May 19, 2022; 7 PM**

We will identify the topics for the next two Conversations in January! Watch for future registration details!

# News from Illinois 4-H



Save the date! The 4-H State Horse Judging will be February 19 at Black Hawk East in Galva, IL (Registration at 11 AM judging starts at noon)

And save the date for the State Horse Bowl, Hippology & Horse Speaking Contests that will be April 23 & 24 on UIUC campus. The regional contest is tentatively set for March 26 at Parkland College. More details coming soon!



## 4-H Exchange

Host a young person from Japan or South Korea this summer through States' 4-H International Exchange Program! Families are needed for July 23 through August 18 (tentative dates). Applications are accepted until all placements are made. There is no cost for this program. Students are matched with a host sibling by age, gender, and interests, so families hosting must have a child the between 12-18. *Host family selection is dependent on completion of an application and screening process, as well as student availability and personality compatibility.*

For more information or to apply, visit:

[www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org).

Find us on Facebook @ [facebook.com/Illinois4hexchange](https://www.facebook.com/Illinois4hexchange)

or contact Illinois S4-H Coordinators: Miriam Rosenbohm @ [rosenbohm07@comcast.net](mailto:rosenbohm07@comcast.net) or Elisha Hughes @ [ehugh2@illinois.edu](mailto:ehugh2@illinois.edu).

**Are you ready to get back to camping at 4-H Memorial Camp?** We are! We are planning on having four (4) Summer Youth Camps in the summer of 2022. New this year, we will have an early registration period for 4-H Members only. Watch for additional information to be shared on the 4-H Memorial Camp <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/camping> and on our Facebook page, <https://m.facebook.com/4-H-Memorial-Camp-95026468854>.

### Registration Dates:

Jan. 24-Feb. 6, 2022 4-H Members Only

Feb. 7, 2022- until full 4-H Members and non-members

### Camp Dates:

June 5-9, 2022

June 12-16, 2022

July 5-9, 2022

July 17-21, 2022



Summer camp employees wanted! Applications are currently being accepted for the following positions:

**Summer Program Staff** (18 years old minimum)

Summer/Seasonal Assistant Camp Director

Lead Male/Female Counselors

Lifeguards

Outdoor Education Director

Arts & Crafts Director

Creation Station (S.T.E.M.) Director

Recreation Director

Climbing Tower Director

**Cabin Counselors** (16 years old minimum)

Additional details and application materials can be found on the 4-H Memorial Camp

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/camping/4-h-memorial-camp> towards the bottom of the page under 4-H Resources. Contact Andy Davis [ardavis1@illinois.edu](mailto:ardavis1@illinois.edu), (217) 762-2741 with any questions.



This year's competition will revolve around the work of the 4-H in Space Mission Command Team, which is preparing curriculum and programming options for Illinois youth working with the International Space Station National Laboratories (ISS) and The Lab for Advanced Space Systems at Illinois, Dept. of Aerospace Engineering, (LASSI). These collaborations will enable Illinois 4-H youth to send experiments to the ISS, and build/launch micro satellites into orbit.

The SpaceBot Mission Command Challenge will take place at the **McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, April 16, 2022**. Team registration will open **January 17, 2022** and will close **March 16, 2022**. There will be a \$20 Entry fee per team assessed at the time of registration. ***This year All Health Forms are due at time of registration and will be accessible through the Challenge Download Link.***

**Challenge Download/Documents Folder:**

[go.illinois.edu/2022CHALLENGE](http://go.illinois.edu/2022CHALLENGE)

**Register Here on Jan 17, 2022:**

[go.illinois.edu/4HR2022](http://go.illinois.edu/4HR2022)

**Challenge Announcement Video (Available Dec. 14):**

[go.illinois.edu/224HRVID](http://go.illinois.edu/224HRVID)



## ***GET YOUR TACKLE READY - 2022 4-H Sport Fishing Virtual Monthly Challenges Coming Soon!***

Open to all current year 4-H members, but sweet prizes **only** for 4-H members registered in the 4-H Sport Fishing project for the 2021-2022 year. Tournament details coming soon!

April – Crappie State 4-H Tournament

May – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament

June – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament



## **Tell Your 4-H Story –**

### **Join the *Speaking for Illinois 4-H* Team**

We're looking for 4-H members interested in spreading the great news about 4-H. 4-H members 14 years of age or older can join the *Speaking for Illinois 4-H* team. There will be a virtual training offered on **Saturday, January 16 from 9-11 a.m.**

This virtual training, provided by the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team, gives you the chance to explore your own 4-H history and why you are involved, put that story into words, and learn the best ways to approach donors, civic groups, elected officials, and others to talk about 4-H. Learn why 4-H believes in Positive Youth Development and how we emphasize the essential elements of Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery. All of this – and more – is a part of *Speaking for Illinois 4-H!* Once you're trained, you'll receive an invitation to be a part of our Legislative Connection events. Members of this team will meet a minimum of four times throughout the year virtually as a team to remain on the team.

Registration is open NOW @: [4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/speaking-illinois-4-h-training](http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/speaking-illinois-4-h-training). Registration will close January 13.

## ***Special Workshop - Intro to 4-H Air Rifle Competitions***

**February 19, 2022**

Take your existing 4-H air rifle club to a new level! Competition training for 4-H Rifle Club leaders and up to three 4-H Club members. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Central Illinois Precision Shooters in Bloomington, IL.

Contact Curt Sinclair at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu) for flyer and/or register at: [go.illinois.edu/4HAirRifleTraining](http://go.illinois.edu/4HAirRifleTraining)

## **Save the Dates: 2022 4-H Shooting Sports Adult Volunteer Certification Trainings**

Registration details coming in January, but check out the locations and save these dates!

**Sat., March 26, 2022** Tombstone Range, Marion, IL (southern Illinois)

**Sat., May 7, 2022** 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL (central Illinois)

**Sat., July 16, 2022** Bi-State Sportsman's Club, Colona, IL (N.W. Illinois)



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**Return Service Requested**



## *Cover Crop Scientists*

4-H SPECIAL INTEREST CLUB

**Do you love science?**  
**Do you have a passion for the environment?**  
**Are you interested in agriculture?**

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then this club is for you!

Join us as we dissect plants, conduct soil experiments, explore biodiesel, and take a field trip to real biology labs! Open to all young people, grades 5-8.

To learn more or register, visit:  
[go.illinois.edu/CoverCropScientistClub](http://go.illinois.edu/CoverCropScientistClub)

### *Fulton - Mason*

Dates: Thursdays @ 4:30  
April 14, 21 & 28  
May 5 & 12  
Special Sat. Session:  
May 14

Tentative Location:  
Havana

### *Peoria - Tazewell*

Dates: Mondays @ 4:30  
April 4, 11, 18 & 25  
May 2  
Special Sat. Session:  
May 7

Tentative Location:  
East Peoria

