



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

Note from Joli...

Getting through these cold winter months can be tough! Don't let it get you down! 4-H activities can always brighten your day by keeping you busy and surrounded with friends and fun! Make sure you attend your club meetings so you don't miss out on all the opportunities. The photos below are just a few examples of what Mason County 4-H clubs have been doing! Keep up the fun and great work as we roll into spring!

Don't forget to mark your calendar with the upcoming events shared in this newsletter! You won't want to miss them!

Until next time, Joli



Above: Peaceful Valley 4-H Club made and delivered fruit baskets to local shut-ins, elderly, and bereaved.



Above and left: Happy Handful 4-H Club continued their annual club tradition of making fleece blankets to donate to those less fortunate. Members also enjoyed decorating cookies and exchanging gifts.

New Fair Dates for 2023

The Mason County 4-H Show and Jr. Fair week dates will be changed in 2023 to become a five day event which will encompass a weekend.

Mark your calendar for July 26-30, 2023. The fair will begin on Wednesday, July 26 with the 4-H General Project Show. This day will be for all 4-H general project areas where youth will conference judge as part of the exhibition.

Small pets, and other livestock project area schedules are still to be determined. The Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association board is working to finalize the rest of the schedule. As the plans and information become available, it will be shared in this newsletter

Right: The county fair brings fun and friendships! This photo was taken in the swine barn at the 2022 Mason County 4-H Show and Jr. Fair! Who do you recognize?



Project Manual Request Form

If you need 4-H project manuals, please complete an online request at go.illinois.edu/FM.PTPubs Once your request has been filled, you will be sent an email. You can send an email to pclane@illinois.edu to let us know if you would like to pick up the manuals at the Extension office or if you would like your club leader to bring them to your meeting. This request system will automatically email you any free, downloadable project resources when you select those items. The Extension office has a limited number of manuals on hand, so if your request is urgent you can contact us to see if we have them available. Please be aware that you must be enrolled in ZSuite for the project you are requesting a manual.



2023 Livestock Birth, Ownership and Tattoo Dates for Illinois State Fair Junior Show

January

- 26 Mason 4-H Federation Meeting
- 28 Kitchen Adventures Workshop (Fulton County)

February

- 4 Mason County Steer Weigh-in & Tattooing
- 13 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Association Fair Board mtg.
- 18 Visual Arts & Interior Design Workshops (Peoria Co.)
- 20 Livestock Workshop (Peoria County)

March

- 11 Geology, Entomology, & Gardening Workshops (Fulton County)
- 18 Rabbits & Poultry Workshops (Mason County)
- 25 Food Decorating Workshop (Mason County)

STEERS:

Calved on or after January 1, 2022. Owned & personally cared for by exhibitor since – February 1, 2023. Weighed, Tattooed, and EID tagged **on or between the last Saturday in January (January 28, 2023) and February 28, 2023.**

BARROWS: Regular Barrows

Farrowed on or after January 1, 2023 and must be the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2023. No weighing and tattooing required but must submit ear notches when making entry for ISF.

BARROWS: Premiere Barrows (carcass class)

Farrowed on or after February 10, 2023 and must have been the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2023. Weighed and Tattooed with Box A tattoo from February 10 to April 15, 2023. Tattooed within 35 days of birth and not weigh more than 1.0 lbs/day of age. Junior exhibitors can purchase pre-nominated barrows.

SHEEP Market Wethers & Market Ewe Lambs: Live Show Wethers – No more Regional check-in sites – New nomination format

Lambled on or after January 1, 2023

Self-nomination as follows: Nominations must be signed by local Extension Office. Exhibitors fill out and send in nomination form with photo of lamb's ear with scrapie tag installed in ear (close up photo of ear so scrapie tag can be read). This must be completed between March 15 and May 15, 2022. Send to Dan Jennings, Region 1 Office, 1100 E., Warrenville Rd., Suite 170, Naperville, IL 60563.

Jr. and Open Premiere Wether & Ewe lambs: -

Weigh-in, tattoo, and nomination procedures:

Junior and open premiere lambs will be nominated, tattooed, and weighed at the county level.

Premiere lambs must be weighed and tattooed with the Box A tattoo followed by a number starting with 1 - This must be witnessed by a local Extension employee or a person they designate, such as a volunteer or local sheep superintendent.

Completed nomination forms must be signed by the local Extension Office.

Send nomination forms to Dan Jennings (address above). Ownership and nomination deadline is March 15 to May 15, 2023. Lambled on or after January 1, 2023.



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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

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 309-347-6614. 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.

MEAT GOAT Wethers: Live Show Wethers – No Regional check-in sites –New nomination format
Wethers – Born on or after October 1, 2022. Ownership dates for Kids & Yearlings not in milk – May 15, 2023. Self-nomination as follows: Nominations must be signed by local Extension office.

Exhibitors fill out and send in nomination form with photo of goat's ear with scrapie tag installed in ear (close up photo of ear so scrapie tag can be read). This must be completed between March 15 and May 15, 2023. Send to Dan Jennings, Region 1 Office, 1100 E. Warrenville Rd., Suite 170, Naperville IL 60563

2023 Breeding Animals Birth & Ownership Dates for Illinois State Fair Junior Show

BEEF – HEIFERS AND COWS:

Heifers Age requirement is from September 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023 (w/ addition of Senior Yearling class)
Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 1, 2023

Performance Cows

Cows must be born before September 1, 2021 (*Cow-Calf Class only*) Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since January 1, 2023

SWINE – GILTS:

Age requirement is farrowed on or after January 1, 2023
Owned by exhibitor since June 1, 2023

SHEEP – EWES & RAMS:

Age requirement for yearling ewes is from January 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022
Age requirement for ewe lambs is after September 1, 2022
Age requirement for ram lambs is after January 1, 2023
Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 25, 2023

DAIRY – COWS AND HEIFERS:

No age requirement
Calves and Heifers – Owned since June 1, 2023
Cows – Owned since January 1, 2023

DOGS:

Dogs must be owned or leased by June 1, 2023
At this time, no paperwork is required to be on file.
Mason County Extension will make entries via 4-H Fair Entry Program for Mason County Exhibitors.

DAIRY GOATS:

Kids and Yearlings not in milk must be owned by exhibitor only by June 1, 2023.
Milking Does must be owned by exhibitor only by January 1, 2023.

MEAT GOATS

All meat goats (wethers and all breeding animals) are to be owned by exhibitor only by May 15, 2023.

RABBITS, PYGMY GOATS & POULTRY:

Animals in these species that are to be exhibited at the ISF Jr. Show must be owned by the exhibitor as indicated: Does -- By June 1 of the year exhibiting;
All others -- Out of stock owned by the exhibitor prior to June 1.

Changes/Notices Regarding the 2023 Illinois State Fair Animal Exhibits

Note: This list is only a NOTICE of changes that have been made regarding various animal exhibits at the State Fair. Local Extension staff, Vocational Agriculture instructors, and exhibitors and their families should read *complete* rules and regulations included in the 2023 ISF Jr. Department Premium book once printed copies are received or the book is posted on the ISF website:

<http://www.illinoisstatefair.info/>



Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC)

Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification is mandatory for all horse, rabbit, poultry, and companion animals. The following is a link to the training site: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>
All county and state horse and dog exhibitors must complete QA&E Certification via this site one time during their showing career. Those who have completed it in the past do not have to complete it again.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

The YQCA program is mandatory for all dairy, beef, swine, sheep, and goat exhibitors in 4-H. Youth must certify in the YQCA Program **annually**. The cost is \$12 and is paid online. Complete the training at this link: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
Mason county 4-H members enrolled in beef, swine, sheep, and goats should complete the online training and provide a copy of the certificate to the Extension Office by July 1, 2023.

News from Illinois 4-H

4-H Camp Registration



2023 Summer Youth Camp at 4-H Memorial Camp is coming soon! Online registration for 4-H Club members will begin on Jan 23. Registration will open for non 4-H Club members on Feb 6. Visit 4h.extension.illinois.edu/event/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-summer-camp-programs for details.

While you're there, be sure to check out information on Spring Family Camp & Camp Corral. Plus older teens and young adults can check out the amazing summer job opportunities camp has to offer at 4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-memorial-camp/employment-opportunities.

4-H FOOD ACTION SUMMIT



JOIN US FOR THE 2023 FOOD ACTION SUMMIT -

The Illinois 4-H Food Action Summit is where leaders meet to be inspired and share a vision for food security, food access, and food justice in Illinois. University of Illinois researchers, non-profit professionals, food advocates, and civic leaders will facilitate workshops designed to empower young people with the knowledge, confidence, and resources they need as they work to create food security in their communities.

Learn more or register at: <https://go.illinois.edu/4HFoodActionSummit>. Contact: Mark Becker, 4-H Food Systems Specialist - mbecker@illinois.edu

Spark your imagination and passion! **Ignite by 4-H** is an inclusive teen event held in Washington, D.C., Mar 9-12, for four days of inspiring and engaging panels, respected speakers, workshop sessions,

entertainment, and creating amazing connections. Illinois 4-H is looking for fifteen youth delegates to represent Illinois at this one-of-a-kind national event! Discover exciting career paths and create an actionable plan to help create real change in your community. It's an experience you won't want to miss! Age range for delegates is 14-19 years old. Ready to apply? Head to go.illinois.edu/national4hyouthsummit before Jan 25!



Digital Ag Workshop Series

In collaboration with the University of Illinois Center for Digital Agriculture, the Department of Animal Sciences, and the Department of Crop Sciences, Illinois 4-H will be hosting virtual learning sessions focused on Digital Ag for High School students. **Sessions will meet Mondays on Zoom from 7-8:30 pm CST on the following dates:** Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, June 5 & 26, July 3 & 10

Applications are due Wed, Jan 25, 2023. For more info or registration, visit:

go.illinois.edu/4HDigAgWorkshops

2023 Illinois 4-H Robotics Challenge: HydroBot!

This year's competition will revolve around the work of conservationists and oceanographers. Teams will be tasked with building a HydroBot to accomplish the tasks laid out before you in the Challenge Document and video. The HydroBot Challenge will take place at the McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, May 13, 2023. There will be a \$20 Entry fee per team assessed at the time of registration.

Challenge Download/Documents Folder:

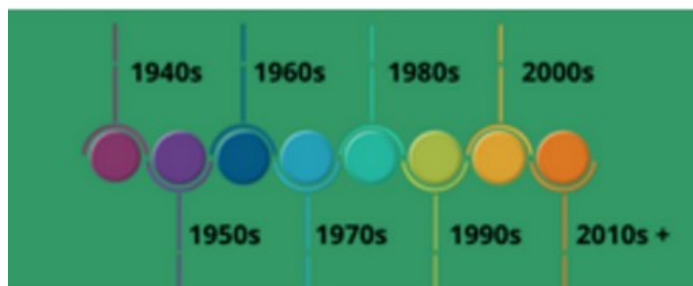
go.illinois.edu/2023CHALLENGE

Register Here before April 14: go.illinois.edu/4HR2023

Challenge Announcement Video Here:

go.illinois.edu/234HRVID

4-H By the Decades



We are seeking Illinois 4-H History from our 4-H alumni by the decades! Join us to visit about how 4-H impacted your life growing up in the Illinois 4-H program. We will also be seeking photos of special memories, mementos, and awards of each decade to share on a new Illinois 4-H History website to be developed. Share with us your 4-H story! *Sponsored by the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association*

4-H BY THE DECADES 1970's

Tues, January 24, 2023

Register by Fri, Jan 20:

form.jotform.com/223465115999164

The link will be sent to registered attendees on Mon, Jan 23

4-H BY THE DECADES 1980's

Tues, February 28, 2023

Register by Fri, Feb 20:

form.jotform.com/223474513372151

The link will be sent to registered attendees on Mon, Feb 27.



The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association will launch a new Illinois 4-H Alumni awards program on **January 9, 2023**. This program will recognize alumni for their individual achievements, contributions to their industry or profession, service to the community, and loyalty to the Illinois 4-H program. To learn more, visit 4h.extension.illinois.edu/alumni/alumni-awards-and-recognition.

Nomination Deadline: March 1, 2023.



4-H SHOOTING SPORTS VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

2023 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Trainings:

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles, IL

Disciplines offered: Rifle; Pistol; Archery; Coordinator

Saturday, May 6, 2023

4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL

Disciplines offered: Shotgun, Rifle; Pistol; Archery; Coordinator; Hunting/Outdoor Skills

If interested, contact your local University of Illinois Extension office for registration information. These dates are 9-hour "field days" which teach range management. An additional 3-hour on-line 4-H training will complete the certification process. Registration will be open Dec 15, 2022 – Feb 15, 2023. Questions? Contact Curt Sinclair, Illinois 4-H State Office at sinclair@illinois.edu



The Illinois Association of Meat Processors and the University of Illinois Meats Judging are collaborating to continue a youth meat judging series in spring 2023 that is open to all 4-H and FFA youth. Each invitational is a clinic with more information to come. Mark your calendars for:

Jan 21 at Raber Packing Company in West Peoria
Feb 11 at Eickman's Processing in Seward
Feb 18 at Wenneman meat Company in St. Libory
March 3 is the State 4-H Contest at the University of Illinois

For questions, please contact Jesse Faber at jfaber@pontiac90.org.



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

Clovers Around *the* Counties

Join us for the exciting new **Clovers Around the Counties Workshop Series** happening this winter! We'll be hosting hands-on workshops in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell counties to help 4-H members, ages 8-18, learn more about the wide array of 4-H projects they can exhibit at the 4-H show. Plus, participants will get a special passport book and collect "stamps" from each workshop they attend. Collect stamps from at least 3 different workshops in 2 different counties to win a special prize! Come learn more about your current passions, explore new possibilities, and make new 4-H friends from around the counties!



SCHEDULE

Kitchen Adventures

Sat, Jan 28 | 10am-3:30pm | Tazewell

Visual Arts & Interior Design

Sat, Feb 18 | 8:45am-1:30pm | Peoria

Livestock

Mon, Feb 20 | 8:30am-3:30pm | Peoria

Geology & Gardening with Pollinators

Sat, Mar 11 | 10am & 1pm | Fulton

Rabbits & Poultry

Sat, Mar 18 | 10am & 1pm | Mason

Food Decorating

Sat, Mar 25 | 9am-12pm | Mason

Costs vary.
Fee waivers
available.



Learn more or register at:
go.illinois.edu/CATC