

4-H NEWSLETTER

May & June 2023



Note from Joli...

Time is ticking! Along with many things we do in our lives, there are deadlines. 4-H helps to instill the values and responsibility involved with timelines and more specifically, meeting deadlines. It is a basic life skill we all must learn. Missed deadlines generally have consequences, most of which are not always favorable.

In 4-H, we associate many deadlines with “following rules”. If rules are not followed it may be detrimental to the outcome of your 4-H experience. And no one wants to hear the words, “it’s too late” or “you’ve missed the deadline”. So let’s be proactive and prevent this from happening to you!

Parents, you can foster your youth to be an active part in this process. Set aside some family time to read 4-H news and information together, and discuss the 4-H activities youth wish to be involved in. Then together, mark your calendars, set your digital reminders, and make reminder notes to help you keep on track!

Allow yourselves some extra time and don’t wait until the due date. As always, I recommend you double check your submissions were received.

The countdown is on...

Until next time,

Joli

4-H Show Entry Deadline

Don’t miss the next BIG deadline! Youth and families take note of the July 3, 2023 4-H Show entry deadline. All 4-H Show entries will be due at faireentry.com by midnight on this date. The fair entry site will open on June 1, 2023. The 2023 4-H Show book is available from your 4-H leader or you can pick one up at the Mason County Extension office. The 4-H Show Book contains rules, guidelines, dates, times, and locations for 4-H Show exhibition. Youth must be enrolled in the 4-H project they wish to exhibit at the 2023 4-H Show. The Mason County 4-H project enrollment deadline (May 1, 2023) has now passed. Youth may still enroll in 4-H projects, however, they will not be eligible for exhibition at the 2023 4-H Show.

Congratulations 4-H Graduates!

Congratulations to all Mason County 4-H youth who will be graduating from high school this year! Wishing you all the best in your next adventures! We hope you will continue to remain connected to the 4-H program in some capacity, whether it be a member, volunteer, or 4-H alumni!

Havana High School	Illini Central High School
Owen Dye	Rex Brooks
Karley Kramer	Ava Ratliff
Bryleigh Morris	Gabby Richardson

Midwest Central High School

Delaney Egan
Ella James
Piper Reynolds



4-H Prepare for Fair Workshop!

Are you new to 4-H and just feeling a little lost and overwhelmed with the process of how it all works? Confused with 4-H terminology such as project enrollment, fair entry, 4-H Show, and more? Then this workshop is for you! Join us at the Mason County Extension office, lower level on Wednesday, May 31 at 6 p.m.

This is a workshop built for parents/guardians and their 4-H members to attend together! We will join together to review 4-H basics, all designed to help youth succeed with their 4-H activities.

We will then divide and conquer! There will be separate adult and 4-H member activities to get questions answered and everyone ready for the 4-H Show.

Youth will learn poster display exhibition tips; participate in mock judging; and see project exhibition examples.

Adults will learn about Fair Entry website; 4-H project selection and deadlines; the difference between 4-H Show and Jr. Fair, and much more! Bring your questions and be prepared for a fun evening!

4-H Club Garden Contest at Mason County Fairgrounds

Get your gloves on and your garden tools sharpened! 4-H club gardens at the fairgrounds need some sprucing up! **Clubs will be competing for bragging rights and the coveted Traveling Trowel Award! An ice cream party will also be awarded to the winning club!** Each club will plant and maintain their own club garden space at the Mason County Fairgrounds. Have fun and get creative! We are encouraging all types of gardens! **The theme for this year will be Sowing Support - Sunflowers for Ukraine.** The gardens will be judged on Wednesday, July 26 during the 4-H general projects show time. Clubs should plan to have 1 or 2 members be the spokespersons for the club garden. They will conference with the judge/s. The winning club will be presented with the Traveling Trowel Award on Saturday night, July 29 2023, at the evening awards ceremony. **Leaders should call Joli at the Extension office (309) 543-3308 if their club is planning to participate in the contest. Entry Deadline will be July 20, 2023. Gardens should be ready for judging by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 26, 2023.**



May

- 8 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 8 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting, 6:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Mason City
- 12 Mason County Junior Master Gardener Club meeting, 5-6 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 18 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6:30 p.m. location TBD
- 20 Happy Handful 4-H meeting, 9 a.m., Fairgrounds
- 21 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports, 2 p.m. at range
- 21 Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting, 4 p.m., Leader's home 24716 CR 2330 E Topeka, IL
- 31 Prepare for Fair Workshop 6 p.m., Mason County Extension office, lower level

June

- 1 4-H Show (fairentry.com) site opens
- 4 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports, 2 p.m. at range
- 6 Farm Safety Day, 8:30 a.m. at Mason County Fairgrounds
- 8 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6:30 p.m., location TBD
- 11 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sport, 2 p.m. at range
- 11 Peaceful Valley 4-H Club meeting, 1 p.m., San Jose Community Center
- 12 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 12 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting, 6:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Mason City
- 17 Happy Handful 4-H meeting, 9 a.m., Fairgrounds
- 25 Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting, 4 p.m., fairgrounds
- 28 & 29 Poultry testing, 5-7 p.m., fairgrounds

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



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

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Kountry
Kritters
4-H Club

Sow Support

As we show support for the youth in Ukraine by planting their national flower, we also are supporting our local communities and pollinators. Will you join us by planting these sunflower seeds?

The Kountry Kritters 4-H Club would like to invite everyone to participate in the “Sow Support” sunflower planting campaign. The goal of the project is to plant sunflowers, the national flower of the country of Ukraine, in order to show support for the people and children effected by the civil unrest in their country. The club has packaged Dwarf Sunspot variety of sunflower seeds, and are giving them to anyone willing to “sow” them. Once the flowers are blooming, we encourage you to take photos of them and email them to Joli Pierson at jkpierso@illinois.edu.

Along with the seed packets, we have specially designed sunflower note cards available at the Extension office. The cards are adorned with bright, cheerful sunflower artwork and photos submitted by Mason 4-H Federation youth and 4-H staff. These blank note cards can be used to spread cheer to anyone, but especially for pen pal notes written to youth in Ukraine. Any notes for Ukraine can be brought to the Extension office for electronic delivery. Please call ahead if you would like a large quantity of cards or seed packets for your club.

Club Meeting Attendance

Meeting attendance ... As always, 4-H members are required to be actively involved in club meetings and events. Meeting attendance is required to be eligible to exhibit at the county 4-H Show. The Extension office will check member attendance records before allowing 4-H Show entries.



4-H Shooting Sports Club News

Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club welcomes many new members this spring! The club is in its tenth year and it has been great to see the turnout of 30 youth actively participating. It is not too late to join! Please call the Extension office if interested in being a part of this fun special interest (SPIN) club.

Due to the large number of members, We continue to need additional trained volunteer instructors, especially with the archery discipline. Please contact Joli at the Extension office if you or someone you know are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer and attending an upcoming 4-H shooting sports certification training.

Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club

Youth ages 8-18 years are invited to join this fun club! Members will experience fun, hands-on gardening, and learn from U of I Extension Master Gardeners. Members can have their own garden plot at the Mason County Fairgrounds where they can garden together, grow their own food, flowers, and herbs. Anyone interested in joining the Mason County Jr. Master 4-H Club should enroll now! Enroll at <https://4h.zsuite.org> and call the office to select projects. The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023, at 5 p.m. at the Mason County Fairgrounds.



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

YQCA is a livestock quality assurance program. Youth enrolled in the following species; **dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats** should complete the training. 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 at this link for the YQCA training. <https://yqcaprogram.org/> The YQCA program is for youth ages 8-21. The online version is taken based on the age of youth as of January 1, of the current year (2023). This certification is annual with test out options of 1-3 years. The cost is \$12 and paid online.

Mason County 4-H members enrolled in beef, swine, sheep, and goats should complete the online training, or attend an in-person training, then email, mail, or bring a copy of your completion certificate to Joli Pierson at the Extension office by the July 1, 2023 deadline. Email: jkpierso@illinois.edu

Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QA&EC)

The Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for all youth who enroll in **horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats**. Members must take the training whether they own a live animal or not. It is advised they complete this one time as soon as they are enrolled in the project area. Deadline for completion is July 1, 2023. Failure to complete QA&EC 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 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.

4G STEM Camp
GIRLS + GADGETS + GAMES = GENIUS

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY
JUNE 26-30, 2023
COST: \$175

Open to girls going into
6th, 7th, and 8th grades

Learn more or register at:
go.illinois.edu/4Gstemcamp

4G STEM Camp introduces girls entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grade to careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The camp includes hands-on activities, lab experiments, and field trips to area businesses offering STEM-related careers. Learn more at go.illinois.edu/4GSTEMcamp.

STEM ACADEMY
JULY 17-21, 2023
9-NOON

go.illinois.edu/STEMacademy

[STEM Academy](https://go.illinois.edu/STEMacademy) 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: \$25.

Location: Goodwill Commons, 2319 E War Memorial Dr, Peoria, IL 61614

Learn More: go.illinois.edu/STEMacademy

BECOME A 4-H TEEN TEACHER!

Join us on an adventure to develop your leadership skills, make new friends, teach young people, and make a difference in your community! 4-H Teen Teachers lead fun, hands-on activities, while getting great experience! Join anytime throughout the Spring. Training sessions are held at U of I Extension, Peoria County Office, and upcoming dates include:

May 22 – 6pm

June 7-9 – 9am to 3pm

Learn more at extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/teens-teachers-program or email Judy at schmid7@illinois.edu.

4-H Outdoor Skills Challenge returns



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!

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

State Fair National Anthem Auditions!

We'd love to hear your voice on the stage representing Illinois 4-H this August. To be considered, please submit your information and a 30 - 60 second singing audition clip using this link: <https://go.illinois.edu/StateFairAnthem> Please submit by June 15, 2023 and a panel of judges will make a final decision on the winner the following week. Event Details: Need to be available the morning of August 11th, 2023 with transportation to the State Fair Grounds in Springfield. Specific timing details to follow. Must be a 4-H member to audition

HEALTHCARE CAREER EXPLORATION SUMMER ACADEMY
Register Now!
go.illinois.edu/HCSA

SPoon RIVER COLLEGE
AHEC NETWORK
Illinois Extension

Join **Healthcare Career Exploration Summer Academy** to learn what it takes to get a job in healthcare! Open to any youth going into **7th thru 10th grades**. Each Spoon River College campus will host a one-day session lasting from **8:30am-4:30pm**. Thanks in part to funding from the *Illinois Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare (PATH) Workforce Program*, **cost is \$10** and lunch is provided.

Pick the date that works best for you:

Mon, Jun 12 – Havana

Tues, Jun 13 – Rushville

Wed, Jun 14 – Macomb

Thurs, Jun 15 – Canton

Learn more and register at go.illinois.edu/HCSA.



Teen Leader Camp

Ready for the ultimate cool summer camp? Illinois 4-H Leadership Camp is an opportunity for 9th-12th graders to participate in a variety of activities designed to help them understand the fundamentals of leadership, practice effective communication, work as a team, and become self-confident and motivated individuals. And it's all happening July 6-8!

PLUS youth will experience everything they love about camp like swimming, hiking, campfires and more at 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello!

Register by June 1 at go.illinois.edu/4HTeenCamp



Get your tackle ready!
The 2023 **4-H Hooks-Us-Together Statewide Fishing Tournament** will run from April 1 – June, 30 2023. Details on how to participate are here:

go.illinois.edu/4HFishingTourney2023

May – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament
June – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament

It's 4-H Camp Season!

Check out all of the amazing opportunities from 4-H Memorial Camp at 4h.extension.illinois.edu/event/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-summer-camp-programs. We'll have Summer Youth Camp, Spring and Fall Family Camps, Camp Corral (camp for youth with military families), and so much more!!! Plus, camp is a great summer job for youth and adults, ages 16+. Information and applications can be found at 4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-memorial-camp/employment-opportunities.



4-H Shooting Sports State Events Update:

Intermediate Level 4-H Rifle Coaching Clinic! 9am-5pm, Sat., June 17, 2023 at River Valley Sharpshooters 4-H Rifle Club, Kankakee, IL. Advance your rifle club to the next level! Contact Tina Odle at 815-450-7162 or 200target@gmail.com for details!

Fall, 2023 State Shoots dates here:

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



Are you ready to help shape the next generation? Learn about careers in the child development field while you learn best practices for caring and working with children in our upcoming virtual webinar on **May 11 from 6 pm-7 pm**. In just an hour, you can grow your understanding of how kids grow while you learn safe ways to care for children, including making appropriate games and toys to engage youth of different ages. Be sure to bring a kitchen utensil that you think a young child would enjoy playing with for a “show and tell” activity that may surprise you!

Registration is open NOW for 4-Hers in grades 3 and up! Visit 4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/20244 by **May 8th to sign up!**

4-H BY THE DECADES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

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 during the 2000s 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* Register by Friday, May 19 - <https://www.jotform.com/build/230640732381147>

The link will be sent to registered attendees on Monday, May 22.



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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

FARM SAFETY DAY

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mason County Fairgrounds, Havana

Ages 6 and up

For more information or to register:

[GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/FARMSAFETYDAY](https://go.illinois.edu/farmsafetyday)

