

4-H NEWSLETTER



November & December 2022

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

Note from Joli...

It has been a beautiful fall season and I hope you have taken some time to get out and enjoy it! The surrounding beauty and the bountiful local harvest are always reminders for us to give thanks.

Did you know that giving thanks is good for you? Research shows that gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

Along with gratitude, giving is also good for you! Research shows that generosity is good for your brain. Generosity makes you feel happy and its contagious effect helps those around you feel happier as well. It is also proven to help people counter depression, and live longer.

As your 4-H clubs begin making plans for their annual activities, remember it is the season of *thanks* and *giving*. Clubs should take time to write meaningful thank you notes to those who give to them. Also, be sure to consider giving to those less fortunate and those who may be confined or ill. Remember giving doesn't always have to be in forms of material items. Gather together and do projects such as raking leaves, hanging holiday décor, shoveling snow, or delivering meals to someone who is unable to do those types of tasks. Giving of your time, ability, and skill is always appreciated and will brighten someone's day!

Grateful for all of you!

Joli



2023 New Fair Dates...

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.

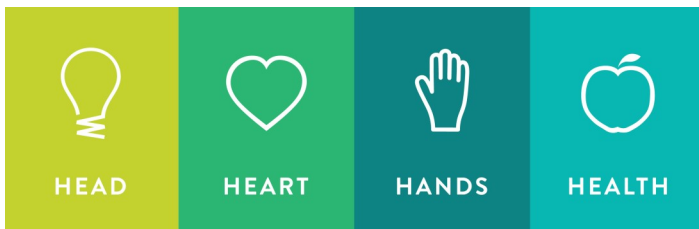
Mark your calendar for July 26-30, 2023. The fair will begin on Wednesday, July 26 with the 4-H General Project Show. This day will be for all 4-H general project areas where youth will conference judge as part of the exhibition.

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.



Project Manual Request Form

If you need 4-H project manuals, please complete an online request at go.illinois.edu/FMPTPubs. Once your request has been filled, you will be sent an email. You can send an email to pcplane@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 through the site. 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.



IMPORTANT Deadline! Livestock Enrollment...

Please be sure to enroll in 4-H livestock projects by January 3, 2023! This is for Beef, Swine, Goat, and Sheep projects. Enrolling by this date will ensure Mason County 4-H members are eligible to exhibit in the 2023 Mason County 4-H Shows. Mark your projects in your ZSuite enrollment. Please double check with the Extension office to make sure you have your enrollment done correctly. Keep in mind this is not your fair entry.



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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

Steer Weigh-In & Tattooing

Steer weigh-in and tattooing is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Green Prairie Animal Hospital 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 11, at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. 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 for 2023. 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 2023.

Please contact Joli Pierson at the Extension office to report the number of steers you plan to bring to the weigh-in and tattooing event.



November

4 Havana National Bank Award Winners Banquet

8 Office closed—Election Day

10 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6:30 p.m.

13 4-H Shooting Sports, Archery wkshp, 2pm

24 & 25 Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday

December

8 Mason 4-H Federation meeting

11 Mason 4-H Shooting Sports—workshop

23 through January 2 Office Closed

January

3 Livestock Enrollment Deadline

12 Mason 4-H Federation meeting

16 Office Closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

4 Steer weigh-in and tattooing

9 Mason 4-H Federation meeting

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Mason County 4-H Club News...

Happy Handful 4-H Club

September meeting

A “Welcome Back to the Club Cookout” was held for their September meeting. Members discussed the upcoming year calendar items and things they should sign up for, such as talks or demonstrations, and meeting refreshments. They learned about club officer positions which will be open for election at the October meeting. Leaders also reminded youth of the new Zsutes enrollment system, which was due to open soon.

October Meeting

Members held club officer elections while the Cloverbud members learned to make pancakes and help prepare breakfast for the club to enjoy.

The following members were elected to offices:

President— Libbie Johnson

Vice President— Noah Blakeley

Co-Secretary—Bryleigh Morris

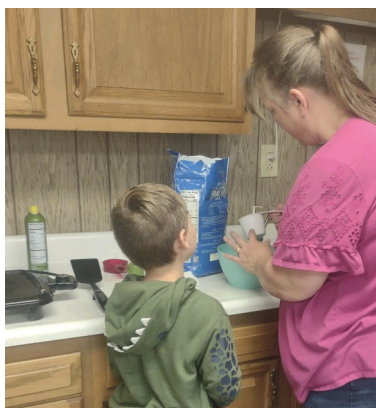
Co-Secretary—Emma Thomas

Treasurer—Lauren Nall

Reporter— Lexie Nall

Photographer— Averie Johnson

Recreation Leaders—Emma Thomas, Blake Perkins, Kallen Pequignot, Ryan Phelps, and Dawson Stone



Happy Handful Cloverbud members assist leader Susie Blakeley with making pancakes for the club to enjoy for breakfast.

Kountry Kritters 4-H Club

October Meeting

Club members enjoyed the outdoors and had a fun scavenger hunt activity. Club officer elections were held and the following members were elected:

President— John Balster

Vice President—Jacob Balster

Treasurer—Hunter VanOrman

Historian—Cozette Marte

The club still needs to fill the office of Secretary, so please consider running for this office at the next meeting. Making it a shared position would be a great way to divide the responsibilities.

The next club meeting will be Sunday, November 20 at 4 p.m. at Dinah’s home. The club will learn to navigate the new Zsuite online enrollment system.

Pleasant Workers 4-H Club

October meeting

The club is growing and had a great turnout for this meeting! Approximately 26 youth were in attendance. Welcome to all of the new members! Don’t forget to complete your online enrollment!

Members and leaders wrapped up the holiday evergreen and wreath fundraiser sales. Everyone did an amazing job and sold over 140 items! The evergreens will arrive later this month, just in time for holiday decorating!

The club members did a “Let’s Learn” activity about Parliamentary Procedure. They also played a dice rolling game to decorate their pumpkins—pictured below.



Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club



Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club members participated at IL 4-H State Shooting Sports Competitions in September. The club had one competitor in the recurve archery division that took place at Pekin Archers in Pekin, IL. Eve Snider took first place and earned an invitation to the 4-H National Shooting Sport Championships in 2023.

Five club members competed in the state shotgun competition at Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill, IL. Owen Dye, Ryan Dye, Kaden Hurst, Karlie Hurst, and Korey Hurst. Owen Dye placed 9th, and his brother Ryan placed 6th. Ryan also earned an invitation to the 4-H National Shooting Sports Championships in 2023. Congratulations to all of the competitors!



FMPT Unit News



Clovers Around the Counties Workshop Series

Be on the lookout for the new **Clovers Around the Counties** workshop series coming this winter and spring! We'll be hosting project-based workshops in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell counties to help 4-H members learn more about their current areas of interest, explore new project possibilities, and get to know other 4-Hers from around the counties! If you have topics you would like to see in future workshops, let your local office know. More info coming soon!



State 4-H Events

November

November 25-29 National 4-H Congress

January 2023

January 21-22 Youth Livestock Conference

April 2023

April 8 State Awards Banquet

April 29 State Public Speaking Competition

May 2023

May 13 State Robotics Competition

June 2023

June 25-29 Illini Summer Academies



Youth Mental Health First Aid

One in five teens lives with a mental health condition. Over 5% of youth report having a substance use or alcohol problem. Adolescence is challenging for many young people and mental health issues can develop during that time of life.

Join an upcoming **Youth Mental Health First Aid training** to learn how to identify common signs and symptoms of youth mental illness or substance use. Gain skills to feel confident listening to and supporting a young person in crisis and leave with resources to connect them with appropriate care. The training is free, open to the public, and appropriate for any adults working with rural youth.

Register online at go.illinois.edu/YMHFA. Participants will complete a two-hour self-paced online training before joining the instructor for a live webinar at any of the sessions below. ISBE PD hours available.

- Wednesdays, Nov 30 & Dec 7, 2022 | 6-8:30pm (participants will attend both evenings)
- Monday, Dec 5, 2022 | 9am-3pm
- Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023 | 9am-3pm

For more information, please contact Emily at eschoe@illinois.edu.



2023 4-H Green Communities Trees Program

Illinois 4-H has again secured funding to send 25, 4' oak trees to be planted by 4-H members on public ground in their communities as part of the 4-H

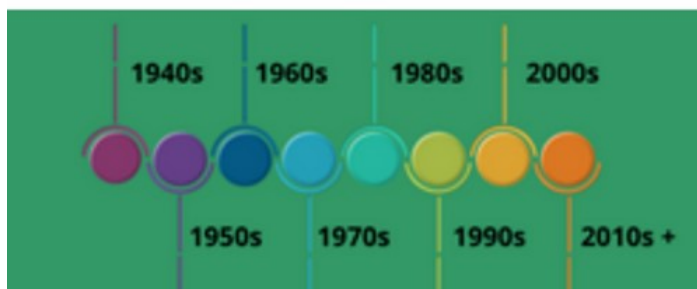
Green Communities Tree program. If your club is interested in putting your "hands to larger service" by helping to plant trees in April, please contact your county 4-H coordinator by Nov. 15th.

News from Illinois 4-H



Illinois 4-H History Project

Illinois 4-H is proud of the rich history of 4-H and our 4-H alums near and far. If you were a member of the Illinois 4-H program, you are one of 25 million Americans who share a unique bond! We're seeking to reconnect with Illinois 4-H Alumni to hear their 4-H stories and share their 4-H memories as part of a new initiative for an Illinois 4-H History project. We are interested in gathering your memories, photos, or photos of memorabilia of those special moments in which 4-H impacted you. Share your 4-H story online at go.illinois.edu/4-Hstory.



Calling all 4-H Alumni!

Participate in reunions to be held by the 4-H Decades. Find dates and register for the events by heading here: go.illinois.edu/4hbythedecades.



4-H celebrates Native American Heritage Month!

Every November we celebrate the history, heritage, traditions, and culture of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Here are some ideas of how you and your club can help

celebrate: go.illinois.edu/NativeAmericanHeritageMonth.

Cecelia Higdon of Winnebago County has also created a special [Northern Illinois Specialized Explore Flier](#) with even more to explore!



Now accepting nominations for the State 4-H Food Advocate of the Month!

Food insecurity touches every community in Illinois, and our 4-H members have been rising to the occasion to ensure that access to good food is a reality for all. Our Food Advocate of the Month recognition is the perfect opportunity to highlight a young leader in your area who is making a positive impact on food security, food access, and food justice issues where they live. Nominations can be made at the following link:

go.illinois.edu/4HFoodAdvocateoftheMonth



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Havana, IL 62644
Return Service Requested

New 4-H Enrollment System is here!

Illinois 4-H is switching our enrollment and registration system from 4-H Online to ZSuite. We believe this new system will offer a more user-friendly experience and features to help you stay more connected to the 4-H program! Look for emails from your local 4-H staff with directions on how to get your family set up in the new system.

Registration is open now! Plus, members that are enrolled and approved in ZSuite before December 1st will save \$5 off their enrollment fee.



Enroll by November 30th

Save 25%